



St. Paul News

St. Paul Lutheran Church

Ida Grove, Iowa

712-364-2918

www.stpaulig.org

stpaulidagrove@gmail.com

NOVEMBER

2025

What does Christian thanksgiving look like?

By Pastor Neil Wehmas

Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas in our culture calls us to a common purpose of giving thanks and praise unto our God most high. Thanks of course begins by realizing the abundance of God's gifts to us.

Think of this in light of the Apostles' Creed. The first article tells us that there is a creator. This means that God created you. Your eyes with which you are blessed to see so many wondrous and beautiful landscapes, flowers, buildings, even the very people in our lives. Your ears to hear a good joke, and following laughter. To hear people say "I love you" or sing beautiful music. Your nose with which you smell freshly cut grass, or fresh baked cinnamon rolls.

He provides everything that is needed for you to have sufficient clothing, a roof above your heads, plenty of food to eat, transportation to get from place to place, televisions and radios and computers to connect with the rest of the world. The list could go on and on, and for all of it. It is appropriate to give thanks. God provides all of these things to us, not out of any merit or worthiness in us, but out of divine fatherly goodness and mercy.

The second article of the creed tells us the remarkable story. Though, we know it to be true that we are sinners. We are aware of God's commands to love one another as ourselves, to love God with all of our heart. We are aware that sin is not just in what you do and say, but also in what we think. Our sinfulness runs deep. Yet, our God is a jealous God. He promises punishment for sinners. The wages of sin is in fact death.

So, in this wretched state, what hope can there be? Well, that is the remarkable story. God looked at our situation and made the choice to become human flesh. He was born of a young teenage girl named "Mary" in the little town of Bethlehem. His name of course being Jesus. Jesus was born to redeem you and I from sin, death, and hell. He did this not through an exchange of gold or silver or cash or a winning lottery ticket. For you see, none of these things would be sufficient. Instead he purchased and redeemed you with his very bloody agony and death by Roman crucifixion. By his wounds, you are healed, forgiven, and restored to a proper relationship with God.

The third article of the creed tells us that the Holy Christian Church scattered throughout the world, is the means by which God's salvation is proclaimed. Repentance and the forgiveness of sins is preached in churches around our world. We are blessed to receive such great gifts as baptism, by which we are marked for salvation. We are blessed to receive such great gifts as the Lord's Supper, which is the very body and very blood of Jesus Christ which is mysteriously united to bread and wine. Yes, indeed we are blessed with the privilege of uniting to God and heaven itself at his altar.

As you can see, we have very much for which to give thanks. With that in mind, how does one give thanks unto God? Do we share or post something to Facebook or a TikTok video? While this isn't a terrible idea, there is more that we can do.

There are a few things we can do in order to give thanks to our God:

- 1) Attend worship, receive holy communion, pray to God.

- 2) Spend time outside of formal worship, reading the scriptures and praying to God. Prayers of thanks and prayers for others.
- 3) Tell others about what God has done for them. Spread the good news of Jesus Christ to the world.
- 4) Support the work of the church with time and treasures. Support by giving financially to the ministry of your congregation as well as other ministries around the world. Give your time by volunteering in various capacities around your church and other ministries.

As we approach yet another thanksgiving. As we think of the plans of our meals. As we even get closer to the start of 2026. May we never forget the abundance of great things that our God has done for us. I'd say that the pledge of the LWML adequately describes what thankfulness looks like:

In fervent gratitude for the Savior's dying love and His blood-bought gift of redemption we dedicate ourselves to Him with all that we are and have; and in obedience to His call for workers in the harvest fields, we pledge Him our willing service wherever and whenever He has need of us. We consecrate to our Savior our hands to work for Him, our feet to go on His errands, our voice to sing His praises, our lips to proclaim His redeeming love, our silver and our gold to extend His Kingdom, our will to do His will, and ever power of our life to the great task of bringing the lost and the erring into eternal fellowship with Him. Amen.

May this be the calling and dedication of all of our Lives. In Jesus' Name. Amen.



Saturday Divine Worship @5pm
 Lord's Supper Celebrated every 2nd & 4th Saturday
Sunday Divine Worship @9am
Adult Bible Class: 10:15-11:00a
 Lord's Supper Celebrated
 Every 1st, 3rd, & 5th Sunday of the Month

SERVICE TIMES

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS NEEDED – USHERS, LECTORS, GREETERS: if you would like to help with our worship service in these various ways ushering especially Ushers since we are going to be passing the offering plate again, lector & greeters, **there is a sign up genius available on our Facebook page, a QR Code on the slide posted in the Narthex OR there are sign up sheets available in the narthex if you would prefer to sign up that way. Please prayerfully consider helping.**

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.

