



St. Paul News

St. Paul Lutheran Church
100 7th St.

Ida Grove, Iowa
712-364-2918

www.stpaulig.org

JANUARY

2026

State of the Congregation: January 2026

By Pastor Neil Wehmas

When a new year arrives, you can't help but think of the year that has passed and the year that is to come. Our president every year in January or February delivers a State of the Union address for this very purpose.

So, perhaps it is appropriate to think of the year that we have finished. In 2025, as a congregation we journeyed through the entire Bible as part of "The Whole Story". The sermons throughout the year lined with those readings. This gave opportunities to meditate upon passages that are rarely touched upon in a worship service.

Our Wednesday and Sunday morning Bible classes also journeyed along "The Whole Story" path. After 8 years, the Bible Study at Subway came to its conclusion at the end of August. Through 8-years, we read/discussed the entire New Testament as well as other scriptures.

The St. Paul Lutheran LWML was the proud hosts of the zone prayer service in March and the Zone rally in April. In the month of June, several of our ladies made the trip to Omaha to take part in the LWML National Convention. In September, we began in the practice of involving the whole congregation in the gathering of Mites for missions across the state and the nation.

Some of our high school youth traveled to New Orleans, Louisiana to join 20,000 other youth for the LCMS Youth Gathering. Nine high schoolers and nine middle schoolers attended the respective district youth gatherings in October and November. Our regular high school youth meetings (The HighWay) is averaging 15-20 students every week.

At Vacation Bible School children learned about Joseph and his time in Egypt. The children shared the story of Jesus' birth as part of the Christmas program in December. We continue to be blessed by those who volunteer and serve our children via Sunday School and Cross Explorations.

In the sanctuary, we've had installed a new sound and A/V system which has allowed us to enhance our online ministry. Our online services continue to average around 25 viewers per week, and prove to be helpful for funerals and weather impacted worship services.

The Human care team this year began a program of visiting many of the members of our congregation, in addition to my ongoing visits of shut-ins. Their visits are much appreciated.

We continue to be blessed with many musically talented people in our congregation. From the praise band to our organists. A few of our praise band members and Jacob Petersen moved on as organist. However, we have gained an organist in Chloe a high school freshmen at Ridgeview, and grand-daughter or District President Egger. In March we were visited by a high school choir from outside of Milwaukee.

I know that I have not covered everything, but there is much that our Lord is doing in and through the people of our congregation. In February, I will officially be here for nine years. Again, I look forward to the year to come.

I'm hoping for us to have another visiting choir in the spring. We will continue to have a schedule of scripture readings each day as means to keep the discipline of Bible reading going. Our some of our High School youth will be going to St. Louis for the Higher Things youth conference. I will be traveling to Phoenix for LCMS Synodical convention in July.

For all of these activities and events that have and will happen in a year. The greatest is what happens every Saturday and Sunday. Brothers and sisters in Christ will gather together. They will hear the scriptures read. They will confess their sins and receive forgiveness from God himself. They will hear the Gospel proclaimed and they will receive the Lord's Supper for the forgiveness of sins and the strengthening of their faith.

This indeed is a reason ever to rejoice. I rejoice at the many faces that walk through our doors to hear God's word and receive his forgiveness. It is a reason as Greg Steenbock often says, "to be doing better now that you are here." Here is to a joyous 2026.

In Christ,
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

SERVICE TIMES

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 in January, watch the weekly bulletin for date and time.

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.**

NEW MEMBER CLASS, if you are interested in becoming a member of St. Paul, Pastor Wehmas will be having a class soon, please let Pastor Neil know or indicate on the Friendship Register pad with your phone number and or email. You can also email the church at stpaulidagrove@gmail.com

NEW MERCIES FOR A NEW YEAR

As we turn the page to 2026, we rejoice in God's steadfast love and the gift of new beginnings. Join us for worship, as we dedicate this new year to the Lord and seek His guidance for the days ahead.

"The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases... they are new every morning." – Lamentations 3:22–23

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS can be tricky to keep, but if your goal is to grow in faith and bless those around you, you're in the right place. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide and strengthen you as you walk into this new year. We're glad you're here — may 2026 be a year of spiritual growth, renewed faith, and joyful obedience.

