

**ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
Rev. Neil Wehmas, Pastor  
Church Office  
EMAIL: stpaulidagrove@gmail.com  
**Fourth Sunday in Advent**

**IDA GROVE, IOWA**  
  
364-2918  
Website: [www.stpaulig.org](http://www.stpaulig.org)  
**December 20 & 21, 2025**

**WELCOME TO ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH.** We wish you God's richest blessings during your time with us. **Green prayer cards are available on the Welcome Center or in the pews if you have prayer requests. Please give to an usher to give to pastor.**  
**OUR VISION STATEMENT** *Our vision is to be a people transformed by the Gospel to live out and pass on the legacy of faith in Jesus Christ in our homes, community and world. We will empower and equip people to mentor following generations so that the legacy of faith continues.*  
**OUR MISSION STATEMENT** *Our mission is to grow in our faith in Jesus Christ in order to share that faith with others.*

**“THE WHOLE STORY”** reading the Bible in a year for 2025 – get your monthly calendar for daily readings, **DECEMBER Reading Calendar available on the Welcome Center.** Also if you are wanting or needing previous months reading Calendar they are on the Welcome Center in the RED FOLDER. Its hard to believe we are coming to the end of Reading the Bible in a Year.

About our Communion Practice

To our visitors and guests: In accordance with the apostolic command and in unity with the unbroken practice of the Church, St. Paul Lutheran practices Closed Communion. If you are not a member of a congregation in fellowship with the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod we kindly ask you to refrain from communing. We do so not to offend you, but because the Scriptures clearly teach that those communing together be unified in their confession of the Faith. In this Sacrament we are not only joined to Christ our Head who is present in His body and blood but are also knit together with one another as His Body, in which there should be no division of belief. Should you have questions or concerns about this Biblical and historic doctrine, please speak with our pastor. If this is your first time communing at St. Paul Lutheran Church, please speak with our pastor before the service. If certain factors prohibit you from partaking in regular wine, a non-alcoholic option is available in the center circle of each tray. **If not communing but desiring to receive a blessing, please cross your arms over your chest when Pastor approaches.**

**OUR HEAVENLY FATHER,** called home, Melvin Nielsen, his funeral service was Monday. We keep his family in our prayers.

**USHER NEEDED FOR CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES,** we need several to be able to help with offering, etc, please see sign up sheet on Welcome Center in the Narthex. **WE ALSO NEED CHRISTMAS DAY & NEW YEAR’S EVE ushers as well, there are sign up sheets available on the Welcome Center OR** there is a sign up genius available on our Facebook page, a QR Code on the slide posted in the Narthex. **Please prayerfully consider helping.**

**SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP 5:00PM**      **SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP 9:00AM**  
**ACOLYTE: usher**      **ACOLYTE: Gemma**

**CALENDAR EVENTS FOR THIS WEEK**

<b>Saturday 12/20/2025</b>	<b>Reading for today: Matthew 15-16</b> <b>WORSHIP SERVICE</b> <b>5:00PM</b>
<b>Sunday 12/21/2025</b>	<b>Reading for today: Matthew 17-18</b> <b>WORSHIP SERVICE w/Communion – Live Streamed</b> <b>9:00AM</b>
<b>Fourth Sunday in Advent</b>	<b>Fellowship</b> <b>Sunday School, Middle School, High School</b> <b>Bible Class</b> <b>10:15AM</b> <b>10:15-11:15AM</b> <b>10:15-11:15AM</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Reading for today: Matthew 19-20</b> <b>Bells</b> <b>6:30PM</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Reading for today: Matthew 21-22</b> <b>Willowdale</b> <b>2:00PM</b>
<b>Wednesday Christmas Eve</b>	<b>Reading for today: Matthew 23-24</b> <b>Bible Study at Jimmy’s</b> <b>7:00AM</b> <b>NO Bible Study</b> <b>NO Cross Explorations (Midweek)</b>  <b>CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT WORSHIP</b> <b>2:00PM</b> <b>CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT WORSHIP</b> <b>6:00PM</b>
<b>Thursday Christmas Day</b>	<b>Reading for today: Matthew 25-26</b> <b>CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP w/Communion</b> <b>10:00AM</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Reading for today: Matthew 27-28</b> <b>Church Office Closed</b>
<b>Saturday 12/27/2025</b>	<b>Reading for today: Luke 1:1-23</b> <b>WORSHIP SERVICE w/Communion</b> <b>5:00PM</b>
<b>Sunday 12/28/2025</b>	<b>Reading for today: Revelation 3:14-22</b> <b>WORSHIP SERVICE - Live Streamed</b> <b>9:00AM</b> <b>Fellowship</b> <b>10:15AM</b> <b>NO Sunday School, Middle School, High School</b> <b>Bible Class</b> <b>10:15-11:15AM</b>

