

January 2025

St. Paul Lutheran Church



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Church Office:
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Mission Statement

*"Proclaiming
the saving
grace of Jesus
Christ to all."*



From the Heart of Your Shepherd

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of God. Hebrews 12:1-3

"Endure," that is the theme for National Lutheran Schools Week at the end of this month. The theme is based on Hebrews 12:1-3. The writer of Hebrews encourages us to endure. The writer of Hebrews is comparing the Christian life to a race. If you have ever been in a race, you understand the importance of endurance. It does you no good to start off strong and then not finish the race. The writer of Hebrews is encouraging us to remain steadfast in our faith in Jesus Christ in this world.

National Lutheran Schools Week begins on January 26. The theme "Endure" is an appropriate one. St. Paul Lutheran School is all about giving students the ability to endure. The job of St. Paul Lutheran School is to give our students what they need to endure in their faith in Jesus Christ. The students at St. Paul are given a strong biblical foundation. They are shown the love of Jesus Christ and given the assurance that Jesus endured the cross itself. He endured the cross that they might have the assurance of an eternal future. It is the truth of God's Word and the knowledge of God that permeates all other subjects in the school.

It is appropriate that we should, this month, be reminded of what a blessing it is for our congregation to have the school as a part of our educational ministry. Part of that blessing is that we have teachers who are dedicated to teaching God's love to our students. One of the greatest challenges to Lutheran schools today is staffing. We are blessed, to not only have excellent teachers, but teachers who understand and believe in the mission of our school. I hope that you will take the time to give thanks to God this month for the blessing that St. Paul Lutheran School is to our congregation. I hope that you will also take the time to encourage the teachers at our school.

In His service,
Pastor Olson

Sermon Texts and Titles

January 2 & 5:

The text of the sermon for Epiphany will be the Gospel reading from Matthew 2:1-12. The title of the sermon will be "Learning from a Wiseman." Epiphany is January 6. Epiphany doesn't typically get much attention in the church unless it falls on a Sunday. This year it falls close to Sunday. So, we will observe the Epiphany of our Lord. Epiphany is when we celebrate the magi coming and finding Jesus. Epiphany simply means manifestation or to reveal. It is during the Epiphany Season that we see how the gift of the Savior was revealed to the world. On Epiphany Sunday, we learn from the wiseman and how they reacted to the birth of the Savior.

January 9 & 12:

The sermon text for the Baptism of our Lord will be the Gospel reading from Luke 3:15-22. The title of the sermon will be "Where It All Began." We see how Jesus went down to the Jordan River and was baptized by John. This would mark the beginning of Jesus' public ministry. We might say that Jesus' baptism is, in a sense, where it all began. It is on the Baptism of our Lord that we are also reminded of our own baptism. We know that our baptism is where it all began. It was there that you were entered into the death and resurrection of Jesus. The new spiritual nature was brought forth.

January 16 & 19:

The text for the Second Sunday of Epiphany will be the Gospel reading from John 2:1-11. The title of the sermon will be "Jesus Makes Radical Changes." We see Jesus' first miracle in changing water into wine. That was a radical change, but it was not the only change that day. We see how Jesus makes radical changes in our lives. It is also on this Sunday that we observe Life Sunday. We are reminded of the work of Lutherans for Life.

January 23 & 26:

The sermon text for the Third Sunday of Epiphany will be the Gospel reading from Luke 4:16-30. The title of the sermon will be "Rejection and Acceptance." We see how Jesus was rejected in His hometown. We experience rejection in this world, but we rejoice in knowing that Jesus has accepted us. We also observe National Lutheran Schools Week on this day. We give thanks for the gift of Lutheran education.

St. Paul Lutheran School News
Excellence in Christ-Centered Education

Registration for the 2025-2026 School Year: Registrations are currently being accepted for 4k. We offer a full day, five days a week, program with morning and afternoon busing. Registration for the 2025-2026 school year will begin at the end of this month for all other grades. The packets will go out to current students at the end of January. St. Paul Lutheran School offers excellence in Christ-centered education. Our students have the opportunity to receive daily religion classes and sound instruction in God's Word in addition to an excellent academic education. We have weekly chapel services where students gather to hear God's Word, sing His praises, and learn the hymns of the church.

Wisconsin Parental Choice Program (vouchers): St. Paul participates in the Wisconsin Parental Choice Program (WPCP). This program covers all educational expenses for qualifying students. Enrollment for this program opens on February 3rd. It should be noted that if your child is currently in the voucher program you will need to re-enroll them for the coming school year. St. Paul also participates in the Special Needs Scholarship Program (SNSP). A student may apply to this program at any point if he or she meets the requirements. If you have any questions about either of these programs, you can contact the school office.

