

*St. Paul's Lutheran Church and School*  
*Announcements - December 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>*

**"THE SUPREMACY OF CHRIST"**

**When: Every Sunday at 9:50 am**

**Location: Room 131**

**Teacher: Pastor Drinnon**

What is the most important thing in your life? Career, family, friends? While each of these are good gifts of God in our life, there is one person who reigns supreme in our lives as Christians. Please join us as we journey through the Letter to the Hebrews and explore how Christ is supreme over all things in our lives.

**ATTENDANCE CARDS**

**Please locate the Attendance Cards in your row and fill one out when you arrive.** They will be collected during the offering. If you are visiting, please feel free to include your address and phone number. You may also include any prayer requests on the attendance card.

**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY**

The Board of Trustees is looking for an additional person to lock and unlock the church downtown and operate the bells, especially over the upcoming holidays. If you are interested, please call or text Tom Stirnaman at 309-531-1370.

**"GOSPEL OF MARK" BIBLE STUDY**

**When: 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays, 6-8 pm**

**Location: Resource Room**

**Teacher: Pastor Drinnon**

In this Bible study, we will be going through the Gospel of Mark. Mark's gospel is traditionally symbolized with a lion – recounting the first verses of the gospel, "The voice of one crying aloud in the wilderness." Although the Gospel of Mark is the shortest of the gospels, its message is just as significant as the other three gospels. In Mark, we see Christ coming to inaugurate the Kingdom of God through the preaching and teaching of who He is – the One who will be the ransom for many. While we may be familiar with the story of Christ from the gospel accounts, the Gospel of Mark is meant to be read and reread. There is always something new to discover as we read God's Word. So join us to dig deeper into Scripture and to grow in knowledge, faith, and service to our Lord Jesus Christ. We will meet again on **December 8<sup>th</sup>**. It's not too late to join us!

**BABY BOTTLE DRIVE**

The Baby Bottle Drive has concluded. If you took a baby bottle, please return it as soon as possible so that we may send them back. Thank you so much!

**THE SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM.....**



will be **Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup> at 5 pm** at our downtown church. All preschool through 5<sup>th</sup> grade students are invited to participate. Students will spend some time each week during the Sunday School hour

preparing for the program so Sunday School attendance for the next couple of weeks is critical as we get ready to share the Christmas message. There will also be another Saturday rehearsal at the downtown church on December 10<sup>th</sup> from 9 am to 11 am for everyone, including preschool and kindergarten students. We look forward to celebrating the birth of Jesus!

**ADVENT DINNERS**

We do the cooking, you do the eating! The second Advent midweek service and dinner is this **Wednesday, December 7<sup>th</sup>** in Fellowship Hall at the downtown church. The dinner will be served from **5:30 - 6:30 pm** prior to the 7:00 pm worship service. The Board of Human Care will be serving St. Paul's famous BBQ sandwiches, chips, applesauce and veggies. Coffee, lemonade and dessert will also be available. A freewill offering will be taken to benefit the Northern Illinois Food Bank. Please join us for food and fellowship and then worship!



**ATTENTION 5<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> GRADE BAND STUDENTS!**

We are coordinating a youth worship band for the **8:30 am worship service on December 18<sup>th</sup>**. This opportunity is open to St. Paul's and public school musicians. There will be a rehearsal on Saturday, December 17<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am at the school. For more information and to indicate your interest, please email Bill Dyche (bill.dyche66@gmail.com) or text (815-592-0870). Please respond by Friday, December 9<sup>th</sup> and include the student's first and last name, grade, and instrument, along with your preferred email address.

**ADVENT DEVOTIONS**

The Lutheran Hour Ministries' devotions, called "A Son Is Given", is now available for pick-up before and after all church services. In "A Son Is Given", we look at the promise of God to send His Messiah as fulfilled in Jesus. The Heavenly Father made good on His ancient pledge. In Jesus we have the love of God come to earth in the form of a Child, who is for us the Savior of the world.

### BUTTER BRAID DELIVERY

If you ordered Butter Braids from our Youth Group and have not picked them up, they may be picked up on Sundays from the upright freezer in the cafeteria.

### 2023 OFFERING ENVELOPES



The 2023 offering envelopes are now available for pick-up. If you typically attend church on Saturday evening, your envelopes are in Fellowship Hall. If you attend on Sundays, your envelopes are in the hallway outside of the school library. If you have been giving online, you may not have envelopes. If you cannot find yours, please contact the church office at 932-0312. We thank you for your generous spirit. God bless you!

### CHRISTMAS CAROLING

On **December 18<sup>th</sup>**, the Youth Board is hosting a potluck lunch after the late service (approx 12:30 pm). After lunch we will break into groups of adults



and youth to go Christmas caroling around our county to visit our shut-ins. Everyone in the congregation is invited to participate.

