

**St Paul's Lutheran Church and School**  
**Announcements - November 30<sup>th</sup> & December 1<sup>st</sup>**

**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.

**CHRISTMAS WORSHIP BAND**

All 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade band and orchestra students, along with any adult musicians, are invited to join the Worship Ensemble on **Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup> during the 8:30 am worship service.** We will provide music for the pre-service, offertory, and post-service. **Rehearsal will be on Saturday, Dec. 14<sup>th</sup> at 9 am** in the school gym. Donuts will be provided after the rehearsal. If you are interested, please text Bill Dyche at 815-592-0870 or email him at bill.dyche66@gmail.com. Please include the musician's name, instrument, email, and cell number.

**SPECIAL YOUTH NIGHT**

Our only December Youth Night will be on **Friday, December 13<sup>th</sup> from 6pm to 9pm.** It will be full of special Christmas activities - games, cookie decorating, Christmas movie, Christmas snacks, and more. Pull out your fun Christmas attire and come enjoy all the Christmas fun!

**NURSING HOME CHRISTMAS CHOIR**

Join us on **Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm** for a special performance by our Nursing Home Choir at Prairieview Lutheran Nursing Home. This heartfelt service of lessons and carols will feature beautiful Christmas songs and music, bringing joy and cheer to the residents.

We invite all to attend and share in this wonderful time of fellowship and seasonal spirit. Your presence and support are greatly appreciated as we lift our voices in song and spread warmth to our neighbors at Prairieview.

**ANNIVERSARY THANKOFFERINGS**

Since we began our 160<sup>th</sup>/165<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Thanksgiving Celebration, many have asked how to donate to this Anniversary Celebration. At the school, there are envelopes for your giving opportunities on the wall next to the coat rack. At the downtown church, there are envelopes in the narthex and by the elevators. Please place your donations in the offering plate or return them to the church office. Let us PRAISE the Lord for his grace, mercy, and FAITHFULNESS throughout all of these years.



**GERMANY & ALPINE TOUR**

Once again, Pastor Don Balgeman, with the help of his brother Bill, is leading a tour to Germany. Some of the sites visited on this 11-day trip will include Munich, Rothenburg (an original medieval town), Nurnberg, Worms (Martin Luther historical site), Heidelberg, Augsburg (as in the Augsburg Confession), a Rhine River day-trip cruise, the Black Forest, Linderhof Castle, and the Passion Play Theater in Oberammergau. **The trip is from August 31<sup>st</sup> to September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025.** All transportation, entrance fees, and a full-time guide are included, as well as all breakfasts and 6 of 9 dinners in Germany. **Bill will hold another informational meeting (this time with the tour guide) at his home in Limestone on Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am. There will be one more meeting (without the tour guide) at his home on Friday December 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm.** Detailed brochures are available in the church office. Please call Bill Balgeman at 815-937-4947 for questions or more details and to RSVP for one of the meetings.



**ADVENT DINNERS**

We Do the Cooking, You Do the Eating! The first Advent midweek service is this Wednesday, December 4<sup>th</sup> at the downtown church. Dinner will be served in Fellowship Hall from 5:30 - 6:30 prior to the 7:00 pm worship service. The meal will be lasagna, salad and garlic bread and will be served by the board of Parish Fellowship. Coffee, lemonade and dessert will also be served. Please join us for food and fellowship and then worship!



**CALLING ALL BAKERS!**

The annual Youth Ministry Christmas Cookie Sale is not possible without your generous donations of homemade cookies. If baking is not for you but you would still like to support our efforts, we are also looking for sponsors to help cover the cost of the many pounds of flour, sugar, butter, eggs, and more that go into making over 400 dozen cookies. Sign up between services or contact Katrina at 618-975-8361 or katrinadrinnon@gmail.com no later than December 1<sup>st</sup> to volunteer. Thank you for supporting St. Paul's Youth Ministry!

