



# ST. PAUL

LUTHERAN MINISTRIES

## Church News

*Altar Guild 12/31: J. Kaepernick, M. Olson*  
*Greeters Next Week: 8am – J. & S. Gossens*  
*10:30 – C. Rehberg, J. Hopfensperger*  
*6pm – Volunteers Needed*

**Church Cleaners:** M. Reick, D. & V. Sheldon, K. Paulson

**Attendance Last Week: 286**

**Midweek Advent: 180**

### Weekly Church Calendar

#### **Sunday December 21<sup>st</sup>**

8:00 a.m. Worship Service  
9:15 a.m. Bible Class  
9:15 a.m. Sunday School  
10:30 a.m. Worship Service

#### **Monday December 22<sup>nd</sup>**

6:00 p.m. Worship Service

#### **Tuesday December 23<sup>rd</sup>**

10:10 a.m. Women's Bible Study

#### **Wednesday December 24<sup>th</sup>**

6:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship

#### **Thursday December 25<sup>th</sup>**

10:00 a.m. Christmas Day Worship

#### **Sunday December 28<sup>th</sup>**

8:00 a.m. Worship Service  
9:15 a.m. Bible Class  
9:15 a.m. Sunday School  
10:30 a.m. Worship Service

#### **Monday December 29<sup>th</sup>**

6:00 p.m. Worship Service

**Office Closed:** The office will be closed from noon on December 22<sup>nd</sup> through January 2<sup>nd</sup>. Normal hours will resume on Monday, January 5<sup>th</sup>. If you have a health emergency, please contact a pastor directly or leave a voicemail in the office (920-733-9061).

**Worship Schedule:** Join us for worship at St. Paul! Christmas season listed below. *"I rejoiced with those who said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the LORD.'" (Ps. 122:1)*

*12/20 Children's Christmas Services at 9am & 10:45am*

*12/21, 22 Regular Services at 8am & 10:30am; Monday at 6pm*

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

*12/25 Christmas Day Service at 10am*

*12/28, 29 Regular Services at 8am & 10:30am; Monday at 6pm*

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

**St. Paul Worship Radio Broadcast to Change Station and Time:** Starting 1/4/2026 our Sunday worship service will be broadcast on WOSH 1490 AM & 93.9 FM. Since those stations already have a different church broadcasting at 8:00 a.m., **our worship will be broadcast at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday mornings.** This will be a recorded broadcast of our 8:00 a.m. service. Please help spread the word! This change brings a discount in service. If you would like to sponsor a Sunday broadcast, the cost is now \$200 per week. You can mail an offering to the church or give using our church app. Click on "Give" and then "Radio Broadcast." If you would like to donate as a memorial, please contact the office.

**Kids Only – Thank you!** Thank you to the volunteers and parents that were asked to step in to help assist a child shop so we could keep the line going and everyone who donated gifts/bags to make the 2025 Kids Only a success. 675 gifts were wrapped. We were able to donate \$500 to the ECC and \$750 to St. Paul School. Thank you to Women's Ministry for providing the families with some baked goods and drinks while their child(ren) shopped. Thank you to everyone who helped to make the event a success and the families for bringing your child(ren) shopping. We hope you enjoy your gifts!



As we look toward next year, we will be in need of many more supplies and gifts. We'll need the following: tissue paper, gift bags, brand new gifts for babies, boy items for age six to adult, teen girl gifts, and men's items (no clothing, please). Throughout the year, donations can be put in the Kids Only box in the church basement or brought to the school or ECC offices.

Thank you, *Sheryl and Jacki*

**Call Updates:** The voters of St. Paul Lutheran Ministries issued a call to **Mrs. Abigail Lince** to serve as 3rd grade homeroom teacher at St. Paul Lutheran School for the 2026-2027 school year. Mrs. Lince currently serves as teacher for grades 2-4 at St. John's Lutheran School in Sparta, Wisconsin. Please keep her and her family in your prayers as she deliberates this call. Please also reach out to her via email,

[aelowski@gmail.com](mailto:aelowski@gmail.com), with your words of encouragement and support.

**Mrs. Alyssa Wascher** declined the call to serve as 1st grade teacher at Good Shepherd Lutheran School in West Bend, Wisconsin. We thank her for her decisions and keep Good Shepherd in our prayers as they seek to fill their teacher vacancy for the upcoming school year.

**WOMEN'S MINISTRY WINTER DINNER INFORMATION:** Women's Ministry dinner will be January 13, 2026 at Good Company in their Bourbon Street Room. There is a change made to the dinner. It has been decided to have an open menu so guests can order from the menu the food that best suits them. The approximate times for the gathering are as follows:

5:00 social time

5:30 dinner orders

6:00 dinner

Please contact Betty Techlin, cell 920 810-1964 or Kathy Schultz, cell 262 930-3276 to confirm your attendance. There will also be a signup sheet at the reception desk in the church narthex. Women's Ministry hopes you can come for this fun social gathering.

