



The Messenger

The Baptism of Our Lord ~ January 11, 2026

St. Paul's Lutheran Church and School

1126 S. Barr Street, Fort Wayne, IN 260-423-2496

www.stpaulsfw.org

Bible Study Opportunities

Sunday Morning Bible Study—10:45 a.m.

Join our Bible study series, "Growing, Giving, and Gathering in Christ". This week we'll explore our boldness in Christ, inspired by Philippians 1:14, and grow together in Christ's Word while encouraging one another. We'll meet in the gathering space immediately following the service. Grab a donut and coffee on your way in! We grow stronger when we gather together.

Adult Instruction Class—Sunday 10:45 a.m.

Pastor Cage is leading this class in which we discuss the chief teachings of the Christian Faith from the Holy Scriptures as presented in the *Small Catechism* of Martin Luther, and prayed each week in the liturgy of the Divine Service at St. Paul's. Everyone is invited to attend, even if you're already a member. Meet in the Conference Room across from the water fountain.

Sunday School—Sundays at 10:45 a.m.

Parents, bring your children (ages 2—high school) to the kitchenette outside the new Gathering Room to eat a snack and then meet up with their teacher before they head to their classrooms together.

Monday Night Women's Bible Study—6:30 p.m.

Ladies, you're invited on Monday, Jan. 12 at 6:30 p.m. to join Pastor and Kristin Hoem at their home as we continue our journey through the book of Genesis! This week, we'll explore Gen. 29-30, seeing God's steady faithfulness at work through family life, waiting seasons, and even imperfect people. What a great way to start the new year. Come and be strengthened by Scripture, meaningful conversation, and encouraging fellowship. Drinks and snacks provided, new faces are always welcome.

Wednesday Afternoon Bible Study—2:00 p.m.

The "Angel of the LORD": Messianic Presence in the Old Testament. Through countless predictions and repeated biblical patterns, we are given to see the pre-Incarnate Christ throughout the Old Testament. Strange to think of Jesus as present and active before His birth in Bethlehem? Long before the Messiah becomes flesh in Mary's womb, He makes Himself present as the "Angel of the LORD." From Genesis to Zechariah, we'll see God's Presence—His rescue and deliverance—unfolding in the form of the Lord's Messenger. Meet with Pastor Cage in the Gathering Room.

Thursday Morning Men's Bible Study—7:00 a.m.

Men, start your day in God's Word as we prepare with the readings for the upcoming Sunday Divine Service. Meet with Pastor Cage in the Conference Room.

Worship Schedule:

Sunday, January 18, 9:30 a.m.

Second Sunday after the Epiphany

Our Giving For January 4

Budget Envelopes	\$19,730.87
CLHS	\$10.00
Missions/Lutheran Heritage	\$65.00
Plate Offerings	\$601.89
Initial Envelopes	\$430.00
School Income	\$684.20
Total Income	\$21,521.96
Altar Guild	\$69.00
PEF/Student Assistance	\$100.00
Gathering In Christ	\$2,245.32
Total of All Donations	\$23,936.28

Attendance

New Year's Eve ~ 6:30 p.m.	68
Sunday, January 4 ~ 9:30 a.m.	327

Serving This Week and Next

Sunday, January 11 ~

Altar Guild: Sally Rish and Diana Hunter

Elder: James Goodwin

Ushers: Craig Linnemeier, Tony Lardydell,
Dale Doerffler, Dean Doerffler, Kurt Gutman,
Dave Hawk, Mike Hawk, Tim Hawk

Sunday, January 18 ~

Altar Guild: Kathy Morse and Michelle Kuehnert

Elder: Trent Towne

Ushers: Dan Wietfeldt, Dave Vandre, Josh Vandre,
Joshuwa Richman, Karl Davis, Kevan Davis,
Ken Baker, Lindani Baker, Barry Mezger

Altar/Chancel Flowers

The Altar flowers have been given to the glory of God by Heidi Swiss in memory of Beverly Linnemeier.

The Chancel flowers have been given to the glory of God by Robert and Janice Heniser in honor of their 56th wedding anniversary.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Special Voters Meeting—January 18

Please join us for a special Voters Meeting next Sunday, January 18, immediately following the Divine Service. We will appoint a Call Committee to begin the process of calling an additional pastor who will collaborate and oversee our church and school music program. We invite your prayers, participation, and trust as our Merciful Lord continues to guide our congregation.

