

**St Paul's Lutheran Church and School**  
**Announcements - December 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</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!



**MIDWEEK ADVENT WORSHIP**

**Dec. 11<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.**

**CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICES**

**Tuesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>  
5:00 p.m, 7:00 p.m.& 10:00 p.m. -  
Communion**

**CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE**

**Wednesday, December 25<sup>th</sup>  
10:00 a.m. - Communion**

**NEW YEAR'S EVE SERVICE**

**Tuesday, December 31<sup>st</sup>  
6:00 p.m. - Communion**

**\*\*\* All of these services will be at the downtown church.**

**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 one more informational meeting at his home in Limestone 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 second Advent service and dinner is this **Wednesday, December 11<sup>th</sup>** in Fellowship Hall at the downtown church. The dinner will be served from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. by the Board of Parish Education & Debbie Turrell's Small Group prior to the 7:00 pm worship service. The meal for this week is **Homemade Soup & Sandwiches**. Coffee, lemonade and dessert will also be available. A freewill offering will be taken. Please join us for food and fellowship and then worship!

## 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!



Many thanks to all who contributed to the Food Basket Donations, whether food sources or monetary contributions, during the month of November. We wish to thank all who participated from the school and church. Thank you for your generosity. May God greatly bless you this Christmas.

~Human Care at St Paul's



## 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.

## NEW BIBLE STUDY

On December 1<sup>st</sup>, Pastor Drinnon started 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 his familiarity with his half-brother's teachings. It is full of references to Jesus' Sermon on the Mount and the Book of Proverbs. 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.

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 [drinnon@stpaulslutheran.net](mailto:drinnon@stpaulslutheran.net) or 815-932-0312.

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

Going Christmas shopping? Need ideas for the people on your list that are impossible to shop for? Hosting or traveling over the holidays? 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 this weekend in order to guarantee receipt by Christmas.**







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

**Mon., Dec. 9<sup>th</sup> at 4:30**

JV Boys Basketball Game @ Liberty

**Thurs., Dec. 12<sup>th</sup> at 4:30**

Boys Basketball Game @ Southwest  
Christian

**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.



**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.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL  
CHRISTMAS PROGRAM**

The Sunday School Christmas program is **next Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup> at 5 pm at our downtown church**. Come and listen as our children share the joy of the Christmas story.



**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 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>.

**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!



**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 8th**. 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 10 am and noon or on Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup> between 9 am and 11 am**. There is also an option to pick them up from the **downtown church on Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup> between 4:30 pm and 5:15 pm**.

**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 [katrinadrinnon@gmail.com](mailto:katrinadrinnon@gmail.com) or 618-975-8361 to learn more.



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



Thank you so much to Samantha Posthumus and Michele Cordero for their hard work and creativity decorating the two Christmas trees at school! In spirit of our 160<sup>th</sup>/165<sup>th</sup> anniversary and German Lutheran heritage, the theme is colors of yellow, black, and red with wooden ornaments. We also thank the teachers who worked with all the students to decorate their personal wooden ornament. The students will be able to take these home when we come back from school after the new year.



**SEEKING MUSICIANS**

We are looking for those who love to sing, ring, or play an instrument. We are hoping to bring additional joy to all in worship through music and hopefully boost our attendance. If you are interested in sharing your talents or would like to participate but are not familiar with the options, please contact Nadine Engel at 708-814-4961.

**SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAMS**

Mark your calendars for the Christmas programs for St. Paul's Lutheran School.  
🎵 **Preschool Christmas Program: Tuesday, December 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm**  
🎵 **Kindergarten - 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Christmas Program: Thursday, December 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm**  
Please join us for these celebrations of Jesus' birth!



**SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS**

On **Sunday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>**, we will have a birthday party for Jesus. There will be no Sunday School on December 29<sup>th</sup>. Regular classes will resume on January 5<sup>th</sup>.

**ALTAR FLOWER CHART for 2025**



The Flower Chart for 2025 will be posted at the downtown church through December and then will be moved 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, please include your phone number! Thank you!

The cost is \$25.00 per vase. 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, please contact Lynda Koeppen at 815-592-5701 or [lykoeppen@comcast.net](mailto:lykoeppen@comcast.net).

**MEN'S BIBLE BREAKFAST**

We meet again **Saturday, December 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:30 am** in the Riverside Hospital Cafeteria. Join us as we study God's Word.

**PICTORIAL DIRECTORY UPDATE**

We have recently found out that, due to staff shortages at Universal Church Directories, our pictorial directory is still not completed. We apologize for the delay and will get them distributed as soon as we have them in hand. Thank you for your patience!