Offering this week: \$      Attendance: Saturday Evening: 21    Sunday Morning: 155  
Advent Worship Dec. 10: 60    Advent Worship Dec. 17: 73

**DEVOTIONALS**, there are two DEVOTIONALS available on the table by the front doors. Both would be great to have, **beginning the First Sunday in Advent, Nov. 30 – Saturday after the Epiphany, January 10, 2026**

**CHRISTMAS ARCH BOOKS** are available for the children and if you would like for your grandchildren, they are on the table by the front door please

## CHRISTMAS WEEK SCHEDULES

**CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICES at 2:00PM and 6:00PM**

**CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE w/ Communion at 10:00AM**

**NEW YEAR'S EVE SERVICE w/Communion at 6:00PM**

**SUNDAY SCHOOL** will be on Sunday, December 21 and **NO** Sunday School on Sunday, December 28 and Sunday, January 4

**NO WEDNESDAY, CROSS EXPLORATIONS** classes for grades 3<sup>rd</sup> -8<sup>th</sup> on Wednesday, December 24 and December 31. Classes will resume on January 7

**YOUTH PANCAKE FELLOWSHIP SUNDAY** will be on Sunday, January 11

**COMMUNITY BASKET DONATIONS FOR DECEMBER: Breakfast items: Pancake mix, syrup, cereal, cereal bars, peanut butter, jelly, etc. and any other related items.** Place your donation in the shopping cart in the Narthex or hallway. **Any items are appreciated as well, as they can always use donations.** The Community Basket is open on Thursdays (except 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday), from 2:30-5:30PM **\*\*They can always use canned vegetables, canned fruits & canned soups. Also note: they can use outdated items that are within a year of expiration.**

**COMPUTER HELPERS:** We are looking for those who would be interested in learning to operate the system, to run the service on the screens OR to run the camera / video during the service. Please let Dennis Clausen, David Petersen, Brad Zobel, the church office know, or you can indicate on the friendship register pad as well.

**We would like to encourage the youth to get involved, please prayerfully consider**

**POINSETTIAS:** Thank you to everyone who adopted poinsettias!! They are truly beautiful again this year, so if you want to take one home at any point after Christmas to enjoy yourselves, please do.



**St. Paul Lutheran Church  
December 20 & 21, 2025**

## In Our Thoughts Prayers

Cameron Sharkey- hospital Sioux Falls

Prayers for Declan Conover, for tests results to be able to participate in a new study coming up in the next few months

Family & friends of Melvin Nielsen, who's funeral service was this past week

Family & friends of Virginia Linman, 105, passed away this past week, Virginia is the mother of Doug (Vickie) Linman

Family and friends of Camy (Miller) Lunzman, wife of Steve Lunzman of Chillicothe, Illinois, passed away on December 13. Camy is the sister in law of Marc & Marsha (Lunzman) Kjar and sister of Misti (Miller) Baker.

All those who are in need of extra prayers at this time

*Please continue to pray for healing for those listed below:*

Amy Schulte, Erin Nielsen Shirley Havener Makayla Bell  
Jolene Ladwig Brad Christiansen Austin Mollhoff Jeff Pierce  
Rose Schuldt Jim Wilcox Seth Hamann Mark Queen Dan Grell  
Kenton Petersen Erin DeBoer Diane Olsen Sue Bubb Mike Bubb  
Greg Lewiston Ashley Collins Tiffany Lindberg Mary Riggs  
Rhett Leonard Jerry Irwin Lainey Hemer Matt Lunnon

**Prayers for those who are currently deployed:**

Benton Phillips, son of Pat & Kriss Phillips  
Jerico Trucke, grandson of Marilyn Skaren  
Scottie Neubauer  
Jay Schoen nephew of Nancy & Kendall Schoen  
Dathan Loger  
Jagger Loger  
Danny Vogel - son of Pastor Dan & Paula Vogel

## December Birthdays this week:

December 22 Dale Edsen Carol Korwes  
December 23 Peggy Fick Matt Knudsen  
December 25 Lori Boysen Bruce Godbersen  
Shirley Van Sickler  
December 27 Claudia Swanger  
December 28 Jim Lichtenberg Brantley Wilcox  
December 29 Ashley Dose Caitlyn Malone Geneva Miesner  
December 30 Jennifer Bieret Janet Nielsen Pam Reitz  
December 31 Dennis Miesner