National Lutheran Schools Week: National Lutheran Schools Week will be celebrated January 26-January 31. The students will have dress up days during the week and other exciting activities. We will be celebrating and giving thanks to God for the blessings of Lutheran education. The students will be singing in church on January 26. Following the service, there will be an open house at the school. The students will have their Social Studies projects on display in their rooms, and you can view them there. This is a change from previous years, when things were setup in the gym, due to the large number of students.

Grandparent Breakfast: Grandparent breakfast will be held again this year on January 29 at 8:30 am.

End of 2nd Quarter: The second quarter ends on January 17. Report cards will open in Fast Direct on January 23.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from all of the staff and students! December was a month abuzz with excitement and joy as we prepared to celebrate the birth of our Savior. Many of our days were spent practicing for our children's Christmas service. Sadly, we had to reschedule for January 2nd, but the kids are ready and eager to share the Good News of Christ's birth! We also enjoyed one of our favorite activities of the year, Christmas Bingo! It is always a joy to share the morning with our special

guests, eat lots of delicious treats and win some fun bingo prizes. In our classrooms this month there were lots of Christmas crafts, parent gifts, cookie decorating, and even some gingerbread house making. We are also beginning to prepare our learning fair projects for Lutheran Schools week. We pray that everyone was able to worship and celebrate over the Christmas holiday and ask God's blessings to all as we head into 2025!

CHRISTIAN SERVICE GUIDE NEWS:

"Quilting will begin on Tuesday, January 14 from 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. in the church meeting room. Please bring a lunch.


We are asking for donations of large pieces of fabric, flat sheets for the back of quilts and blankets or throws, etc. for the inside. Please bring these items to the meeting room.

Able Light volunteer day is January 9 from 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m."

You can now purchase Scrip through the **Scrip App**.

St Paul Scrip App

***go to the App Store of your device**



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You will be contacted at a later date as to where you would like the profit to go towards:

- 1. Youth Group**
- 2. Christian Service Guild/LWML**
- 3. St. Paul Church Renovation Fund**
- 4. General Scrip Fund**
- 5. Tuition Reimbursement**

Stewardship News and Views

Repenting of "Feasts that Know No Fast"

Fresh off the Christmas season and the retail frenzy that accompanies it, January brings a shot of frigid air into the lives of the people we know and love. This is not a meteorological statement either. While it is true that January is one of the colder months for those in North America, the cold front blast that hits us is the full force of credit card spending that fueled the retail frenzy. The bills for the gifts, the parties, the food and the travel have now come due. The credit card makes things convenient, but it also requires more discipline than many can muster. When the bills come in January for December's celebration, it really puts a damper on things.

Congregations often make the same mistake in stewardship. We often charge forward in doing what we always do or starting new endeavors without counting the cost. But at the end of the month, or the end of year, when the bill comes due, the red ink on the congregational balance sheet smacks the people in the face like a stiff north wind in January. We hunkered down. We circle the wagons. We start to panic. The work of the Gospel suffers.

The fifth verse of "Forgive Us, Lord, for Shallow Thankfulness" (LSB 788) addresses this January situation. The words penned by William Watkins Reid are very needful for us to hear as we start a new year, while dealing with the bills of past efforts and expense.

"Forgive us, Lord for feast that knows not fast ..." This hits us hard, doesn't it? We love when the money is flowing, the parties are going, and things are getting bigger and better. But there is a time in life, and most especially in our spiritual disciplines, that we need to fast. The purpose of a fast is to step back, lay something aside for a time, and replace it with meditation on Scripture and prayer. This is designed to keep us from turning something that may well be good into an idol that separates us from the God who loves us in Christ.

"For joy in things that meanwhile starve the soul ..." In "The Parable of the Sower," we hear Jesus talk about how the worries and cares of life choke out the growth of the seed of the Word that was planted. We know how this happens in our lives. Professional and youth sports do this. Materialism does this. Travel and leisure and do this. There is a list of things that we enjoy that starve the soul. But it also happens in our congregations. When corporate stewardship is not managed in a responsible way, it can and does destroy individual stewardship. Is it good individual stewardship to support a ministry that doesn't take its corporate responsibility seriously?

"For walls and wars that hide your mercies vast and blur our vision of the Kingdom goal." This is the ultimate end of the idolatry of failed stewardship. We build walls between believers within the church and hamper those who are outside from coming to the Light of Life that is Jesus. The wars we fight over money and its impact on ministry do the same. It eventually blurs our vision of what we are here to do: share the Good News of Jesus. When the wintry blast of January hits us in this fashion, we are called to repent.

When the Holy Spirit uses the cold front of the call to repentance, we meet the God who forgives and restores. That is what He does for individual and corporate stewards. When the bills hit, they call us back to Jesus. He is the One who indeed forgives us our shallow thankfulness and leads us into the bounty of His mercy yet again.

In Christ,
Lori Prah, Debbie Delebreau, Candy Krohn



Thank You for the Donations and for Decorating Church this Christmas Season!