AUDIO VIDEO UPDATING/REPLACEMENT. If you would like to help with fundraising, you can donate to the Audio Video fund to help with the expenses of the updating. You can designate it in your offering envelope as a donation towards the AV Fund, leave at the church office or there is a bucket on narrow table in Narthex.

VIDEO UPGRADE PROGRESS: The new video system is complete, except for a couple of small items. **we will also have a training coming, date to be announced.** Anyone interested in learning to operate the system, 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 bear with us yet, while we are trying to figure out the sound issues for online viewing.

JR High and SR High Youth Pancake and Sausage Breakfast



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2025

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**



Sunday School

Class from 10:15-11:15am

Children ages 4 yr old Preschool-12th grade

6th-8th - Middle School Youth Room

9th-12th - High School Youth Room

No Sunday School on Sunday, November 30th

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM will be during the Worship Service on Sunday, December 14th

If your child wants to be a part of the Children's Christmas Program, they practice the songs, during Sunday School starting in November so it would be important for them to be at Sunday School prior to the Christmas Program

If as a parent you would like to help with the Christmas Program and costumes please let Tracy Johnson or Megan Wellendorf know, or the church office



Cross Explorations Wednesdays,
at 4:00-5:15pm for 6th/7th/8th grades
and 4:00-5:00pm for 3rd-5th grade

Early Out on Nov. 5 Class at 1:30PM-2:30PM

Early Out on Nov. 19 Class at 1:30-2:30PM

No Cross Explorations on Wednesday, Nov. 26th

MIDWEEK SNACKS NEEDED - A donation bucket is available if you would like to donate towards midweek snacks or another idea is a FoodPride gift card to help with the purchase of items or the following snack items are appreciated. Or prepacked items you know your kids will eat is appreciated as well.

We are also due to snack options concerned about any allergies, (MAINLY PEANUT BUTTER) if you would fill out the form its available by the white box in the Narthex or email the church office stpaulidagrove@gmail.com. We also will ask for phone numbers to make sure we have current and email to help assist in notifying for emergencies but also for cancellations due to weather.

BOARD OF EDUCATION is looking for / in need of the positions:



A part time teacher / leader for the middle school 6th -8th for Sunday School 10:15-11:15AM.

Please let Tracy Johnson or Megan Wellendorf know if you are interested in helping.

Substitute Teachers or Superintendent for Wednesday from 4:00-5:00/5:15PM, if possible on Early Out days which will be right after school at 1:30-2:30PM., and also Sunday School, 10:15-11:15AM

There is a sign up sheet in the Narthex, if interested and indicate what you are interested in and your phone number OR let Tracy Johnson or Megan Wellendorf know.



**The Highway Sr High Youth (9th-12th)
Will meet Nov. 19 at 6:30-8:00PM**



**The MidWay Jr High Youth (6th-8th)
Will meet Nov. 15 from 5:15-6:15PM**

FREE WILL OFFERING FOR THANKSGIVING MEAT CERTIFICATES for Mid Sioux, we will pass the plate the in November during the announcement time. We will have a container in the Narthex for donations as well.

GOLDEN ANGEL TREE The Board of Human Care will be having a Golden Angel Tree, for our members in the assisted living, nursing home, and shut in's. We will have the tree set up soon with the tags of suggested gift items and the date when items need to be back to the church to be distributed.

BAKE SALE FUNDRAISER put on by a group of ladies from St. Paul. Drop off will be Monday, Nov. 24 from 9:00AM-4:00PM at the church, or make arrangements if you need to drop off after 4:00PM. **The Bake Sale will be Tuesday, Nov. 25 from 8:30AM- ?? , at The Gathering Place, 412 Second St., Ida Grove. Coffee & rolls and a light lunch for a free will donation available, as well as the baked goods that will be for sale that day.** A **SIGN-UP SHEET** is available on the table in Narthex for you to sign up to provide baked goods for this bake sale. Anyone who would also like to help with the bake sale please indicate as well on the sign up sheet, even if you are not donating baked goods.

VOTERS' MEETING for 2025 BUDGET APPROVAL, among other Agenda items, will be on Sunday, November 16 at 10:15AM, in the Fellowship Hall.



THANKSGIVING EVE WORSHIP, on Wednesday, November 26 at 6:30PM
PIE SOCIAL, Hosted by the Elders of St. Paul after the Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service at 7:30PM

If you would like to donate a pie a sign up sheet is available at the church or call the Church Office, 364-2918 and we can put you on the list.



FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT is November 30
ADVENT WORSHIP begins on Wednesday, December 3, services will be at 6:30PM with Hymn sing at 6:15PM

**WATCH FOR MORE INFO ON UPCOMING
ADVENT MEALS**

December 3 will be served by the Youth
December 10 will be served by Board of Human Care
December 17



Join the Praise Band!



High school students and adults — do you sing or play an instrument? **Come be part of our Praise Band!** Interested? Contact Tammy Hoffman or see us after the service. Let's worship together through music!

**MISSION CENTRAL EVENTS!
MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

Saturday, November 22 at 1:00PM- Rev. Matthew Wood and Family working in Indonesia will give a presentation on their work

Saturday, December 20 at 1:00PM -Missionary Chelsea Irwin will present on her work in the Czech Republic



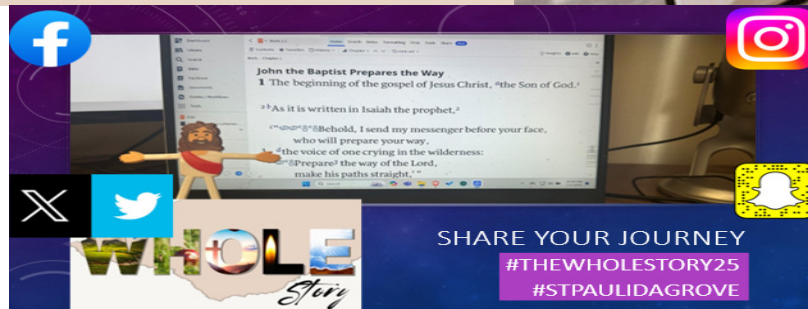
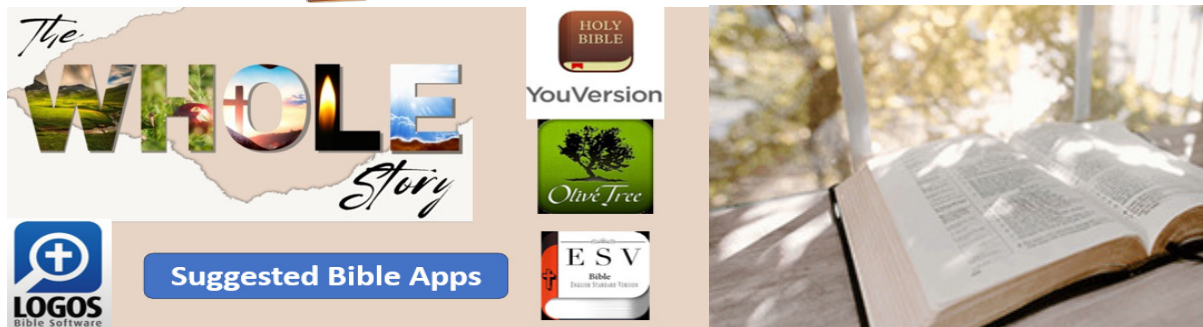
COMMUNITY BASKET DONATIONS for COMMUNITY BASKET DONATIONS FOR NOVEMBER: Soups or stews, crackers and any other related items.

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 3rd Thursday), from 2:30-5:30PM ****They can always use canned vegetables, canned fruits & canned soups, peanut butter, jelly, pancake mix and syrup. Also note: they can use outdated items that are within a year of expiration. Mobile Food Pantry will be at The Odebolt Community Center on Wednesday, November 5 from 4:30-5:30PM. PLEASE NOTE THE DATE AND TIME, Its helpful to bring a laundry basket or container for your food items.**

“THE WHOLE STORY” reading the Bible in a year for 2025 – get your monthly calendar for daily readings, **NOVEMBER 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. We are coming to the end of our Reading the Bible in a year. Where has this year gone, we hope you enjoyed reading through the Bible together.



FLAT JESUS, We hope everyone got a Flat Jesus to keep with them. We have a few left if you would like another one or still want to share with someone. Check at the church office
Or they are available to order at Amazon.



When you post on your personal Facebook, Twitter, Instagram or Snapchat
Use the #thewholestory25 and #stpaulidagrove

SOME OF YOUR OPTIONS FOR BIBLE STUDIES

WEDNESDAY EARLY MORNING BIBLE STUDY meets at 7:00AM Zimmy's

WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY meets from **9:30-10:30AM** in the Conference Room in the lower level.

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY join us in the Conference Room starting at 10:15AM

LWML LADIES BIBLE STUDY NOVEMBER



RUTH (2) will meet on **November 6** at Jimmy's at noon and meet at the church for Bible Study at 1:00PM. Linda will be BSL. We had 10 present for our October meeting.