## NEW BIBLE STUDY

On December 1<sup>st</sup>, Pastor Drinnon will be starting a new Bible study entitled "Living Faith: A Journey Through James" during coffee hour. Out of all the authors of the New Testament, no other author knew Jesus as long as his half-brother James. The epistle of James reflects James's familiarity with his half-brother's teachings. The epistle is full of references to Jesus's Sermon on the Mount and the Book of Proverbs, especially chapters 1-9. James is addressing Christians throughout the early church giving them encouragement to endure trials and to challenge Christians to live as Jesus taught in the Sermon on the Mount. This Bible study will be a thematic study grouping together the various topics James addresses to the diaspora church throughout the Roman Empire. In this study, we will explore James' teachings on topics like:

- † Encouragement in Difficult Times (James 1:2-4)
- † Genuine Faith (James 2:14-26)
- † The Right Use of our Tongues (James 3:1-12)
- † A Divided Heart (4:1-10)
- † The Arrogance and Danger of Wealth (4:13-17; 5:1-6)
- † A Life Filled with Prayer (5:7-20)
- † Practical guidance for living as Christians in a fallen world

Whether you're a long-time Bible reader or new to Scripture, the epistle of James offers timeless principles that are sure to strengthen and challenge you. We encourage you to invite friends and family to join in this meaningful journey.

How to Prepare:

- † Bring your Bible and a notebook for notes.
- † Read through James 1 before our first session.

Please come and receive the encouragement James gives to Christians now who are under trial. We can't wait to study God's Word together! If you have any questions or need more information, please contact Pastor Drinnon at [rdrinnon@stpaulslutheran.net](mailto:rdrinnon@stpaulslutheran.net) or 815-932-0312.

## HOLIDAY DECORATIONS

You will notice some differences in our Christmas decorations at the downtown sanctuary this year. The anniversary committee suggested trying to recreate a little bit of what decorations might have looked like back in the mid to late 1800s. We hope you enjoy the slight trip back in time!



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

Hosting Thanksgiving dinner? Going Christmas shopping? Are there 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, Target, Jewel, Barnes & Noble and more!! Call or text Julie at 815-530-7320 to place your order. You can also order gift cards and download e-cards from the Raise Right app. **NOTE: Please place your order before December 9<sup>th</sup> in order to guarantee receipt by Christmas.**





**COME CHEER ON  
YOUR ST. PAUL'S  
TIGERS THIS  
WEEK!**

**Mon., Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup> at 5:00**  
HOME Boys Basketball Game

**Tues., Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup> at 5:00**  
HOME Boys Basketball Game



## ADVENT DEVOTIONS

This year's Lutheran Hour Ministries' devotion, "Come, Let Us Adore Him" is now available at the church and school or you can sign up for daily advent emails at [www.lhm.org/advent/](http://www.lhm.org/advent/).

\_\_\_In "Come, Let Us Adore Him", we see that God deserves our worship and praise for all that He has done for us. And in the birth of Jesus into our world, born to save us from our sins, born to give us eternal life - God has given us His very Best. To which we can only respond: "Come, Let Us Adore Him!" The events surrounding Jesus' birth - the prophecies foretold and fulfilled, the birth of John to point to Jesus, the divine way God guided Mary and Joseph, the preservation of Jesus' life from King Herod - all speak to God's intimate involvement in our salvation. This is the God we adore - the God who spared not His own Son but gave Him up for us all.

### CARE PACKAGES AVAILABLE

Do you know someone with cancer? Would you like to send them Hope? We keep packed Phil's Friends boxes at the school to be given out when requested. If you know someone locally and would like to deliver it, you can pick one up from the church office during normal office hours. If the person lives further away and the box needs to be shipped, contact Sarah Cherry with the address and we will ship it out. Either way we need the person's address so we can add their name to the Cards of Hope list so they can receive their monthly card for the next year.



### MANGER MAKERS

Each year, St. Paul's Sunday School students are given pieces to make a nativity set. The first year they receive the Holy Family and then each year after that, they receive other nativity characters or animals to expand their set. In 8<sup>th</sup> grade, students receive a stable to complete their set. The manger pieces can be picked up Sunday mornings in December in the upper grade hallway.