Please No Food or Drinks In Church

As we come together to worship and share in fellowship, we want to ensure our sanctuary remains a respectful and clean environment for everyone. To help us maintain the sanctity of this space, we kindly ask that you refrain from bringing food or drinks into the main sanctuary. This simple act of care helps prevent spills and keeps the space tidy and ready for worship. We encourage you to enjoy refreshments in the Gathering Space after the service. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation in preserving our beautiful sanctuary.

St. Paul's Auction—Tickets On Sale Now

The annual St. Paul's Auction "*Game Night*" is coming up on February 7! Tickets are \$50 each and include dinner and drinks. They can be purchased at the table in the Gathering Space before and after the service, as well as through the school office. They will be available until January 25 or until we run out. Hurry and reserve yours today!

Youth Group Movie Night—Sunday Jan. 11

High School Youth Group meet in the Loft at 6 p.m., it's movie night! Come hang out, eat snacks, and watch "What About Bob?"

Junior Youth Group Open Loft—Jan. 18

All middle schoolers are invited to check out the newly renovated Youth Loft on Sunday, January 18 from 6-7:30 p.m. We have ping-pong, pop-a-shot basketball, board games, snacks and much more! Hope to see you there!

Youth Group Tobogganing—Jan. 25

All high schoolers are invited to join us at Pokagon State Park for toboggan rides on Sunday, January 25! Lunch will be served in the Youth Loft at 11:30 a.m. before we depart. RSVP to Andrea Machemer at amachemer@stpaulsfw.org by January 21.

YAMS Valentine's Day Event—February 14

Young adults, married and single. Join us for a Valentine's dinner on Saturday, February 14 at 5:00 p.m. This is an adult only event (except for nursing babies). Free childcare will be provided.

Meet Our Teachers & Staff

Miss Blaire Rebber grew up in the Fort Wayne area, along the Ohio state line. She attended Woodburn Lutheran School, Central Lutheran School (2012) and Antwerp High School (2016). Blaire graduated with a B. S. in Early Childhood Inclusive Education along with her Lutheran Teaching Diploma from Concordia University, Nebraska in May 2024. Blaire joined the St. Paul's staff in 2024, after graduating from CUNE. She teaches 2nd grade and coached volleyball for the last two seasons. Blaire is a member here at St. Paul's Lutheran Church. She enjoys 1940s/WWII/ military history, reading, baking, and spending time with her family and fiancé, Ben Blum. Blaire and Ben plan to be married at St. Paul's in June of this year.



St. Paul's Lutheran School—Teacher Opening

We are seeking a qualified teacher for 4th grade starting the 2026-2027 school year. Please contact Principal Andy Whirrett at awhirrett@stpaulsfw.org or call the school office at 260-424-0049.

Altar Guild Flower Book

To reserve Altar/Chancel flowers, the order book (located on the wooden stand just outside the new Gathering Room) has the 2026 ordering forms available.

January 18, February 1, 8, and 22 are open.

Reserve a specific date in honor or memory of a special person or event. Payment of \$40.00 is due when you reserve a date. Please make your check out to St. Paul's Altar Guild and include the date that you reserved on your check. You may put your payment in the offering plate or mail it to church (1126 S. Barr St.) **Please mark your envelope specifically for Altar Guild Flowers.** Please pick up your flowers after the service or they will be delivered to our shut-ins.

Questions?

Do you have questions about our ministry programs or events? Contact our Ministry Coordinator, Andrea Machemer at amachemer@stpaulsfw.org.

January 11 – The Baptism of Our Lord

Jesus was baptized to "fulfill all righteousness" (Matt. 3:15), that all whom God created and gave breath to (Isaiah 42:5) might be baptized into His death and resurrection and have everlasting life (Romans 6:4-5). Living in that new life in Christ and dying to sin (Romans 6:7-8) means that we are to cherish all life the way God does, caring about our neighbor's physical life and wellbeing, as well as their everlasting life in Christ.

National Lutheran Schools Week (NLSW)

Coming up January 25-31. Keep an eye out for special events that you can attend.

Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne (CTSFW), invites you to the following events on the seminary campus. **Tuesday, Jan. 20:** Vespers & Organ Recital (Dr. Craig Sproat); **Wednesday, Jan. 21:** Hymn Festival with the Schola Cantorum; **Thursday, Jan. 22:** Epiphany Evening Prayer with the Seminary Kantorei. All events are at 5:00 p.m. in Kramer Chapel on the CTSFW campus and are free to the public. For more information, visit www.ctsfw.edu.

Offering Envelopes & “Initial” Envelope

Your offering envelopes are mailed to you directly in a packet every two months, unless you have enrolled in electronic giving. The “Initial” offering envelope, the very first one of your 2026 envelopes, is used to defray the expense of purchasing the envelopes. The annual cost for each set is \$6.70, which includes the mailing cost for each packet. If you are enrolled in electronic giving but you would still like to receive envelopes, you will need to call the church office at 260-423-2496 and let us know.

St. Paul’s Choir On Worship Anew

Our Choristers will be featured on January 18 and Ash Wednesday, February 18. Performances will be broadcast on Sundays at 7:00 a.m. on EPTA 21.2 (NBC). Or, access all their performances anytime by going to the archives on the Worship Anew website: <https://worshipanew.org>.

Installation of Officers

Next Sunday, January 11th, we welcome all new and returning officers, elders, and committee members of St. Paul's Lutheran Church and School for Year 2026. Please join us for worship and welcome these individuals who are giving of their time and talents to St. Paul's.

Church Council

Chairman: Karl Davis
Vice-Chairman: Daniel Ernst
Secretary: Gail Ludvigson
Treasurer: Carrie Gutman
Financial Secretary:
Ralph Schmidt
Stewardship Chairman:
Paul Grime

Property Trustees

Dave Rish
Jack Hall
David Geller

Fund Trustees

Craig Linnemeier
James Scheele
John Mader

Almoner

Daniel Kramer

District Elders

James Goodwin
Brandon Johnson
Ethan Ernst
David Hein
Samuel Lind
Mark Kuehnert
Jon Keck
Trent Towne
Paul Kroenke
Nathan Wingfield
Michael Mabee

Board of Finance

Michael Mabee
Steve Hackman
Gloria Nash
Chairman: Ralph Schmidt

Board Of Stewardship

Davis Dean
Stewardship Chairman:
Paul Grime

Board of Elementary Education

David Vandre
Charles Gieschen
Carrie Kroenke
Stephanie Smith
Brian Kechel
Joslyn Malfait Mabee

Board of Parish Education

Diana Hunter
Sara Nordling

Board of Youth Ministry

Jamie Roberts
Terra Soto
Matthew Geller

Board of Nominations

Sally Ware
Michelle Kuehnert
Barbara Wietfeldt
Cindy Irie
Michael Mabee
Carla Kleinschmidt

Concordia High School Assoc.

Craig Linnemeier
Carrie Gutman

Lutheran Life Villages

Craig Linnemeier

Lutheran Foundation

Kurt Gutman
Martin Lewis
Craig Linnemeier
David Hawk
John Mader
Andy Whirrett
Mike Hawk
Daniel Kramer

Lutheran Social Services

Elaine Berning
John Huitt

Concordia Cemetery Board

Cindy Irie
Konrad Urberg

Lutheran Senior Care Ministry (LCSM)

James Scheele
Elaine Scheele

Personnel Committee

Chairman: Amy Scaer
Treasurer: Carrie Gutman
David Geller
Paul Grime
Kara Mezger
*And representatives from other
Boards