### CALLING ALL BAKERS!

The Youth Ministry is looking for people who love to bake who are willing to donate cookies to our Christmas Cookie Sale. We are looking for people to donate 9-10 dozen of their favorite Christmas cookie but any size donation is welcome. Cookies can be dropped off to the church office on December 15<sup>th</sup> or 16<sup>th</sup>. **If you would like to make cookies to donate, please sign up with Sarah Cherry by this Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup>.** Sarah can be reached at 815-651-6864 or you may sign up at the cookie ordering table between services on Sundays starting Nov 20<sup>th</sup>.



### HOMELESS MINISTRY

My sincere thanks to your response to the needs for the Homeless Ministry. St. Paul's donated \$1,000 (20 donors) that will be used for co-pays on medicine, several distributions of \$10 MacDonald gift cards every 2-3 weeks, and emergency gasoline for those who work and run short financially at the end of the month. Please remember that Jesus said, whenever you do these things to my sisters and brothers you do them to me.

~ Roy W. Cordes

### "EMPOWER" ... AN OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

St. Paul's Lutheran School Ministry has been blessed in so many ways. One way to help make a difference is from "Tax Credit Scholarships" through Empower Illinois. Twenty-four students received critical scholarships for the current school year thanks to generous donations from several individual donors to the Empower Illinois Program. December is the perfect time to consider making a donation! Anyone interested in learning more, or participating in, the Empower Illinois "Tax Credit Scholarship Program" should contact the school office. You can also talk with Bill Burger or Scott Styck for information on this program.

### SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAMS

Mark your calendars for the Christmas programs for St. Paul's Lutheran School. All of the programs will be at the Bourbonnais campus.

♪ **Preschool Christmas Program: Tuesday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm**

♪ **Kindergarten - 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Christmas Program: Thursday, December 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm**

♪ **5<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Christmas Program: Thursday, December 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm**

On Thursday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, the 5<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> grade band students will also play a few Christmas songs between the two concerts at approximately 7:15 pm. Please join us for these celebrations of Jesus' birth!

### TABLES OF EIGHT 2023

Have you ever said "hello" to someone at church on Sunday morning and thought "They seem nice. I'd like to get to know them better."? Well, now is your chance! St. Paul's Tables of Eight 2023 begins in January and so it is time to sign up for this fun social event! Four randomly grouped couples meet once a month for four months in each others' homes for dinner. This is a purely social event and a great way to get to know each other better. **The dates for this year's dinners are January 21<sup>st</sup>, February 18<sup>th</sup>, March 18<sup>th</sup> and April 15<sup>th</sup> (all Saturdays).** You need to be able to host 8 adults for dinner. This event is for adults only, giving parents a night out on their own. If you cannot host 8 people or cannot attend all four dinners, we always need substitutes and you are welcome to sign up on our alternate list.

**Sign ups will take place after services on December 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> and December 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>.** Stop by our table in the cafeteria during coffee hour or talk to Lynda after church on Saturdays to find out more about Tables of Eight and sign up for the fun! If you have any questions or are not able to sign up at church, contact Lynda Koeppen at 592-2701 or [lykoeppen@comcast.net](mailto:lykoeppen@comcast.net) by December 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**CALLING ALL MUSICIANS!**



Are you looking for a way to use your musical talent? Do you really love music and you'd like to share the message

of God's love and grace through music? You've been blessed with a singing voice and you like to sing, or perhaps you play a musical instrument, or you would like to ring with St. Paul's Handbells?

St. Paul's would like to invite you to be a part of the special music offered in our worship services. Consider what fits your God-given musical gifts and put your musical abilities into action. Contact Gail Ferrebee, Bill Dyche, Nadine Engel, or the church office if you would like to sing, ring, or play an instrument in worship at St. Paul's.

**TUESDAY ADULT BIBLE CLASS**

**When: Every Tuesday at 10:00 am**

**Location: Fellowship Hall**

**Teacher: Roy Cordes**

We will be studying and discussing WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT THE HOLY SPIRIT. We will start with His "job description" and then look up every passage that uses the term Holy Spirit. Where does the Holy Spirit live? I don't know about you, due to God's grace and my faith, He lives in my heart! Join us for Bible study!



**SHOP WITH SCRIP (a/k/a T.R.I.P.)**

Going Christmas shopping? Hosting Christmas dinner? Buying gift cards for the people on your list that are impossible to shop for? Shop T.R.I.P. first! It's easy to make money for your child's or grandchild's school account and St. Paul's while paying face value for gift cards from over 750 retailers including Amazon, Walmart, Best Buy, Dick's Sporting Goods, Kohl's, Old Navy, Target, Jewel-Osco, i-Tunes, Barnes & Noble! Call or text Julie Salzman at 815-530-7320 to place your order. **The last order will go in on December 5<sup>th</sup> in order to get them before Christmas break.** We do carry a stock of cards so you can still place orders after that but there is no guarantee that what you want will be available. You can also download e-cards from the Raise Right app at any time (just make sure you select an e-card and not a gift card)!

**SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS**

On **Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup>**, we will have a birthday party for Jesus. There will be no Sunday School on December 25<sup>th</sup> or January 1<sup>st</sup>. Regular classes will resume on January 8<sup>th</sup>.