### TABLES OF EIGHT 2025

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 2025 begins in January and 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 25<sup>th</sup>, February 22<sup>nd</sup>, March 29<sup>th</sup> and April 26<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 November 30<sup>th</sup>/December 1<sup>st</sup>, December 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> and December 21<sup>st</sup>/22<sup>nd</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 [lykoeppen@comcast.net](mailto:lykoeppen@comcast.net) or 592-5701 by December 31<sup>st</sup>.



### ALTAR FLOWER CHART for 2025

The Flower Chart for 2025 will be posted at the downtown church beginning November 23<sup>rd</sup> through the month of December and then will be moved out to the school site. If you would like to sponsor altar flowers in honor of or in memory of someone or some special occasion, please sign up on the chart for your desired weekend. If you would like both vases for a weekend, please sign your name on both lines for that weekend. When you sign up for flowers please include your phone number next to your name! Thank you!

The cost is \$25.00 for one vase or \$50.00 for two. Please make checks payable to St. Paul's Lutheran Church. Checks can be put in the offering plate or turned in to the church office. If you have any questions regarding altar flowers, please contact Lynda Koeppen at 815-592-5701 or [lykoeppen@comcast.net](mailto:lykoeppen@comcast.net).

### ASSIMILATION CLASSES

Now that our New Member Classes have finished, our Board of Outreach & Connections will be hosting three assimilation classes for **all new members, LCMS transfers**, and anyone else who would like a refresher. These classes will cover topics specific to St. Paul's - namely, our small group opportunities, our constitution, and our budget. They will be **held between church services on Sunday, December 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 15<sup>th</sup>**. If you are planning to be received as a new member after the holidays, please plan to attend these classes.

### ONLINE GIVING AND ENVELOPES

Have you ever considered signing up to give to St. Paul's using our electronic giving? Our electronic giving program offers convenience for you and much-needed donation consistency for our congregation. Registration is easy! Just go to our secure website [www.stpaulslutheran.net](http://www.stpaulslutheran.net) and click on Giving. You can make one-time donations or schedule automatic donations. You can also designate your money to go toward specific funds. ***In the next couple weeks we will be reassigning offering envelopes for the coming year so now would be the perfect time to transition to online giving.*** If you have any questions, please email the church office at [crahn@stpaulslutheran.net](mailto:crahn@stpaulslutheran.net).

## **BRADLEY CHRISTMAS PARADE**



On **Friday, December 6<sup>th</sup>**, the Village of Bradley will present their annual lighted Christmas parade beginning at 6:30 pm. This year's theme is "Cartoon

Christmas" and St. Paul's PTL is entering a Polar Express float! We would love to have you walk with us alongside the float. If you are interested, please go to <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F044FAAA92EA6F94-53337509-bradley> or scan the QR code. The more walkers we have, the bigger impact we'll make!

## **VILLAGE TREE LIGHTING**

Come out to support our K-8 St. Paul's students who will be singing for the Village of Bourbonnais Tree Lighting on **Thursday, December 5<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. at The Grove** (Goselin Park, 700 Main St. NW). We are honored to be included in this community tradition!

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Thanks to Bob Steinke and his tractor for hauling the pile of lime into the solar field and to Dave Harms, John Veers, Bob Carruthers, Greg Wheeler, and Matt and Loree Yoakum for spreading it around.

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## **SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM**

The Preschool through 6th grade students are invited to participate in the Sunday School Christmas program on **Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup> at 5 pm**. Students will be rehearsing and receiving parts during the Sunday School hour so it is especially important that they attend Sunday School if they plan to participate in the program. *There will also be two Saturday morning rehearsals at the downtown church on December 7<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> from 9:00-11:00 am.* We look forward to many students joining us to celebrate the birth of Jesus through script and song.



## **YOUTH MINISTRY COOKIE SALE**

Would you like to have a variety of Christmas cookies without the hassle of making them all yourself? Do you like to give scrumptious homemade gifts over the holidays? St. Paul's Youth Ministry is selling boxes of two dozen assorted Christmas cookies for \$15. Please complete the enclosed order form and place it in the collection plate or return it to the church office **no later than Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup>**. Also this year, you can **order** and/or **pay** online using these QR codes.