### **Spiritual Growth Opportunities**

**Our Sunday Morning Bible Class** (9:15 a.m. in the church basement) will start a new course on January 4th. ***Defending the Faith*** is a six-lesson apologetics Bible study to help our members thoughtfully and lovingly engage in conversation with skeptics of the Christian faith. We do this using God's gift of reason which is rooted in gentleness and respect. All this with the goal of love towards our neighbor. Apologetics is a ministry of caring!

**A new Bible class** will review some of our Wisconsin Synod's history over the past 175 years, with an emphasis on our congregation's involvement in that history. The class will meet in the church basement, **Wednesdays** at 6:30 PM and repeating **Thursdays** at 9:00 AM, from January 7/8 to February 11/12. The class will be taught by our member and retired pastor, Fred Toppe.

**New Starting Point Class Starts 1/11:** Whether you're brand new to the Bible, exploring Christianity for the first time, or simply looking for a solid refresher, Starting Point is the perfect place to begin.

This 8-week course offers a welcoming, no-pressure environment to ask questions, discover what the Bible says, and learn the core truths of the Christian faith. We'll cover topics like:

- Who is God?
- Why do we need a Savior?
- What is grace?
- How does faith grow?
- Why the Bible can be trusted

Classes begin Sunday, January 11th, at 9:15 in the School Learning Center and run weekly for 8 sessions. Each meeting lasts about an hour and includes discussion, guided study, and practical application. Contact Pastor J (jshrum@stpaulappletonwi.com) if you plan to attend this class or sign up on the Church Center App. Click on "More" then "Groups" then "Starting Point."

**ECC Christmas Gifting:** Please join the Women's Ministry of St. Paul in gifting to our ECC in the weeks before Christmas. Each week the theme will change, beginning 12/1. Donations may be brought to the church basement. Item size specifics are on flyers around church or click [HERE](#).

**Week 4: Batteries** (AAA, AA, C, D)

**Sunshine Cookies Update:** Thank you to everyone who helped with our Sunshine Cookie distribution. This is a special way to remember our shut-ins and honor our Savior's birth. It doesn't get done without many people pitching in to help. We thank the bakers, the cookie tin preparers, the school kids who prepare Christmas cards and those who helped with delivery. Have a Blessed Christmas.

**Kindergarten Open House:** Calling all kindergartners for the 2026-2027 school year! We have a kindergarten open house on Wednesday, January 28 3:30-5:30PM. Please join us to receive additional information, take a tour, and to meet our kindergarten teacher, Mrs. Shrum. If you are intending to have your child attend kindergarten at St. Paul next school year, please fill out an [APPLICATION](#) and/or reach out to Mr. Kelley ([jkelly@stpaulappletonwi.com](mailto:jkelly@stpaulappletonwi.com)) if you have any questions.

**Help Needed:** In the event that our school custodial worker is ill, etc., we are collecting contact information for individuals who may be able to assist. Duties may include but are not limited to cleaning bathrooms, lunchroom, and hallways and taking out garbage. Compensation for services is provided. If you would like additional information, please contact our facilities' coordinator Curt Jacobson

at [facilities@stpaulappletonwi.com](mailto:facilities@stpaulappletonwi.com) or 920-733-9061.

**St. Paul Ministries has an immediate opening** for someone to join our **janitorial team**. The position is split between the school and the ECC and will

require 30-35 hours per week on average, typically afternoons and evenings. Responsibilities include routine cleaning, empty trash and maintaining cleanliness in classrooms and common areas, and reporting maintenance needs. The ECC is also hiring for a **full time float teacher** in our classrooms. We offer flexible scheduling, a variety of working environments, and a competitive hourly wage (based on past work history). Please contact [facilities@stpaulappletonwi.com](mailto:facilities@stpaulappletonwi.com) (janitorial position) or [cschulz@stpaulappletonwi.com](mailto:cschulz@stpaulappletonwi.com) (ECC) for more information.

## **FVL News**

**The FVL Fans of Foxes Committee** (work focuses on athletics) is in need of an additional 3-4 individuals that would like to be on the planning committee. If you have interest, please reach out to Tracey Ratzburg at [triestooge2401@yahoo.com](mailto:triestooge2401@yahoo.com) to discuss the position.

**FVL Christmas Break - School & SCRIP Office Hours**  
Mon., Dec. 22 – Fri., Jan. 2 – No school & all offices closed  
Mon, Jan. 5 – School and regular Office hours resume

**Nominations for FVL's Trout Educator Award** are open through 1/31. This annual award recognizes an outstanding FVL teacher and assists with their professional development. For details, go to [fvlhs.org/Trout-Award](http://fvlhs.org/Trout-Award)  
**Information for the 2026 season for Lutheran Vanguard of Wisconsin (LVW)**, a WELS high school marching band, has been posted to its website. The season will begin with a preview and rehearsal camp on January 3-4 to be held at FVL. LVW is open to all WELS members in grades 8-12. The summer schedule, eligibility, cost, registration procedures, and more can be found on the JOIN page. Go to [lutheranvanguard.org](http://lutheranvanguard.org) for the information. If you have questions, please send an email ([lutheranvanguardofwisconsin@gmail.com](mailto:lutheranvanguardofwisconsin@gmail.com)).