## December Anniversaries this week:

December 18 Gary & Dawn Chase  
David & Michelle Johannsen  
December 19 Kent & Karlie Krager  
December 24 Duane & Ellen Ernst

**NEW MEMBER CLASS, if you are interested in becoming a member of St. Paul Lutheran Church.** Pastor Wehmas will be having a class soon, please fill out a sheet on the Welcome Center with your name and contact information or indicate on the Friendship Register pad

**BOARD OF EDUCATION is looking for and please prayerfully consider being co- teacher / leader OR Substitute for the middle school 6th -8<sup>th</sup> for Sunday School 10:15-11:15AM.** If you're not sure but would like more info please ask? Its a lot like the high school youth group setting. Please let Tracy Johnson or Megan Wellendorf know if you are interested in helping or if you have questions.

## Worship Service for Sunday, December 21, 2025

Divine Service 3 p. 184

Hymn Prepare the Royal Highway LSB 343  
Invocation p. 184

Service of the Word

Psalm (responsively read)

Kyrie p. 186

Salutation and Collect of the Day

Prayer - Commemoration of St. Ambrose

Bell Choir Anthem Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

Old Testament Reading Malachi 4

Gradual (responsively read)

Epistle Reading Romans 15:4-13

Alleluia and Verse of the Day Alleluia

Holy Gospel Matthew 3:1-12

Apostles' Creed p. 191

Offering (during Hymn)

Hymn On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry LSB 344

### SERMON

Offertory

Prayer of the Church

Service of the Sacrament p. 194

Preface

Sanctus

Lord's Prayer

The Words of Our Lord

Pax Domini

Agnus Dei

Distribution

Hymn Savior of the Nations, Come LSB 332 v. 1-7

Hymn When All the World Was Cursed LSB 346

Hymn O Lord, We Praise Thee LSB 617

Dismissal

Nunc Dimittis

Thanksgiving

Salutation p. 201

Benedicamus/Benediction p. 202

Announcements

## Hymn Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending LSB 336 ARE YOU INTERESTED IN A LADIES BIBLE STUDY?

We are looking to start a ladies Bible Study starting on January 13 at 6:30PM and will meet twice a month, so we will meet also on Tuesday, January 27 at 6:30PM.

There is a sign up sheet in the Narthex, on the black table by the white & gold nativity and sermon notes, please sign up if you are interested, and include your phone number. If you would like to have a group during the day let us know if you would like to do that and if you want us to advertise the day and time you would like to meet.

Our first Bible Study is the book, enough for now by Sharla Fritz, description below:

The concept of 'having enough' is one that is not often experienced. If I only had more money ... more success ... more time ... then I would be fulfilled. Yet, even when more is attained, it rarely satisfies. It is not 'enough.'

An eight-lesson women's Bible Study, Enough for Now explores the idea of 'enough' through the study of Scripture - specifically the parable of the rich fool, personal stories, and practical exercises. Over the course of the eight lessons, women will discover how to escape the insatiable quest for more by finding their 'enough' in God.

**LWML MITES, make sure to drop off your change / mite box contents in the BIG MITE BOX on the LWML on the narrow table in the HALLWAY BY CHURCH OFFICE.** We encourage adults and kids, to have a Mite Box to collect change and bring in and dump in the large Mite Box. Extra Kids Mite Boxes along with the regular Mite Boxes (anyone can collect their change and put in the large Mite box any time during the month. We typically highlight the Mite Box on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the Month.

**BOARD OF HUMAN CARE** is looking for volunteers to help with visiting shut in's, those in the nursing home, assisted living or other individuals.. If you are interested please let Synda Jepsen or Nancy Schoen know, there is a sign up sheet available on the narrow table in the narthex, please put your name and phone number down and they will contact you.