Many thanks are in order for the beautiful decorating both inside and outside of church for Christmas!

Thanks to the following who donated items to beautify our church for Christmas:

- Brad and Jill Dahlke and Mike and Kathy Calewarts, Calewarts Tree Farm, for the two Christmas trees.
- Roger and Candy Krohn for the two wreaths outside on the front of church given in memory of their daughter, Tiffany Krohn.

These donations made it possible to beautify the Lord's house, inside and outside, for the Christmas season! Many thanks for the donations!

Thanks to the following people who helped to decorate inside the church for Christmas:

Andy Bosdeck, Nate Budnik, Rob Byrne, Debbie Delebreau, Pat & Angie Doell, Tim Doell, Beverly Graunke, Chris Janda, Paul & Karen Janda, Dianne Kilgore, Kaye Kratz, Sue Kratz, Candy Krohn, Heidi Pahnke, Brian Prah, and Pat Velchek.



Thank you to the following people that helped put up the outside Nativity set in front of church:

- Pat Doell, Tim and Leo Doell, and Sue Kratz



Thank you to all who helped to beautify the church for the celebration of Christ's birth!



CHURCH UNDECORATING

We will be taking down the Christmas decorations inside the Lord's house on Sunday, January 12, 2025, immediately after the church service that morning. So, please bring a lunch as we will be working to get everything done inside of church on that day. Please come and help undecorate the church!
Many Hands Make the Work Light!



Sanctity of Life
Sunday January 19, 2025
Lutherans for Life

Pennies for Life Collection

What is Pennies for Life? This is a way to give to the Lord and Lutherans for Life. There will be a basket in the narthex from January 19th to February 2nd to place any donations. The suggested donation is to give one penny for each year of life the Lord has granted you. Thank you and God bless.

Maternity and Baby Clothes Drive

Lakeshore LFL will be collecting new and gently used baby clothes and maternity clothes for Life Sunday from January 19th to February 2nd. These items will be given to area Pregnancy Resource Centers for mothers who choose life instead of abortion.

Lutherans for Life Resources of the Update Magazine and other free brochures will be available in the Narthex

Faculty/Staff Contact

Pastor & Principal: Rev. Dr. Daniel Olson: pastorolson@stpaullux.org

4K Teacher: Beth Budnik: bbudnik@stpaullux.org

5K Teacher: Sherry Byrne: sbyrne@stpaullux.org

1st & 2nd Grade: Heidi Pahnke: hpahnke@stpaullux.org

3rd & 4th Grade: Laura McClellan: lmcclellan@stpaullux.org

5th & 6th Grade: Briana Schingeck: bschingeck@stpaullux.org

7th & 8th Grade: Kristen Zeitler: kzeitler@stpaullux.org

Music: Lacy Siegmund: lsiegmund@stpaullux.org

SNSP: Sarah Shin: sshin@stpaullux.org

Office Staff: Yvonne Janda: secretary@stpaullux.org

Amy Anderson: secretary@stpaullux.org

Newsletter: secretary@stpaullux.org and valeriesue39@gmail.com

Funerals: Sue Heim 920-209-2035 or

Mike Peterson 920-737-4863

DVD's are available of the church service. Call the church office at 920-845-2095 and one of our volunteers will deliver it to you.

Need a ride to church? Please notify the church office for a ride to and from church services.

Newsletter Deadline: the 21st of the month.

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>>> January 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<div>FLOWER GUILD: Candy Krohn</div>			1 <i>New Year's Day</i>	2 Day School Christmas Service 5:00 & 7:00 pm	3	4
5 Bible Study/Sunday School 8:30 am Divine Service 9:30 am	6	7	8 Chapel 8:15 am Confirmation 5:30 pm Handbells 6:15 pm Board of Christian Education Mtg 6:45 pm Choir 7:00 pm	9 Able Light Volunteer Day 9:00 am - 2:00 pm Worship Service 7:30 pm	10	11
12 Bible Study/Sunday School 8:30 am Divine Service 9:30 am	13 Church Council Mtg. 7:30 pm	14	15 Chapel 8:15 am Confirmation 5:30 pm Handbells 6:15 pm Choir 7:00 pm	16 Divine Service 7:30 pm	17	18
19 Life Sunday Bible Study/Sunday School 8:30 am Divine Service 9:30 am	20	21	22 Chapel 8:15 am Confirmation 5:30 pm Handbells 6:15 pm Choir 7:00 pm	23 Worship Service 7:30 pm	24	25
26 Bible Study/Sunday School 8:30 am Worship Service 9:30	27 Church Voters Mtg. 7:30 pm	28	29 Chapel 8:15 am Special Guest Breakfast Confirmation 5:30 pm Handbells 6:15 pm Choir 7:00 pm	30 Divine Service 7:30 pm	31	

Scrip for sale Thursday evening 7:15-7:30 and Sunday mornings after service for 15-20 minutes