

St. Paul Lutheran Church

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Rhonda Christensen, Organist



Sunday, December 21, 2025

Fourth Sunday in Advent

Divine Service Setting Three, LSB page 184 and on screens

Hymns: 355, 357, 834, 398, 361, 332

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 7:10-17, Epistle Reading: Romans 1:1-7

Gospel Reading: Matthew 1:18-25

Welcome to St. Paul, a people walking together in the life of Jesus. We're glad you're here! Today, Jesus meets us in Word and Sacrament. His gifts are for you and for your children! If you are caring for little ones, don't worry about noises and squirming; we rejoice in Jesus' words, "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these." (Luke 18:16)

This morning we joyfully receive Holy Communion, in which our Lord Jesus Christ gives us a great blessing: His true body and blood in, with, and under ordinary bread and wine. If you are a member of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod who has been instructed and has confessed this reality, we invite you to participate in the Holy Supper. Other guests interested in joining our confession and life are asked to meet with Pastor Newton in the weeks before communing for the first time. We encourage you still to come to the altar and cross your arms over your chest to receive a blessing.

The Rite of Enrollment this morning verifies that confirmands are ready for the journey toward full involvement into the life of the Church, the Body of Christ, through the sacraments of Holy Baptism (if they have not already been baptized) and the Lord's Supper. In word and deed, Confirmands express their desire to join in the fellowship of the Lord's Supper, signing the Book of the Elect, which contains the names of those who have entered that fellowship at St. Paul through Confirmation and the Catechumenate.



Offices Closed — Church offices will be closed December 24, 25, 26 and closing at Noon on December 31. Offices will also be closed on January 1, 2026.

December 28 Service — There is only one worship service on **Sunday, December 28** at 9:30am. There will not be fellowship time that morning (coffee and donuts).

Prayer List Refresh — Just like the start of a new year, on January 1 the prayer list will have a fresh beginning. All names will be cleared from the list and we start from scratch. On January 4 you can submit names for the prayer list on your attendance card (wait until that time to submit names). You can also email or call the church office. Please include the person's name, relation to you and reason for the prayer.

January 2026 Epistle Newsletter — Typically I publish the monthly newsletter before the last weekend of each month. Due to the busy Christmas season and staff schedules, it will not be published until December 29 or 30. Thanks for your patience! — *Kathy Olson*

Offering Envelopes — You can find your 2026 offering envelopes in the FLC hallway. If you don't see your name and would like envelopes contact Kathy in the church office. Remember, if your former envelope number was above 225, you received a new number to use in 2026.

New Year's Eve Game Night — Everyone is invited! Join your fellow St. Paul friends on **December 31** from 5:30pm to around 9:00pm. They'll break at 7:00pm for worship service to usher in the new year! Enjoy a variety of games and some snacks, but feel free to bring a game and/or snack to share if you'd like. Take some time to come and play! Questions? See Kim Rasler.

Christmas Decorations — What goes up, must come down! On **Saturday, January 3** from

The beautiful poinsettias are provided by the following members and friends of St. Paul.

JoAnn and Terry Adamson	In memory of Paul and Evelyn Kochheiser, Dale and Viola Adamson
Eileen Anderson	In memory of Ray Anderson
Betty Berlau	In memory of David Berlau and Dick Sherman
Laura Bull	
Donna Dueker	In memory of Al Dueker
Faylene and Jerry Kluver	In memory of our parents Elmer and Lorraine Klinker Gierstorf, and Raymond and Marcella Quandt Kluver; Jerry's sisters Joann Kluver and Jolene Hansman; and nephew Derrick Hansman.
Ray and Dorothy Marvin	In memory of Tanner F. Marvin, Fritz and Sandy Winnes, and Virgil and Monica Marvin
Don Nemitz	In memory of Sandi Nemitz
Linda Nordstrom	In memory of husband, Greg, parents, and other loved ones
Lynn Powell	In loving memory of Ron and Len, parents and siblings
Reddel Family	In memory of Jennifer's mother, Jean Carlson
Duane and Mary Suhr	In memory of our parents, Paul and Elsie Suhr, and Henry and Frances Winter
Jennifer Thompson	
Steve and Sandy Townsend	In memory of our mothers, Betty and Evelyn
Mary Ellen Twedt	In memory of Roger Twedt
Carol Wenndt	In memory of Jim Wenndt



9:00am to 11:00am the Stewardship Board will take down the Christmas decorations. Casey's breakfast pizza (bacon and sausage) will be provided.

Additional Ushers Needed — Are you looking for ways to use your time and talents at St. Paul? We are currently seeking individuals to serve as ushers, a vital ministry that welcomes attendees and ensures a smooth worship experience. If you are warm, welcoming, and feel called to serve, we invite you to join our team! High school age and older women, men (couples encouraged to serve together!) are invited to participate. Please contact Kathy in the church office to get started! ****Especially needed: additional usher for a new 10:45am team.****

Building Healthy Families — Here's a simple yet challenging Christmas week question for your contemplation: How has the fact that Jesus was born over 2000 years ago impacted the life you're living today? Read aloud the Luke 2 Christmas story together, ponder this question, and encourage your family members to share their answers. From the funny response of a preschooler, the shoulder shrug of a teenager, or the wise words shared by an older person, it will be interesting to see how each individual family member answers. Remember, even those who don't answer are still listening! *"She will give birth to a son, and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."* Matthew 1:21 A Blessed Celebration of Jesus' Birth to you from your partners at Lutheran Family Service!



www.LutheranFamilyService.org

Church Mailbox — Please remember to check your church mailbox today!