JANUARY STEWARDSHIP – New Beginnings, A time of Renewal and Gratitude

Reflection: "As we begin this new year, let us renew our hearts and commit to being faithful stewards of God's blessings." *Verse: Isaiah 43:19* – "See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?"

COMMUNITY BASKET DONATIONS FOR JANUARY: Baking items: flour, sugar, cake mixes, frosting, baking soda/ baking powder, brown sugar/ powder sugar, 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 Methodist Church in Ida Grove on Thursday, January 15 from 4:30-5:30PM.** Its helpful to bring a laundry basket or container for your food items. The Methodist Church welcomes volunteers, especially any middle school or high school volunteers, please be to the Methodist church by 3:30PM.



Our Mission Central Missionary that St. Paul supports is Shara Osiro, she is a Missionary to Eastern & Southern AfricaShara.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



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, January 4th



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

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 - 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.

UPDATING INFORMATION: we always ask to update our records with any new addresses, 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



2026 MONTHLY SCRIPTURE READING CALENDAR – JANUARY, is on the Welcome Center for you to pick up. Will be posted on our Website along with the monthly Calendar and Bulletin page. As well as our Facebook page.

If you would like to go back and revisit reading the Bible in a year, a full year of The Whole Story monthly calendars for 2025, they are available in the Red Folder on the Welcome Center

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.

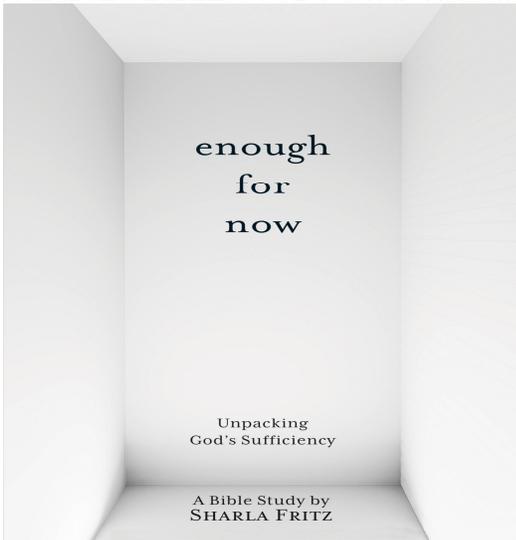
SOME OF YOUR OPTIONS FOR BIBLE STUDIES

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. We will resume Bible Study on Wednesday, January 7th

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY join us in the Conference Room starting at **10:15AM** Sunday, January 4 will highlight Pastor Robert Weinhold from Food for the Poor, we will meet in the Fellowship Hall

NEW LADIES BIBLE STUDY STARTING IN JANUARY



IF YOU ARE PLANNING TO ATTEND THE LADIES BIBLE STUDY ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 13 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 in attending on Jan. 13, and include your phone number, so we know how many books to order

The 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.

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.

*We can add other groups for times, if this does not work for you or can make changes for the next Bible Study

JANUARY WORD SEARCH

FROST
NEW
RESOLUTIONS
WINTER
BEGINNING
COLD
JANUS
CAPRICORN
GARNET
HIBERNATION
CELEBRATIONS
REFLECTION
BIRTHDAYS
ICE
SNOW
DAYS
AQUARIUS
TRADITION
GOALS
FIRST

F C R E F L E C T I O N L S H
R M J Q U J A N U S N G T C O
E F A O B L I C E R T Y T U R
C A P R I C O R N L E D B L T
D R E C E L E B R A T I O N S
O I R E S O L U T I O N S U A
A Q U A R I U S Y B I N B T B
R Y B A S W I N T E R S I R E
S F M A G A R N E T E R R A G
R N I S C L I E N C E R T D I
L H O R E O I H D O L R H I N
F H I W S M L S O A Z R D T N
G R C S E T B D C N Y X A I I
A N O A G O A L S E O S Y O N
C L E S S O N I A G S R S N G
Y F E S T I N E W C W O S H Y
X H I B E R N A T I O N W H B

