

St. Paul's Lutheran Church and School
Announcements - December 21st & 22nd

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.



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.**

SUNDAY 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.

NOTE: There will be no Bible study on Sunday, December 29th.

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?**

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.

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 this weekend.*** 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.



2025 GIVING ENVELOPES

The 2025 envelopes are now available for pick-up. If you typically attend church on Saturday evening, your envelopes will be in Fellowship Hall. If you attend on Sundays, your envelopes will be in the hallway outside of the church & school office. 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!

SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

St. Paul's Lutheran School will be hosting an Open House for prospective students and their families on **Thursday, January 9th from 5 to 7 pm**. We have a great school, excellent staff and a strong commitment to provide academic excellence in a safe, Christian environment. Please let your friends and neighbors know about St. Paul's and invite them to tour our facility and meet our teachers. St. Paul's has been blessed with increasing enrollment and we are looking to reach more families to join our school and church community. ***Enrollment opens to the public on January 21st!***

The church office will be closed:

*** Tues. & Wed., Dec. 24th & 25th**

*** Tues. & Wed., Dec. 31st & Jan. 1st**

YOUTH MINISTRY UPDATES & EVENTS

- * Be the Church Movie & Service Night: On **Friday, Jan. 3rd, 6-8:30pm**, the Board of Youth Ministry will be hosting a Movie and Service Night at the school campus. As we celebrate the gift we received in Christ's birth this Christmas and remember the gifts of the Magi, we thank God for opportunities to give unto others. We will be working on Phil's Friend's projects to help prepare for future pack parties. Youth in grades 7th -12th grade may be dropped off, but this is a great event for the whole family. Bring a snack to share and \$5 if you would like to join in ordering pizza. We hope to see you there.
- * Youth Bible Study on 12/22 will meet for a combined class in the youth room as we study the Christmas story from the perspective of the angels.
- * No Youth Bible Study on 12/29.
- * Be the Church on Epiphany **Sunday, January 5th** during Coffee Hour! God gave gifts to the Magi to serve the Lord. He has given us gifts to serve others. Join youth bible study in the Cafeteria during coffee hour on Jan 5th for an Epiphany devotion and services projects.



ST. PAUL'S SCHOOL ENROLLMENT

January 7th marks the first day of re-enrollment for students currently attending St. Paul's. On January 13th, enrollment will open up to church members and siblings of current students. Enrollment will open to the public on January 21st. We have been blessed with increasing enrollment over the years so don't delay.

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.



Dear St. Paul's Family,

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. (Philippians 4:4-7)

I want to express my deepest thanks for the generous and thoughtful Christmas gifts that you have given me this season. Your kindness is a beautiful reminder of the love and support that surrounds me and my family. I am truly blessed to serve as your pastor, and I am deeply grateful for your prayers, encouragement, and thoughtful gifts.

This Christmas season, Katrina and I give thanks for each of you and for the privilege of ministering to such a wonderful congregation. May God bless you abundantly with His love, peace, and joy in the coming year.

With heartfelt appreciation,
Pastor and Katrina



OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S LOVE	
December 14th & 15th	
Worship Attendance:	
Saturday, 5:00 pm	51
Sunday, 8:30 am	154
Sunday, 11:05 am	88
WEEKEND TOTAL	293
Advent, Dec. 11th	76
Youth Bible Class	16
Children's Sunday School	29
SS Christmas Program	181
Offerings Given	
General	\$12,186.00
Building	\$2,237.00
School Ops	\$325.00
Anniversary	\$2,650.00

ANNIVERSARY THANKOFFERINGS
 If you would like to make a special donation in honor of our 165th church anniversary, there are envelopes for your giving opportunities on the wall next to the coat rack at the school. 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.

SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE TODAY

- Preacher:** Rev. Karl Koeppen **Liturgist:** Rev. Roger Drinnon
- 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, Olivia Reardanz, Elizabeth Schneider
- Lay Ministers:** 5:00: Bob Carruthers
8:30: Bruce Clark, Brent Eden, Rich Engel, Kevin Kurtz
11:05: Ken Capps
- Lay Readers:** 5:00: Jennifer Richardson
8:30: Lauren Lundmark
11:05: Debbie Turrell
- Acolytes:** 8:30: Ava & Jackson Veasey
11:05: Jacob Kubal, Claire Wilson
- Trustees:** 5:00: Jeff Johnson
8:30: Tom Stirnaman
11:05: Greg Wheeler
- 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

Contemporary Service Song Leaders: Isaac Fabbro, Ellana Turrell
Extra Measure Band: Matt Callan, Bill Dyche, Duane & Gail Ferrebee, Cindy Rubin, Jim Stone

Sanctuary Singers: Connie Blacklock, Mike Clendenin, Liz Deck, Katrina Drinnon, Nancy Eden, Brent Eden, Sharon Friesner, Adele Hinze, Elayne James, Sandy James, Eugene Wachholz

THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

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>
Mon, Dec. 23		CHRISTMAS BREAK <i>(All Week)</i>
Tue, Dec. 24	5:00 pm	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service <i>(Downtown)</i>
	7:00 pm	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service <i>(Downtown)</i>
	10:00 pm	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service <i>(Downtown)</i>
Wed, Dec. 25	10:00 am	Christmas Day Worship <i>(Downtown)</i>
Thur, Dec. 26		
Fri, Dec. 27		
Sat, Dec. 28	5:00 pm	Worship - Traditional - <i>Communion (Downtown)</i>
Sun, Dec. 29	8:30 am	Worship - Traditional - <i>Communion (Bourb)</i>
	11:05 am	Worship - Contemporary - <i>Communion (Bourb)</i>

