



# The Messenger

Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany ~ February 1, 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](http://www.stpaulsfw.org)

## Bible Study Opportunities

### Sunday Morning Bible Study—10:45 a.m.

You are highly encouraged to join us for our Bible study series, "Growing, Giving, and Gathering in Christ". This week, we will reflect on the freedom of the Gospel and what it means to be justified by Christ alone and freed to live lives of love and service. We will meet in the Gathering Space immediately following the Divine Service. Coffee and donuts will be ready. Come and grow with us in the joy of the Christian life.

### 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. 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, February 2, 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 25

Budget Envelopes	\$7,990.39
Missions/Lutheran Heritage	\$25.00
Plate Offerings	\$145.00
School Income	\$729.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$8,890.29</b>
Gathering In Christ	\$187.07
<b>Total of All Donations</b>	<b>\$9,077.36</b>

## Attendance

Sunday, January 25 ~ 9:30 a.m	188
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## Serving This Week and Next

### 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

### Sunday, February 8 ~

**Altar Guild:** Sally Rish and Diana Hunter

**Elder:** Nathan Wingfield

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

## Altar/Chancel Flowers

*The Altar flowers have been given to the glory of God in memory of Gertrude L. Steinbauer (1906-2002) whose generous gift to the St. Paul's Altar Guild supplies paraments, linens, vestments, communion ware, and items for the upkeep of the altar and chancel.*

**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](mailto:jhoem@stpaulsfw.org), or the head of our Call Committee, Karl Davis, at [kv.davis@frontier.com](mailto:kv.davis@frontier.com). All names for consideration should be submitted by no later than February 6.

### St. Paul's Church & School Diaper Drive

Due to the weather, the diaper drive has been extended through Thursday, February 5. Please continue to bring diapers and wipes to the church or school office, or have them shipped through Amazon to 1126 S. Barr Street. Our middle school students will then be taking our donations to Shepherd's Hand on Thursday. Thank you to all who have donated!

### High School Youth Lunch in the Loft—Feb. 8

All high school youth, join us in the Loft on Sunday, February 8, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. for pizza lunch and hanging out. Bring a friend and hope to see you there!

### 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](mailto: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.

### Meet Our Teachers & Staff

For Ann Fritz (gladly God's own child) the story of being a Lutheran church musician and teacher begins in Napoleon, Ohio, thanks to her Christian parents and many teachers who encouraged piano lessons and singing. This was 'back in the day' when someone like Lefty Gersmehl, our principal, taught 8th grade, directed 7th and 8th grade choir, arranged music, played the organ and directed the adult choir. Talk about role models! But it seems the influence of every single teacher was equally significant during those grade school days. Their college experiences and the inspiring choral concerts by the touring "River Forest" choir led Ann to Chicago. Her profs were many of the famous Lutheran musicians of the time: Paul Bunjes, Herbert Gotsch, Richard Hillert (composer of This Is the Feast), and Thomas Gieschen. Ann met Scott there, they married, moved a few times, and had three kids: Abby—a teacher in Bloomington, Christian—a financial analyst for Google in Chicago, and Margaret—an executive recruiter for NM in Milwaukee. Over the years at St. Paul's, the blessing of working with dedicated Lutheran educators like Neil Reincke, Phil Amt, Joanna Utecht, Larry Koelper, Richard Resch, Barbara Resch, Paul Marinko, Jovita Nack, Sue German, Judith Sabel, and current St. Paul's pastors, musicians, and faculty, has provided inspiration and joy for the work! Thanks be to God for the unwavering support of the members of our congregation, St. Paul's Lutheran Church, during these past 30 years!



### 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](mailto:awhirrett@stpaulsfw.org) or call the school office at 260-424-0049.

### February 1 – Epiphany 4

Tragically there are many people who do in fact sacrifice the fruit of their bodies for the sins of their soul (Micah 6:7), killing their own children to undo or cover up the sinful choices they've made. How foolish is the so-called "wisdom" of the world (1 Corinthians 1) that calls death life! And though the Lord could rightly bring an indictment against His people for this evil (Micah 6:2), He instead shames the "strong" and "wise" among us by sacrificing His only begotten Son to cover the sins of the entire world (1 Corinthians 1:27-28). In Christ crucified, all who believe will inherit the kingdom of heaven, and those who mourn the wanton destruction of life will be comforted forevermore (Matthew 5:3-4).

## 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>.

## CUNE Chamber Choir—February 22

The University Chamber Choir from Concordia University, Nebraska will be with us on February 22 during our Divine Service. They will also have a concert at St. Paul's that afternoon at 3:00 p.m. in the sanctuary with a reception to follow.

Everyone is welcome!

