



St. Paul Lutheran Church

*The Lutheran Church -
Missouri Synod*

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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.

St. Paul News January 2026

Pastor's Message

When the Lights Feel Dim

January can be a hard month. The decorations are packed away. The weather is cold. The days are still short. Christmas joy can feel far behind us, and ordinary life presses back in—work, school, bills, worries, and unfinished problems.

So here's a simple question: What happens to your faith when the light feels dim? That question sits right at the heart of Epiphany, the season that fills much of January. Epiphany means "appearing" or "revealing." It reminds us that God's light shines—not only on Christmas night, but especially when life feels dark and ordinary.

Isaiah writes, "Arise, shine, for your light has come" (Isaiah 60:1). But January rarely feels like a shining season.

Here is the malady: when life feels ordinary, dull, difficult, or heavy, we assume God must be distant. Quietly, we think, If God were really close, wouldn't I feel more joyful? More hopeful? More at peace?

That assumption shows up in tired prayers, distracted worship, and the sense that faith is something we must strain to keep alive.

Isaiah does not say, "Arise and shine because you feel bright." He says, "Your light has come." In the Hebrew, the verb points to something already accomplished. God's light arrives first. Our response comes later.

That is how God always works. The Magi in Matthew 2 did not follow a feeling. They followed a star—steady, visible, and given by God. Before electric lights, even a small flame mattered. One candle could change a whole room. Light did not need to be overwhelming; it simply needed to be real. That is a helpful picture for a "January" faith.

Here is the Gospel comfort: Jesus does not shine only when we feel strong, but He especially shines for us when we feel weak.

Christ is the Light who entered real darkness: a broken world, suffering people, and finally the cross. On Good Friday, it looked as though the light had gone out completely. Yet that was the very moment our salvation was being won.

Jesus forgives our dull faith. He covers our cold hearts. He keeps His promises even when our feelings lag behind.

As the Epiphany hymn prays: "Brightest and best of the sons of the morning, Dawn on our darkness and lend us Thine aid." And He does.

So what does this mean for us this month? It means we do not measure God's presence by our mood. We do not judge our faith by how inspired we feel. We return to where Christ promises to shine—His Word, His forgiveness, His gifts.

A small light is still light. A quiet promise is still a promise. And Christ is still with you. January may feel dim—but the Light has come, and He is not going anywhere.

Blessed New Year!

Pastor David Tilney

Vacancy Pastor





As We Start the New Year

The Special Voter's Meeting that was planned for December 28th was canceled due to the weather has been rescheduled for January 4, 2026 following the service.

Council Meeting

Members of the Board of Elders and Church Council will meet Tuesday evening, January 13th at 6:30 pm and 7 pm respectively. An item on the agenda will be to find candidates for open positions on the Church Council with elections being held at the March's Quarterly Voter's Assembly.

LWML News

Happy New Year to everyone from the LWML ladies! We hope you all had a wonderful Christmas celebrating the birth of Christ!

The monthly "Noisy Offerings" are a success! Thanks to all of you who find pocket change again and again to fill our cans! December's offering was \$21.68. Thank you all for your help and support! This mite money goes to Missions.

Thanks to everyone who made Christmas goodies to sell at our bake sale and all those who purchased them! The assortment was amazing! We made a total of \$377.50.

We have started to make the 2026 Altar Guild Schedule. If you haven't chosen your month yet please see Sue Erickson or Mary Hammer. Remember that men and high school students can also sign up.

Our quarterly meeting is on Monday, January 19th at 2 pm in the parish hall. Everyone is welcome to attend and enjoy a snack, a short Bible study and of course our business meeting.

Then on January 20th we serve at the blood mobile at KCC. If you are interested in helping prepare food or help serve this event please contact Judy Rode or Sue Erickson.

Do you know what LWML stands for? It is the abbreviation for Lutheran Women's Missionary League. We raise money to support missions here and abroad. Much more information is available on line at: LWML.org. Also a popular daily devotion that you can sign up for by email is called "Mustard Seed Devotions." To get this free daily devotional: www.lwml.org/mustard-seed-devotions.

Contribution Statements

Contribution Statements for the 4th quarter will soon be in your mailboxes. In compliance with the IRS those who contributed \$250 or more on one single day will receive an itemize statement for the entire year. These statements are to be given to your tax preparer. Please pick yours up as soon as possible and any questions please let the office know as soon as possible. Remember to begin using your new pink offering envelopes in 2026.

Annual Reports

We do not have the completed Income and Expense Report for 2025 as December books have not yet been closed. Anyone having any financial reports or other information to be included in the Annual Report is asked to have it at the church office before January 15th.

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 KMGM-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.

Lutheran Witness

There is a signup sheet in the narthex if you would like to receive the Lutheran Witness at home. The yearly subscription cost for 2026 is \$27.65. Please make checks payable to St. Paul Church indicating that is it for The Lutheran Witness. Drop off at the church office or place in the offering plate by January 25th.

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

New rotation of the SAC
groups starting in 2026.

