# St. Paul News - November 2026

## St. Paul Lutheran Church – LCMS

1050 10th Ave, Granite Falls, MN 56241


**Rev. David J. Sutton**
**Pastor**
**Office hours: Wednesdays 9-3**
**715-966-5591**
**revsutton@outlook.com**

**Church office**
**Office hours: M-F 9-1**
**320-564-2221**
**stpaulgf@embarqmail.com**
**www.stpaulgf.org**

**Chairman**
**Brad Christensen**
**320-981-0014**


**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.

Find us on Facebook

# Pastor's Message

*"From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts out its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things take place, you know that He is near, at the very gates."* Mark 13:28-29 ESV

**Fall is Falling as it Does**

Summer has come to its end, and Autumn is well underway. The temperatures are cooler, even freezing at night. The daylight is shorter, and the leaves are turning and falling from the trees (Except the sugar maples, they take forever to fall). These are the signs that fall is here (oh, let's not forget pumpkin spice everything!).

Jesus used the fig tree and the changing seasons to teach about His return. He did not teach when He would return, but that we can understand that there are signs of His coming. Many today speculate that the events in our world mirror events foretold in Scripture. Events or signs of the end times. But no one knows.

I wasn't around for either World War (though its hard to convince children of this—"he's so old") but certainly many in those days thought the end was near. As war and bloodshed, poverty, famine, and other hardships spread across the world. I did grow up in the '70s and '80s before the Berlin Wall came down. We believed a final nuclear war was imminent. Remember the made for TV move, *The Day* after? But the world did not end, and here we are today. The times and seasons turning, the days marching on.

Through all these times, and times to come, we have the assurances of God's word and promise delivered in and through Jesus. That He has saved those whose faith is in Him. Yes, we should be ready, prepared for a world ending event—the return of Christ. Even more personal, our final day, your final breath. Preparation is made for you by Christ Jesus.

Take the lesson of the fig tree. There are signs for us that show the return of Jesus, but there are also signs that call for repentance and turning back to God. For examples you can read the Book of the Judges. There things fell apart in 40-year cycles of idolatry and repentance.

But when the day comes, we have been warned to be ready. And on that day, "*straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near*" -Luke 21:28 ESV.

So be ready, in Christ, and do not fear. And for now, enjoy the fall colors as winter cold draws near.

See you in Church! ✢ *Pastor Sutton*

# Items of Interest

## "Come, Ye Thankful People, Come"

Thanksgiving Eve Worship

Wednesday, November 25th at 7 pm

Coffee and pie that is usually served after Thanksgiving Eve service will now be held at Sunday's coffee time on November 22nd. There is a signup sheet for those who would like to bring pies.



## LWML News

"Noisy Offerings" are always held the third Sunday of the month. The October offering was $20.57, and this will go toward LWML missions. Thanks for your continued support.

The quarterly meeting was held on October 19th at 7 pm. The next quarterly meeting will be January 18th at 2 pm in the parish hall. We would love to have new members join us in all the mission work we do (we only meet 4 times a year). Membership dues for 2027 are $19 and they are due by November 1st. They can be placed in the offering plate or given to our treasurer, LuAnn Olson.

These organizations were designated to receive a donation of $100 this year. They are American Bible Society, Eagles Nest, Granite Care Center, Kelsi's Hope, LCMS Global Missions, Lutheran Island Camp, YMC Family Service (Santa's Sleigh), Jacob Sjoblom, seminary student from Montevideo, and WRAP. Then Concordia Seminary Food Banks at Fort Wayne and St. Louis will receive $200 each.

We are in search of a President or Co-Presidents for a 2-year term as Sue Erickson and Judy Rode's terms have expired. These positions need to be filled by January 1, 2027.

