



St. Paulite

*Support each other with God's Word and sacraments
Share Christ with our community and the world
Serve others in Christian love*

DECEMBER
2023

Special Services in December

December 10	Early Childhood Service	4pm
December 17	Sunday School Service	9:15pm
December 17	Children's Service	2 & 4pm
December 24	Sunday morning worship	9am only
December 24	Christmas Eve	2, 4, 6pm
December 25	Christmas Day	9am
December 31	Regular Sunday Services	7:45, 9:15 & 10:45 am
December 31	New Years Eve	4pm

Midweek Advent Services

On Wednesdays during Advent (December 6, 13, and 20), we'll be having special worship services again at 2 pm and 6:30 pm (supper will be served in the Fellowship Hall at 5:15 pm). Come each week to prepare your hearts and minds for our celebration of Christmas later in the month. Each week we'll look at a different Advent question and see how it's answered in Christ and his Word. There will be no Thursday evening services during the month of December (they will resume January 4).

Pastor Ehlke Call On November 28, Pastor Ehlke received a call to serve as a pastor at St. John's in Wauwatosa. St. John's has three pastors on staff (one serving in full-time Chinese ministry) and a congregation size of around 1100-1200 souls and an early childhood ministry and K-8 school that serves around 230-240 souls. Please keep my family and me in your prayers as I deliberate where to serve. Don't be afraid to reach out (text, call, email) at any time.

Youth Rally Fundraiser TEENS, WE NEED YOUR HELP The WELS International Youth Rally will be held next summer on June 25-28 at Colorado State University in Fort Collins. This is such a great event for our teens to be able to attend! Make plans to join us! For purposes of planning your family calendars, know that our coach bus transportation will probably be leaving on the evening of Monday, June 24, and we'll roll back into town early on Saturday, June 29. Here's a link to more information: <https://welsyouthrally.net/>. Registration officially opens in the spring. Pastor Krause will continue to provide updates. The youth rally is awesome, but it comes with some cost. To that end, our teen group will be doing some fundraising to help defray those costs. One of our fundraisers is coming up soon! Our high school teens will host our Wednesday Advent meal before church on Wednesday, December 6. This is where we need your help! Plan to help provide some food and/or to sign your teen up to help serve and clean up the meal that night. [Sign up here](#)

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**St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran
Church Onalaska, WI**
stpaulsonalaska.org
608.783.2552



(Continued from page 1)

Our Giving Tree You can join us in sharing the joy of our Savior's birth by helping those in need. Our Giving Tree is set up in the church lobby and is decorated with gift tags. Various gifts are designated for MLC students, seminary students, the Ginny Viner Scholarship Fund, Surround Care Assistance, the Good Samaritan Fund, and the La Crosse County Jail Ministry. We are also helping a family from the La Crosse County "For Goodness Sake" program. [Click on this link](#) for information on how you can help.

Food for Live Nativity St. Paul's day for providing food and refreshments for the warming trailer at the Live Nativity at Riverside will be December 16th. We are looking for someone who would be willing to do it this year. Please contact Pastor Olson (dolson@stpaulsonalaska.org) or Jay White (jay@excaliburlaundriesinc.com) for more information on what this entails.

Christmas Choir Even if you've never been in choir before, we'd love to have you join us this Christmas! We meet in the back of church at 7:30 pm every Wednesday. Contact Wendy Schibbelhut at wschibbelhut@stpaulsonalaska.org with any questions. Please join us! It's a great way to serve and connect with others from our congregation!

Adult Church Volleyball League Please contact Greg Schibbelhut call/text/email at 608-518-0187 or schigreg@luther.k12.wi.us if you are interested in playing on a church volleyball team. The league begins this January.

Advent/Christmas Ushers We need a few volunteers to help cover special services in December. Please see the sign-up sheet in the church lobby.

Ushers 2024 The new usher schedule for 2024 will be coming out in a few weeks. If you were on the schedule last year and would like to be taken off, please email Ryan Lussky at Rlussky@outlook.com. If you haven't been on the schedule and would like to serve as an usher, please reach out to Ryan Lussky at the above email address or Pastor Ehlike at behlike@stpaulsonalaska.org.