<b>OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S LOVE</b>	
<b>November 30<sup>th</sup> &amp; December 1<sup>st</sup></b>	
<b><u>Worship Attendance:</u></b>	
<b>Saturday, 5:00 pm</b>	<b>47</b>
<b>Sunday, 8:30 am</b>	<b>150</b>
<b>Sunday, 11:05 am</b>	<b>77</b>
<b>WEEKEND TOTAL</b>	<b>274</b>
<b>Thanksgiving Eve</b>	<b>87</b>
<b>Thanksgiving Day</b>	<b>54</b>
<b>THANKSGIVING TOTAL</b>	<b>141</b>
<b>Adult Bible Class</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Youth Bible Class</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Children's Sunday School</b>	<b>27</b>
<b><u>Offerings Given</u></b>	
<b>General</b>	<b>\$11,862.95</b>
<b>Building</b>	<b>\$3,020.00</b>
<b>School Ops</b>	<b>\$285.00</b>
<b>Anniversary</b>	<b>\$250.00</b>
<b>Thanksgiving</b>	<b>\$1,974.75</b>



**SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE TODAY**

- |                                  |                         |   |                    |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------|---|--------------------|
| <b>Preacher:</b>                 | Rev. Karl Koeppen       | <b>Liturgist:</b>                                       | Rev. Roger Drinnon |
| <b>Organist:</b>                 | 5:00: Nadine Engel      | 8:30:   | Nadine Engel       |
| <b>A/V:</b>                      | 8:30: Todd Engel        | 11:05:  | Josh Cherry        |
| <b>Live Streaming/Recording:</b> | Matt Callan, Todd Engel |   |                    |
| <b>Lay Ministers:</b>            | 5:00:                   | Bob Carruthers  |                    |
|                                  | 8:30:                   | Bruce Clark, Brent Eden, Rich Engel, Kevin Kurtz        |                    |
|                                  | 11:05:                  | Ken Capps   |                    |
| <b>Lay Readers:</b>              | 5:00:                   | Pat Hatch   |                    |
|                                  | 8:30:                   | JoAnn Hess  |                    |
|                                  | 11:05:                  | Bill Dyche  |                    |
| <b>Acolytes:</b>                 | 8:30:                   | Brody Brinkmann, Quinn Styck                            |                    |
|                                  | 11:05:                  | Ava & Jackson Veasey                                    |                    |
| <b>Trustees:</b>                 | 5:00:                   | Rob Wood  |                    |
|                                  | 8:30:                   | Tom Stirnaman   |                    |
|                                  | 11:05:                  | Greg Wheeler  |                    |
| <b>Ushers:</b>                   | 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 |                    |

**Contemporary Service Song Leaders:** Mellody McDonald  
**Extra Measure Band:** Matt Callan, Bill Dyche, Duane & Gail Ferrebee, Greg Ronchetto, Cindy Rubin, Jim Stone, Ellana Turrell

## THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

<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>
<b>Mon, Dec. 9</b>			
<b>Tue, Dec. 10</b>	6:30 pm	Preschool Christmas Program	<i>(Bourb)</i>
	6:30 pm	School Board Meeting	<i>(Bourb)</i>
<b>Wed, Dec. 11</b>	5:30 pm	Advent Dinner (Soup/Sandwiches)	<i>(Downtown)</i>
	7:00 pm	Midweek Advent Worship	<i>(Downtown)</i>
<b>Thur, Dec. 12</b>	6:00 pm	<i>Gospel of Mark</i> Bible Study	<i>(Bourb)</i>
<b>Fri, Dec. 13</b>	6:00 pm	Youth Christmas Party	<i>(Bourb)</i>
	7:00 pm	Germany Meeting	<i>(Balgeman's House)</i>
<b>Sat, Dec. 14</b>	9:00 am	Christmas Program Practice	<i>(Downtown)</i>
	9:00 am	Holiday Worship Band Practice	<i>(Bourb)</i>
	10:00 am	Christmas Cookie Pick-Up	<i>(Bourb)</i>
	4:30 pm	Christmas Cookie Pick-Up	<i>(Downtown)</i>
	5:00 pm	Worship - Traditional - <i>Communion</i>	<i>(Downtown)</i>
<b>Sun, Dec. 15</b>	8:30 am	Worship - Traditional - <i>Communion</i>	<i>(Bourb)</i>
	9:00 am	Christmas Cookie Pick-Up	<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>
	5:00 pm	Sunday School Christmas Program	<i>(Downtown)</i>