Our church hosted the LWML Joy Workshop (Fall Rally) on Sunday, October 25th. The speaker was Kelly Wittnebel on the topic of "Finding Hope and Joy in Self Care". A donation for the ingathering was given to Redemption Ranch of Wabasso, MN. Their mission is to shed the light of Jesus to children and families through an equine mentoring experience

A Bake Sale is planned for December 6th before and after the service. If you would like to donate an item or two, please have it at church before 8:45 am. We also ask that you mark a price on the items. Please see Sue Erickson or Judy Rode if you need any special ingredients. There is Thrivent card that is available to use for those purchases.

## November Birthdays

| | |
|---|---|
| Nov 2 | Melissa Soukup |
| Nov 3 | Adeline Ebel |
| | Carrie Kvam |
| Nov 4 | Kathy Brunner |
| Nov 6 | Saul Lee |
| Nov 9 | Chad Luepke |
| Nov 14 | Amanda DeJong |
| Nov 15 | Olivia Hinz |
| Nov 16 | Wes Erickson |
| | Kelly Winters |
| Nov 17 | Makaylee Roberts |
| | Jill Schmidt |
| Nov 18 | Brielle Redepenning |
| Nov 21 | Karla Meyer |
| Nov 22 | Jacob Guertin |
| Nov 23 | Loretta Hewitt |
| Nov 24 | Brian Beyer |
| | Michelle Miller |
| | Deven Schmidt |
| Nov 25 | Brett Hammer |
| | Judy Rode |
| Nov 26 | Gordon Kvam |
| Nov 28 | LeAnn Lange |
| | Kari Twedt |
| Nov 30 | Janine Banken |
| | Trevor Read |

**Birthday Blessings to you all.**

Please contact the church office if we missed yours.

**Midweek Advent**
**Wednesday, December 2nd, 9th, & 16th at 6 pm**

**Christmas Eve Candlelight**
**Thursday, December 24th at 6 pm**

**Christmas Day**
**Friday, December 25th at 9:30 am**

**There will be a sign-up for those who are willing to serve a light supper before Midweek Advent Services. The Congregational Christmas Potluck dinner will follow the Quarterly Voter's Meeting on December 13th.**

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

# Group 1

### Serving for November

Anderson, Rachel
Berends, Anthony and Nicole
Berends, Chris and Belinda
Buchholz, Merlin and Sylvia
Christensen, Brad and Maria
Doose, Chad
Doose, Greg and Susan
Doose, Mike and Kristi
Erickson, Wes and Sue
Gatchell, Dorian and Melanie
Guertin, Dave and Nancy
Hammer, Nancy
Hammer, Tracy
Hempel, Tim and Jody
Hildahl, Eric and Teresa
Janiszeski, Jackie
Johnson, Matthew
Kotek, MacKenzie
Markgraf, Kevin
Moe, Marlene
Odegard, Kody
Philip, Donna
Phinney, Katie
Putnam, Charlie
Rode, Judy
Ryer, Lisa
Ryer, Shannon
Schmidt, Jennifer
Schulte, Richard and Kelly
Staab, Tyler and Tara
Steffen, Don
Stengel, Rob
Syring, Melodee

## Vital Statistics

Attendance and Offering Report for October

| Date | Attendance | Offering |
|---|---|---|
| Sun, Oct 4 | 76 | $6,080.00 |
| Sun, Oct 11 | 39 | $1,917.00 |
| Sun, Oct 19 | 56 | $1,508.00 |
| Sun, Oct 25 | 60 | $1,873.20 |

(2026 Budget Income needed each Sunday - $3,336.00)



