



St. Paul News

St. Paul Lutheran Church

100 7th St.

Ida Grove, Iowa

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DECEMBER

2025

Advent Season—2025

During the month of December and much of 2026, we will be spending a lot of time slowly working our way through the Gospel of Matthew. This will include our midweek Advent services. Here is a little bit of a preview of each Wednesday:

Wednesday, December 3rd::The Generations of the Christ

Since January 1st, we as a congregation have worked our way through the entire Bible. We will conclude our journey with the Gospel of Matthew. Matthew, Chapter 1 begins with a genealogy that traces from Abraham to Jesus. It is quite the appropriate way to begin the final days of this year-long church campaign of “The Whole Story”. We read a list of names that all point us back to the stories we have read through the year, these names remind us that all of it was about paving the way to Jesus and our salvation.

Wednesday, December 10th::The Wise Men, Who are they?

Consider your typical Nativity set. The set includes a shelter of some sort. There might be a few animals. But what of the people? It usually includes: Mary, Joseph, baby Jesus, and some shepherds. Then there are these three strange individuals bearing gifts. Who are they? What is the big deal about them being included with story of Jesus’ birth.

Wednesday, December 17th::The Christmas Blues

There is a harsh, and uncomfortable reality. Christmas Day is not always a day of joy. For many it can be a day of great grief. Christmas for many of us it is a day that is filled with great memories. I remember days spent with my grandparents, cousins, my mom and brother. However, they have passed away, and can only be seen in old photos and memories. Few days do people more miss loved ones who have died, then on Christmas.

Christmas is a day that we are expected to share with family, exchange gifts, and have a good meal together. Yet, many have no one to celebrate with due to careers, being in the military, or being estranged from family. Many can’t afford gifts or a nice meal.

The service on December 17th is a day to remember and bring a little bit of hope and comfort to those for whom Christmas is a little blue.

Wednesday, December 24th::God is with us.

All year we’ve been giving away and carrying around “Flat Jesus”. It was a reminder that God is with us. Looking at both Matthew, Chapter 1 and Matthew, Chapter 28, we will focus upon God’s presence amongst us.

Thursday, December 25th::Why Jesus?

Mary and Joseph were both told to call their newborn baby, “Jesus”. Why? What is in a name? We will focus upon why it is the name above all names.

Join us this Advent and Christmas season, as we conclude our journey through “The Whole Story”. Join us as we meditate upon the God who is with us in the person of Jesus.

