

ST. PAUL VISITOR JANUARY 2025

JOIN US EACH SUNDAY
AT 10:00AM FOR
IN PERSON WORSHIP
OR ON FACEBOOK

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HUNTINGTON, WV 25701
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ORG



The Mission Of St. Paul
Evangelical Lutheran
Church Is To Celebrate
And Proclaim To All The
Saving Grace Of Jesus
Christ In Word And
Deed.

ALL ARE
WELCOME
HERE ♥



Fill the bucket...feed a child Beginning February 2

We will continue to collect a "noisy offering" the first Sunday of each month beginning in February. This time we will collect change for our Backpack program. Keep collecting your change!

We collected \$1085.00 for World Hunger!! Thanks to everyone who brought in their change!

New sign up sheets for flowers, candles, ushers and communion bread are up in the narthex. Flowers are \$40.00 for two vases and candles are \$12.00 each.



Pastor's Reflections

Welcome to the new calendar year – 2025! By the time you receive this newsletter the twelve days of Christmas will be in full swing. I pray that your Christmas celebrations were joyous, celebrative, and fun as you gathered with family and friends.

As we begin 2025, I would like to share with you a consideration for the year. That consideration is to be gratitude focused. I know I have spoken and written of this many times already. Please bear with me. I believe that having this gratitude attitude is so important in our world today. During all the conflicts raging here in our own country and throughout the world it seems to me that we have so much news that does not lift us up. This is one of the great curses to the internet. We can 24/7/365 get any information we want at any time. We can purchase whatever we want 24/7/ 365 even if we do not have the funds to do so. We can “follow” the information we like and “dis-follow” the information we do not like.

Many people have compared our time now with the explosion of information with the time before the Reformation. Just before the Reformation a guy named Guttenberg created the printing press. With this invention information was now available to all. It is in many ways what propelled the thoughts/ theology of Luther and all the reformers.

What we do with all this information is critical in living our lives as people of God. On January 1, the church celebrates a festival day called: The Name of Jesus”. One of the Bible texts assigned for this day is from Numbers 6: 22-27:

“The Lord spoke to Moses, saying speak to Aaron and his sons, saying: Thus, you shall bless the Israelites. You shall say to them:

The Lord bless you and keep you;

The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;

The Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

So they shall put my name on the Israelites and bless them.”

The Lord has put his/her name on us. We have been blessed in abundance every day by this name. Those ancient Israelites had a new identity. We too have a new identity in Christ. The Christ who gives us life, new life every day.

I wonder what would happen if we focused on being grateful for these blessings, for this name God has placed/ gifted us with. One of the strategies I use to keep gratitude before me is a “gratitude journal.” Knowing how so much of life can be a challenge and lacking celebration. I try (miserably at times) to focus on the gratefulness God blesses me with each day. What if in 2025 we focus on our naming as a child of God? What if in 2025 we seek to remember the gracious gifts God blesses us with daily? What if in 2025 we remember that God has blessed us?

I wonder.

Blessings and Peace for this new calendar year,

Pastor KLM <><

Dear St. Paul Congregation,

Merry Christmas! I hope, like me, you enjoyed our moving Christmas Eve candlelight service. With three anthems, the choir had a lot to prepare. Thank you! In addition to the English text, Night of Silence included one verse of Silent Night in the original German and featured a descant in Spanish (Emily Conzett) – the first anthem we have sung in three languages. There is meaning there.

Emily and Tim Conzett sang beautiful solos, I thought the bells were especially good this year lead by Barbara Garnett, and Keith Wellman did a great job accompanying Katie on the piano (granddaughter-grandfather duo!). Alex Mackey and Katie Dowis projected their voices well without microphone (consider our sanctuary seats hundreds of people) and thanks to Cameron May we started and ended with brass, which is of course very appropriate.

Since I will be visiting my family for almost two weeks (I am writing this on the plane, somewhere above the Atlantic Ocean), Keith Wellman is going to play for the Lessons & Carols service this Sunday, as has become tradition. My student Dylan Morgan will play on January 5 (many of you know him), and I will be back behind the organ console on January 12.

Last but not least, thank you to our youth director Jill May and all the children (and parents!) who participated musically in the nativity play on Advent 3.