Sunday Adult Bible Study — Sunday mornings at 9:30am in the FLC. *The Who, What, When, Where, Why of It All*. Join us as we explore all that it means that Jesus descends from heaven to be with us in the Divine Liturgy, why we do what we do, say what we say, sing what we sing, and even dress how we dress!

Sunday Youth Bible Study — Sundays at 9:30am. Join Dave Brunelle and Laura Nelson on an engaging journey through God's Word as we look into the lectionary and see how it points us to Jesus and our identity in Him. Each Sunday from 9:30–10:30am, junior youth gather with Dave and senior youth with Laura for conversational Bible study. Together we'll explore Christ's teachings and rejoice in the many wonders of God's grace!

Homebuilders — *The Sanctuary Is Our Home*. This year Homebuilders (a group for those interested in following Jesus as a household) will delve into the Sacrament of the Altar as the center of life for the Christian family. They next meet January 4.

BASIC Bible Study — Pastor Kottlowski continues the study of Romans, following the Apostle Paul on a course through the context of the doctrine of justification and its joyous outflow in the life of the Christian. They will meet again on January 8.

Thursday Morning Ladies Bible Study — Pastor Kottlowski leads, working through a book study of *Unfailing: God's Assurance for Times of Change*. They meet again in January.

Thursday Night Men's Fellowship and Bible Study — Men of all ages are invited to join in fellowship time and a Bible study each Thursday night at 7:00pm.

Monday Night Women's Bible Study is on a break until January.

Happening This Week at St. Paul

<u>Today</u>	8:00am Worship Service Fellowship in the FLC 10:45am Worship Service 2:30pm Sunny View Service
<u>Monday</u>	9:00am Staff Meeting
<u>Wednesday</u>	Church offices closed Christmas Eve Services 5:00pm, 7:00pm, 9:00pm
<u>Thursday</u>	Church offices closed 9:30am Christmas Day Service
<u>Friday</u>	Church offices closed

December Altar Committee

Sue Crawford, Donna Stoelk

Elder

December 21 — Jeff Fahrman

December 28 — Hans Schaeffer

Offering Counters December 21

Jennifer Dorfler, Doyle Witt

Ushers December 21

8:00am — Jim Harvey, Gary Hauge, Eddie Bell

10:45am — Dewayne McGohan, Mike KoesterCraig

Ushers Christmas Eve

5:00pm — Tim Davies, David Reddel

7:00pm — Jon Gerths, Don Halbur

9:00pm — Eric Bradley, Cal Uhlig

Ushers Christmas Day

9:30am — David Reddel, Collin Reddel,
Mark Lauthen

Attendance Sunday, December 14

8:00am — 152 10:45am — 93

St. Paul Prayer List

Nicole, granddaughter of McConnells
Chad Keeling, cancer, son of Joyce Keeling
Marie Van Beek, friend of the Glens, cancer
John and Jodi, cancer, uncle and friend of Jeremy
Sellen and Paula Wehmas
Denny Lensch, Parkinson's Disease and cancer
Savannah, cancer, friend of Stephanie Hilchen
Lawrence, brother of McConnell's daughter-in-law
Kyler Hess, friend of Wielenga family, cancer
Conrad, Tony Miller's brother, cancer
Tess Soholt, Brent Rangen's mother, cancer
Rose Vawser, medical issues, Carolyn Vesely's sister
Terry Moehnke
Joel Ausan
Curt Hora
Amy Schmidt, former DCE, breast cancer
Greta, niece of the Grevs, born with hearing issues
Debbie Tunnell, Hauge's daughter, breast cancer
David Stephens, Traci Haselhuhn's brother, cancer
Brittany Wilber, pregnancy complications, Pastor's sister
Lori Matz, knee replacement surgery
April, cousin of Paula Wehmas, colon cancer
Kevin Christensen, teacher at Southview, heart attack
Aaron, McConnell's grandson, car accident
Gerry, Haase family friend, who is hospitalized
Gabrielle, Tori Hilchen's friend, breast cancer
Yann and Gwendolyn, relatives of Viviane Kottlowski
Larry, Alzheimer's, Mollie Fahrman's father, and Marie,
her mother, who cares for him
Carter Reddel, recovering from knee surgery
Summer Loney, teammate of Emma Thompson, broken foot
Carol, friend of Gary and Madonna, in hospice
Teresa Schott, niece of Sue Crawford, lung cancer
Evelyn Knowler Lentz, recovering from a stroke

Rev. Paul Egger, our District President

Pr. Kevin Johnson, our Circuit Visitor

For those deployed & active military

Chris Madsen, Drake Johnson, TJ Krehbiel,
Joshua Krehbiel, William Krehbiel, Jayden
Krehbiel, Tim Fairchild

For those preparing for the Holy Ministry

Ezekiel Grabau, Jarrod Thomas