



# *St. Paul News*

## *December 2024*

### **St. Paul Lutheran Church**

*The Lutheran Church -  
Missouri Synod*

1050 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Granite Falls, MN 56241

Church office:  
320-564-2221  
stpaulgf@embarqmail.com  
www.stpaulgf.org

Chairman  
DuWayne Galow  
320-435-0620

#### **OUR MISSION STATEMENT**

The mission of  
St. Paul Lutheran Church  
is to promote the  
worship of the Triune God  
as revealed in Holy Scriptures,  
by teaching the Gospel of  
Jesus Christ and administering  
the Sacraments, in order to  
equip people for Christian  
life and service.

### **Notice**

Pastor Varns has accepted the call to Zion Lutheran Churches of Brown's Valley, MN and Claire City, SD. His last service at St. Paul will be December 1st. With the short notice we were able to have Pastor Dennis Schultz for the December services (please refer to the attached calendar for time changes) and Pastor Donald Polege will be our vacancy pastor starting January 1st.



## **Christmas Calendar**

### **No Midweek Advent Services**

**Sunday, December 15th**  
Christmas Potluck - 12 pm

**Tuesday, December 24th**  
Christmas Eve Service - 6 pm

**Wednesday, December 25th**  
Christmas Day Service - 9:30 am

# ITEMS OF INTEREST

## Council Notes

The monthly Church Council meeting for December is the 10th at 7 pm.

The Quarterly Voters' Meeting will meet Sunday, December 15th at 10:45 am. Some of the items on the agenda will be the election of Elders and the 2025 Congregational Budget. All confirmed members who are 18 years of age and older are encouraged to this meeting and to share in the decision making of the congregation. Following the meeting will be the Christmas potluck dinner.

### *Christmas Potluck*



*December 15th at noon*

## Bake Sale

The LWML bake sale will be December 8th following the service. If you would like to donate an item or two, please have it at church before the service that morning. We also ask that you mark a price on the items. You can contact Sue Erickson or Judy Rode if you have a request for any special ingredients.



Portals of Prayer for January - March are available in the narthex.

## LWML News

Mites can do mitey things! The monthly "Noisy Offerings", which are always held the third Sunday, are a success! Thanks to all of you who find pocket change again and again to fill our cans! November offering was \$36.12. These offering will go toward LWML missions.

As this year comes to a close, the LWML would like to thank everyone who has supported us over the past year. Our Ash Wednesday supper, Summertime Pie Social, Coffee sales, selling greeting cards and our upcoming Bake Sale were our fund raisers this past year. The following are some of the organizations that we donate to at the end of the year: Shoe Box postage, American Bible Society, Bethesda, LCMS Global Missions, Avera GF Care Center, YMC Family Services, Concordia Theological Seminary, Concordia Seminary Food Bank, Lutheran Island Camp, Eagles Nest and Pueblo International.

Our next quarterly meeting will be held on Monday, January 20, 2025 at 2 pm in the Parish Hall. In January we also serve at the blood mobile. Contact Judy Rode or Sue Erickson if you'd be interested in helping prepare food or help serve for this event.

We'd like to encourage everyone to attend the National Lutheran Women In Mission Convention that will be held June 26-29, 2025 in Omaha, Nebraska. There will be a bus going and more details to follow.

There are boxes and individual Christmas cards for sale now and are available in the co-troom!

## Member Directory

The 2025 Church Directory will be available in January. A copy of the old directory has been placed in the narthex where you may update the listings for yourself and any family members.

## Offering Envelopes

Offering envelopes for 2025 will be placed in your mail boxes in early December. Please start to use the **beige** envelopes starting January 1, 2025.



## Shoeboxes

This year we sent a total of 38 boxes to Operation Christmas Child. We held a packing party on November 3rd, completing 31 boxes there. The theme was "full, fun & personalized" this year, so we did our best with lots of fun items along with hygiene products and school supplies. This was the last year that soap could be sent, so we included all that we had. This change is due to issues at customs with some countries, holding up shipments. It is wonderful to think of the 38 kids who will receive our gifts along with a 12-session discipleship course that they will have as well. This is a creative way to get the Good News to people who may have not yet heard of Jesus. Thank you to all that donated and participated in any way. Continue to pray for the OCC recipients around the world. Molly Hoff, project coordinator.