Henning



We are greatly in need of supplies for our Backpack Program. If you donate any of the following items it would be very helpful:

- pop tarts
- single serving ravioli
- ramen noodles
- single serving soup
- single serving mac and cheese
- fruit cups
- individually wrapped beef sticks
- single serving applesauce
- single serving beef-a-roni
- individual shelf stable milk
- drink boxes

Dear St. Paul Congregation,

It is a pleasure to work with our youth at St. Paul. Towards the end of November, we start preparing for our Christmas program. We start discussing who wants what part and the readings and music to go along with the story. The youth are active in deciding how they want to tell the story. If they decide on their parts and readings, they are able to deliver the message of the character they are playing comfortably. The youth truly tell the story from their hearts. Our youth volunteer to sing, praise, read scripture, pray, sign, play bells and trumpet. Our youth give of their hearts, time and talents to share the story of Jesus' birth and to spread the Good news and to remind us to make room in our hearts every day for Jesus.

We had several rehearsals in preparation for our program. Sometimes we would have two children attend and sometimes we'd have 10 but every practice was different and prepared us in every way. From the outside, this may seem like chaos or some have said like herding cats. On the inside, it is taking little steps every day and watching little lights turn on as these children of God sing with their whole heart or face their fears and read in front of an audience or sing a solo, duet or perform an accompaniment. There is beauty and grace amidst the high energy levels and short attention spans of our youth. I just recently watched the newest version of "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever". The youth leader in charge of the pageant goes in faith to their final performance, not knowing if Mary or Joseph, the Wisemen and angel will show up and not completely doing an entire run through of the program. I can relate to this completely. We practice when we can, while trying to coordinate many schedules. We do rehearsal with subs and pray it all works out. There is something spiritual that happens from last practice to the actual performance. Our youth showed up, did their absolute best, sang, read, prayed, worshipped, and shared the scripture and story of Jesus' birth from their hearts, minds, and spirits. This is the Holy Spirit that gathers us all in to witness, to share and to celebrate that we are children of God and that we are to make Room in our hearts everyday, all day for Jesus and share that message with all we meet.

I hope we delivered the message of Jesus' birth in a way that renews the spirit, warms the heart and opens the mind to remember "God With Us".

Isaiah 7:14 "Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel."

I hope that all of you spend time with friends and loved one, family, and share with those in need and shine your lights into the world. Make room in your heart for Jesus. Today and everyday!

Make Room in Your Heart by Casting Crowns

...A family hiding from the storm found no place at the keeper's door. It was for this a Child was born to save a world so cold and hollow

...The sleeping town, they did not know that lying in a manger low A Savior King who had no home has come to heal our sorrows.

Refrain: Is there room in your heart? Is there room in your heart? Is there room in your heart for God to write his story?

...Shepherds counting sheep at night do not fear the glory light. You are precious in His sight. God has come to raise the lowly. *refrain*

...You can come as you are but it may set you apart when you make room in your heart and trade your dreams for His glory. *refrain*

...Mother holds the promise tight every wrong will be made right. The road is straight, the burden's light. For in his Hands, he holds tomorrow. *refrain*.

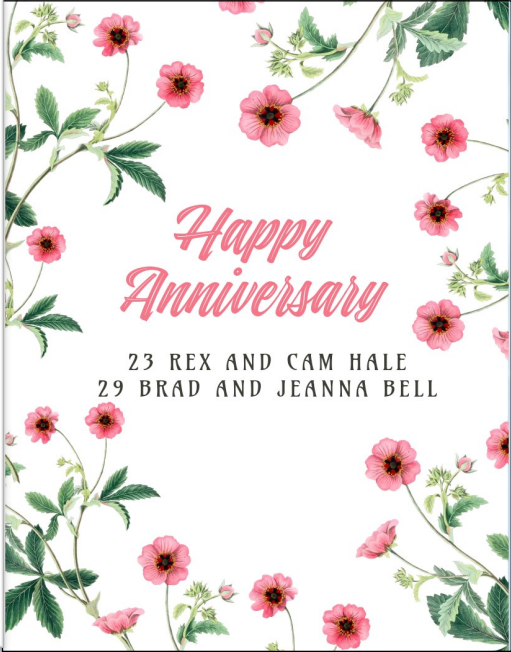
You can come as you are but it may set you apart. When you make room in your heart and trade your dreams for His glory. *refrain*.

