

St. Paul's Lutheran Church and School
Announcements - December 6th & 7th

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.



ADVENT DINNER

The second Advent dinner is this **Wed., December 10th** in Fellowship Hall at the downtown church. The dinner will be served from 5:30 - 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 at 7:00!

GIVING IS A FRUIT OF GOD'S GRACE

This is the 9th week of our **TEN for TEN Giving Challenge**. Grace is defined as God's unmerited and undeserved favor. God's grace is our foundation. We are saved by grace through faith (Ephesians 2:8), and we are recipients of God's abundance of grace through Jesus. God's

grace never stops working in our lives. As we abide in Jesus, He is producing fruit in our lives. Giving is a fruit of God's grace. God wants us to stand firm in His grace and to trust Him which enables us to bear fruit.

In the Apostle Paul's letter to the church in Corinth, he wrote, *"But as you excel in everything - in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all earnestness, and in our love for you - see that you excel in this act of grace also"* (2 Corinthians 8:7). Paul is seeking the generosity of the people in Corinth for the distressed Christians in Jerusalem. Just as Paul urged them, we are urged to excel in the grace of giving. God's will for us is not only that we should be saved (Timothy 2:4), but also that we should be sanctified - live the Christian life faithfully (Ephesians 4:1). God calls and equips us to be generous people. In Christ, we can stop putting our self-interests first and seek to be giving and sharing people. We give because we are saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ. By God's grace, we desire to give regularly, generously, and cheerfully.



PTL'S ANNUAL FUNDRAISER

PTL will be hosting St. Paul's Lutheran School's **Boots & Blessings** on **Saturday, February 28th** at Quality Inn in

Bradley. Join us for an evening of dinner and live music (provided by South Side Social Club)! 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.

Tickets are on sale now! After January 1st, tickets will be \$55 each. Until then, we are offering **EARLY BIRD pricing of \$45**. Tickets include a meal and one beverage ticket (alcoholic or non-alcoholic). You may also buy an entire table for \$500, which includes eight meals and sixteen beverage tickets. Please go to <https://stpaulsptlauction.ludus.com/200510681> or scan the QR code below to purchase your tickets.



Our silent auction will be exclusively online again. It will open a week before the event and close at the end of the event. ***If you work for or own a business that would be willing to sponsor the event or donate a basket, service, or experience, please call the school office for the proper paperwork.*** All donors will be advertised at our live event and on our auction website, as well as in our Thank You Video, which will run on our school website and Facebook page. ***If you have a talent to share, we would also love to get some great handmade products for the auction!***

Our goal is to raise \$40,000. ***All proceeds from the event will be used to provide teaching supplies for our teachers, iPads and chromebooks for the lower grades, laptops for our teachers, and additional security measures for our school.*** Thank you for your support!



PASTOR SHEETS IS RETIRING!

If you would like to create a video message to be played at his retirement reception on December 14th, please go to <https://share.vidday.com/e/r-vrtdt66>. If you would like to mail a card, please send it to:

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
ATTENTION: SHEETS RETIREMENT
822 Belvoir Avenue
Chattanooga, TN 37412

happy retirement

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 (**December 7th & 21st**) in the upper grade hallway.



ADVENT DEVOTIONS

This year's Advent devotions, ***Born to You ... a Savior***, are now available for pick-up at the downtown church and the school. Feel free to grab one for yourself and one to share!

God in His incomparable love has made a way for us through the wilderness. He did this by giving us His Son, our Light in the darkness. In ***Born to You ... a Savior***, we embrace the Christmas joy and wonder of Jesus, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.

At Christ's birth, God the Father did a new and everlasting thing in our lives: He gave us His one and only Son for our redemption. In divine humility, Jesus joined us as a human being. Born of a woman, bearing the sins of the world, Jesus comes to us as our Protector, our Deliverer, our Savior.

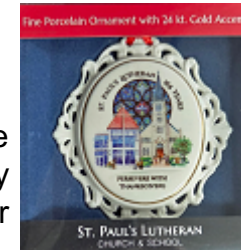
SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM



All preschool through 5th grade students are invited to participate in the Sunday School Christmas program on **Sunday, December 21st at 4 pm**. Students will be rehearsing during the Sunday School hour this week and continuing through the program date. Please have your children attend Sunday School regularly if they plan to participate in the program. ***There will also be two Saturday morning rehearsals at the downtown church on December 13th & 20th from 9 to 11 am.***

ANNIVERSARY KEEPSAKE ORNAMENT

Don't forget to purchase a beautiful anniversary keepsake ornament for your Christmas tree - and buy a couple extra as gifts! They capture our history perfectly and they're only \$25! They are available for purchase after the Saturday evening service and between the Sunday services or you may call the church office to reserve yours.



CHRISTMAS PARTY RESCHEDULED

Due to multiple conflicts at St. Paul's and in our community, the Youth Ministry Christmas Party has been rescheduled for **Friday, December 19th from 5-8pm**. Join us for food, cookie decorating, Christmas fun, and a white elephant gift exchange. Please bring a wrapped goofy white elephant gift (valued \$10 or less) for the gift exchange.

CALLING ALL YOUTH!

Your help is needed with our Annual Christmas Cookie Sale! Youth families, our annual Christmas Cookie Sale is our biggest fundraiser of the year to help fund the LCMS Youth Gathering trip and other youth ministry events. We need your help to bake and pack cookies. ***Please sign-up for one or more volunteer opportunities from November 30th through December 21st via this QR code:***



MEN'S BIBLE BREAKFAST



We will meet again on **Saturday, December 20th at 7:30 am** in the Riverside Hospital Cafeteria. Join us as we study God's Word over breakfast and coffee.

