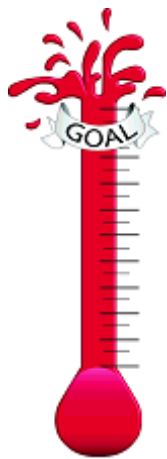


St. Paul's Lutheran Church and School
Announcements - December 20th & 21st

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.

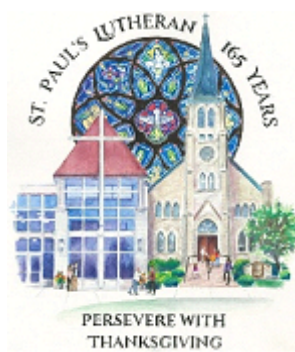
MATCHING FUNDS CHALLENGE



Praise God! The Lord has blessed our congregation with many generous hearts. We have met the challenge to raise \$100,000. After receiving additional funds this past weekend, a total of \$64,973.12 has been given to the General Fund and \$57,632.15 to the Building Fund during the campaign. Our donor has transferred the \$100,000 to St. Paul's.

If you would still like to contribute to either of these funds, you still can! There are challenge envelopes at church and school. You can also place an extra offering in your general or building fund envelope or put a gift in your Christmas envelope.

A huge Thank You to all of our generous donors!



I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you so much to the members of the Anniversary Celebration committee for all the teamwork, meetings attended, brainstorming, and tasks accomplished during the last sixteen months. It has been a joy to see how the Lord worked through each of you in this endeavor. I especially want to thank Adele Hinze, Sarah Cherry, Natalie Cherry, Angela Heldt, Christie Rahn, Bill Dyche, Rich Nordmeyer, Gene Wachholz, and the Board of Parish Fellowship, who went above and beyond to prepare for this joyous occasion! I also want to thank Pastor Koeppen for giving consideration to all of our ideas, especially the Outdoor Worship Service /Church Picnic that has become an annual event. Thank you, thank you and may God bless each of you as we continue to serve our Lord and Savior here at St Paul's.

~ Nancy Eden, Anniversary Chairman

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 6 pm with a cash bar. Dinner will be served at 7 pm and the band will entertain us from 7 to 10 pm 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. To purchase your tickets, go to <https://stpaulsptlauction.ludus.com/200510681> or scan the QR code below:



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!





CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICES

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

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE
Thursday, December 25th
10:00 a.m. - Communion

NEW YEAR'S EVE SERVICE
Wednesday, December 31st
6:00 p.m. - Communion

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

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**Please note the church and school office will be closed:**

**\* Wed. & Thurs., Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>**  
**\* Wed. & Thurs., Dec. 31<sup>st</sup> & Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>**



### **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. It's not too late! 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**

Everyone is invited to enjoy our Sunday School Christmas program this **Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup> at 4 pm at the downtown church.** We are looking forward to sharing the good news of Jesus' birth!



### **PRAYER LIST**



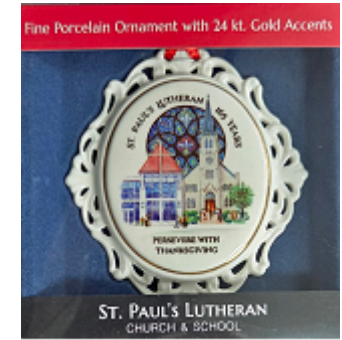
If you submit prayer requests to the church office, we would love to hear occasional updates. Please let us know how your loved one is doing, if they need continued prayers, or if their prayers have been answered.

**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?***



### **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 today's service and after the Saturday evening service and between the Sunday services next weekend (please bring cash or your checkbook!). You may also call the church office to reserve one and pay online.

### **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 on Sunday morning **December 21<sup>st</sup>** in the upper grade hallway.



## 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 again after the church services 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](mailto:lykoeppen@comcast.net) or 592-5701 by December 31<sup>st</sup>.

## ALTAR FLOWERS



The 2026 Flower Chart is posted at the downtown church through January 1<sup>st</sup> and then will be moved to the school. 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. Please include your phone number.

The cost is \$25.00 per vase. Checks (payable to St. Paul’s Lutheran Church) or cash payments may be put in the offering plate or turned in to the church office. Please contact Lynda Koeppen at [lykoeppen@comcast.net](mailto:lykoeppen@comcast.net) or 815-932-1545 with questions.

## CARE PACKAGES AVAILABLE



Do you know someone battling cancer? Share the gift of hope with them this Christmas! As an official Phil’s Friends Hope Center, we have care packages available. If you would like to hand deliver a care package, you may pick one up from the church office during normal office hours. If the box needs to be shipped, you can contact Sarah Cherry at [sarahcherry30@yahoo.com](mailto:sarahcherry30@yahoo.com). Either way we need the person’s address so they can receive their monthly Cards of Hope for the next year.