Thru My Bible

1. John 17:1-5
2. Jn. 17:6-19
3. Jn. 17:20-26
4. Jn. 18:1-27
5. Jn. 18:28-19:16
6. Jn. 19:17-37
7. Jn. 19:38-20:10
8. Jn. 20:11-31
9. Jn. 21:1-14
10. Jn. 21:15-25
11. Isaiah 1
12. Is. 2, 3, 4
13. Is. 5
14. Is. 6
15. Is. 7:1-8:15
16. Is. 8:16-10:4
17. Is. 10:5-34
18. Is. 11, 12
19. Is. 13:1-14:23
20. Is. 14:24-16:14
21. Is. 17, 18, 19
22. Is. 20:1-22:14
23. Is. 22:15-23:18
24. Is. 24, 25
25. Is. 26, 27
26. Is. 28
27. Is. 29:1-30:17
28. Is. 30:18-32:20
29. Is. 33, 34, 35
30. Is. 36, 37
31. Is. 38, 39



Women in Christ Book Group meets the second Tuesday of each month September through May at 6:30 p.m. in the Fireside Area at church. We will meet again on Tuesday, December 12. The December selection is "Evergreen" by Susan May Warren. All women of the congregation are invited to attend. Please consider joining us for this time of Christian fellowship through reading.



WOMEN IN CHRIST CRADLE ROLL meets every other month on the first Thursday at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Children who are enrolled in Cradle Roll receive periodic mailings and books every 6 months until they are 4. Our next meeting will be January 4, 2024. If you are interested we can always use new members.



WOMEN IN CHRIST CREATIVE HANDS group meets in person several times throughout the year. We craft blankets and baptismal napkins to present to newly baptized children and adults as a memento of their baptismal birthday. We invite sewers, stitchers, knitters and crocheters to join us. At times we also sew Quiet Bags for children for use during worship as well as table runners for fellowship meals. If you would like to join us, please contact Deb Nuttelman (randdnuttel@charter.net) and we will let you know the next time we meet.



ST. PAUL'S GROUP BIBLE STUDY & SUNDAY SCHOOL FALL 2023
Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." 2 Peter 3:18

Judges Starts October 29 (Sunday) and November 1 (Wednesday)
Sundays at 9:20 & 10:30 am (Fellowship Hall)
Wednesdays at 9 am in the Fireside Room



We'll spend the rest of 2023 studying a fascinating book of the Bible – Judges. We'll look at the lives of people like Samson, Gideon, and more and see how in many ways they're not different than we are but also how God used them to accomplish amazing things.

Starting Point Class
Monday Fellowship Hall
New Session of Starting Point in January

Do you know someone who knows very little about Christianity? Do you need a good review of Lutheranism and the Christian faith? Do you want to know what your kids are being taught in our school? Another session of Starting Point is planned for Mondays beginning on Monday, January 8th at 6:30pm. Pastor Krause will lead the class in the Fellowship Hall. We will provide childcare upon request. For questions about the class or to sign up, contact Pastor Krause (skrause@stpaulsonalaska.org).



Sunday School, Young Teen, and Teen Bible Class Options

9:15am Hello and welcome to the St Paul's Sunday School program. We wanted you to know that *there's a place for your child this fall*. We have been working steadily all summer to improve both the quality of the classes offered as well as the age range we can provide classes for. Class will run for 1 hour at 9:15 for the younger kids and 1 hour at 10:30 for the tweens and teens.

This split-timing may cause conflicts for families whose children straddle those age groups but we felt this was the best solution to try to accommodate when certain age groups are more likely to attend both church and an education hour. Classes this fall will teach the truths of God's Word as always, but in a more hands-on, active style that allows elementary age kids to get up and move around and explore the Bible story in a way that isn't sitting at a desk for an hour right before or after sitting still in church. Look forward to music, games, group activities, and great truths from the Old and New Testament! There is no need to register for Sunday School. Look for signage that will direct you to your child's classroom in the lower grade hallway of the school.

