

St. Paul's Lutheran Church & School

December 2025 NEWSLETTER

Church office hours vary at this time.

Please call 402-228-1540 or email stpaulbeatrice@gmail.com. If you need immediate or pastoral assistance, please contact Church Chair Rod Aden at 402-239-5305 or Elder Dave Doering at 402-806-1015.

CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND ADULTS!

Come downstairs after the service for coffee, juice, snacks, and informal Bible Study with Pastor, and Sunday School classes with bible stories, activities, singing, and maybe even a craft! **Sunday School will not be held on Sundays when congregational meetings are held.

Worship is at 9:00 a.m. No Monday night service as of now, but We Live Stream! Remember! If you can't attend worship in person on occasion, you can always watch it live on YouTube, face book, our website (stpaulbeatrice.org) and our Subsplash app. You'll find archived services there too, and the previous Sunday's service can be heard on KWBE 1450 AM and 94.7 FM every Sunday morning at 8:00 a.m. We'd love to have you join us in person too for Word and Sacrament, and to rub shoulders with fellow Christians.

ADVENT SERVICES: November 30 is the First Sunday in Advent. We have the opportunity to prepare ourselves for Christmas by attending the midweek Advent services: December 3, December 10 and December 17. Services are at 10:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. with a meal served in the church basement following each service.

The theme for Advent 2025 Wednesday evening services is based on the first stanza of the Advent/End Times hymn, "Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers":

Rejoice, rejoice, believers

And let your lights appear:

The evening is advancing,

And darker night is near.

The Bridegroom is arising

and soon is drawing night.

Up, pray and watch and wrestle:

At midnight comes the cry.

The lyrics encourage us to be Up! For Advent...and to 'pray and watch and wrestle.' Each Wednesday in Advent, we will consider what these calls mean in the context of this holy, anticipatory season of the Church.

A huge Thank You to everyone who helped make the **Harvest Blessings Dinner and Auction** a success! Thank you for being there, sponsoring, donating, buying, and supporting your church, school, and child care center.

Come One, Come All (and bring a guest!) to a Christmas Tea Saturday, December 6, 11 am- 1 pm in the church fellowship hall! A light lunch will be served before Brian and Carissa Hoops present a program on their trip to the Holy Lands, highlighting the sites around Jesus' birth. Get in the Christmas Spirit with this program and with a beautiful display of nativities. A freewill offering be taken to benefit Mercy Meals and LWML Mite projects. (Sponsored by LWML)

Confirmation Class Pictures wanted! We are looking for group pictures of the confirmation classes of 2010, 2014, 2015, 2017, 2022, 2023, 2024, and 2025 for the display in the basement. If you have any of these, would you be willing to put it in an envelope and leave it in the church office? We would appreciate it if you could name the youth in the picture. We will make a 5 x7 copy of the picture and return yours to you. Thank you!

Thank you to all who participated in the Community Food Pantry Drive! We collected over 1000 items! This means the pantry will also get the \$500 Thrivent grant which was given for collecting 500 items! Great job everyone!

December School News

*Train up a child in the way he should go;
even when he is old he will not depart from it. Proverbs 22:6*

December is here and we are looking forward to celebrating the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. We are blessed to have been given the gift of God's own Son to be our Savior.

Every Wednesday morning at 8:30 a.m., all grades come together for chapel to worship our Savior. The first Wednesday of the month at chapel we celebrate baptismal birthdays. Each class chose a month at the beginning of the year in which they would present a chapel. So far 5th, 2nd and 3rd grade have all presented a chapel. The next class lead chapel will be in January. The other Wednesdays, Mr. Long is leading our chapels. In November our character word was Service based on 2 Corinthians 9:12. In December we will be looking for students who show Patience based on Romans 8:25. Everyone is invited to join us any Wednesday morning for chapel. November and December chapel offerings are for the Coat Closet at First Christian Church. New and gently used coats, gloves, hats and monetary donations will be accepted. If congregation members would like to donate, you can put a designated offering for school chapel in the offering plate or take winter items to the school.

The school children sang at several services at St. Paul's Church this fall. Their voices always enhance worship.

The children have been practicing for their **Christmas program** entitled **Christmas Jubilee** to be presented at church on Sunday, December 14 at 3 pm and 5 pm. They plan to sing in church on the following additional Sundays (dates are subject to change) January 11, February 8, March 1, March 29, and May 10.