## 2026 GIVING ENVELOPES

The 2026 envelopes are now available for pick-up. If you typically attend church on Saturday evening, your envelopes are now in the atrium. If you attend on Sundays, your envelopes will be in the hallway outside of the school library beginning next weekend. If you have been giving online, you may not have envelopes. If you would like envelopes and cannot find yours, please contact the church office at 815-932-0312. We thank you for your generous spirit. God bless you!

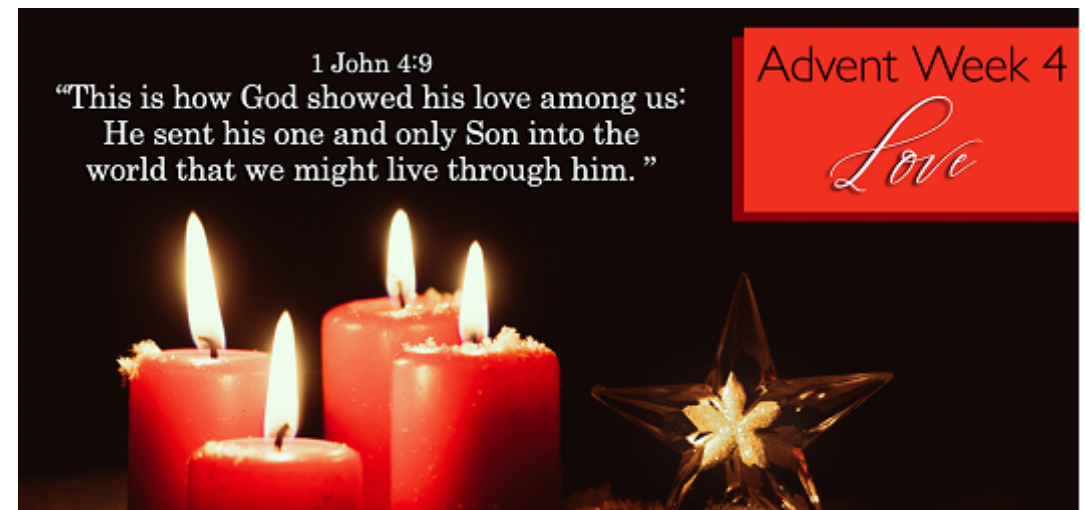
## OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S LOVE December 14<sup>th</sup>

### Worship Attendance:

Sunday, 10:00 am ..... 259  
Advent Midweek (12/17) ..... 70

### Offerings Given

General ..... \$12,413.31  
Building ..... \$2,087.00  
School Ops ..... \$300.00  
Matching (General) ..... \$11,525.00  
Matching (Building) ..... \$550.00  
Anniversary ..... \$1,145.00



**SERVING IN GOD’S HOUSE TODAY**

**Preacher:** Rev. Karl Koeppen

**Liturgist:** Rev. Roger Drinnon

**Organist:** Nadine Engel

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

**Lay Readers:** 5:00: Audra Taylor  
8:30: Lauren Lundmark  
11:05: Deb Turrell

**Acolytes:** 8:30: Layna Rahn, Quinn Styck  
11:05: Annie Schneider, Beth Schreurs

**Trustees:** 5:00: Mike Callan  
8:30: Tom Stirnaman  
11:05: Jim Trudeau

**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, Heather Stroo

**Extra Measure Band:** Matt Callan, Greg Ronchetto, Cindy Rubin, Jim Stone, Ellana Turrell

**THIS WEEK’S SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES**

|                      |                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Sun, Dec. 21</b>  | 8:30 am<br>9:00 am<br>9:45 am<br>9:45 am<br>11:05 am<br>4:00 pm | Worship - Traditional - <i>Communion</i> (Bourb)<br>Christmas Cookie Pick-Up (Bourb)<br>Children’s Sunday School (Bourb)<br>Youth Bible Study (Bourb)<br>Worship - Contemporary - <i>Communion</i> (Bourb)<br>Sunday School Christmas Program (Bourb) |
| <b>Mon, Dec. 22</b>  |                                                                 | <b>CHRISTMAS BREAK BEGINS</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>Tue, Dec. 23</b>  |                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Wed, Dec. 24</b>  | 5:00 pm<br>7:00 pm<br>10:00 pm                                  | <b>CHRISTMAS EVE<br/>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</b><br>Christmas Eve Candlelight Service (Downtown)<br>Christmas Eve Candlelight Service (Downtown)<br>Christmas Eve Candlelight Service (Downtown)                                                         |
| <b>Thur, Dec. 25</b> | 10:00 am                                                        | <b>CHRISTMAS DAY<br/>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</b><br>Christmas Day Worship Service (Downtown)                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>Fri, Dec. 26</b>  |                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Sat, Dec. 27</b>  | 5:00 pm                                                         | Worship - Traditional (Downtown)                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>Sun, Dec. 28</b>  | 8:30 am<br>11:05 am                                             | Worship - Traditional (Bourb)<br>Worship - Contemporary (Bourb)                                                                                                                                                                                       |