## Snow Policy

If Sunday Worship Service is cancelled, all other events for the day are also cancelled. If YME School classes are cancelled due to the weather, all church events for that day are also cancelled. The closing can be heard on KMGFM-FM (105.5), KKRC-FM (93.9), KDMA-AM (1460) and also will be posted on Facebook. In regards to worship services during the winter season, please remember to **use your best judgment** in terms of going out in wintry weather. If it is unsafe for you to be out (even in your own driveway), don't go out. Although Pastor is glad to visit you in the hospital, he would rather visit you in your home! So, be safe; missing church due to weather is not an offense to God; remember how much he cares for you too.



## Vital Statistics

### Attendance and Finances

Date	Attend	Offering
Sun, Nov 3	53	\$2,647.00
Sun, Nov 10	48	\$1,622.00
Sun, Nov 17	67	\$1,018.00
Sun, Nov 24	101	\$5,780.00
Wed, Nov 27	32	N/A

(Offering needed per Sunday in December to reach the 2024 budget is \$3,882.00)

## December Birthdays

Dec 2	Lisa Baker Ethan Staab Donald Steffen
Dec 3	Nick Enninga
Dec 5	Ryan Luepke
Dec 10	Jeanne Gabbert
Dec 11	Julie Cuklanz
Dec 13	Katelyn Luepke
Dec 14	Pat Stengel Krystal Twedt
Dec 15	Rhett Brown
Dec 16	Darlene Yeager
Dec 17	Tracy Hammer Dan Hildahl
Dec 18	Judy Hempel Otto Luepke
Dec 19	Henry Soukup
Dec 21	Alicia Lubrant Zachary Markgraf
Dec 22	DuWayne Galow
Dec 24	Maria Christensen Pam Stengel
Dec 26	Nathan Canatsey
Dec 27	Vicki Patterson
Dec 28	Tyler Patterson Sydney Thompson
Dec 30	Janel Guertin Odell Rude
Dec 31	Taylor Hinz

### Birthday Blessings to you all.

Please contact the church office if we missed yours.

## Financials as of 11-26-2024

Year to Date Actual Contributions	\$144,979.79
Year to Date Contributions Needed	<u>\$166,104.51</u>
Difference	(\$21,124.72)
Year to Date Actual Expenses	\$160,129.57
Year to Date Budgeted Expenses	<u>\$166,104.51</u>
Difference	\$5,974.94

**SAC Groups** will be our greeters and ushers.  
If this is your month to serve, please prayerfully consider  
where you are able to and willing to help.

A new rotation of the SAC groups will start in 2025.  
SAC Group 2 will start the new year serving for January.

## Group 4

### Serving for December

Banken, Jim and Janine  
Bruss, Margie  
Canatsey, Kristin  
Donner, Jenelle  
Donner, Jessica  
Ebel, Colton and Emily  
Edman, Tom and Tammy  
Gabbert, Don and Jeanne  
Hildahl, Dan and Valerie  
Holtan, Marie  
Hoyer, Lanny  
Jeseritz, Tanya  
Johnson, Mark  
Keller, Katie  
Kling, Verlyn and Barb  
Kvam, Carrie  
Kvam, Gordon  
Kvam, LeRoy and Debra  
Luepke, Mike and Pam  
Meyer, Greg and Jackie  
Meyer, Larry and Karla  
Reese, Tom  
Rude, Odell and Carol  
Schultz, Dennis and Phyllis  
Skjefte, Dave and Val  
Steffen, Kerry and Julie  
Timm, Craig and Susan  
Timm, Daphne  
Timm, Lee  
Twedt, Charles and Kari  
Wilking, Larry  
Yeager, Dave and Darlene



## Group 2

### Serving in January

Anderson, Bryan and Renae  
Berends, Randy and Tamra  
Beyer, Brian, and Laura  
Cobb, Kris and Holly  
Enninga, Dan and Kathy  
Guertin, Sarah  
Hammer, Brett  
Hammer, Mary

Hempel, Terry and Rosemary  
Hinz, Paul and Diane  
Jeseritz, Randy  
Johnson, Ted and Kathy  
Kirschbaum, Janet  
Korthuis, John and Kathy  
Lindstrom, Nick and Hailey  
Luepke, Otto and Theresa  
Miller, Eugene  
Myers, Troy and Jenna  
Nokleby, Dorothy  
Podratz, Ken and Carol

Redepenning, Tony and Amy  
Rigge, Jim and Cindy  
Rigge, Michael  
Sherman, Leslie and Renee  
Sietsema, Barb  
Stengel, Allen and Pat  
Streich, Chris  
Streich, LouAnn  
Wegner, James and Eileen  
Zempel, Meredith  
Zempel, Nicole  
Zimmer, Kevin and Laura