We are happy to announce the following classes will be offered weekly this fall.

AT 9:15 WE WILL OFFER FOUR CLASSES FOR OUR ELEMENTARY AGED KIDS:

- + PreK (3 and 4 year olds) (children who are potty trained are welcome to attend),
- + Kindergarten and 1st Graders
- + 2nd and 3rd Graders
- + 4th through 6th Graders

AT 10:30 WE WILL OFFER TWO CLASSES FOR OUR TWEENS AND TEENS:

- + Tweens (6th-8th grades)
- + Teens (9th-12th grades)

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High School Teen Group: Pastor Krause will continue to lead youth group for high schoolers on select Wednesday and Sunday nights throughout the year. Let him know if you'd like to get on his text list. (Pastor Krause: 608-217-5660)

Confirmation Classes: Mr. Gary Baumgarten will lead our public school 6th grade confirmation class on Wednesdays. Pastors Ehlke and Krause will be teaching our public school 7-8th grade classes at 6:00 pm. If you have not received info yet, please reach out to Pastor Ehlke (behlke@stpaulsonalaska.org)

20s-30s Group We have a group of folks in their 20s-30s who meet periodically (usually weekly) to study a book or a section of the Bible. The days/times sometimes change due to scheduling conflicts. Right now, they're studying a book called The Reason for God and talking about how to address objections people have with Christianity. If interested in attending, please reach out to Max Wetzel (wetzel3@wisc.edu).

Men's Bible Class
Saturdays 8:00 am
Facilitator: Steve Loehr
Meets Year Round

Location: Kwik Trip (408 Sandlake Rd)
Topic: Book of Acts

Women's Bible Classes
Mondays at 4:00 pm
Facilitator: Wendy Schibbelhut
Zoom option available
wschibbelhut@stpaulsonalaska.org

Location: Fireside Room (Church Entryway)
Topic: Real Women of the Bible from Time of Grace

Mondays at 6:30 pm
Facilitator: Wendy Schibbelhut

Location: Fireside Room (Church Entryway)
Topic: Prepared to Answer

Tuesdays at 9:00 am
Facilitator: Lois Jenson
jensonrlj@gmail.com

Location: Lois' Home (email Lois to sign-up)
Topic: Women of the Bible

Wednesdays at 2:00 pm
Facilitator: Nicole Wickus

Location: Fireside Room (Church Entryway)
Topic: The Mom God Chose: Mothering like Mary

Thursdays at 6:30 am
email Jan to get the Skype link
Facilitator: Jan Westerman
jkwesterman1@yahoo.com
Meets Year Round

Location: Online Class
Topic: Prophecies of the Old Testament





Pastor Dan Olson

Christmas Is Here (Already)

I'm not sure if this is true or if this is just my perception, right or wrong. But it seems like Christmas is coming earlier and earlier every year. Christmas songs are being played on the radio even before Thanksgiving. Christmas decorations and toys come into the stores right after Halloween. Black Friday Christmas shopping seems to start a month early. Is all this bad? I can't blame the stores in trying to capitalize on the spending habits of Americans at this time of the year.

The world will always try to commercialize the season of Christmas. Even for Christians, it can be easy to forget about what this time of year is all about. I like to think about it in this way. Satan knew he wouldn't be successful in quieting the praise of Christians at Christmas time. So the best he could do is try to commercialize it so much with the secular world that with all the parties and decorations and presents that maybe Christians would forget about what this time of year is all about.

But for Christians it will always remain a vital part of our faith and life and eternal joy. And if Christmas is going to start sooner for the secular world, then it gives us the opportunity to start thinking about the promises about the coming Savior even sooner. Let's think about this prophecy of the coming Savior, written about 700 years before Christ was born. Isaiah 9:6 *"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."*

It's hard to imagine the surprise even of Isaiah as he wrote this prophecy and found out himself that the Savior that God's people were waiting for would be a child. But this would be no ordinary child. Look at the names that would be given to him. Wonderful Counselor – so he would have wisdom like no other. Mighty God – God himself would be born? I'm sure Isaiah was trying to figure out how that was going to happen. Everlasting Father – he would be eternal, with no beginning or end, and he would be loving like a father who cares for his children. And he would be Prince of Peace – that is, he would be the one who would establish peace between God and man after sin separated us from him.

