



The Messenger

Third Sunday after the Epiphany ~ January 25, 2026

Worship services are on Sundays at 9:30 a.m.

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 us for our Bible study series, "Growing, Giving, and Gathering in Christ". This week we'll explore how even our struggles and suffering can be used by God to lead to faithful service and growth in Christ. Meet in the Gathering Space immediately following the Divine Service. Grab a donut and coffee at the kitchenette on your way in.

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

No class this week. Class resumes next Sunday, February 1.

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. 26, at 6:30 p.m. to join Pastor and Kristin Hoem at their home. Together we'll explore themes of waiting on God, trusting His timing, and finding contentment in His promises. 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. From the first mention of the "Angel of the LORD" with Hagar (Gen. 16 & 21) to the Three Visitors to Abraham (Gen. 18) we are given to see the pre-Incarnate Christ in the Old Testament. God's Presence—His rescue and deliverance—unfolding before our eyes. 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.

Our Giving For January 18

Budget Envelopes	\$21,457.15
Missions/Lutheran Heritage	\$187.00
Plate Offerings	\$588.87
Seasonal	\$20.00
Initial Envelopes	\$35.00
Coffee/Donut Fund	\$4.66
School Income	\$1,975.68
Total Income	\$24,268.36
Memorials	\$97.05
Gathering In Christ	\$12,442.07
Total of All Donations	\$36,807.48

Attendance

Sunday, January 18 ~ 9:30 a.m. 326

Serving This Week and Next

Sunday, January 25 ~

Altar Guild: *Sally Rish and Diana Hunter*

Elder: *Ethan Ernst*

Ushers: *Dave Geller, Matt Geller, Dan Kramer, David Kruse, Russ Harges, Jack Hall, Sam Lind, Dean Trainer*

Sunday, February 1 ~

Altar Guild: *Barb Doerffler, Diane Lewis, and Julie Trainer*

Elder: *Paul Kroenke*

Ushers: *Dave Evans, Dan Ernst, Ethan Ernst, John Mader, Davis Dean, Tyler Germann, Austin Germann, Adrianna Germann*

Altar/Chancel Flowers

The Altar flowers have been given to the glory of God by Craig and Wendy Linnemeier and family in loving memory of Tom Linnemeier.

Announcements For Consideration Are Due By Wednesday at Noon

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Voters Meeting Follow-Up

The congregation has voted to appoint a Call Committee to begin the process of calling a full-time Kantor to serve our church and school. This position will collaborate with our pastors and current musicians to foster a greater unity between church and school through a cohesive music program grounded in our strong tradition of confessional Lutheran music and hymnody. Duties include leading and coordinating chapel and school music, teaching and overseeing music classes and ensembles, and helping students integrate into the life of the Church. If you know of someone who would be a strong candidate, please contact our Administrative Pastor, Pastor Hoem, at jhoem@stpaulsfw.org, or the head of our Call Committee, Karl Davis, at kv.davis@frontier.com. All names for consideration should be submitted by no later than February 6.

National Lutheran Schools Week Is Here!

Join us this week, January 26-31, as we celebrate all of the ways that God has blessed us through our Lutheran School! Check your bulletin insert for special events throughout the week including Faculty Jeopardy, a guided tour of our Sanctuary, and assembly featuring Concordia's JROTC team and the Kona Ice Food Truck!

St. Paul's Church & School Diaper Drive

As part of National Lutheran Schools Week, the church and school will be having a diaper drive for Shepherd's Hand Community Outreach Center. Bring diapers (size 4, 5, 6), pull-ups (any size) and wipes to the Gathering Space or School Office by Wednesday, January 28. Our middle school students will then be taking everything we collected to Shepherd's Hand. Please consider donating, this is a wonderful opportunity to help those around us here in Fort Wayne!

St. Paul's Auction—Tickets On Sale Now!

Join us for the Annual St. Paul's Auction on Saturday, February 7! We have many wonderful items in our Silent and Live Auctions including cookies from Cookie Cottage, various gift cards, a thrill flight, and Rooftops of Wrigley vacation package! Tickets are \$50 each and can be purchased at the table in the Gathering Space before and after the service. January 25 is the last day to get tickets, don't miss out on the fun and a chance to support our school!

Youth Group Tobogganing—Jan. 25

All high schoolers meet in the Loft after Bible study at 11:30 for lunch and we will depart after that.

Meet Our Teachers & Staff

Miss Lauren Ratzburg grew up in Fort Wayne, IN. She attended Ascension Lutheran for preschool and graduated from St. Paul's and Concordia Lutheran High School. She graduated with a B.S. in middle school math education from Ball State in 2023. Lauren joined the St. Paul's staff in 2023 and teaches all middle school math and 8th grade literature. Lauren has been a member of St. Paul's since 2006 and has been involved with athletics, from being a basketball and volleyball player as a student, to coaching varsity girls basketball last year. She is currently in her second year of being Athletic Director. Lauren enjoys spending time with her family, especially her dogs, Vinny and Nala.



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.

Golden Heirs Event—February 13

Our February event will be at 11:00 a.m. in the Gathering Room. We'll meet at the church for a short presentation on the life of the late Gene Falkenstern, a Concordia High School teacher and member of St. Paul's. We'll watch a video of an interview about his early life in the Ukraine and following years. Following the presentation, we'll eat at Hall's Gas House at 11:30 a.m. RSVP to Carole at radcar1969@comcast.net by Feb. 1.

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.

January 25 – Epiphany 3

Abortion and assisted suicide are often followed by crushing amounts of guilt and shame. While the Church rightly teaches that these are sins against God and neighbor, may we never forget that Christ has sent us to preach the Gospel, which is the power of God unto salvation (1 Corinthians 1:17-18). In Christ, "there will be no gloom for her who was in anguish," (Isaiah 9:1), for He has come in the fulfillment of His promises, bringing the Kingdom of God near to us (Matthew 4:14-17), that all who repent and believe in Him can take shelter in the Lord (Psalm 27:5).

Mugs of Grace—Thursdays 8:30-9:30 a.m.

Ladies, meet at the kitchenette at church and get a warm drink, meet other moms, and visit. Drop the kids off at school and stop by! This is a great way for you to get to know each other and build friendships! If you have any questions, please contact Andrea at amachemer@stpaulsfw.org.

Meal Train Ministry

A wonderful way to support your brothers and sisters in need is to provide meals for them...home cooked, carryout, or even a gift card! Please contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Andrea Machemer, if you would be willing to be contacted when members have a need for meals. Email to amachemer@stpaulsfw.org.

St. Paul's Choir On Worship Anew

Our Choristers will be featured on 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>.

Questions?

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

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 following dates available: February 1, 22, March 8, 22, 29 and throughout 2026. 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.

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.

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 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:

- † *Fabien, Sophia, Jairo, Felicity*
- † *Miss Lauren Ratzburg, 8th Grade Teacher*

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*
- † *Ron Rastl*
- † *Janice Schmidt*
- † *Wanda Schweyer*
- † *Sam Suarez*
- † *Denise Trentadue*
- † *Heidi Williams*
- † **...and those who care for them.**

Comfort, Health, and Recovery:

- † *Neva Aldridge*
- † *Gracelynn Anderson*
- † *Russ Harges*
- † *Rosa Villalobos*
- † *Timothy Wheaton*
- † *Martha Young*

Our Homebound Members:

- † *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.