## Poinsettias

In memory of Leon Petersen from Joan & family  
 In memory of Dean Fick from Peggy  
 In memory of Darrell Miller & Lynn Dittmer from Susan & family  
 In memory of Marvin & Betty Bubke from Linda Bubke  
 In memory of Russ Bennigsdorf from Clara & family  
 In memory of Betty Krager from Bernie & family  
 In memory of Jeff Rasmusen from Donna & family  
 In memory of our parents & grandparents from Donna Rasmussen & family  
 In memory of Darrell Wellendorf from Virginia and family  
 In memory of Robert Uhl father of Rob Uhl from Rob, Earleen Uhl & family  
 In memory of Cheryl Knudsen from Marelle & family  
 In memory of Donald, Janet & Dave Riessen from Gailen & Pam Wessel  
 In memory of Lloyd, Lorraine, Wayne, & Gene Wessel, Cheryl Knudsen from Gailen & Pam Wessel  
 In memory of Hubert Boysen from Corlys & family  
 In memory of Ed Skaren from Marilyn and family  
 In memory of Carolyn Hilker from Jim and family  
 In memory of Marlene Bennigsdorf from Darrell & family  
 In memory of Colleen Knop from Gene Knop  
 In memory of Don Knop with love from your kids & grandkids  
 Shayne & Danika Hinkeldey & family  
 In memory of Grandma Knop from Shayne & Danika Hinkeldey & family  
 In memory of Harold Hinkeldey from Shayne & Danika Hinkeldey  
 In memory of Grandma Lois from Shayne & Danika Hinkeldey  
 In memory of our grandparents from Ryan & Amy Godbersen  
 In memory of our parents from Greg & Lorna Steenbock  
 In memory of Vern Zobel from Marlene and family  
 In memory of Marilyn Lovett, Bob & Roma Lovett from Terry & family  
 In memory of Burdette & Vi Witte, Tracy Ford & Charles Witte Jr from Nancy Ford  
 In memory of Richard Hoaglund, Evora Hoaglund, Dewitt & Norma Tuneberg, John & Lori Wilson, Lawrence & Gwen Johnk from Emily Hoaglund  
 In memory of Emil & Evelyn Iversen, Steven & Vicki Iversen, Allen Iversen, Bob Iversen and Susan Iversen from Emily Hoaglund  
 In memory of Elnora & Victor Lunzman from Marsha & Marc Kjar  
 In memory of Kody Krager from Kevin & Val Krager  
 In memory of Van Corr and Bob Higdem from Jon & Robyn Devitt & family  
 In memory of Pearl Schultz from Amy Forbes & family  
 In memory of Paul Bargar and Art & Helen Billings from Cecile Bargar



As we enter **Christmas Stewardship** it's an excellent time to reflect on the principles of biblical stewardship with a focus on using our gifts and abilities to the glory of God. Stewardship is not just about managing our resources wisely, but also about recognizing that everything we have is a gift from God. By embracing these principles, we can honor God with our wealth, talents, and time, and make a positive impact in our communities. **"The light of Christ shines through our giving."** This season, let your generosity be a beacon of hope in a world longing for light." "Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." — Matthew 5:16

**Our Mission Central Missionary that St. Paul supports is Shara Osiro**, she is a Missionary to Eastern & Southern [AfricaShara.Osiro@lcms.org](mailto:Shara.Osiro@lcms.org) We encourage for people to email her about her serving the Lord in these various ways. Shara's birthday is Feb. 4, her husband Michael's birthday is March 28 and their anniversary is Feb. 11

## JR High and SR High Youth Pancake and Sausage Breakfast



**SUNDAY, JANUARY 11, 2026**

**SERVING IN FELLOWSHIP HALL  
FOLLOWING WORSHIP SERVICE**

**Come and enjoy breakfast !**

**FREE WILL OFFERING**

**FUNDRAISER FOR YOUTH ACTIVITIES,  
YEARLY GATHERINGS IN DES MOINES,  
HIGHER THINGS**

## Updating our Records

We are in great need of updating our data base (records), we have recently had some issues with missing information. We need EVERYONE even if you have filled out one in the past or think we have your information. We also know a lot of people have switched to cell phone only and its not just about calling for volunteer reasons. But we also need contact information for when there are emergencies at certain times of health issues and its hard for Pastor to be able to contact if we don't have a phone number at all.

There is a box by the Welcome Center to drop these off or at the church office

Name\_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address\_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone\_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone\_\_\_\_\_

Family contact / emergency contact w/ phone number:\_\_\_\_\_

Email address\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ check if you want us to email newsletter

Birthdate\_\_\_\_\_

Anniversary date\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ check if you don't want birthday/anniversary published

## NEW MEMBER CLASS

**If you are interested in a new member class**

**Please let us know**

**Give us you're a couple of options of day and time that works for you below**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Leave in white box on Welcome Center or email us at [stpaulidagrove@gmail.com](mailto:stpaulidagrove@gmail.com)**