So, I don't mind that Christmas seems to begin earlier and earlier every year. I'm not bothered by hearing Christmas music, seeing Christmas sales and decorations earlier than normal. Rather let's see it as more of an opportunity to focus on the Savior who came to take away our sins, defeat death for us and win for us eternal life. And for those who are distracted by everything else happening at this time of year, let's take it upon ourselves to point them to the true meaning of this season: For to us a child is born.

Help around the house

Luther High's NHS (National Honor Society) Chapter is looking for volunteer opportunities over the next few weeks. Luther High students would love the opportunity to help with yard work or assist in any other way. It would probably work best on weekends. Please contact Rileigh Olson, president of NHS, who will be coordinating the efforts. (rileigh.olson153@gmail.com; 608-797-1945). If there are any other events where you need a group of volunteers, please let her know.



Mission Trip to London

One blessing of being part of a larger denomination is that we pool our resources together to take the gospel to the ends of the earth. Our synod is planting a church in London and we have the opportunity to be a part of a two month push this coming summer. St. Paul's can partner with our synod and this new mission start by sending over a team of 6-10 people for a 10-day period sometime between the dates of June 8th and July 29th depending on what our group chooses. We would arrive on a Saturday and leave the following Monday. Groups can decide to stay longer if they like. The church work is going to be focused in Central London, specifically Tower Hamlets.

The goals:

- 1) The WELS UK mission is looking at offering weekly church services in June and July. The mission needs more people to be in church as they invite guests.
- 2) Each group would spend 2-3 days volunteering in a UK run charity. The groups should engage others in conversation, let their light shine by word or deed, and invite them to a church service.
- 3) Encourage WELS UK members in their life of discipleship.

40-50% of the trip will be sight-seeing and the trips are self-funded. The estimated cost of travel and lodging will be about \$2500/person (this includes airfare and hotel stay). If you'd like to be a part of the team or donate money to defray costs for attendees, please talk with Pastor Olson (dolson@stpaulsonalaska.org). Shannon Bohme from WELS Mission Partners will be at St. Paul's on December 10th after the 10:45 service to talk with those who are interested in going. Please talk with Pastor Olson sometime before December 10th if you are interested.

New Picture Directory



A team of people is working on producing a new pictorial directory for our church family. We are going to create the directory ourselves through our church database software Church 360. We are asking each household to submit a photo for the directory. To do so, you can email this address: directorypictures@stpaulsonalaska.org and attach a photo. Please include the names of the people in the photo in the email. We also would like to get updated contact information for our congregation, and so we ask that each household fill out this

membership form: [Directory Form](#) or head to www.stpaulsonalaska.org and you click on the "Directory Form" link under the Church section. If you don't have the capability of submitting a photo via email, we do plan on having people around after worship late November-early December to take quick photos of people. Over the next few months, our team will discuss how we will distribute the directory in a way where only our church members will have access to it.

Access Church Directory Online Now

To access our church directory online now, you will need to log into Church 360. Send an email requesting access to admin@stpaulsonalaska.org from the email address that you wish to use to access the directory. After you receive approval from our operations manager, you will receive an email in how you can sign into to Church360. Please note we only allow St. Paul's members to access the directory and general users will not have access to any emails/phone numbers that are unpublished.



Memorials

Given in loving memory of David Pralle:
to the Grateful and Growing Fund by:

Timothy and Carrie Jensen

Given in loving memory of Jim Ely
to the Grateful and Growing Fund by:

Dorothy Gartner
James and Marsha Jordan
Judith Pralle
Neale and Sheryl Horman
Alvin and Julia Forde
Matthew and Betty Van Loon
Lois Jenson
Mark and Lisa Loersch
Ryan and Katy Miller
Lori Peters
Frank and Lois Holper
Lynette Teal
Barbara Groth
Frank and Enid Wilhelm
Barbara Phillips
John and Irmgard Lau
Kevin and Jan Westerman
David and Ann Jansen
Carrie Wehausen
Kathy McHenry
Steve and Kim Blado
Elaine Zierke
Roger and Karen Strangman
Duane and Mary Schlender
Carol Wappler

