

Receiving and giving the love and hope of Christ

# Weekly Announcements

December 29, 2024



St. Paul's

OCONOMOWOC

splco.org

A member of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

## Worship Schedule

Saturday: 5:00 pm

Sunday: 8:00 am & 10:30 am

Special services during Advent, Lent & Summer

210 E. Pleasant St., Oconomowoc, WI 53066 | 262-567-5001 | [www.splco.org](http://www.splco.org)

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## St. Paul's Youth Group

### December Events

29 NO YOUTH GROUP

### January Events

- January 5<sup>th</sup> HS Youth Group (7-8:30pm)
- January 8<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> Girls' Warrior Classic
- January 12<sup>th</sup> MS Youth Group (5:30-7pm); HS Youth Group (7-8:30pm)
- January 15<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> Boys' Warrior Classic
- January 19<sup>th</sup> Tubing at Sunburst (MS and HS) after the 10:30am service
- January 26<sup>th</sup> MS Youth Group (5:30-7pm); HS Youth Group (7-8:30pm)

## 2025 Flower Chart

The 2025 flower chart is now posted in the church narthex (west side) for those of you who would like to sign up (please include your phone number) for flowers for the Worship Services for the coming year. The cost is \$45.00 for two bouquets. Checks should be made to St. Paul's Altar Guild. Payment should be put in a separate envelope addressed to the Altar Guild and placed in the offering plate or the Altar Guild mailbox. Flowers can be picked up after the 10:30 worship service. Thank you.

## Lord's Cupboard thanks you!

The generosity of our members is amazing! We are extremely grateful for all the donations (food, gifts, gift cards, money) to help our neighbors in need have a nice Christmas. We were able to give 30 Shorehaven residents with no family a gift card for the nurses to purchase what they need and to have something to open on Christmas Day. There were 93 children given gifts/gift cards to make their Christmas special. We served 217 meals "to go" during our distribution on Monday, 12/16. We were blessed to help over 228 households with food which is 700+ people. *Thank you so very much!* Please continue to pray for our guests who come to Lord's Cupboard and for our dedicated volunteers who share the love of Jesus and our Heavenly Father with their caring ways. God's richest blessings to you and your family this Christmas and in the New Year!



Our next Word on Wednesday starts on January 8<sup>th</sup>. The topic will be "Vo-Tech Evangelism". It is about understanding your vocational role in the work of the church's effort of bringing the Good News of the Gospel to our community. We meet at 6:30 pm in room 219. Please come join us!

## **Congregation at Prayer**

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer

The First Sunday after Christmas: *Sword Spoken by Simeon*

December 29, 2045 – January 5, 2025

### ***Sword Spoken by Simeon***

When the Lord destroyed the firstborn sons of Egypt, He spared the sons of Israel by providing a lamb in their stead. Hence, all the firstborn sons belong to Him. Every firstborn male animal was sacrificed, and every firstborn son of man was redeemed (Ex. 13:12–13). Therefore, the parents of Jesus *“brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord”* (Luke 2:22). However, He is not redeemed from priestly service but is consecrated for *“the redemption of Jerusalem”* and *“the consolation of Israel”* (Luke 2:25, 38). For God the Father did not spare His only begotten Son, but offered Him up as the true Passover Lamb, in order to redeem His people from bondage. His cross has caused many to stumble and fall, but His blood atoned for the sins of the world and delivers us from death. We now depart in the peace of Christ because we are also raised with Him. As we receive His body and blood, we join Simeon and Anna in *“giving thanks to God the Father through him,” “singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs,”* including the Nunc Dimittis, with thankfulness in our hearts (Luke 2:28–32, 38; Col. 3:15–17).

### ***Order of Meditation and Prayer***

*Pray and confess out loud as much from the order of meditation and prayer as you are able, or as your family size and ages dictate. Learn by heart the verse, catechism, and hymn of the week.*

#### ***Invocation***

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

#### ***Apostles' Creed***

***Verse:*** Colossians 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

***Christ-Centered Theme:*** The firstborn Son of God is our redemption from sin and death.

***Psalm:*** Psalm 93 and/or the appointed daily psalms for General Psalms in Psalm Schedule **LSB, p. 304**

## Catechism: Creed – Third Article

<p><i>The Third Article</i>  <b>I believe in the Holy Spirit,  the holy Christian church, the communion of saints,  the forgiveness of sins,  the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen</b></p>	Preschool +
<p><i>What does this mean?</i>  I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith.</p>	1 <sup>st</sup> Grade +
<p><i>What does this mean? (continued)</i>  In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.</p>	2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade +

### The First Sunday after Christmas: *Sword Spoken by Simeon*

Day	Bible Stories for Families with Young Children	Readings for Adults & Older Children	
<b>Sun.</b>	Peter Denies Jesus: Mark 14	Psalm 96, 132, 97	Luke 2:22-40
<b>Mon.</b>	The Passion of Christ: Matthew 27	Psalm 93, 89:1-18, 19-52	Lv. 4:1-6:30
<b>Tue.</b>	The Resurrection of Jesus: John 20	Psalm 98. 45, 96	Lv. 7:1-9:24
<b>Wed.</b>	Jesus Appears on the Emmaus Road: Luke 24	Psalm 97, 99, 8	Lv. 10:1-11:47
<b>Thur.</b>	Jesus Ascends into Heaven: John 31; Acts 1	Psalm 48, 45, 29	Lv. 12:1-15:33
<b>Fri.</b>	God Sends the Holy Spirit: Acts 2	Psalm 111, 107, 15	Lv. 16:1-17:16
<b>Sat.</b>	Sunday's Gospel Reading: Luke 2:40-52	Psalm 103, 93, 97	Ls. 18:1-19:37

### *Prayers: Collects for the Week, Daily Themes for Prayer, In Our Prayers at St. Paul's*

O God, our Maker and Redeemer, You wonderfully created us and in the incarnation of Your Son yet more wondrously restored our human nature. Grant that we may ever be alive in Him who made Himself to be like us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

## **Daily Themes for Prayer**

- Sunday:** *Pray for the joy of the resurrection among us; for the fruit of faith nourished by the Word and Sacraments.*
- Monday:** *Pray for faith to live in the promises of Holy Baptism; for one's calling and daily work; for the unemployed; for the salvation and well-being of our neighbors; for schools, colleges, and seminaries; for good government and for peace.*
- Tuesday:** *Pray for deliverance against temptation and evil; for the addicted and despairing, the tortured and oppressed; for those struggling with besetting sins.*
- Wednesday:** *Pray for marriage and family, that husbands and wives, parents and children live in ordered harmony according to the Word of God; for parents who must raise children alone; for our communities and neighborhoods.*
- Thursday:** *Pray for the Church and her pastors; for teachers, deacons, deaconesses, and other church workers; for missionaries and for all who serve the Church; for fruitful and salutary use of the blessed sacrament of Christ's body and blood.*
- Friday:** *Pray for the preaching of the holy cross of our Lord Jesus Christ and for the spread of His knowledge throughout the whole world; for the persecuted and oppressed; for the sick and dying.*
- Saturday:** *Pray for faithfulness to the end; for the renewal of those who are withering in the faith or have fallen away; for receptive hearts and minds to God's Word on the Lord's Day; for pastors and people as they prepare to administer and receive Christ's holy gifts.*

## **In Our Prayers this Week**

**Those sick or hospitalized: MEMBERS** – Jim Braatz; William Kuebler–cancer; Jason Schmittinger; Kelly Edwards; Dorothy Duchow; Carole Schmeda–colon cancer; Bruce Bojko–cancer; Ruth Polcha; Bill Anderson; John Lindemann; Gary Flanagan; Virginia Meintz; Belle Romback; Nancy Wolter; Don Meyer–cancer; Ann Duggan; Jim Duggan; Marilyn Marohn; Sally Eubanks; Dick Allen; Truman Seifert–acute myeloid leukemia; Carolyn Nagel–Aurora Summit; Don Schmitt; Karen Meyer–cancer; George Menden–prostate cancer; Diane Gartzke; Stan Kuehl; Marian Faltersack; Michael Stollenwerk; Marilyn Runyard; Richard Schultz; Vernon Schilling–cancer; Marcus Pankow–cancer; Linda Leidel; Lucille Campbell–cancer treatment

**FAMILY & FRIENDS OF MEMBERS – Those with cancer:** Lisa Kruk (Hannah Christiansen's mom); Pat Venes (Sue Beles' sister-in-law); Daniel (Bill Merten's brother); Curt Duchow (Dorothy's son)–mantle cell lymphoma; Tim–friend of Duke & Debbie Maynard; Rhonda–breast cancer; Hailey–13 year-old w/ brain tumor; JoyAnn; Dan Faltersack–COPD; Jeff–stage four colon cancer; Dick Watt; Betty Dow (Linda Uttech's cousin)–Leukemia; Jeff–non-Hodgkin's lymphoma; Jayne Roberts' husband–lymphoma; Cheech Counsell (Dona Thurow's son-in-law); Tyler; Christopher–cancer; Tanner–2 year-old with cancer; Missy (Sheila Ram's niece)–breast cancer; Dawn–lung cancer; Jim (Jackie Meyer's dad); Jim (Laura Grubba's brother-in-law); Phyllis; Mike; Elizabeth–breast cancer; Kayla–thyroid cancer; Kelly Bratz (Bob's daughter-in-law)–breast cancer; Erin (Mileager)–Rayborn–Hodgkins Lymphoma; Mary Sprague–breast cancer; Debra Thurow (Dona's daughter); Kathy Berkbigler (Pat Borgman's cousin)–breast cancer; Ron Rafalski–throat cancer; Nancy–breast cancer

**Other:** Dorothy Steinke—Alzheimer’s; Trish Lederer—vision issues; Patricia Eberhardt (Chad’s mom); Brent (Barb Allwardt’s brother)—Alzheimer’s; Katy—HG w/ pregnancy; Cindy Counsell (Dona Thurow’s daughter)—massive stroke; Paul; Bob; George; Paul; Liz Peronto (Barb Allwardt’s sister); Doug—CCL; Scott Kleist (Jim & Ann Duggan’s son)—MS; Paul Fellin