January Birthdays

Jan 1	Kiley Meyer
	Kindal Meyer
Jan 4	Brianna Christians
Jan 5	Thomas Reese
Jan 6	Carol Gabbert
	Staci Markgraf
Jan 7	Zachery Dawson
Jan 8	Willow Walls
Jan. 10	Mike Brunner
Jan. 12	Noah Lusti
Jan. 17	Marlene Moe
	Nicole Zempel
Jan. 18	Sammy Weckwerth
Jan. 21	Jenna Hempel
Jan. 22	Maximilian Enter
Jan. 26	Theresa Luepke
Jan. 27	Michael Rigge
	Brandon Schmidt
	Madison Schmidt
Jan. 28	Travis Berends
	Ryder Holwerda
Jan. 29	Karter Canatsey
	Cindy Rigge
Jan. 30	Jodi Trotter
Jan. 31	Shantel Syring

Birthday Blessing to you all!

Please contact the church office if
we missed yours.

Group 3

Serving for January

Baker, Lisa
Cuklanz, Larry and Nancy
Duenwald, Karley
Freitag, Avis
Gabbert, Carol
Galow, DuWayne and Karen
Hegna, Rolland and RaeAnn
Hildahl, Linda
Hoff, Jason and Molly
Ims, Dorothy
Iverson, Pam
Johnson, Jennifer

Just, Wes and Norma
Kelly, Mary
Kvam, Curtis
Olson, LuAnn
Peterson, LeRoy and Jan
Quintal, Teresa
Reinke, Darlene
Rigge, Anita
Rush, Barb
Steffen, Boyd
Streich, Eugene
Streich, Linda
Trotter, Donnie and Jodi
Ulven, Lorna
Van Sickle, Eric and Jane
Winters, Kelly



Directories

An up-dated church directory will be available soon. Also included in this directory are the "Ministry Groups" (SAC) for each family, LWML Booklet, and Church's Serving Guidelines. If your address changed, or added a cell phone or an e-mail address please let the office know.

Vital Statistics

December Attendance and Finances

<u>Date</u>	<u>Attend</u>	<u>Offering</u>
Sun, Dec 7	62	\$6,638.51
Sun, Dec 14	50	\$2,165.00
Sun, Dec 21	54	\$2,280.00
Wed, Dec 24	123	\$2,196.00
Sun, Dec 28	Canceled	

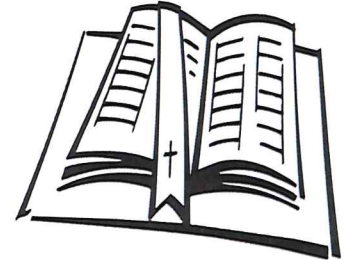
(2026 Offering needed per Sunday will be \$3,336.00)

Financials as of 12-29-2025

Year to Date Actual Contributions	\$156,103.96
Year to Date Budgeted Income	<u>\$170,026.00</u>
Difference	(\$13,922.04)
Year to Date Actual Expenses	\$115,636.93
Year to Date Budgeted Expenses	<u>\$170,026.00</u>
Difference	\$54,389.07