## Daily Bible Readings for November

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Nov 1 | Isaiah 36–37 | Psalm 119:97–120 | 1 Timothy 3 |
| Nov 2 | Isaiah 38–39 | Psalm 119:121–144 | 1 Timothy 4 |
| Nov 3 | Jeremiah 1–2 | Psalm 119:145–176 | 1 Timothy 5:1–22 |
| Nov 4 | Jeremiah 3–4 | Psalm 120 | 1 Timothy 5:23–6:21 |
| Nov 5 | Jeremiah 5–6 | Psalm 121 | 2 Timothy 1 |
| Nov 6 | Jeremiah 7–8 | Psalm 122 | 2 Timothy 2 |
| Nov 7 | Jeremiah 9–10 | Psalm 123 | 2 Timothy 3 |
| Nov 8 | Jeremiah 11–12 | Psalm 124 | 2 Timothy 4 |
| Nov 9 | Jeremiah 13–14 | Psalm 125 | Titus 1 |
| Nov 10 | Jeremiah 15–16 | Psalm 126 | Titus 2 |
| Nov 11 | Jeremiah 17–18 | Psalm 127 | Titus 3 |
| Nov 12 | Jeremiah 19–20 | Psalm 128 | Philemon |
| Nov 13 | Jeremiah 21–22 | Psalm 129 | James 1 |
| Nov 14 | Jeremiah 23–24 | Psalm 130 | James 2 |
| Nov 15 | Jeremiah 25–26 | Psalm 131 | James 3 |
| Nov 16 | Jeremiah 27–28 | Psalm 132 | James 4 |
| Nov 17 | Jeremiah 29–30 | Psalm 133 | James 5 |
| Nov 18 | Jeremiah 31–32 | Psalm 134 | 1 Peter 1 |
| Nov 19 | Jeremiah 33–34 | Psalm 135 | 1 Peter 2 |
| Nov 20 | Jeremiah 35–36 | Psalm 136 | 1 Peter 3 |
| Nov 21 | Jeremiah 37–38 | Psalm 137 | 1 Peter 4 |
| Nov 22 | Jeremiah 39–40 | Psalm 138 | 1 Peter 5 |
| Nov 23 | Jeremiah 41–42 | Psalm 139 | 2 Peter 1 |
| Nov 24 | Jeremiah 43–44 | Psalm 140 | 2 Peter 2 |
| Nov 25 | Jeremiah 45–46 | Psalm 141 | 2 Peter 3 |
| Nov 26 | Jeremiah 47–48 | Psalm 142 | Galatians 1 |
| Nov 27 | Jeremiah 49–50 | Psalm 143 | Galatians 2 |
| Nov 28 | Jeremiah 51–52 | Psalm 144 | Galatians 3:1–18 |
| Nov 29 | Lamentations 1–2 | Psalm 145 | Galatians 3:19–4:20 |
| Nov 30 | Lamentations 3–4 | Psalm 146 | Galatians 4:21–31 |

## Financials as of 10-28-2026

| | |
|---|---|
| Year to Date Actual Contributions | $119,134.15 |
| Year to Date Budgeted Income | $144,549.10 |
| Difference | ($25,414.95) |
| Year to Date Actual Expenses | $110,485.01 |
| Year to Date Budgeted Expenses | $144,549.10 |
| Difference | $34,064.09 |

## Shoebox Dates

Packing day is Sunday, November 15th after church and all boxes are due Sunday, November 22nd before church.

# Invocation, Benediction: The Beginning and Ending of Worship

Last month I wrote to you a little bit about worship. Continuing that thought where does worship begin, and where does it end. Well, in our common service the order of service begins with the Invocation, and ends with the Benediction.

The Invocation is the speaking, or invoking of God's name. We begin worship with the pastor speaking the name of God onto His People like this: "In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.". to which the congregation responds with "Amen". I should mention briefly that "Amen" is the word of agreement, yes, it is so. We'll speak more on the amen in a later writing.

However, the Invocation is a reminder of your Baptism, as you are Baptized in the name of God: Father, Son, and Spirit. While many think that the Pastor speaks these words making the sign of the cross over the congregation, he really is also remembering his own baptism and making the sign of the cross over himself, but outward toward the congregation as well.

