

St. Paul Lutheran Church

1100 SE Sharon Dr., Ankeny, IA | 515.964.1250 | www.stpaulankeny.org

Joel Newton, Senior Pastor, pastornewton@stpaulankeny.org

David Kottlowski, Assistant Pastor, dpvvkott@gmail.com

Laura Nelson, Director of Youth Ministry, laura@stpaulankeny.org

Kathy Olson, Office Manager, kathy@stpaulankeny.org

Rhonda Christensen, Organist



Sunday, January 4, 2026

Second Sunday after Christmas

Divine Service Setting Three, LSB page 184 and on screens

Hymns: 384, 834, 362, 617, 618, 388

Old Testament Reading: 1 Kings 3:4-15, Epistle Reading: Ephesians 1:3-14

Gospel Reading: Luke 2:40-52

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.

Altar Flowers — Altar flowers are given to the glory of God by Malisa and Tim Davies in honor of their wedding anniversary on January 6.

Sunday Funday Today — Junior youth is kicking off the new year with a Sunday Funday designed to reconnect and have a blast! Expect high-energy games, tasty treats, a short devotion, and lots of time to laugh, move, and just be together again. It's all about fun, friendship, and getting back into the groove as a group. Drop off at Noon and pick up at 2:00pm. We can't wait to reconnect and have some serious fun!



Lady Diners — Join other single ladies from St. Paul at 11:30am on **Tuesday, January 6** at Chili's in Ankeny. If you need additional information contact Betty Berlau or Donna Stoelk.

Additional Ushers Still 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.****

Confirmation Sunday — The Rite of Confirmation is **Sunday, January 18** at the 10:45am service. There are no Bible studies that day. Sunday school will be for preK through fifth grade only. You are invited to be a part of the service as we welcome seven young people into our church family as confirmed members.

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.

Did You Know? — After Pastor says "let us pray" there's a bit of silence so that we can each pray to God silently on our own, for whatever's on our hearts and minds.



HOMEBUILDERS
at St. Paul Lutheran Church

JANUARY 4

4-5:30 PM

Childcare provided

Join us for a family-centered Bible study.

Questions?
Contact Candra Grey:
candra.grev@gmail.com
OR
Pastor Newton:
pastornewton@stpaulankeny.org



Moms Group

LOOKING TO CONNECT WITH
OTHER CHRISTIAN MOMS OF
YOUNG CHILDREN?

JOIN US AT
ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

WEDNESDAYS
10-11:30 AM

MEET IN THE PRESCHOOL
ROOM (CLASSROOM C).
ENJOY FELLOWSHIP WITH
OTHER MOMS WHILE THE
CHILDREN PLAY. TOYS ARE
PROVIDED.

Questions?
CONTACT
MEGAN VON QUALEN
MEGANCAROLINE42@GMAIL.COM

Wednesday, January 7 at 10:00am

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! Bible studies will pick back on January 11.

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! Bible studies begin on January 11.

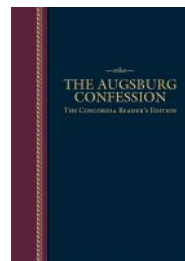
Homebuilders — *The Sanctuary Is Our Home*. This year Homebuilders (a group for those interested in following Jesus as a household) will delve into the Sacrament of the Altar as the center of life for the Christian family. They meet today at 4:00pm.

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 meet on Thursday, January 8 at 10:00am.

Thursday Morning Ladies Bible Study — Pastor Kottlowski leads, working through a book study of *Unfailing: God's Assurance for Times of Change*. They meet January 15 at 10:00am.

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. Beginning January 8 they will be doing a study of *The Augsburg Confession*.

Monday Night Women's Bible Study — In February they'll continue the study of Paul's letter to the Colossians. Join them as they take their time and soak in the views from this short but powerful epistle.



Church Mailbox — Please remember to check your church mailbox today. There are a few with cards and gifts that you'll want to take home!

Poinsettias — If you purchased poinsettias please take them home after today's services. Thank you for helping to make our Sanctuary and building a welcoming and festive place during Advent and Christmas!

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

Happening This Week at St. Paul

Today 8:00am Worship Service
Fellowship in FLC
10:45am Worship Service
Noon-2pm Jr. Youth Sunday Funday
4:00pm Homebuilders

Monday 9:00am Staff Meeting

Tuesday 11:30am Lady Diners
5:30pm Youth Board Meeting

Wednesday 10:00am Moms Group
7:00pm Service

Thursday 9:30am Chapel
10:00am BASIC Bible Study
7:00pm Men's Fellowship Bible Study

January Altar Committee

Sandy and Steve Townsend

Altar Flowers

January 4 — Malisa & Tim Davies

January 11 — Betty & Ken McConnell

Elder

January 4 — Peter von Qualen

January 11 — Steve Bradley

Offering Counters January 4

Dewayne McGohan, Rod Silvey

Ushers January 4 & January 11

8:00am — Les Stave, Jeff, Cael & Colby Fahrmann

10:45am — David Reddel, Mark Lauthen

Attendance Christmas Eve

5:00pm — 203 7:00pm — 158 9:00pm — 70

Attendance Christmas Day

9:30am — 99

Attendance Sunday, December 28

9:30am — 152



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

For our shut-in members

Cookie Brown, Carol Jeske, Doris Olson, Kathy Witt, Pat Livingston, Mark Mueller, Marcia Hora, Phil Eshelman, Kevin Wesack

Prayer List Refresh — Just like the start of a new year, on January 1 the prayer list had a fresh beginning. All names were cleared from the list and we start from scratch.

Please submit names for the prayer list on your attendance card. You can also email or call the church office. Please include the person's name, relation to you and reason for the prayer.