Warren and Colette Johnson
Gary and Sue Webb
JoAnn McLees
Kathy Rach
Ron and Teri Fiers
Dan and Cathy Braund
Jeff and Janet Gilbertson
Steve and Gert Yonkovich
Rev James and Gail Mumm
Lee and Lois Johnson
Margaret Thumann
Dorothy Yahnke
Lois Sanderson
Darrel and Ardelle Zillmer
Betty Falkenberg
Jim and Carol Tonak
Idella Papenfuss
Rich and Deb Nuttelman
Greg and Wendy Schibbelhut
Darel and Ardelle Zillmer

Given in honor of the 50th Wedding Anniversary of Larry and Diane Lindesmith
to the Grateful and Growing Fund by

Doug and Debra Bakken



Save the Date!



On Sunday, January 7, Rachel Binczak from Kingdom Workers Foster Support Program will be here to present an exciting ministry opportunity for St. Paul's Onalaska! The need for loving, stable foster families is great, but not everyone is called to foster in their own homes. Through the Kingdom Workers Foster Support program, you can help those who do! Come learn about Kingdom Workers' Foster Support program and how St. Paul's could start to reach out with the love of Jesus to foster families and the kids in care in our own community. To learn more, scan the QR code to the left. Rachel looks forward to meeting the St. Paul's Onalaska family in January!



GRATEFUL AND GROWING BUILDING UPDATE

Let's... Give Thanks!

<p style="text-align: center;">Grateful and Growing Project Present Finance Recap</p> <p>Construction loan interest payments are currently being paid by our increased budgeted "mortgage" payment of \$23,120 per month, and the balance of the "mortgage" payment is being put into the G&G fund.</p> <p>At the end of the construction loan (May of 2025) St. Paul's needs a total of \$2,005,626 for the mortgage closing</p> <p>As of 11/2/23 the G&G fund balance is \$917,516.96</p> <p>We need to raise \$1,088,109.04 over the next 18 months</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Grateful and Growing Project Future Finance Recap</p> <p>Many members are giving in various timeframes- annually, quarterly, monthly, and others. There is a lot of flexibility.</p> <p>Updates will continue quarterly until we are one year out from May 2025</p> <p>Once we are 1 year out, updates will be given every 2 months</p> <p>When we are 6 months out, updates will be given monthly (if needed)</p> <p>We can pay more than the \$2,005,626 at closing, and this would help reduce our monthly mortgage payment and overall mortgage</p> <p><i>We encourage you to prayerfully consider pledging if you have not.</i></p>				
<p style="text-align: center;">Grateful and Growing Project Current Pledges and Gifts</p> <table> <tr> <td>June \$43,076</td><td>July \$82,762</td></tr> <tr> <td>August \$38,600</td><td>September \$36,489</td></tr> </table> <p>(not including the balance of "mortgage" / interest payment)</p>	June \$43,076	July \$82,762	August \$38,600	September \$36,489	<p style="text-align: center;">Grateful and Growing Project Past Finance Recap</p> <p>Secured financing with WELS CEF at 4.23% interest rate</p> <p>The initial loan is an interest only construction loan</p> <p>Completed the initial down payment of \$1,442,346 in April of 2023</p> <p>The down payment was made up of money received from Kick Off gifts, the Building Fund, received pledges, and qualified pre-paid expenses</p> <p>The initial project total of \$11,280,678 includes a 2% CEF contingency</p>
June \$43,076	July \$82,762				
August \$38,600	September \$36,489				

In the journey of our building project, we find ourselves in a moment of reflection and anticipation, truly embodying the theme of "Let's Give Thanks." The project is not merely a construction effort; it is a testament to the continued blessings that God has bestowed upon our congregation.