Happy New Year!
Your Loving Sister in Christ,
Jill



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Paula Simpson
- 3 Cindy Jones
- 4 Steven Brown
- 5 Ryan Vickers
- 7 Kathie Cunningham
- 10 Emma Arneson
- 11 Wyatt Utle
- 16 Mary Lou Fricke; Steve Nord
- 17 Emma Kist
- 18 Nellie Kirby
- 23 Matthew Conzett
- 27 Cheryl Conzett
- 28 Kathy Mackey



The next Book Club meeting will be January 15 at 10:00am in the parlor. We will be discussing “All the Colors of the Dark” by Chris Whitaker. Please join us!

PRAYER LIST

We will be removing all names from our prayer list beginning January 12. If you would like to keep someone on the list please contact the church office.



We pray for:

LaDonna, Helen, Deanna, Laura, Sue, Meredith, Francesca, Lauren, Carissa, James, Curt, David, Cindy, Gloria, Gary, David, Judi, Mary, Kelsey, Tom, Nancy, and Opal.

WORSHIP HELPERS FOR JANUARY

January 5
Reader: Mary Lou Pratt
Assisting Minister: Steve Golder
Communion Deacon: Cheryl Conzett
Acolyte: Willow May
Crucifer: Daniel Kist
Ushers: Shannon Walker and Jaylyn Garnett
Bread Provider: Ruthann Arneson
Children’s Sermon: Pastor Mackey

January 12
Reader: Linda Schneider
Assisting Minister: Bernadette Wellman
Communion Deacon: Steve Golder
Acolyte: Kennady
Crucifer: Daniel Kist
Ushers: Mary Lou Pratt
Bread Provider:
Children’s Sermon: Jill May

January 19
Reader: Barbara Garnett
Assisting Minister: Keith Wellman
Communion Deacon: Creigh Pemberton
Acolyte: Jackson Wellman
Crucifer: Daniel Kist
Ushers: Mary Lou Pratt
Bread Provider:
Children’s Sermon: Annette DuVall

January 26
Reader: David Stuart
Assisting Minister: Linda Schneider
Communion Deacon: David Stuart
Acolyte: Jaylyn Garnett
Crucifer: Daniel Kist
Ushers: Mary Lou Pratt
Bread Provider:
Children’s Sermon: Emma Kist

Altar Guild
Creigh and Hayman
Pemberton





Prayer Shawl Ministry

Prayer shawls are available in the narthex if you would like to give one to someone in need of comfort and prayer. Cards are also available to give with the shawls. These shawls are made by members of St. Paul and are offered free of charge.



Cridlin Food and Clothing Pantry

For the month of January we will be collecting cans of tomato soup for Cridlin.

Please leave your donations in containers in the narthex.



Please continue to bring in your used ink cartridges. We receive \$2.00 for each cartridge at Office Depot. You can leave them in the church office or give to Kathy.



IT'S TIME TO
DE-DECORATE!

We will be taking down the Christmas decorations on January 4 beginning at 9:00am.

If you have time please stop by and help out!



Give something
unexpected
this
Christmas.

ELCA GOOD GIFTS

Our ELCA Good Gifts tree is up in the narthex! By choosing a tag from the tree and donating the specified amount to ELCA Good Gifts you are helping those in need throughout the world. Gifts can be made in honor or in memory of loved ones.

It's simple:

1. Choose a tag from the tree.
2. Place a check with specified amount in the offering plate (or turn in to the office)
3. Give the tag to someone as a gift given in their honor.

The church office will send the money in to ELCA gifts for you.

Please make sure you indicate on your check that the money is for ELCA Good Gifts.



Adult Forum

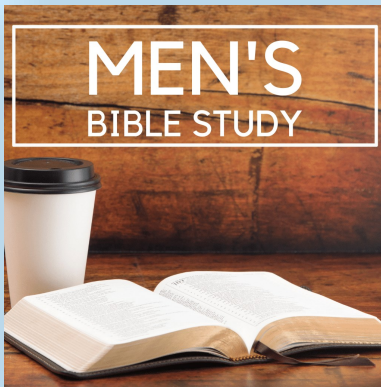


by heart

Join us beginning Sunday, January 12 at 11:15am. We will be examining Martin Luther's Small Catechism using the book "by heart". The book explores the theology and history behind the words Luther used.

