

St. Paul's Lutheran Church and School
Announcements - December 14th & 15th

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.

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!

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 8th 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.



MIDWEEK ADVENT WORSHIP

Dec. 18th at 7:00 p.m.

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICES

Tuesday, December 24th
5:00 p.m, 7:00 p.m.& 10:00 p.m. - Communion

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE

Wednesday, December 25th
10:00 a.m. - Communion

NEW YEAR'S EVE SERVICE

Tuesday, December 31st
6:00 p.m. - Communion

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

NURSING HOME CHRISTMAS CHOIR

Join us on **Sunday, December 15th 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.

ADVENT DINNERS

Our last Advent midweek service and Advent dinner is this **Wednesday, December 18th** in Fellowship Hall at the downtown church. The dinner will be served from 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. prior to the 7:00 p.m. worship service and the meal will be Chicken & Noodles and Beef & Noodles served by the Board of Stewardship. 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!



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/.

___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 1st, 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. 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. In this study, we will explore James' teachings on topics like:

- † Encouragement in Difficult Times
- † Genuine Faith
- † The Right Use of our Tongues
- † A Divided Heart
- † The Arrogance and Danger of Wealth
- † A Life Filled with Prayer
- † Practical guidance for living as Christians in a fallen world

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 or 815-932-0312.



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

Mon., Dec. 16th at 5:00

Boys Basketball Game @ Grace

Tues., Dec. 17th at 5:00

Boys Basketball Game @ Trinity,
Tinley Park

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

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



Interesting statistics for us to think about:
How do people start attending church?

- A friend invited me - 86%**
- Organized visitation - 6%
- Pastor's invitation - 6%
- Advertising - 2%

The best way to invite people to Church this Christmas is to invite people to Church. People bring people! Who can you invite today?

TABLES OF EIGHT 2025

Have you ever said "hello" to someone at church and thought "They seem nice. I'd like to get to know them better."? Now is your chance! St. Paul's Tables of Eight begins in January and it's 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 25th, February 22nd, March 29th and April 26th (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 as an alternate. **Sign ups will take place after services once more on December 21st /22nd.** 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 or 592-5701 by December 31st.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

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

LWML DECEMBER MISSION GRANT

Sharing Lutheran Bible books in a Muslim school – does it sound impossible? With God, all things are possible! In Indonesia (home to the world's largest Muslim population), their founders admired diversity, and so the country does not proclaim itself an Islamic State. This pride in diversity and a certain amount of tolerance allows for the teaching of different world religions in Indonesia's public schools, where Christians can teach the basics of the faith. At a cost of only \$5 per book, 3,000 colorful Bible storybooks and Small Catechisms will be provided in the Indonesian language for Indonesia's public school students.

If you feel moved to contribute to this effort, please stop by the LWML table with your mites today.

SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

The congregation is invited to attend the St. Paul's School Christmas Program on **Thursday, December 19th at 6:00 pm** in the school gym.



PTL'S ANNUAL SPRING FUNDRAISER

SAVE THE DATE!! PTL will be hosting St. Paul's Anniversary Blast & Auction on **Saturday, March 15th** 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!

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

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.

MEN'S BIBLE BREAKFAST

We meet again **Sat., December 21st at 7:30** 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!

ALTAR FLOWER CHART for 2025

The new flower chart 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 a special occasion, please sign up on the chart for your desired weekend. If you would like both vases for a weekend, please put your name on both lines for that weekend. Please be sure to include your phone number. The cost is \$25.00 per vase. Please make checks payable to St. Paul's Lutheran Church. Payment may be put in the offering plate or turned in to the church office. Please contact Lynda Koeppen at lykoeppen@comcast.net or 815-592-5701 with questions.



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 160th/165th 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.

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S LOVE

December 7th & 8th

Worship Attendance:

Saturday, 5:00 pm	55
Sunday, 8:30 am	123
Sunday, 11:05 am	84
WEEKEND TOTAL	262

Advent, Dec. 4th **56**

Adult Bible Class **8**

Youth Bible Class **16**

Children's Sunday School **24**

Offerings Given

General	\$11,979.00
Building	\$1,560.00
School Ops	\$360.00
Anniversary	\$1,465.00

GERMANY/ALPINE TOUR

There are just a few spots left, so if you are considering this trip from August 31st through September 10th, please reach out to Bill Balgeman at 815-937-4947 as soon as possible.

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, Natalie Cherry

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

Lay Readers: 5:00: Rich Nordmeyer
8:30: John Veers
11:05: Mellody McDonald

Acolytes: 8:30: Micah Lundmark, Mo Macari
11:05: Emma Davis, Miles Truax

Trustees: 5:00: Rob Wood
8:30: Brian Porter
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

Holiday Worship Band: Flute - Liz Deck, Mason Raloff; Violin - Ruth Fabbro, Micah Lundmark, Lana McHugh, Ellana Turrell; Viola - Abby Rogers; Clarinet - Christie Rahn, Olivia Reardanz, Elaina Storer; Bass Clarinet - Norah Callan; Alto Sax - Matt Callan, Grace West; Tenor Sax - Greg Ronchetto; Trumpet - Dain Blair, Brayden Douglas, Diane Dyche, Nadine Engel, Gail Ferrebee, Ben Kubal, Layna Rahn; French Horn - Alexis Douglas, Isaac Fabbro, Nora McHugh; Trombone - Dave Bottorff, Brent Eden; Percussion - Dylan Blair, Hope Brammer, George Morocho Loja

Contemporary Service Song Leaders: Hope Brammer, Chloe Butler, Natalie Cherry, Olivia Douglas, Ben Kubal, Alena Lagesse, Daphne Sexton, Delilah Sexton
Extra Measure Band: Matt Callan, Duane & Gail Ferrebee, Greg Ronchetto, Cindy Rubin, Jim Stone, Ellana Turrell

THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

Sun, Dec. 15	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>)
Mon, Dec. 16		
Tue, Dec. 17	4:00 pm	Jr. Confirmation Class (<i>Bourb</i>)
Wed, Dec. 18	5:30 pm	Advent Dinner (Chicken/Beef & Noodles) (<i>Downtown</i>)
	7:00 pm	Midweek Advent Worship (<i>Downtown</i>)
Thur, Dec. 19	6:00 pm	K - 8 th Christmas Concert (<i>Bourb</i>)
Fri, Dec. 20		<i>EARLY DISMISSAL (11:15 / 11:30 am)</i> <i>START OF CHRISTMAS BREAK</i>
Sat, Dec. 21	7:30 am	Men's Bible Breakfast (<i>Riverside</i>)
	5:00 pm	Worship - Traditional (<i>Downtown</i>)
Sun, Dec. 22	8:30 am	Worship - Traditional (<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>)