Read Through the Bible in a Year

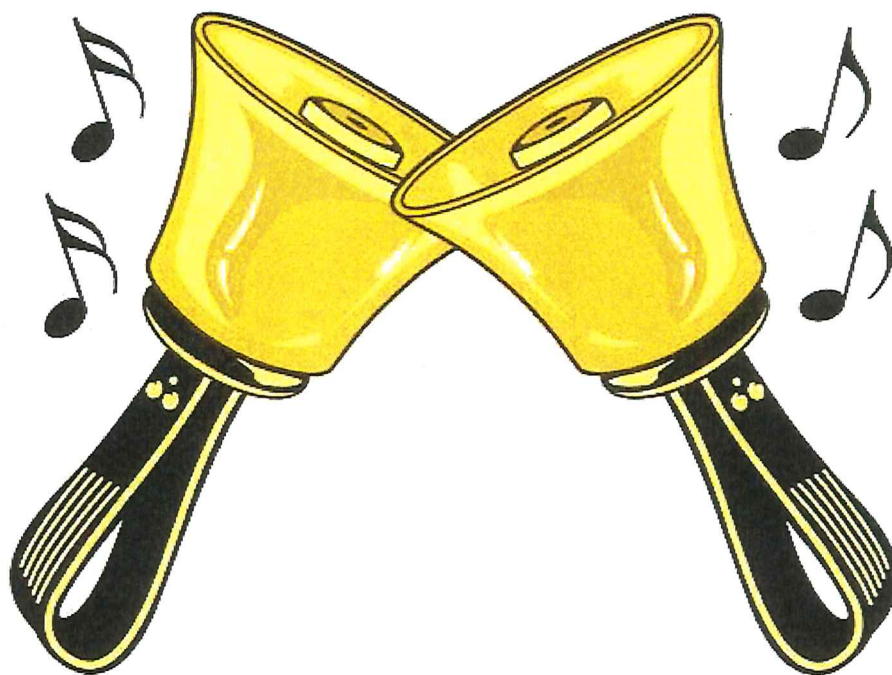
Jan 1	Genesis 1-2	Psalm 1	Luke 5:27-39
Jan 2	Genesis 3-5	Psalm 2	Luke 6:1-26
Jan 3	Genesis 6-7	Psalm 3	Luke 6:27-49
Jan 4	Genesis 8-10	Psalm 4	Luke 7:1-17
Jan 5	Genesis 11	Psalm 5	Luke 7:18-50
Jan 6	Genesis 12	Psalm 6	Luke 8:1-25
Jan 7	Genesis 13-14	Psalm 7	Luke 8:26-56
Jan 8	Genesis 15	Psalm 8	Luke 9:1-27
Jan 9	Genesis 16	Psalm 9	Luke 9:28-62
Jan 10	Genesis 17	Psalm 10	Luke 10:1-20
Jan 11	Genesis 18	Psalm 11	Luke 10:21-42
Jan 12	Genesis 19	Psalm 12	Luke 11:1-28
Jan 13	Genesis 20	Psalm 13	Luke 11:29-54
Jan 14	Genesis 21	Psalm 14	Luke 12:1-31
Jan 15	Genesis 22	Psalm 15	Luke 12:32-59
Jan 16	Genesis 23	Psalm 16	Luke 13:1-17
Jan 17	Genesis 24	Psalm 17	Luke 13:18-35
Jan 18	Genesis 25	Psalm 18	Luke 14:1-24
Jan 19	Genesis 26	Psalm 19	Luke 14:25-35
Jan 20	Genesis 27:1-45	Psalm 20	Luke 15
Jan 21	Genesis 27:46-28:22	Psalm 21	Luke 16
Jan 22	Genesis 29:1-30	Psalm 22	Luke 17
Jan 23	Genesis 29:31-30:43	Psalm 23	Luke 18:1-17
Jan 24	Genesis 31	Psalm 24	Luke 18:18-43
Jan 25	Genesis 32-33	Psalm 25	Luke 19:1-27
Jan 26	Genesis 34	Psalm 26	Luke 19:28-48
Jan 27	Genesis 35-36	Psalm 27	Luke 20:1-26
Jan 28	Genesis 37	Psalm 28	Luke 20:27-47 29 30 31
Jan 29	Genesis 38	Psalm 29	Luke 21
Jan 30	Genesis 39	Psalm 30	Luke 22:1-38
Jan 31	Genesis 40	Psalm 31	Luke 22:39-71



Thanks to those who donated a Poinsettia for our Christmas Service



Merlin and Sylvia Buchholz in memory of our family.
 Larry and Nancy Cuklanz in memory of loved ones.
 Tom and Tammy Edman in memory of Odell Rude.
 Wes and Sue Erickson in memory of our parents.
 Avis Freitag and Paul Hinz in memory of Erwin and Anna Hinz.
 Rolland and RaeAnn Hegna and Terry and Rosemary Hempel
 in memory of Ray and Pearl Hempel.
 Dorothy Ims in memory of Paul Ims.
 Dorothy Nokleby in memory of loved ones.
 Anita Rigge in memory of Vernon Rigge.
 Pastor and Phyllis Schultz in memory of our parents
 . Kerry and Julie Steffen in memory of our family.
 Jim and Eileen Wegner in memory of loved ones.
 Dave and Darlene Yeager in memory of our sons Brian and Scott.



HANDBELLS 101

**Have you been interested in trying out
the handbells?**

Every man, woman and child is invited during the month of January to come to the church balcony Wednesday nights from 5:30 to 6:30 PM and try out the bells.

You will be taught how to properly play the bells, how to read the music and we'll even play a few simple songs.

No experience is necessary. No expectation to join the bell choir.

Reach out to Carol Gabbert for more information. See you there!!

JANUARY 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<u>Acolytes</u> Sun 4 Brielle Redepenning Sun 11 James Luepke Sun 18 Lucas Canatsey Sun 25 Nathan Canatsey	<u>Altar Guild</u> open	<u>Elders</u> Brian Beyer Larry Cuklanz Dave Guertin Jim Rigge		1	2	3
4 10 am Coffee Time 11 am Worship Service 12 pm Special Voter's Mtg	5	6 8 am Men's Bible Study	7	8 9 am Bldg Bridges Choir 1:30 pm Bible Study	9	10
11 10 am Coffee Time 11 am Communion Service 12:45 pm Confirmation Class	12	13 8 am Men's Bible Study 6 pm Board of Elders 7 pm Church Council	14	15 9 am Bldg Bridges Choir 1:30 pm Bible Study	16	17
18 10 am Coffee Time 11 am Worship Service 12:45 pm Confirmation Class	19 2 pm LWML Q'tly Meeting	20 8 am Men's Bible Study Newsletter Articles Due	21	22 9 am Bldg Bridges Choir 1:30 pm Bible Study	23	24
		St. Paul Lutheran	Church delivers	"Dinner at Your Door"		
25 10 am Coffee Time 11 am Communion Service 12:45 pm Confirmation Class	26	27 8 am Men's Bible Study	28	29 9 am Bldg Bridges Choir 1:30 pm Bible Study	30	31