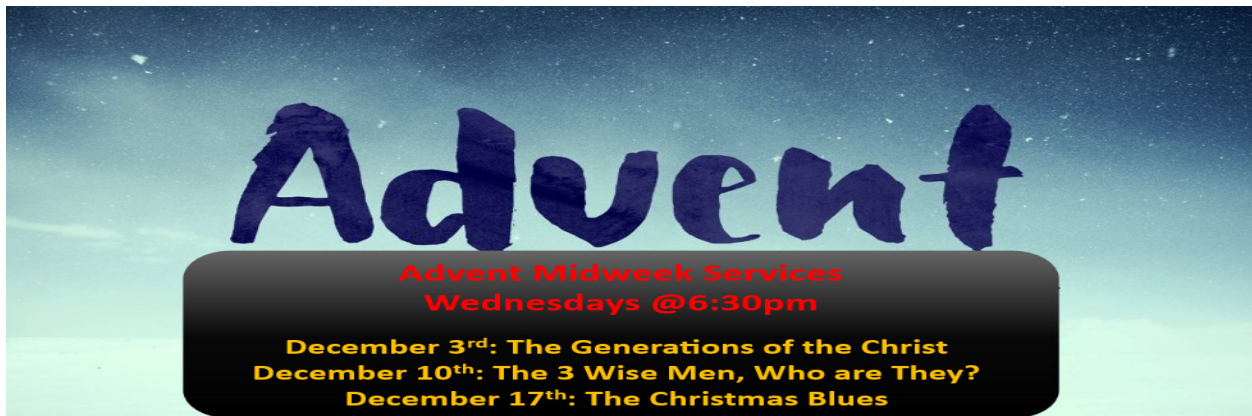
~Pastor Neil Wehmas



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

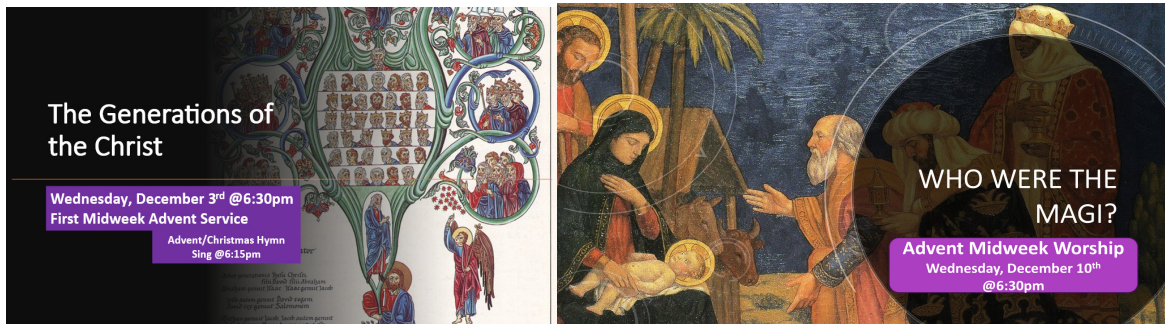
USHER NEEDED FOR WORSHIP SERVICES, ADVENT, CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES, CHRISTMAS DAY & NEW YEAR'S EVE, there is a sign up genius available on our Facebook page, a QR Code on the slide posted in the Narthex OR there are sign up sheets available in the narthex if you would prefer to sign up that way. Please prayerfully consider helping.



Advent Midweek Services
Wednesdays @6:30pm

December 3rd: The Generations of the Christ
December 10th: The 3 Wise Men, Who are They?
December 17th: The Christmas Blues

ADVENT SERVICES AT 6:30PM WITH HYMN SING FROM 6:15-6:30PM



The Generations of the Christ

Wednesday, December 3rd @6:30pm
 First Midweek Advent Service
 Advent/Christmas Hymn Sing @6:15pm

WHO WERE THE MAGI?

Advent Midweek Worship
 Wednesday, December 10th
 @6:30pm



Christmas Blues

Advent Midweek Service
 Wednesday, December 17th @6:30pm

COME TO ME, ALL WHO LABOR
 AND ARE HEAVY LADEN,
 AND I WILL GIVE YOU REST.
 MATTHEW 11:28



ADVENT MEAL December 3 - Youth, serving Vegetable Beef & Chicken Noodle Soups
 ADVENT MEAL December 10 - Human Care, serving spaghetti
 ADVENT MEAL December 17 - Steenbock & friends, Maid Rite/Tavern/Sloppy Joes

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. The tree is set up with the tags of suggested gift items and the date when items need to be back to the church to be distributed.

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.

HUMAN CARE TEAM will meet on Thursday, December 11 at 11:30AM

VIDEO UPGRADE: The new video system is complete. 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.



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!



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 3rd 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.** Mobile Food Pantry will be at the Holstein United Methodist Church on Thursday, December 18 from 4:30-5:30PM. Its helpful to bring a laundry basket or container for your food items.

JR High and SR High Youth Pancake and Sausage Breakfast



**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7, 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**



**Chistmas Day Worship Service at
10:00AM
With Communion**



**New Year's Eve Worship w/
Communion at 6:00PM**



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, December 14th,
December 28th and January 4th**

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



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 Dec. 10 Class at 1:30PM-2:30PM

**No Cross Explorations on Wednesday, Dec. 24
and Dec. 31**

WEDNESDAY CROSS EXPLORATIONS REMINDER as winter weather inches closer, we remind parents that when school gets dismissed early due to weather, or there is no school it automatically cancels Wednesday, Cross Explorations. We try our best as well to put the word out via our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/StPaulIdaGrove>

We also encourage parents to fill out an information sheet and put in the white box, so we have cell phones for weather related cancellations or emergencies.

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:



A part time teacher / leader for the middle school 6th -8th for Sunday School 10:15-11:15AM. It is very similar setting as the High School Youth Please let Tracy Johnson or Megan Wellendorf know if you are interested in helping.

Substitute Teachers for Wednesday or Sundays is always welcomed and needed.

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 Dec. 17 at 7:30PM**



**The MidWay Jr High Youth (6th-8th)
Will NOT meet in December**

Christmas Prayer: The True Gift



Dear Lord,

You have brought us to Christmastime once more. Help us not to get lost in the glitter and the glow, but to see the true glory of the birth of Your only begotten Son. Keep our hearts from clinging too tightly to parties, presents and decorations, and turn our eyes instead to Christ — who bears Your very image and brings us Your message of love and hope. In the glorious name of Christ, we pray. Amen.