January 2026

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

				1 <u>Circumcision & Name of Jesus</u> Church Office Closed	2	3
4 9:30am - Divine Service 10:45am - SCRIP Sales 10:45am - Bible Study & Sunday School	5	6 <u>Epiphany</u>	7 8:45am - School Chapel 2pm - Bible Study	8 7am - Men's Bible Study 8:30-9:30am - Mugs of Grace 5:30pm - Elders Mtg 7pm - Council Mtg	9 11:30am - Golden Heirs lunch at Cebolla's	10 8am-4pm —Winter Cleaning Day YAMS Soup Swap
11 9:30am - Divine Service & Installation of Officers 10:45am - SCRIP Sales 10:45am - Bible Study & Sunday School 6pm - High School Youth Grp Movie Night in the Loft	12 8:30am - Monday Morning Prayer Group 6:30pm - Women's Bible Study	13	14 8:45am - School Chapel 2pm - Bible Study	15 7am - Men's Bible Study 8:30-9:30am - Mugs of Grace 5pm - Youth Board 6pm - BOEE	16 J. Neil Reincke JV Boys Basketball Tournament	17 J. Neil Reincke JV Boys Basketball Tournament
18 <u>Confession of St. Peter</u> J. Neil Reincke JV Boys Basketball Tournament 9:30am - Divine Service 10:45am - SCRIP Sales 10:45am - Bible Study & Sunday School 6pm - Jr. High Youth Grp	19 8:30am - Monday Morning Prayer Group 6:30pm - Women's Bible Study	20	21 8:45am - School Chapel 2pm - Bible Study	22 7am - Men's Bible Study 8:30-9:30am - Mugs of Grace	23	24 <u>St. Timothy, Pastor and Confessor</u>
25 <u>Conversion of St. Paul</u> 9:30am - Divine Service 10:45am - SCRIP Sales 10:45am - Bible Study & Sunday School 11:30am - High School Youth Grp to Pokagon	26 <u>St. Titus, Pastor and Confessor</u> <u>National Lutheran Schools Week</u> 8:30am - Monday Morning Prayer Group 6:30pm - Women's Bible Study	27 <u>National Lutheran Schools Week</u>	28 <u>National Lutheran Schools Week</u> 8:45am - School Chapel 2pm - Bible Study 7:00pm - Choir Practice	29 <u>National Lutheran Schools Week</u> 7am - Men's Bible Study 8:30-9:30am - Mugs of Grace	30 <u>National Lutheran Schools Week</u>	31

PRAY

without ceasing

1 THESSALONIANS 5:17

St. Paul's Students, Staff, and Families:

- † Noah, Ella, Henry, Winston
- † Miss Blaire Rebber, 2nd Grade Teacher

For Those Who Mourn:

- † For the family of Brenda Cozad who has been given the gift of eternal life.

Ongoing Chronic Concerns:

- † Harris Beck
- † Jeff Carrier
- † Sandra Cecchini
- † Roger Couch
- † Nathan Davis
- † Sara Davis
- † Sharon Davis
- † Nick Demaree
- † Joanne Engstrom
- † Chris Gill
- † Brenda Haecker
- † Amy Hamer
- † Terry Harmeyer
- † John Huitt
- † Diana Hunter
- † Juanita Jefferson
- † Karen Johnson
- † Pam Johnson
- † Jerry Jones
- † Dennis and Jane Jordan
- † Dennis Lloyd
- † Eleanor Marine
- † Sara Nordling
- † Janice Schmidt
- † Wanda Schweyer
- † Sam Suarez
- † Denise Trentadue
- † Heidi Williams
- † ...and those who care for them.

Comfort, Health, and Recovery:

- † Gracelynn Anderson
- † Ann Fritz
- † Ron Rastl
- † Rosa Villalobos
- † Timothy Wheaton
- † Martha Young

Our Homebound Members:

- † Neva Aldridge
- † Myra Carrier
- † Mary Ann Cordes
- † Jane Doehermann
- † Carolyn Falkenstern
- † Judy Helmchen
- † Lonni Helmchen
- † Jan Leffel
- † Joan Messmann
- † Lois Meyer
- † Ernestine Morrison
- † Larry Murphy
- † Esther Pinnow
- † Leona Puff
- † Susan Schamberg
- † Walter Schroeder
- † Rev. Ralph Seilaff
- † Dorothy Taylor
- † Mary Weick
- † Sharon Williams

Serving in the Armed Forces

- † KiVuan Edwards
- † Cierra Germann
- † Rev. Brian Hamer
- † Zachary Harmeyer
- † Jasmine Jackson
- † Austin Kerr
- † Courtney Linnemeier
- † Sharia Macon
- † Jamara Moore-Chambers
- † Rev. Joshua Schiff
- † Alexander Screeton
- † John Sheaffer Jr.
- † Ryan Sheaffer
- † Brandon Skalicky

Pray for these saints throughout the week.

Please submit prayer requests by calling the church office at 260.423.2496 ext. 310

Please note: All non-members will be removed after six weeks. If you would like them to be on the prayer list longer, please contact one of the pastors.