**Use this QR code to order**

The cookies will be available for pick-up from the **Bourbonnais campus on Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup> between 10am and noon** or on **Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup> between 9am and 11am**.

There is also an option to pick them up from the **downtown church on Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup> between 4:30pm and 5:15pm**.

**New this year:** You can purchase a special VIP golden ticket for \$20 for access to a VIP cookie selection opportunity at 8:30am on Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup>. VIPs will be paired with a personal cookie shopper to design a customized box. We also will be offering 5 golden tickets for VIP taste testers who are willing to join us on a bake day in December. Contact Katrina Drinnon at 618-975-8361 or [katrinadrinnon@gmail.com](mailto:katrinadrinnon@gmail.com) to learn more.



**Use this QR code to pay with a credit card**

**PTL'S ANNUAL SPRING  
FUNDRAISER**

SAVE THE DATE!! PTL will be hosting St. Paul's Anniversary Blast & Auction on **Saturday, March 15<sup>th</sup>** at Quality Inn in Bradley. Join us for an evening of dinner and 60's, 70's, and 80's music (featuring Bill Dyché's band, Cosmic Rewind) as we celebrate our history and God's faithfulness to St. Paul's. Doors will open at 6pm with a cash bar. Dinner will be served at 7pm and the band will entertain us from 7pm to 10pm with intermittent breaks for live auction items throughout the night.

As we have done in the recent past, our silent auction will be online and will open a week before the event and will close at the end of the event. If you work for or own a business that would be willing to donate a basket, service, or a sponsorship, please call the school office for the proper paperwork. If you have a talent to share, we would also love to get some great handmade products or experiences for the auction! All donors will be advertised on our auction website, as well as in our Thank You Video, which will run on our school website and Facebook page, and during the live event. Our goal is to raise \$100,000. All proceeds from the event will be used to provide teaching supplies for our teachers, an update to our curriculum, and a shade structure for the playground. More information to follow. Thank you for your support!



**OP CHRISTMAS CHILD UPDATE**

At LWML's Fall Workshop we packed 175 shoe boxes. HOWEVER, offering money exceeded what was needed to ship that many boxes so additional supplies were purchased and 110 more boxes were packed! This is the most we have shipped since we began this annual project 15 years ago. Your generosity and dedication to this worthwhile project is amazing and we thank you from the bottom of our hearts. Please know that you have made 285 children very happy this year and they now have a chance to experience hope and joy and learn about Jesus and his amazing love. God bless all of you for support this year. All praise and glory to our God! When the boxes ship out mid December, we will find out where they went.

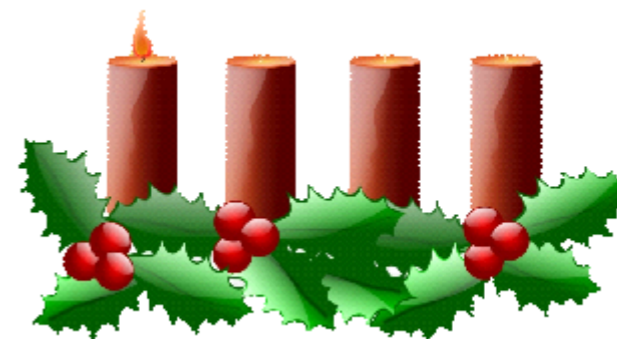
**BISHOP MAC TESTING**



Mark your calendars for the Bishop McNamara Catholic HS Placement Test! This is for students who will be starting high school in the Fall of 2025.

\* On **Tuesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6pm**, we will be hosting a practice test and a scholarship/financial aid night in the school cafeteria- this is for all current and prospective students and parents.

\* On **Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup>**, there will be a Placement Test for any prospective freshman that would like to attend Bishop McNamara Catholic High School. There is no charge to take the test. This will be held from 8:00 - 11:00 am (doors open at 7:30 am). Please reach out to Dawn Akerman at [dakerman@bmcss.org](mailto:dakerman@bmcss.org) or 815-932-7413 ext. 102 for more information.



**OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S LOVE  
November 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>**

**Worship Attendance:**

<b>Saturday, 5:00 pm</b> .....	<b>58</b>
<b>Sunday, 8:30 am</b> .....	<b>144</b>
<b>Sunday, 11:05 am</b> .....	<b>80</b>
<b>WEEKEND TOTAL</b> .....	<b>282</b>

<b>Youth Bible Class</b> .....	<b>11</b>
<b>Children's Sunday School</b> .....	<b>24</b>

**Offerings Given**

<b>General</b> .....	<b>\$10,881.60</b>
<b>Building</b> .....	<b>\$460.00</b>
<b>School Ops</b> .....	<b>\$260.00</b>
<b>Anniversary</b> .....	<b>\$260.00</b>

## SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE TODAY

**Preacher:** Rev. Roger Drinnon      **Liturgist:** Rev. Karl Koeppen

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

**A/V:** 8:30: Todd Engel      11:05: Josh Cherry

**Live Streaming/Recording:** Matt Callan, Todd Engel, Seth McHugh

**Lay Ministers:** 5:00: Bob Carruthers  
8:30: Bruce Clark, Brent Eden, Rich Engel, Kevin Kurtz  
11:05: Ken Capps

**Lay Readers:** 5:00: Diane Barber  
8:30: Ruth Fabbro  
11:05: Dave Bottorff

**Acolytes:** 8:30: Nolan Freitas, Luke Stirnaman  
11:05: Jacob Kubal, Annie Schneider

**Trustees:** 5:00: Jeff Johnson  
8:30: Tom Stirnaman  
11:05: Jim Trudeau

**Ushers:** 5:00: Pat Hatch, Fred Langelett, Terry Treece  
8:30: Bill Balgeman, Jim Baron, Judy Browning, Steve Weith  
11:05: Kirk Anderson, Aric Turrell, Sean Turrell, Kim Williams

**Extra Measure Band:** Matt Callan, Bill Dyche, Duane & Gail Ferrebee, Greg Ronchetto, Cindy Rubin, Jim Stone

## THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

<b>Sun, Dec. 1</b>	8:30 am	Worship - Traditional - <i>Communion</i> ( <i>Bourb</i> )
	9:45 am	Assimilation Class for New Members      ( <i>Bourb</i> )
	9:45 am	Adult Bible Study      ( <i>Bourb</i> )
	9:45 am	Youth Bible Study      ( <i>Bourb</i> )
	9:45 am	Children's Sunday School      ( <i>Bourb</i> )
	11:05 am	Worship - Contemporary - <i>Communion</i> ( <i>Bourb</i> )
<b>Mon, Dec. 2</b>	7:00 pm	Lay Ministry Meeting      ( <i>Bourb</i> )
<b>Tue, Dec. 3</b>	4:00 pm	Jr. Confirmation Class      ( <i>Bourb</i> )
<b>Wed, Dec. 4</b>	5:30 pm	Advent Dinner      ( <i>Downtown</i> )
	7:00 pm	Midweek Advent Worship      ( <i>Downtown</i> )
<b>Thur, Dec. 5</b>	6:00 pm	Bourbonnais Tree Light      ( <i>The Grove, Bourb</i> )
<b>Fri, Dec. 6</b>	6:30 pm	Bradley Christmas Parade      ( <i>Broadway, Bradley</i> )
<b>Sat, Dec. 7</b>	9:00 am	Christmas Program Practice      ( <i>Downtown</i> )
	5:00 pm	Worship - Traditional      ( <i>Downtown</i> )
<b>Sun, Dec. 8</b>	8:30 am	Worship - Traditional      ( <i>Bourb</i> )
	9:45 am	Assimilation Class for New Members      ( <i>Bourb</i> )
	9:45 am	Adult Bible Study      ( <i>Bourb</i> )
	9:45 am	Youth Bible Study      ( <i>Bourb</i> )
	9:45 am	Children's Sunday School      ( <i>Bourb</i> )
	11:05 am	Worship - Contemporary      ( <i>Bourb</i> )