We continue to **save Russ's Market Register Receipts (from September through March), Our Family and Best Choice UPC codes, Tyson Project A+ Labels, and General Mills-Box Tops for Education** (get the app and scan your receipt for Gen. Mills Box Tops). You may bring the labels or UPC barcodes to school or leave them in the entry of the church. With the points earned from Russ's receipts, the school can earn/receive equipment ranging from pencils, crayons, sporting goods, science related equipment, electronics, computer related items and much more. Every bundle of 1000 Best Choice UPC barcodes sent in, earns the school \$30 (0.03 per UPC) to use as needed. Every bundle of 500 Family Fare UPC barcodes earns \$25 (\$0.05 per UPC) in cash for the school to use as needed. With everyone working together, they add up! Thank you for helping with these collections.

School's Ongoing Scrip Card Fundraiser: Purchase gifts cards through the Scrip Program to use when shopping at your usual stores. Using these gift cards that spend like any other gift card, gives money back to our school through the "Scrip Card" program. The program is at no extra cost to you, but, depending on the vendor, the school can earn up to 14% of the denomination of the card you purchase. The cards are vendor specific (i.e. Walmart gift cards may only be used at Walmart). More information and order forms are available at the school. If you plan to shop at participating vendors or give gift cards for birthdays or holidays, consider buying them through school.

December 19th will be our last day of classes before Christmas break. We will celebrate Jesus' Birthday with Gingerbread House making, games, cupcakes and singing! We are so blessed to celebrate the true reason for the season with our school family.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year,
Jonetta Hagemeyer, Head Teacher

Repenting of “Yours” and “Mine”

Retailers have had their Christmas displays up since before Reformation Sunday. The kids have made their list and checked it twice, or three times or more. It won't be long before the tree will start shedding its needles, the stockings emptied, the gifts unwrapped, toys broken, and the too small or out of style clothes returned. Before we know it, the annual celebration of Christmas will be over.

But for the children of God, we know that the gift of Christmas doesn't ever end. Week in and week out, the Lord continues to shower His gifts on us. Every time the Lord gathers us to His house, and we are led to kneel at His table, the gift of forgiveness is repeatedly granted to us. It is nothing we deserve. It comes to us freely!

The fourth stanza of the stewardship hymn, “Forgive Us Lord for Shallow Thankfulness” (LSB 788) highlights both this gift and our response.

Teach us, O Lord, true thankfulness divine,
that gives as Christ gave, never counting cost

To learn thankfulness is necessary. The parents of young children are well-versed in the fact that they must teach their children thankfulness. It does not come naturally. The spiritual genetics inherited from our parents allow us to think that the world revolves around us. When we receive something, there is an inward desire to think that we in some way deserve it.

But there is no way that we deserve anything we get from our Lord. We need that ongoing lesson from God Himself. Thankfulness toward God is worked in us by the Holy Spirit. God's Word works this thanksgiving in us. We need this weekly reminder that Jesus didn't consider “equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself” for us, to the point of death on a cross (Phil. 2:6). He didn't bat an eye. He paid the price! Our life of stewardship is one of daily and weekly thanksgiving inspired by the Lord Himself.

That knows no barrier of “yours” and “mine,” assured that only what's withheld is lost.

Because Jesus gave us everything and more, there can be no ownership. The child at Christmas is quick to claim that the newly gifted toy is “mine!” But as Psalm 24:1 asserts, “The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein.” There isn't anything in creation that is ours. When we cling to and claim ownership of anything in creation, we are losing out on the continual gifts with which the Lord desires to shower upon us. Closed hands cannot receive anything new. We cling to the old and dead and miss the new thing that the Lord desires to do in and for us.

We are led to repent of the “yours” and “mine” and remove the lie that we have any ownership. In this we have the promise that God will continue to give to us. Not just at Christmas, but every Sunday at the altar in the Lord's house.