As members had the opportunity to walk through the newly built spaces, we are reminded of Psalm 127:1, "Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labor in vain." Our steps resonate with gratitude, acknowledging that every brick laid and every room constructed is a manifestation of God's guidance and providence. The act of walking through the new building becomes a prayerful journey, where we express our gratitude for the past and present, and confidently lay our hopes and plans for the future at the feet of God.

As we look ahead, Deuteronomy 28:2 resonates: "All these blessings will come on you and accompany you if you obey the Lord your God." The completed building stands as a tangible testament to our God's faithfulness, and we look forward to the continued blessings God has promised for the future of our educational community.

"Let's Give Thanks" becomes not just a theme but a living reality, a mindset that permeates every interaction within the school. We express our gratitude for the provision, the congregation's dedication, and the divine guidance that has brought us to this point as we acknowledge God's continuous blessings and eagerly anticipate the future He has in store for us.

Your help is needed!

The building team is looking for **able bodied people to help lift cabinets up to 100lbs on DECEMBER 2nd at 8am into the classrooms for the building project.** *If you are able to help with this important next step, please reach out to Richard Elliot or contact the school office.*

Let's recap...

The windows are in, more interior spaces are coming together and now the last phase begins. Classrooms begin to be completed, finishing touches are happening in all spaces and the finer details begin to come to the forefront. Opportunities to volunteer and share your God given talents are needed now more than ever as the interior work becomes a focus. Please watch for volunteer opportunities and consider helping. If you haven't seen the most current video update showing a comprehensive overview of the building, [CLICK HERE](#) or visit the St Paul's YouTube channel. (<https://www.youtube.com/@stpaulsonalaska>)

Phillipians 1:6, "He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."



Christian Counseling Services Are Available To Our Congregation

Through Christian Family Solutions, members of our congregation have access to confidential counseling services through a program called MAP (Member Assistance Program). The counselors are WELS/ELS mental health professionals, using secure, online video technology. Short-term counseling is available from any private location that has an internet connection and a web cam. Telephone counseling is also available. If you are interested, please talk to one of our pastors.

Recovery ⁱⁿ Christ

Recovery in Christ Offers Hope In Jesus

A symptom of addiction of any kind is hopelessness. The focus of Recovery in Christ is to bring the hope of Jesus. RIC meets most Sundays, 4:00 pm here at St. Paul's in the school library and Wednesdays, 1:15 pm at La Crosse's Coulee Recovery Center (933 Ferry St.). To confirm meeting days/times call 608-567-3038 for Sundays and 608-784-4177 for Wednesdays.



Onalaska Food Basket

The Board of Outreach would like to remind members of our area food pantry services. The Food Basket is located just down the street from church at 735 Sand Lake Road (in the back right hand corner of the American Legion parking lot) and serves residents of the greater Onalaska, West Salem, French Island and Holmen areas with food and personal care items. They are a Christ centered organization dedicated to helping those in need. The Food Basket is open to everyone; however there are general income guidelines for eligibility. If you or your family are in need of their services, please stop in, call (608) 783-7722 or visit www.thefoodbasket.org. Assistance is available on a one-time or on-going basis. All of their services are free of charge.

WELS Connection



Keep connected to what's going on around our synod. Click on the link for the monthly WELS connection. <https://wels.net/news-media/wels-connection/>

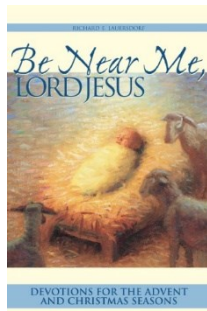
Wish List



If you would like to help fund special projects (outside our budget funding), please see the items on **St. Paul's Wish List**. Follow the instructions at the bottom of the list on how to make a donation. Click the link below to go to the list or go to St. Paul's website and on the menu at the top of the page, click **Give** and then **Wish List**. [Master Wish List](#)

Church Library

To help prepare our hearts for Christmas, take a moment to browse the display shelves, along with sections 2 (Children's Christmas) and 3 (Adult Christmas). Check out an Advent devotion book, Christmas music, DVDs, or Christmas story books to read to your children or grandchildren.



