

The Sunday Messenger

December 14, 2025

This Coming Week at St. Paul's

Sun:	Divine Service	9 am
	Fellowship/Cookie Exchange	10:15 am
	Adult bible class/Sunday School	10:40 am
Mon:	Morning Prayer	8 am
Tues:	Morning Prayer	8 am
Wed:	Morning Prayer	8 am
	Pvt. Conf/Abs.	8:30 am
	Potluck	5 pm
	Advent Service	6 pm
Thurs:	Morning Prayer	8 am
	Circuit Lesson and Carol Service	6 pm

73 people worshiped at last week's service

\$3,134 was collected at last week's service

\$ 4,355.15 is needed every week to meet our church budget.

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

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Facebook: St Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church – Lockport

Pastoral Care – If anyone is in need of pastoral care, please call Pastor Antonetti at (847) 971-0848 and he will help to take care of the situation and address it as quickly as possible. Our elders are also available if you would like to reach out to them as well.

Good morning to all gathered here today at Saint Paul's Lutheran Church. A warm welcome to all of you as we gather together to receive God's gifts, His Word read and proclaimed, His body and blood for the forgiveness of our sins. Thank you for being here today. A summary of today's readings for The Third Sunday of Advent follows:

John the Baptizer Prepares the Way for the Lord

The voice of the Baptizer cried out in the wilderness: "*Prepare the way of the Lord . . .*" (Isa. 40:1). John called the people to be made ready for the Messiah's coming through repentance, for "*all flesh is grass*" (Isa. 40:6). Now He asks from prison, "*Are you the one who is to come . . .?*" (Matt. 11:2). Jesus' works bear witness that He is. The sick are made well; the dead are raised, and the poor have the Gospel preached to them. Their iniquity is pardoned; they have received from the Lord's hand double forgiveness for all their sins. The "*stewards of the mysteries of God*" (1 Cor. 4:1) still deliver Christ's overflowing forgiveness to the poor in spirit, comforting God's people with the word of the Gospel which stands forever. This Gospel produces rejoicing among all those who believe.

Upon Entering the Sanctuary – We kindly ask that all conversation cease or be kept to a minimum and at the very most a whisper as we prepare ourselves for divine worship. In the front of the hymnal you will find some excellent prayers for worship.

The Lord's Supper – will be celebrated this morning. Communion is offered to those who are members in good standing of this congregation or other Lutheran Church Missouri Synod congregations. We ask our visitors and those who have not worshipped with us in a while to please speak to the Pastor or an elder before communing. More information is available on the blue card in the pew.

Serving the Lord this Weekend: **Preacher** Rev. Christopher Antonetti;
Organist: Dennis Zimmer/Milton Lillie; **Elder:** Brian Popadowski; **Hannah Guild:** Heather Collier, Jill Briese; **Acolyte:** Nathaniel Land

Manna: Cards will be available for pickup today.

Next Weekend's Scripture Readings – In preparation for our worship next Sunday, the texts are as follows: Deuteronomy 18:15-19, Phil. 4:4-7, John 1:19-28.

December Mission Offering: Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne

Flowers: The flowers on the altar today are donated to honor Dan & Jade Rohder's 1st Anniversary.

Circuit S17 Lessons and Carols - The congregations of our circuit will be joining once again at **St. Paul's Lutheran Church in [Lockport \(1500 S Briggs St\)](#) on Thursday, December 18, at 6 pm**, to celebrate Advent and Christmas with a lessons and carols service! We will hear God's Word concerning the coming and birth of Christ, have lots of congregational singing, and, after the service, enjoy a light festive reception. All are welcome, there is no cost.

3rd Annual Christmas Cookie Fellowship: For fellowship on Sunday, December 14th, you are all invited to make Christmas cookies to share! We will enjoy them during fellowship, and baggies will also be available for people to take some home after Sunday school. Please make sure you have labels on your cookies so we know who made which cookies!

Poinsettias: Poinsettias to beautify the church for Christmas are available to order. Extra copies of the poinsettia order form are available in the Narthex. They are \$25 per arrangement. They will be available to take home after the Christmas Day service. The deadline for ordering poinsettias is today.

Long Range Planning Meeting: There will not be a Long Range Planning meeting in December. The next meeting is January 17 at 9 am. All are welcome.

This week we lift Up Prayers

Members of our church family: Carolea Majack, Sandy Michaelsen, Denise Pilz, Pat Schoenbeck, Phyllis Wilsey, Richard Anderson, Judy Wiedmeyer, Dorothy Ziesemer, Michael Smulterowicz, Barbara and Glenn Ferrentino.

Family and friends including: Jose Hernandez (Land), Patty Barnes, Ryan, Stephanie, & Liza Church, Jim Kress (Zavala), Rick Evans (Hinkelman), Michele Mylan (Hinkelman), Roberta Gerk (Gerk), Jeri Mack (Hinkelman), Martha & Fred Faulkner (Gerk), Carol & Jerry Mroszk (Gerk), Amelia Church (Gerk), Mindy (Popadowski), Waren Smith (Wetherbee), Brian Jewison (Hinkelman), Michael Arient (Hinkelman), Virginia Lewis (Dymek), Alexander Yankowsky (Wetherbee), Anthony Konidaris (Wetherbee), Abel Schmidt (Hinkelman), Taimi Carlson (Smulterowicz), Dennis Zabor (Hinkelman), Judy Percy (Gerk), Levi Howard (Popadowski), Adam Ferrentino (Ferrentino), Theresa Popadowski (Popadowski), Vinnie Gincauskas (Bachmann), Della Jones (Smulterowicz), Nieko Hadley (Penny & Tina McSherry), Jeanne & Roger Sahs (Wetherbee), Parker Vicich (Lemke), Kathy (Wetherbee), Glenn (Wetherbee), Heather Pilz (Pilz), John, Nylsa and Pete Garza (Gerk)