"Knowing how the Small Catechism reflects Luther's own life and thought can open up its proclamation of the gospel so that you can see how it seeks to surround your own life with the same freeing word." —from the introduction to "by heart".

Please call the church office if you would like to reserve a copy of the book. You can also order a copy from Amazon.



NEW BIBLE STUDY

A men's Bible study will begin soon!
please join us!

Monday, December 30

6:30pm

Watch the weekly bulletin for upcoming dates

The readings listed below are emailed to the congregation Monday-Friday along with a suggestion for contemplating the scripture. If you are not currently receiving the daily devotional and would like to please contact the church office.

DAILY DEVOTIONAL IN YOUR INBOX



Thank you to everyone who remembered us this Christmas with cards and gifts. Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

Pastor Kevin, Kathy and Alex.

Thank
you

December 30-January 3: Isaiah 60:1-6, Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14, Ephesians 3:1-12, Matthew 2:1-12

Jan. 6-10: Isaiah 43:1-7; Psalm 29; Acts 8:14-17; Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Jan. 13-17: Isaiah 62:1-5; Psalm 36:5-10; I Corinthians 12:1-11; John 2:1-11

Jan. 20-24: Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10; Psalm 19; I Corinthians 12:12-31; Luke 4:14-21

January 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
						9:00am Take down Christmas decorations 1-3pm Scouts Cookie Kick Off
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
10:00am Worship 11:15am Adult Forum/Sunday School 1:30pm Pastor at Woodlands		9:30 am Quilting	7:00pm Choir	Noon Bible Study 6:00-7:30pm Scouts		10:00am Staff Meeting
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
10:00am Worship/ Council Installa- tion 11:15am Adult Forum/Sunday School	1:00pm Woman's Club	9:30 am Quilting	10:00am Book Club 5:30-7:00pm CCC 7:00pm Choir	NO Noon Bible Study 6:30pm Ruth Circle		
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
10:00am Worship 11:15am Adult Forum/Sunday School	Church Office closed	9:30 am Quilting	7:00pm Choir	Noon Bible Study 6:00-7:30pm Scouts		9:00-12:00pm Council Retreat
26	27	28	29	30	31	
10:00am Worship 11:15am Adult Forum/Sunday School		9:30 am Quilting	12:00pm Pastor at QRT 5:30-7:00pm CCC 7:00pm Choir	Noon Bible Study		

RUTH CIRCLE

Attention ladies....high school and up!

The St. Paul Lutheran Ruth Circle will meet on Thursday, January 16 at 6:30pm in the parlor after a loooong hiatus! there will be a scripture-based program as well as dessert. Bring a drink. All ladies who are in high school and older are welcome for the fun and fellowship.



Congratulations and thanks to our council members who will be installed on January 12 during worship:

Julie Huron

Barbara Garnett

Jenny Murray

Ron Pease

Anne Graybeal

Kenny Kirby

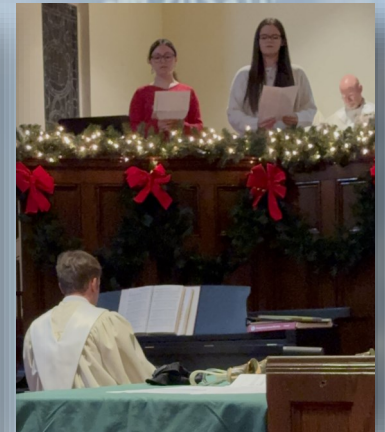
Emma Arneson

Dan Beals



Thank you to the Creative Quilters of Huntington who donated \$750.00 to our backpack program. Creigh Pemberton, Edie Beals, and Susan Korstanje are part of this group.







CONTACT US:

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ST. PAUL MINISTRIES



Quilting



School Backpack Program



Christmas Baskets



Cool to be a Christian Club



Camp Luther



Lutheran Youth Organization



Worship in the Park



Trunk or Treat



Prayer Shawl Ministry



Blessing of the Animals



Christmas in August



Vacation Bible School

CONNECT WITH US



FACEBOOK

St. Paul Lutheran Church
 and
 St. Paul Lutheran
 Congregation Group



WEBSITE

www.stpaulhuntington.org



YOUTUBE

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