“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.** **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** Jimmy's

WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY meets from **9:30-10:30AM** in the Conference Room in the lower level. **NO Bible Study on Wed., Dec. 24 and Dec. 31**

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY join us in the Conference Room starting at **10:15AM**
NO Bible Study on Sun., Dec. 28 and Sun. Jan. 4

POSSIBLE LADIES BIBLE STUDY STARTING IN JANUARY, see sign up sheet in Narthex please sign up if you are interested, and include: your phone number, and give 3 evenings of the week that work for you, time that works for you (we are tentatively thinking 6:30-7:30pm), and if you would like to meet weekly or every other week.



RUTH (2) will meet on **December 4** at Zimmy's at noon and meet at the church for Bible Study at 1:00PM. Linda will be BSL. We had 9 present for our November meeting. We will take down Thanksgiving and prepare for Advent. We will decorate for Christmas on Monday, Dec. 1 at 9:00am. We will have a Nativity Open House again starting Dec. 3 – January 6.

LOIS (3) will meet on **December 4** in the Conference Room at 1:30PM. No hostess, but we will have a cookie exchange and Nancy will be BSL. We had 11 present at our November meeting.

EUNICE (10) will meet on **December 4** at Willowdale Nursing Home, Battle Creek at 2:30PM. Clara will be hostess and Karen will be BSL.

JOHANNA(12) will **NOT MEET** in December. We had 6 present at our November meeting.

LWML BIBLE STUDY LEADER'S MEETING on Tuesday, December 16 at 1:00PM

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. December is:

Growing Together to Share Braille and Large Print Lutheran Braille Workers, U.S. \$100,000

About This Mission Grant: Millions of people around the world are blind or visually impaired and are seeking to strengthen their Christian faith but find it difficult to access scripture-based reading materials. Lutheran Braille Workers (LBW) is committed to providing Christian materials in braille and specialized large print worldwide at no cost. With a part of the grant funds, LBW will establish five new Ministry Production Centers in the United States. LBW will hold five related servant events at LWML conventions, Lutheran universities and schools, and district youth gatherings. Service opportunities provide young people with the chance to grow in their God-given gifts and share the Gospel. This grant will allow LBW to produce and freely distribute approximately 10,000 additional volumes of Bibles and other Christian materials. This grant will be used to purchase specialized paper, card stock, braille plates and equipment, and for training and shipping costs.

Volunteers binding Braille volumes



**** a side note that year's ago our very own Helen Piper used to produce(copy) and bind Braille volumes here at St. Paul, she used a classroom downstairs (the one with the window air conditioner)**



Dec. 1 Espe Hoffman
Lois Wendel
Dec. 2 Clinton Bieret
Darnelle Knudsen
Pam Woebke
Dec. 4 Mary Johnson
Debbie Ritsch
Clint Wellendorf
Dec. 5 Camdyn Montgomery
Bentlie Wilcox
Dec. 6 Bob Eriksen
Retha Harrington
Dec. 7 Susan Miller
Dec. 8 Taylor DeVine
Dec. 9 Norman Carstensen
Dec. 10 Barb Knudsen
Cameron Sharkey
Dec. 11 Autumn Schreiber
Dec. 14 Sawyer Larsen
Dec. 15 Gail Boysen
Brian Christiansen
Dec. 16 Kadyn Conolly
Taylor Miller

Dec. 17 Carly Taggart
Dec. 18 Gloria Feddersen
Dec. 19 Jeff Gilbert
Evan Williams
Dec. 22 Dale Edsen
Brenda Hansen
Carol Korwes
Dec. 23 Peggy Fick
Matt Knudsen
Dec. 25 Lori Boysen
Bruce Godbersen
Shirley Van Sickler
Dec. 27 Claudia Swanger
Dec. 28 Jim Lichtenberg
Brantley Wilcox
Dec. 29 Ashley Dose
Caitlyn Malone
Geneva Miesner
Dec. 30 Jennifer Bieret
Janet Nielsen
Pam Reitz
Dec. 31 Dennis Miesner



December 2 Larry & Linda Paulsen
December 6 Marc & Marsha Kjar
December 7 Jason & Maggie Buns
December 10 Kevin & Valerie Krager

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