The sign of the cross is simply as a reminder of our Baptism into Christ Jesus. The same sign your Pastor used in your Baptism. As the Order of Baptism says, "receive the sign of the cross, marking you as one of the Baptized in Christ." So, the Invocation reminds us, and calls us together as the body of Christ through the Baptismal promise of Jesus.

At the far end of the worship service is the Benediction. The speaking of a blessing. While there is only one form of Invocation, there are several Benedictions used in our services. Most commonly is this, "The Lord bless you and keep you, the Lord make His face shine upon you, the Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace." This form, called the Aaronic Benediction, originates with God's command to Aaron through Moses in Numbers 6:24-26. There God commands Moses to tell Aaron to bless His people with these words.

There is also the Pauline Benediction, "The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion (or fellowship) of the Holy Spirit, be with you all." Found in 2 Corinthians 13:14. While the Aaronic Benediction is the blessing commonly used at the end of the Divine Services, the prayer services such as Matins, Vespers, and Compline, as well as Daily Prayer and the Evening and Morning Prayer services, use the Pauline Benediction.

So, where does worship begin and end? In formal worship we begin gathered in God's name, and we end with God's blessings. But we live our daily lives in continuous worship of our Lord, as we live according to His word, and in His name as the baptized family of God in Christ Jesus.

Next month we'll dig into a little more about our worship service. For now, receive this blessing, God's peace be with you. (Oh, another Benediction!)




You can purchase a red poinsettia plant for our Christmas Services. The cost will be $18.50 each. A sign-up sheet is available in the narthex, or you may return this form along with payment to the church office by December 6th.

I WOULD LIKE TO PURCHASE A POINSETTIA

_____

IN MEMORY OF

_____

**Note from Pastor:** Pastor Sutton's office hours Wednesdays 9-3, or by appointment 715-966-5591 - revsutton@outlook.com.

**Pastor's Daily Devotions:**
https://www.facebook.com/groups/dailydevotionswithpastorsuttonopen or
https://www.youtube.com/@PastorSutton

# November 2026

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **1**<br>9:30 am Worship<br>10:30 am Coffee Time<br>11 am Bible Class | **2** | **3**<br>8 am Men's Bible Study<br>8:30 am Quilters | **4**<br>3:15 pm Conf Class<br>6 pm Handbell Practice<br>6:45 pm Choir Practice | **5**<br>9 am Blg Bridges Choir<br>1:30 pm Bible Study | **6** | **7** |
| **8**<br>9:30 am Communion<br>10:30 am Coffee Time<br>11 am Bible Class | **9** | **10**<br>8 am Men's Bible Study<br>8:30 am Quilters<br>6:30 pm Board of Elders<br>7 pm Church Council | **11**<br>3:15 pm Conf Class<br>6 pm Handbell Practice<br>6:45 pm Choir Practice | **12**<br>9 am Blg Bridges Choir<br>1:30 pm Bible Study | **13** | **14** |
| **15**<br>9:30 am Worship<br>10:30 am Coffee Time<br>10:45 am Packing Party | **16** | **17**<br>8:30 am Quilters<br>9 am Winkel @ Monte | **18**<br>3:15 pm Conf Class<br>6 pm Handbell Practice<br>6:45 pm Choir Practice | **19**<br>9 am Blg Bridges Choir<br>1:30 pm Bible Study | **20** | **21** |
| **22**<br>9:30 am Communion<br>10:30 am Coffee Time<br>11 am Bible Class | **23** | **24**<br>8 am Men's Bible Study | **25**<br>7 pm Thanksgiving Eve Service | **26**<br>**HAPPY THANKSGIVING** | **27** | **28** |
| **29**<br>9:30 am Worship<br>10:30 am Coffee Time<br>11 am Bible Class | **30** | | | | | |

St Paul Lutheran Church delivers "Dinner at Your Door"

**Elders**
Brian Beyer
Dave Guertin
Jim Rigge

**Altar Guild**
Holly Cobb
Cindy Rigge