LOIS (3) will meet on **November 6** in the Conference Room at 1:30PM. Gloria will be hostess and Linda will be BSL. We had 9 present at our October meeting.

EUNICE (10) will meet on **November 6** at Willowdale Nursing Home, Battle Creek at 2:30PM. Corliss will be BSL.

JOHANNA(12) will meet on **November 6** at 7:00PM, at the church Lorna will be hostess, Cecile will be BSL. We had 7 present at our October meeting.

LARGE LWML MITE BOX that is on the table in the narthex will be highlighted and along with the Mission Mite of the month, on the second Sunday of each month

LWML BIBLE STUDY LEADER'S MEETING on Tuesday, November 18 at 1:00PM

LWML EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING will be November 18 at 4:30PM.

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UPDATING INFORMATION: we always ask to update our records with any new addresses, even if its been within 6 months – year, any changes in phone numbers, etc. to **make sure we have all correct information of birthdates and anniversaries, as we have found missing information or in accurate information.** Also if you would not like your birthday or anniversary publicized in the weekly bulletin or the monthly newsletter please let the church office know.
stpaulidagrove@gmail.com or 712-364-2918

MONTHLY NEWSLETTERS AND CALENDAR are always available to be picked up at the church in the narthex. If you would like to view online our website is www.stpaulig.org

If you would like it emailed to you please contact the church office, email us or fill out the “update our information form” Copies of the form to update information is available on the Welcome center and can be placed in the wooden offering box

HOSPITALIZATION REMINDER : if you are admitted to any hospital, please let us know or have a family member or a friend let Pastor Neil or the church office know, so we know you are there to visit, or would just want prayers from Pastor.



Nov. 3 Ann Sears
 Nov. 4 Maia Montgomery
 Katie Riessen
 Nov. 5 Dawson Hinkeldey
 Madison Hinkeldey
 Nov. 6 Bob Bowen
 Peggy Hanson
 Kevin Krager
 Nov. 9 Paul Cates
 Lorna Steenbock
 Nov. 10 Kim Bleckwehl
 Nov. 11 Robert Uhl
 Nov. 13 Kim Carnine
 Gary Chase
 Nov. 14 Judy Winterrowd
 Nov. 15 Gemma Arbegast
 Bentley Groves
 Nov. 16 Anne Thornhill
 Karen Wiertsema
 Kade Stehr
 Miles Stehr

Nov. 17 Danika Hinkeldey
 Dorla Schuett
 Jase Vohs
 Nov. 18 Justin Ausborn
 Nov. 19 Courtney Ackerman
 Jacob Zimmerman
 Nov. 20 Lenny Boysen
 Dean Hammer
 Chloe Hoaglund
 Nov. 21 Charles Bell
 Keegan Hoaglund
 Nov. 22 Ryan Godbersen
 Terry Lovett
 Jeff Miesner
 Nov. 23 Kriss Phillips
 Nov. 25 Ross Ladwig
 Nov. 26 Ricee Hoaglund
 Gary Gierstorf
 Nov. 27 Sam Jamison
 Nov. 28 Dusty (Krager) Lozano
 Judd Schreiber
 Nov. 30 Nicole Knop



November 1 Ray & Barb Kacmarynski
 November 9 Brent & Kayla Rohlk
 November 12 Harold & Margaret Greenwald
 November 26 Kyler & Makenna Lewis
 November 27 Dennis & Sallie Miesner
 November 28 Randy & Sheryl Goodman

Giving Thanks for All Things

It's easy to list the blessings in life: good health, family, a satisfying career, a comfortable home. We might even be thankful for things others take for granted such as freedom and clean drinking water, reliable transportation and food enough to eat. Then there are the little things, such as gardens, sunrises, pets and coffee.

But what about life's storms or unanswered prayers? Should we be thankful for these? Loss and hardship remind us of our dependence on God. He uses trials to draw us closer to him, to show us that He is our rock and refuge. In misfortune and grief, we discover God's comfort and strength. Should we not, then, be thankful for the storms, too?

St. Paul Lutheran Church

Holiday porch pots



When: Sunday, November 30, 2025

(2 sessions: 1:00 to 2:30 and 2:30 to 4:00 PM)

Where: The Depot at Moorehead Park



What: **Bring your own pot with dirt or foam.** Please keep your pot under 13" across to allow greens for everyone. Greens, twigs, bows, and pinecones will be provided, but feel free to bring any of your own décor to fancy up your holiday pot.

Cost is \$30 for Porch Pots

sign up is requested (to prepare supplies) 364-2918

All proceeds will go towards the Sr High LYF for future gatherings and activities