The University Chamber Choir was formed in the fall of 1998 and has gained a reputation for excellence in the singing of chamber vocal music. The 14-voice choir has traveled extensively throughout the U.S. including concert tours to New York, Maryland, Delaware, California, Arizona, Nevada, Florida, and throughout the Midwest. The select choir, chosen from the 72-voice University A Cappella Choir, sings a diverse repertoire of sacred and secular choral music from many historical periods. Significant Chamber Works performed by the choir include Menotti's *Amahl and the Night Visitors*, Randall Thompson's *The Peaceable Kingdom*, and Gabriel Faure's *Requiem*. This year's concert will include compositions by Craig Courtney, Kyle Pederson, Mark Burrows, Dan Forrest, Paul Caldwell & Sean Ivory, Susan Brumfield, David von Kampen, Gwenyth Walker, Doreen Rao, and others.

## 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 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.

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:amachemer@stpaulsfw.org).

## Questions?

Do you have questions about our ministry programs or events? Contact our Ministry Coordinator, Andrea Machemer at [amachemer@stpaulsfw.org](mailto:amachemer@stpaulsfw.org).

# February 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> <u>9:30am</u> - Divine Service <u>10:45am</u> - SCRIP Sales <u>10:45am</u> - Bible Study & Sunday School	<b>2</b> <u>The Purification of Mary &amp; Presentation of Our Lord</u>  <u>8:30am</u> - Monday Morning Prayer Group <u>6:30pm</u> - Women's Bible Study	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> <u>8:45am</u> - School Chapel <u>2pm</u> - Bible Study <u>7:00pm</u> - Choir Practice	<b>5</b> <u>7am</u> - Men's Bible Study  <u>8:30-9:30am</u> - Mugs of Grace	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>  <u>5:00pm</u> - St. Paul's School Auction - Baker Street Train Station
<b>8</b> <u>9:30am</u> - Divine Service <u>10:45am</u> - SCRIP Sales <u>10:45am</u> - Bible Study & Sunday School  <u>11:30am-1:00pm</u> - High School Youth Lunch in Loft	<b>9</b> <u>8:30am</u> - Monday Morning Prayer Group <u>6:30pm</u> - Women's Bible Study	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> <u>8:45am</u> - School Chapel <u>2pm</u> - Bible Study <u>7:00pm</u> - Choir Practice	<b>12</b> <u>7am</u> - Men's Bible Study  <u>8:30-9:30am</u> - Mugs of Grace  <u>5:30pm</u> - Elders Mtg  <u>7pm</u> - Council Mtg	<b>13</b>  <u>11am</u> - Golden Heirs Event in the Gathering Room	<b>14</b>  <u>5pm</u> - YAMS Valentine's Party
<b>15</b> <u>9:30am</u> - Divine Service <u>10:45am</u> - SCRIP Sales <u>10:45am</u> - Bible Study & Sunday School	<b>16</b> NO SCHOOL TODAY	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> <u>Ash Wednesday</u>  <u>Noon</u> - Divine Service <u>2pm</u> - Bible Study  <u>6:30pm</u> - Divine Service <u>7:30pm</u> - Choir Practice	<b>19</b> <u>7am</u> - Men's Bible Study  <u>8:30-9:30am</u> - Mugs of Grace  <u>6pm</u> - BOEE	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> <u>9:30am</u> - Divine Service <u>10:45am</u> - SCRIP Sales <u>10:45am</u> - Bible Study & Sunday School  <u>3pm</u> - CUNE Choir Concert & Reception	<b>23</b> <u>8:30am</u> - Monday Morning Prayer Group <u>6:30pm</u> - Women's Bible Study	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> <u>Noon</u> - Responsive Prayer <u>2pm</u> - Bible Study <u>5pm</u> - Lenten Supper  <u>6:30pm</u> - Evening Prayer <u>7:30pm</u> - Choir Practice	<b>26</b> <u>7am</u> - Men's Bible Study  <u>8:30-9:30am</u> - Mugs of Grace	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>

# PRAY

## *without ceasing*

1 THESSALONIANS 5:17

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

† *Freedom, Mierra, Jordan*  
† *Mrs. Ann Fritz, Music and Art Teacher*

### Thanksgiving:

† *For the birth of Miriam Margaret Deiss, the daughter of our former fieldworker Wesley (and Sharon) Deiss.*

### 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*  
† *Martha Young*  
† *...and those who care for them.*

### Comfort, Health, and Recovery:

† *Neva Aldridge*  
† *Gracelynn Anderson*  
† *Jane Doehrmann*  
† *Russ Harges*  
† *Carrie Huitt*  
† *Devon Oliver and baby*  
† *Rosa Villalobos*  
† *Timothy Wheaton*  
† *Karen Zander*

### Our Homebound Members:

† *Myra Carrier*  
† *Mary Ann Cordes*  
† *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*  
† *Cole Smithson*

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.