ANNIVERSARY WEEKEND

The BIG day is just around the corner! On December 14th we will celebrate God's faithfulness to St. Paul's with a combined worship service at 10 am at our historic downtown church. (Please note there will NO Saturday service that weekend.)

Hopefully you received your printed invitation in the mail. It has all of the information for the weekend, including a special alumni event on Saturday, December 13th. If you did not receive an invitation, please reach out to the church office.

We ask that you please use the QR code in the invitation to let us know you are planning to attend any or all of the weekend festivities. The sign-up link is also available on our website stpaulslutheran.net or feel free to call the church office at 815-932-0312 to RSVP.

It is going to be a glorious day, praising the Lord for all of His gifts and His grace and mercy to St. Paul's for the last 165 years!! Something to consider....St. Paul's began in 1859, 16 months before the Civil War!! God has seen our congregation through so many ups and downs, all so that His precious Good News of salvation through Jesus Christ would be, and continues to be, shared with those around us—our families, our communities and the world!

There will be a reception and light lunch following the worship service, allowing time for fellowship and catching up with alumni (both students and staff)

and former members who will be joining us. At that time, you will be able to view highlights from our historical timeline, Confirmation pictures from throughout the years, and old pictorial directories and yearbooks. In addition, the former school on Dearborn, which has been newly renamed St. Paul's Mission and Ministry Center will be open for tours. This is now home to an official Phil's Friends Center of Hope.

You won't want to miss this amazing time together!! So, mark your calendar, plan to attend, and please let us know your intentions to join us on December 13th and 14th!!

165th Anniversary Chairman,
Nancy Eden

T.R.I.P. ORDERING

Use T.R.I.P. cards to fund your purchases for the upcoming holidays! Order by 9 am on December 8th to guarantee delivery by Christmas.

How do I order?

- Call or text Julie Dummer at 815-530-7320.
- Install the RaiseRight app and order your gift cards electronically. Call the school office for the enrollment code.



TABLES OF EIGHT 2026

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 2026 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 24, February 21, March 21 and April 18** (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 6/7, December 14 and December 20/21**. 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.

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S LOVE

November 29th & 30th

Worship Attendance:

Saturday, 5:00 pm	12
Sunday, 8:30 am	64
Sunday, 11:05 am	39
WEEKEND TOTAL	115

Thanksgiving Eve/Day	79/45
Advent Midweek 12/3	61

Offerings Given

General	\$10,211.81
Building	\$259.50
School Ops	\$260.00
Matching (General)	\$1,270.00

CARE PACKAGES AVAILABLE

Do you know someone with cancer? Would you like to send them Hope? 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, you can contact Sarah Cherry with the address and we will ship out one of our boxes. Either way we need the person's address so they can receive their monthly Cards of Hope for the next year.



SERVING IN GOD’S HOUSE TODAY

Preacher: Rev. Karl Koeppen

Liturgist: Rev. Roger Drinnon

Organist: 5:00: Aaron Heldt 8:30: Nadine Engel

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

Live Streaming/Recording: Matt Callan, Todd Engel

Lay Ministers: 5:00: Bob Carruthers
8:30: Ken Capps, Greg Deck, John Veers
11:05: Rich Engel

Lay Readers: 5:00: Rich Nordmeyer
8:30: Bill Balgeman
11:05: Karen Beatty

Acolytes: 8:30: Hudson Bade, Nolan Freitas
11:05: Emma Davis, Ty Luhman

Trustees: 5:00: Jeff Johnson
8:30: Barry Gadbois
11:05: Greg Wheeler

Ushers: 5:00: Keith Christensen, Pat Hatch, Terry Treece
8:30: Bill Balgeman, Jim Baron, Scott Styck, Steve Weith
11:05: Dave Kesinger, Aric Turrell, Sean Turrell, Kim Williams

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

THIS WEEK’S SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

Sun, Dec. 7	8:30 am 9:45 am 9:45 am 9:45 am 11:05 am	Worship - Traditional - <i>Communion</i> (Bourb) Adult Bible Study (Bourb) Children’s Sunday School (Bourb) Youth Bible Study (Bourb) Worship - Contemporary - <i>Communion</i> (Bourb)
Mon, Dec. 8		
Tue, Dec. 9	6:00 pm	Preschool Christmas Program (Bourb)
Wed, Dec. 10	9:30 am 5:30 pm 7:00 pm	<i>The Patriarchs & Their Journeys</i> (Downtown) Advent Dinner - Soup/Sandwiches (Downtown) Midweek Advent Worship Service (Downtown)
Thur, Dec. 11	6:00 pm	Phil’s Friends Walk-In (Downtown)
Fri, Dec. 12	6:30 pm	K-8th Grade Christmas Concert (Bourb)
Sat, Dec. 13	9:00 am 3:00 pm 4:00 pm 5:00 pm	SS Christmas Program Practice (Downtown) Alumni Tour of Westwood Site (1580 Butterfield) (Bourb) Alumni Tour of “New” School (Bourb) Alumni Dinner (Bourb)
Sun, Dec. 14	10:00 am 11:30 am	Anniversary Worship Service (Downtown) Anniversary Reception (Downtown)