Advent and Christmas Services at St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Sunday, Nov 30, (1st Sunday in Advent)

9:00 a.m. Divine Service

Wednesday, Dec 3, 10:30 am & 5:30 pm, both followed by a meal downstairs

Sunday, December 7, (2nd Sunday in Advent)

9:00 a.m. Divine Service

Wednesday, Dec 10, 10:30 am & 5:30 pm, both followed by a meal downstairs

Sunday, Dec 14, (3rd Sunday in Advent)

9:00 a.m. Divine Service

3:00 p.m. Children's Christmas Program

5:00 p.m. Children's Christmas Program

Wednesday, Dec 17, 10:30 am & 5:30 pm, both followed by a meal downstairs

Sunday, Dec 21, (4th Sunday of Advent)

9:00 a.m. Divine Service

Wednesday, Dec 24, 4:30 pm and 7:00 pm, Divine Services

Thursday, Dec 25, 9:00 am, Divine Service

Sunday, Dec 28, 9:00 am Divine Service

Wednesday, NY's Eve, Dec 31, 7:00 p.m. Divine Service



Youth Group News

St. Paul's Youth Group for 6th – 12th graders, meets the 2nd and 4th Sunday of every month. Meetings are held at the school from 5-7pm unless a special activity is planned. We can't wait to see you at our meetings for an activity, food, and a Bible Study. Watch the bulletin for additional activities planned, AND give JoAnna your email address so you'll always be in the know! Questions? Contact Joanna Gellermann-Long 425-591-5318 or Jessica Leseberg 402-230-0988.

An ongoing fundraiser! We sell **SuperWash Car Wash Tickets** at a discounted price! You can buy 5 tokens for \$20! What a deal! Give them as gifts! Available in the church office.

Get St. Paul's church app on your phone. Simply point your phone camera to the QR code or go to... <https://subsplash.com/st-pauls-lutheran-chur/app>



December LCMS Family Ministry Newsletter

Blood may be thicker than water...as the saying goes about the strength of family ties. But what if that water is no ordinary water? What if that water is combined with the Word of God in Holy Baptism, whereby God's holy name is conferred upon a person, adopting them into the family of believers? Baptismal water — not bloodline — gives strength to all family ties. That is why "Family Ministry" is a ministry to all peoples within the church; because we are all members of the same family through one Lord, one faith and one baptism. Family Ministry includes widows, singles, the elderly, barren couples and households filled with children — biological or adopted. "A Father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in his holy dwelling. God sets the lonely in families and homes..." (Psalm 68:5–6a). That home is the ark of the church and that family is the eternal assembly of believers — past, present and future. Thanks be to God — we are family!

December LCMS Stewardship Ministry

"We ask you, brothers, to respect those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, and to esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves" (1 Thess. 5:12-13).

Have you finished your Christmas shopping yet? Do you have a person or two on your list that you just don't know what to give them? While I know you are running short of ideas...dad doesn't really want another tie, and your kid's teacher doesn't need another coffee mug. It can be nothing short of maddening to try to figure things out in the middle of this busy season!

As stewards of all of life and life's resources, we know that life is more than giving gifts. We stewards never want to take anything the Lord provides for granted. During this season of Advent and Christmas, it is a great idea to do whatever you can to be a faithful steward of your pastor. Even more so than the rest of the year, the demands on their time, their presence and their stewardship of the Gospel in the congregation become heightened.

The demands on pastors can wear them down and wear them out. How does the steward in the congregation serve as a faithful steward of the treasure that is their pastor? Here are a few ideas:

- Put them at the top of your prayer list. — Pray that the Lord guards them against the weariness that makes them susceptible to the work of the devil.
- Make worship a priority — St. Paul admonishes the Thessalonians and us to respect those who labor among us. There is no greater way to steward your pastor than to respect him enough to show up and receive what he has been sent to offer in the proclamation of the Gospel and administration of the Holy Sacraments.
- Be receptive to his work — If your pastor is tasked with calling you to repentance or encouraging you to be in worship, know that he is only caring for your soul.
- Esteem him highly — Take the time to thank him for his faithful service to Christ, the congregation and your family.
- Be at peace — This is an easy time for even minor annoyances to get blown out of proportion and become full-blown conflict. This not only spoils the season of Advent and Christmas, but it also spoils our stewardship of the Gospel and those who serve us in that Gospel. Remember that Jesus came into the world to be the Prince of Peace. This is an act of grace and mercy. The steward seeks to reflect this toward their pastor and their brothers and sisters in Christ.

Stewardship at Christmas can be a challenge. Stewardship of your pastor during this time of the year is critical to our shared stewardship of the Gospel at a time of year when many are more open to hear and receive it.