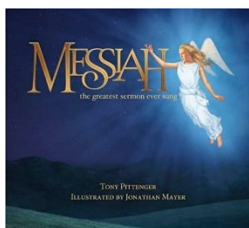
Be Near Me, Lord Jesus: Devotions for the Advent and Christmas Seasons

Although Jesus' actual birthday seems far away in history, this book of devotions demonstrates that we can be as close to Jesus as the shepherds were on that first Christmas Day. This book contains a devotion for each day from December 1 through January 6 to help reflect and celebrate during the Advent and Christmas seasons.



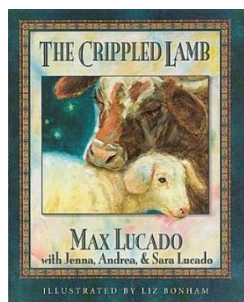
Celebrate Jesus at Christmas

You and your family can discuss, interact, and focus on Jesus through: Scripture readings, familiar songs & hymns, devotional thoughts and the lighting of the Advent Wreath.



Messiah-the Greatest Sermon Ever Sung

Messiah-the Greatest Sermon Ever Sung is a labor of love to help listeners hear the beautiful story of salvation in G.F. Handel's oratorio. Written and illustrated to draw the listener/reader deeper into the lyrics, this book will quickly become a keepsake for listeners both new and old.



The Crippled Lamb

Because Joshua the Lamb was different, he often felt left out - like on the wintry night when he was left behind in a Bethlehem stable. This touching tale helps kids see that even if they're different, God has a unique plan for their lives.

The library is located in the "fireside" area of the narthex. It is easy to check out books:

- † Complete the blue card (from back book pocket) with the date and your first and last name* printed legibly.
- † Place the blue card in the black bin on counter
- † *Your envelope # can be used for privacy purposes. If by chance a reminder call needs to be made for the book to be returned, the envelope # (not the book title) will be given to one of the Pastors and they will make the reminder call.



St. Paul's Lutheran School

Theme for 2023-2024 – Forward in Faith – With a Thankful Heart

Are people, in general, becoming less satisfied, more likely to find fault, more inclined to complain? If so, why is that?

For many, they live with a void in their lives that they seek to fill. There's an emptiness to life that they want a way to resolve. They look for answers in the world, but none fill them up.

"I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." John 10:10

Jesus offers everyone a full life. His sacrifice on the cross offers free forgiveness and adoption to His family. He fills us with His mercy and love, which leads us to show mercy and love to others. He fills us with His Word, which empowers us to do His Will. He fills us with purpose, which urges us to tell others about Jesus. He fills us with a certain hope that He is with us always, today and through eternity. We find a full life in Jesus.

As St. Paul's Lutheran School celebrates 50 years, our hearts are full of thankfulness. His blessing is evident in sustaining our school for 50 years, and His blessing is evident in the thankful response of His people to support this ministry for many years to come!

"Being confident of this, he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." Philippians 1:6

SUMMER CHILD CARE SURVEY FOR ST. PAUL'S FAMILIES St. Paul's Board of Education reviewed the results of the survey for summer care, and it indicated there were many families interested. Further plans will be developed with the hope of offering summer care in 2024.

ST. PAUL'S BOARD OF EDUCATION UPDATE St. Paul's Board of Education listened to the input from several parents on November 7 at an Open Forum. The Board appreciates the partnership our school has with families in providing a Christian education. It is our prayer that this partnership continues to strengthen as our staff and leadership work with families to make our school a place where the love of Jesus is evident in all we do.

Great Things Happening at St. Paul's St. Paul's hosted an event for Veterans and active military on Wednesday, November 8. After a special chapel service by Pastor Ehlke, Mr. Bain and several 8th grade students led the assembly in a review of some of the blessings of the United States of America: stability, freedom, sacrifice, and unity. Responsive readings for the observance included the Preamble to the U.S. Constitution, The First Amendment to the Constitution, The Gettysburg Address, and portions of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech. Veterans and active military connected to St. Paul's were recognized at the conclusion of the observance. Students shook the hands of the veterans and active military who were able to be present, and the students handed them cards as well. We thank God for the freedoms we enjoy in the United States, and we pray for all those who help protect those freedoms.