On the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month, all 7<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> graders are invited to be a part of St. Paul's Youth Nights from 6pm to 8pm. **Please note, there will no Youth Nights in December.**

Every Sunday, the youth meet for Bible class between the church services and the 6<sup>th</sup> graders are invited to join too as they study various topics. Watch for details on special events and fundraisers throughout the year! Youth are encouraged to bring friends and adults are invited to get involved. Please contact Sarah Cherry at sarahcherry30@yahoo.com or 815-651-6864 with any questions.

**NON-PERISHABLE FOOD DRIVE**

Thanks to all the school families who donated to the St. Paul's canned and non-perishable food drive during the month of November, as well as those who donated monetary gifts for perishables. During December, we will expand the food drive to include all members of St. Paul's who wish to donate monetary gifts as well as non-perishables, which include canned fruits and vegetables, all types of canned beans, meat sources such as chicken, tuna and beef stew, hot and cold cereals, pasta and pasta sauce, dessert mixes such as

jello, pudding, brownies, and cakes, canned pasta such as Spaghettios, corn bread mix, pancake/biscuit mix and syrup, paper towels, toilet paper, and tissues. We do not give out any food sources past the recommended expiration date on the item. Thank you in advance for all donations from Human Care at St. Paul's. Monetary donations can be placed in the offering plate, food and paper donations can be brought to the church or school.

<b>OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S LOVE</b>	
<b>November 26<sup>th</sup> &amp; 27<sup>th</sup></b>	
<b>Worship Attendance:</b>	
Sat., 5:00 pm	63
Sun., 8:30 am	112
Sun, 11:05 am	76
<b>WEEKEND TOTAL</b>	<b>251</b>
Thanksgiving Eve	79
Thanksgiving Day	36
<b>THANKSGIVING TOTAL</b>	<b>115</b>
Adult Bible Class	7
Youth Bible Class	12
Children's Sunday School	36
<b>Offerings Given (includes Thanksgiving):</b>	
<b>General</b>	<b>\$14,899.75</b>
<b>Building</b>	<b>\$715.00</b>
<b>School Ops</b>	<b>\$147.50</b>

## SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE TODAY

**Preacher:** Rev. Karl Koeppen

**Liturgist:** Rev. Roger Drinnon

**Organist/Pianist:** 5:00: Nadine Engel                      8:30: Nadine Engel

**Audio/Visual:** 8:30: Todd Engel                      11:05: Melody Trudeau

**Live Streaming & Recording:**  
Matt Callan, Tom Stirnaman, Natalie Cherry

**Lay Ministers:** 5:00: Robert Carruthers  
8:30: Darren Blair, Steve Plotezka, Greg Deck  
11:05: Rich Engel

**Lay Readers:** 5:00: Karen Beatty  
8:30: Nancy Eden  
11:05: Melody Trudeau

**Acolytes:** 8:30: Hope Brammer, Aidan Lavoie  
11:05: Sean Price, Archie Schutters

**Trustees:** 5:00: Rob Wood  
8:30: Greg Wheeler  
11:05: Nathan Raloff

**Ushers:** 5:00: Fred Langelett, Jim Sharper, Terry Treece, Rob Wood  
8:30: Bill Balgeman, Judy Browning, Barry Gadbois, Steve Weith  
11:05: Kirk Anderson, Aric Turrell, Sean Turrell, Kim Williams

**Contemporary Service Song Leaders:** Elizabeth Kubal, Ellana Turrell  
**Extra Measure Band:** Matt Callan, Duane & Gail Ferrebee, Scott Moore, Greg Ronchetto, Cindy Rubin, Jim Stone

## THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

<b>Sun, Dec. 4</b>	8:30 am 9:50 am 9:50 am 11:05 am	Worship - Traditional - <i>Communion</i> (Bourb) Adult & Youth Bible Studies (Bourb) Children's Sunday School (Bourb) Worship - Contemporary - <i>Communion</i> (Bourb)
<b>Mon, Dec. 5</b>	7:00 pm	<b>DEADLINE FOR T.R.I.P. ORDER</b> Lay Ministry Meeting (Bourb)
<b>Tue, Dec. 6</b>	10:00 am 6:00 pm	Adult Bible Class (Downtown) <i>First Things First</i> Prayer Group (Bourb)
<b>Wed, Dec. 7</b>	5:30 pm 7:00 pm	Advent Dinner (Bar-B-Q) (Downtown) Advent Worship Service (Downtown)
<b>Thur, Dec. 8</b>	6:00 pm	Mark Adult Bible Study (Bourb)
<b>Fri, Dec. 9</b>		
<b>Sat, Dec. 10</b>	9:00 am 5:00 pm	Christmas Program Practice (Downtown) Worship - Traditional (Downtown)
<b>Sun, Dec. 11</b>	8:30 am 9:50 am 9:50 am 11:05 am 5:00 pm	Worship - Traditional (Bourb) Adult & Youth Bible Studies (Bourb) Children's Sunday School (Bourb) Worship - Contemporary (Bourb) Children's Sunday School Christmas Program (Downtown)

**CHURCH & SCHOOL OFFICE (815-932-0312)**  
**Office Hours: 8:00 A.M. TO 4:30 P.M.**