

The Sunday Messenger

December 28, 2025

This Coming Week at St. Paul's

Sun:	Divine Service	9 am
	Fellowship	10:15 am
	Adult bible class	10:40 am
Wed:	New Year's Eve Divine Service	6 pm
Thurs:	New Year's Day	
	Office closed	

55 people worshiped at last week's service

\$3,155 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

1500 S. Briggs Street, Lockport, IL 60441

Office: 815-838-1832

E-mail: spchoff@gmail.com

Website: www.stpaulslockport.org

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 Feast of the Holy Innocents follows:

The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

"A voice is heard in Ramah, lamentation and bitter weeping. Rachel is weeping for her children" (Jer. 31:15). Herod rages and sends to kill all boys two years and younger (Matt. 2:16), desperate to destroy the newborn King of kings. The Church remembers these innocent victims as martyrs. They died for the One who came to die for them. This dark commemoration bears witness to the cruelty of sinful men and the world's hatred of Christ, who has sanctified our fragile life even from His conception and birth. But the boy who escaped Bethlehem's bloody streets unscathed went on to face thorns, nails and spear for them and for us. He is the Lamb whose name is written with the Father's name on the foreheads of His baptized saints (Rev. 14:1). By His death, He has redeemed an inheritance for Himself and brought peace at last by His blood. On the fourth day of Christmas, we sing *"a new song"* of the Lamb, of Christ the true martyr, whose death testifies that our redemption is won. We *"follow the Lamb wherever he goes"* (Rev. 14:3, 4), for He will bring our tears to an end.

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.

This week we lift Up Prayers

Serving the Lord this Weekend: Preacher Rev. Christopher Antonetti;
Organist: Dennis Zimmer/Milton Lillie; **Elder:** Harold Sager; **Hannah**
Guild: Rachel Popadowski, Lisa Misiurewicz; **Acolyte:** Isaiah Zavala

Next Weekend's Scripture Readings – In preparation for our worship next Sunday, the texts are as follows: Genesis 46:1-7, 1 Peter 4:12-19, Matthew 2:13-23.

December Mission Offering: Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne

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.

Reminder: This is a reminder to not use next year's offering envelopes until next year 2026.

New Year's Service - We will have a New Year's Eve divine service on Wednesday, December 31, at 6 pm, commemorating the feast of the circumcision and name of Jesus. Come and close out 2025 receiving the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Book of Concord - There will be no Book of Concord in the evening on December 28. We will be studying the Book of Concord in Bible class that morning on the Third Article of the Creed in the Large Catechism.

Flower Chart – The new flower chart for 2026 is available. The cost will be \$70 per Sunday.

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

Family and friends including: Jamie Drobney (Hinkelman), 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)