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ST. PAUL

LUTHERAN MINISTRIES



School Mission Statement:

Using God's Word as our guide, St. Paul Lutheran School will raise up future generations of Christians in our community by assisting parents in the Christian teaching of their children and by striving for excellence in all areas of instruction.

<u>Worship Schedule:</u> Join us for worship at St. Paul! Services are on Sundays at 8am & 10:30am, and Mondays at 6pm. Christmas season listed below. "I rejoiced with those who said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the LORD.'" (Ps. 122:1)

12/11, 12/18: Midweek Advent Worship at 3:30pm & 6pm with a meal between services

12/21 Children's Christmas Services at 9am & 10:30am

12/22 Regular Services at 8am & 10:30am (No Monday service on 12/23)

12/24 Christmas Eve Lessons & Carols Service at 6pm

12/25 Christmas Day Service at 10am

12/29 Pastor Frey's farewell service at 9:30am (No 8am or 10:30 service, No Monday service 12/30)

12/31 New Year's Eve Service at 6pm

<u>Midweek Advent Special services</u>: Midweek Advent Worship Services are at 3:30pm and 6:00pm, with a fellowship meal served between (from 4:30pm – 6pm). Join us for worship and fellowship!

Tentative menu is as follows: 12/11: Cheer Team serving pasta dishes; 12/18: PTO serving White Chicken Chili & Veggie Soup

PTO Advent Meal; Desserts Requested: The PTO has requested that *families with students in grades 5-8 please provide a dessert* for the dinner on 12/18. Donated desserts may be brought to the school kitchen the morning of, or dropped off prior to the 3:30 service in the church basement. Grades 5-8 will be singing at the 3:30 service that afternoon.

<u>Kids Only Shopping Event THIS SATURDAY!</u> "Kids Only" will be held in our gym on Dec. 14th from 12:30 - 2:30. All kids from St. Paul Lutheran Ministries (Ages 4 years old - 8th grade) are invited to come and do their Christmas shopping. Each child may purchase up to 10 gifts for their family/friends at \$2 per item to ensure there are enough for everyone (special circumstances considered). Special thank you to all the volunteers and those that donated items to make this great event possible, and especially Jacki Sievert and Sheryl Wert for coordinating!

<u>Christmas Cheer Dress up Days 12/16 - 12/20</u>: Let's have a little fun before our long break! All are welcome to participate in the following theme days:

Monday 12/16: Polar Express Day: Wear your Christmas pajamas and slippers! (please bring shoes/boots for recess!)

Tuesday 12/17: Red & Green Day: Wear your Christmas colors from head to toe!

Wednesday 12/18: Holiday Headgear Day: Wear your Christmas hats, headbands, lights, hair designs, etc!

Thursday 12/19: Ugly Christmas Sweater or Shirt Day: Wear a Christmas Sweater or Shirt to school!

Friday 12/20: Falcon Wear Friday and Christmas Socks Day: Wear your school colors and Christmas socks in support of our first Basketball Home Games!

Please adhere to the dress code to the best of your ability and use good judgement. If items cause disruption, the teacher reserves the right to hold them until the end of the school day. There will also be treats and fun projects for the students throughout the week. Merry Christmas!

<u>School Messenger</u>: School Messenger is our new school communication via PowerSchool for emails, texts, and phone calls. The School Newsletter was sent to all recipients last week Wednesday and Today. Please check your email and mark this email as "safe" so that you continue to receive email notifications. **School Messenger requires users to opt-in in order to receive text messages. Text "Y" or "Yes" to 67587.** Click <u>HERE</u> for a flyer for additional assistance. The easiest way is to scan the QR code and respond with a Y.

<u>Call Update</u>: Mrs. Michelle Most returned (declined) our call to serve as 4th grade teacher. The voters of St. Paul Lutheran Ministries will meet on Sunday, December 15 to issue another divine call for our 4th grade position for the 2025-2026 school year.

<u>Christmas Gift Ideas for Teachers and Staff</u>: It was asked that we share a listing of the teacher's 'Favorite Things' during the Christmas season for gift ideas. You can find that link <u>HERE</u>.

<u>2025-2026 School Year Calendar:</u> The LES Board approved the school calendar for the 2025-2026 school year. The calendar can be found HERE.

Blueprint for Schools: Thank you to everyone who participated in the Blueprint for Schools School Study this past Spring by completing the various surveys and participating in the interviews. The results from the Parent Survey and Community Research Project can be found HERE. Many positive attributes and blessings were highlighted in the final Blueprint for Schools Progress Report. A number of recommendations for continued improvement were also suggested by Blueprint for Schools. This past Fall, the leaders and representatives of your school and ECC met together to jointly create a Vision/Traction/Organizer (VTO) with the assistance of Grace in Action (GIA). This workshop helped us create a unified Mission Statement, Vision, Focus, Values, and objectives for long-range planning over the next 6 years. Our LES Board recently decided to contract further with Blueprint for Schools to assist us with a Program Differentiation Project, Financial Planning Project, and the creation of a Harvest Strategic Plan for our school and ECC. May the Lord continue to bless our efforts as we create improvement strategies and plans for our school and ECC.

<u>Children's Christmas Service</u>: The Children's Christmas Service will be held on **Saturday, December 21 at 9:00AM and 10:30AM.** <u>ALL</u> children will participate in <u>BOTH</u> services this year. **Due to limited seating and parking, we are asking that parents/attendees with last name M-Z attend the 9:00AM service, and parents/attendees with last name A-L attend the 10:30AM service. All children are asked to be dropped off at their classrooms by 8:30AM. All children can be picked up from their classrooms after the 10:30AM service. Please contact your child's teacher ASAP if your child will not be participating in the Children's Christmas Service this year.**

Pastor Frey Retirement Service: You are invited to praise and thank God for the ministry of Pastor Frey on Sunday, December 29th. On that Sunday, Pastor Frey will preach his final and farewell sermon here at St. Paul. Our Sunday worship schedule will change for that day, having only ONE service, taking place at 9:30am (no Monday service on 12/30). After the service, a brunch meal will be served in the gym to honor Pastor Frey and his wife, Connie. There will be a sign up sheet in the narthex for salads and breads/coffee cakes. Please RSVP for brunch before 12/22 by clicking HERE or contact the office.

Athletic News:

Stay up to date with all games and practices here on the all ministries' calendar linked here: https://www.stpaulappletonwi.com/calendars/monthly-church-school-calendar

WINTER SPORTS VOLUNTEER SIGN UP: Linked Here!

-Please reach out to Mrs. Pautz with any questions regarding volunteer hours or training on scorebook/scoreboard.

Winter Sports Pictures are today starting right after school! <u>Please wait in the hallway outside of the gym for your athlete to</u> be dismissed from pictures.

AWAY GAMES @ **Mount Olive Lutheran School!** The first game begins at 4:15p.m. Check with your child's coach for their arrival time for their game!

Our first home game is next week, 12/20! Double-check the volunteer sign up to see where you can help out! Thank you in advance for your time and help!

Upcoming Events:

12/11 8:10am Chapel Service 12/11 3:30pm & 6pm Advent Worship

12/11 3:30pm Gr. K-4 sing in church

12/14 12:30pm Kids Only

12/18 3:30pm & 6pm Advent Worship

12/18 3:30pm Gr. 5-8 sing in church 12/21 9am & 10:30am Children's Christmas Services 12/23 – 1/3 No School – Christmas Break