**All FVL alumni are invited** to join us on Friday, January 2, as our FVL Foxes take on Menasha in boys basketball. Come to cheer on our Foxes and get recognized during halftime of the varsity game! Tipoff is scheduled for 5:40 PM (JV) and 7:00 PM (Varsity). Stop by the Alumni Table for free admission and a chance to enter to win prizes.

**Join us for a free seminar on Retirement Planning**, sponsored by the

FVL Mission Advancement Office. Hear professionals share helpful information regarding smart planning for retirement. Go to [fvlhs.org/seminar](https://fvlhs.org/seminar) to find details and the RSVP link for the seminar on Tuesday, January 13, at 6:00 PM.

**Families can enroll at FVL for Semester 2** at FVL (Semester 2 begins January 5, 2026). Contact the Admissions Office at [admissions@fvlhs.org](mailto:admissions@fvlhs.org) or 920-560-5105 for details.

FVL's **Winter 2025-26 Legacy Magazine** is online at [fvlhs.org/legacy](https://fvlhs.org/legacy).

***Poinsettias & Altar Flower Donations have  
been given in loving memory of...***



- ...Victor Frahm from Beverly Frahm. (one large plant)
- ... Nate Tiedt from Joyce & family (one large plant)
- ... Adam Hopfensperger, Raymond Hopfensperger Jr., &  
Norman Labitzky, from Brian & Janet Hopfensperger
- ...Jean & Denny Volhard and Barb & Rollie Buss from the Volhard  
family
- ...Doris Schwark and Glen Schwark from Duane & Kathy Kasten
- ...Patricia Abitz from Dan Abitz
- ...Wilbert & Lorraine Abitz from Dan Abitz and Gretchen & Keith Brei
- ...Viola & Wilbert Hoh from Rueben Hoh
- ...Jim Verbeten from Ann Verbeten
- ...Bob & Ruth Verbeten and Marshall & Helen Gallman from Ann  
Verbeten
- ...Kathy Berger from Greg and family
- ...Joyce Malueg from Al and family
- ...Roger Fischer from Joanne and family
- ...Adam Giebel from Mom, Dad, Austin, Alex, Rachelle, and Remy
- ...Bob Timm from his family
- ...Wayne & Joan Steinberg from their family
- ...Jerry Schultz from his family
- ...Nicole Kornely from Laura Uhlenbrauck
- ... Clarence & Millie Sievert, Duane Schultz, Philip & Beulah Ann  
Oskey, and Al & Elaine Ebben with love from Isaiah and Belle Sievert
- ...Ken & Ruth Schroeder from their family: Rick Schroeder, Debbie  
Giles, and Bob & Ann Sanders
- ...Leo & Joyce Giebel and their daughter Clare Laabs from Carl, Sanci,  
and family



## **December 2025 Council Meeting Summary**

### **Financial Status:**

With 5 months complete in our fiscal year, we find ourselves a few thousand dollars ahead of budget predictions. This is largely due to expenses being lower than planned, as our church offerings continue a slight downward trend. Currently we are almost 10% below predictions at this point in the fiscal year for church offering income. Council will continue to monitor this closely. ECC is operating in the black, and our School is close to budget predictions.

### **Next Year's Ministry Funding Plan:**

Work has started on the next fiscal year plan. One focus area will be developing a plan to get back to Synod recommendations for housing allowances for our called workers. This hasn't been adjusted for a few years, and housing values have increased significantly.

### **Projects:**

A team is detailing out renovations to the school bathrooms, with a goal of presenting a project and funding plan at the January 27, 2026 Voters Meeting. A lot of work needs to take place in the next 7 weeks to meet this goal. The installation window is just about 8 weeks this coming summer. Regarding our past summer projects: a few more signs will be going up around the parking lot to complete that project, and the ECC project is finally wrapping-up. Look for summaries of these projects and final spending reports at that January Voters Meeting.

### **St. Paul Ministries Campus Security:**

A task force will begin meeting in January to re-evaluate our entire campus security systems and procedures and look for improvements to make the entire campus safer.

### **FVL Potential Classroom Expansion:**

Council received a report from a member who attended one of the FVL expansion informational meetings. Summarizing this in a few sentences will be difficult. Enrollment projections will cause FVL to potentially start turning away Federation member enrollment as early as the 2028-29 school year due to capacity constraints. They are looking to add 10 classrooms on the NW corner of the school. This will increase enrollment capacity to above 1100 at an estimated project cost of 9.6 million dollars. The project team is finalizing cost estimates and the finance team is developing a funding plan. Timeline is to take the project proposal to the FVL general Board meeting in May 2026, and if approved, ground-breaking would occur in Spring of 2027, with completion in time for the 2028-29 School Year. If anyone has questions or wants more details, see David Paulson, one of our FVL General Board representatives.