## Daily Bible Readings for December

Dec 1 Lam 5 Psalm 147 Galatians 5:1-15  
Dec 2 Ezekiel Psalm 148 Galatians 5:16-26  
Dec 3 Ezekiel 2-3 Psalm 149 Galatians 6  
Dec 4 Ezekiel 4-5 Psalm 150 Ephes 1  
Dec 5 Ezekiel 6-7 Isaiah 40 Ephes 2  
Dec 6 Ezekiel 8-9 Isaiah 41 Ephes 3  
Dec 7 Ezekiel 10-11 Isaiah 42 Ephes 4:1-16  
Dec 8 Ezekiel 12-13 Isaiah 43 Ephes 4:17-32  
Dec 9 Ezekiel 14-15 Isaiah 44 Ephes 5:1-20  
Dec 10 Ezekiel 16 Isaiah 45 Ephesians 5:21-33  
Dec 11 Ezekiel 17 Isaiah 46 Ephes 6  
Dec 12 Ezekiel 18 Isaiah 47 Philippians 1:1-11  
Dec 13 Ezekiel 19 Isaiah 48 Philippians 1:12-30  
Dec 14 Ezekiel 20 Isaiah 49 Philippians 2:1-11  
Dec 15 Ezekiel 21-22 Isaiah 50 Philippians 2:12-30  
Dec 16 Ezekiel 23 Isaiah 51 Philippians 3  
Dec 17 Ezekiel 24 Isaiah 52 Philippians 4  
Dec 18 Ezekiel 25-26 Isaiah 53 Colos 1:1-23  
Dec 19 Ezekiel 27-28 Isaiah 54 Colos. 1:24-2:19  
Dec 20 Ezekiel 29-30 Isaiah 55 Colos. 2:20-3:17  
Dec 21 Ezekiel 31-32 Isaiah 56 Colos. 3:18-4:18  
Dec 22 Ezekiel 33 Isaiah 57 Luke 1:1-25  
Dec 23 Ezekiel 34 Isaiah 58 Luke 1:26-56  
Dec 24 Ezekiel 35-36 Isaiah 59 Luke 1:57-80  
Dec 25 Ezekiel 37 Isaiah 60 Luke 2:1-20  
Dec 26 Ezekiel 38-39 Isaiah 61 Luke 2:21-52  
Dec 27 Ezekiel 40-41 Isaiah 62 Luke 3:1-20  
Dec 28 Ezekiel 42-43 Isaiah 63 Luke 3:21-38  
Dec 29 Ezekiel 44-45 Isaiah 64 Luke 4:1-30  
Dec 30 Ezekiel 46-47 Isaiah 65 Luke 4:31-44  
Dec 31 Ezekiel 48 Isaiah 66 Luke 5:1-26

## Social Activity Committee 2025 Serving Schedule

### Group 2

Serving for January, May, September.

### Group 3

Serving for February, June, October.

### Group 4

Serving for March, July, November.

### Group 1

Serving for April, August, December.





# DECEMBER

2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> 8:30 am Adult Bible Study 9:30 am Communion Service 10:45 am K-3 Sunday School	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 6 pm Handbell Practice 7 pm Mixed Choir Practice	<b>5</b> 9 am Bldg Bridges Choir	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 9:30 am Communion Service 10:30 am LWML Bake Sale 10:30 am Coffee Time 10:45 am K-3 Sunday School 11 am Adult Bible Study	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 6 pm Board of Elders 7 pm Church Council	<b>11</b> 6 pm Handbell Practice 7 pm Mixed Choir Practice	<b>12</b> 9 am Bldg Bridges Choir	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> 9:30 am Communion Service 11 am Quarterly Voters Meeting 12 pm Christmas Potluck Dinner	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 6 pm Handbell Practice 7 pm Mixed Choir Practice	<b>19</b> 9 am Bldg Bridges Choir	<b>20</b> Newsletter Articles Due	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Coffee Time 10:45 am K-3 Sunday School 11 am Adult Bible Study	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 6 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service "Dinner at Your Door"	<b>25</b> 9:30 AM Christmas Day Service	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Coffee Time 10:45 am K-3 Sunday School 11 am Adult Bible Study	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>		<b>Elder</b>	<b>Altar Guild</b> Sue Erickson	