**Those serving in the military-deployed:** Joe; Sam Duggan; Justin Michener; Zach Howard; Theresa; Phil Preston; Casey, Phil, Andy & Steve Koth; Luke; Jacob; Brian; Randy; Kyle; Jake; Jeff; Matt; Brad; Ben; Mike & Rob

**Those serving God as missionaries:** Rev. Shauen & Krista Trump & family; Dennis Denow (Thailand), Bob & Chris Prouty (Australia), Pastor Reinke (Deaf Ministry), Rev. Bud Palmer; Rev. Ted Krey, Deaconess, Tirzah Krey in the Dominican Republic; all seminary students in the Dominican Republic, and all other pastors and missionaries in Latin America

**Those in need:** Our Shut-Ins; Sam—a young man struggling to make good choices; those struggling with addiction; Jennifer; Brian; David

*Lord’s Prayer and Morning or Evening Prayer from the Catechism*

*Hymn of the Week: Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord*

LSB 352

**Looking forward to the Second Sunday after Christmas**

**January 5, 2025**

**Hymns: 385, 410 (402, 384, 523) 376**

***Hiding in Plain Sight (Guest Pastor The Rev. Dr. Nathan Meador)***

As our annual Christmas celebration comes to a close with Epiphany on January 6th, we are reminded that Jesus didn’t come just for Christmas. His ultimate destination will be Jerusalem, a cross and an empty tomb. However, on Christmas 2, we meet the Word made Flesh hiding in plain sight. The 12-year-old Jesus is both a student and a teacher in the Temple. But no one had any idea, just who was asking and answering the questions. God hidden in human flesh was also hidden in the normal obedience to his mother and father. In the same way today, Jesus is "hiding" in plain sight for us in Word and Sacrament. He gathers us to sit at His feet, be amazed at His teaching, and then receive Him for the forgiveness of sins hidden in Water, Word, Bread and Wine. Then He bids us to be about OUR Father’s Business!

## WEEK AT A GLANCE

<b>MONDAY</b> December 30	NO SCHOOL/OFFICE CLOSED		
<b>TUESDAY</b> December 31	NO SCHOOL/OFFICE CLOSED		
<b>WEDNESDAY</b> January 1	NO SCHOOL/OFFICE CLOSED		
<b>THURSDAY</b> January 2	Praise Team Rehearsal	Church	6:30 pm
<b>SATURDAY</b> January 4	Women of Joy Divine Worship AA Meeting	Whelan's Church Fellowship Hall	8:00 am 5:00 pm 8:30 pm
<b>SUNDAY</b> January 5	Divine Worship Blood Pressure Screening Public School Confirmation Sunday School Life Application Bible Study Divine Worship High School Youth Group	Church Church Office Room 219 Meet in Gym Fellowship Hall Church Room 219Y/Gym	8:00 am 9:15 am 9:15 am 9:15 am 9:15 am 10:30am 7:00 pm

### BIBLE STUDIES

#### Life Application Bible Study

**Sunday: 9:15 am - Fellowship Hall**

262-567-5001

#### Women of Joy

**Saturday (1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>) - 8:00 am**

Whelan's

#### Journeyman

**Saturday (2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>) - 7:30 am**

Maxim's

#### Sunday School

**Sunday: 9:15 am – NO CLASS**

December 29, 2024

**MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

# NEXT WEEKEND

	5:00 PM	8:00 AM	10:30 AM
<b>Readings</b>	1 Kings 3:4-15	Eph 1:3-14	Lk 2:40-52
<b>Acolytes</b>	TBD	Ryan Edwards	TBD
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Jackie Smith	Barb Hentz	Stacey Balistreri
<b>Elders</b>	Pat Smith	Rick Zastrow	Erik Benes
<b>Greeters</b>	Carole Schmeda Elaine Schmeda	Dave & Bonnie Schlieue Dutch & Lynda Holland	Anne Fait
<b>Live-Stream</b>	N/A	Scheuer	N/A
<b>Radio</b>	N/A	TBD	N/A
<b>Ushering Team</b>	Dan Friedrich	Rick Zastrow	Erik Benes

JANUARY 5, 2025

THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

Guest Pastor: The Rev. Dr. Nathan Meador

Theme: *Hiding in Plain Sight*

5pm & 8am Worship

LSB, Divine Service, Setting 1, pg. 151

10:30am Worship

Special Order



## ST. PAUL'S STAFF

Rev. Lance Armstrong O'Donnell, Senior Pastor  
Allison Mackie, Director of Parish Music  
Jill George, Principal

Rev. Jason Schockman, Associate Pastor  
Christine Flores, ECC Director

Office Hours: 7:00 am – 3:30 pm (Monday-Friday)

### ***The First Sunday after Christmas***

#### **Exodus 13:1–3a, 11–15**

The Lord said to Moses, "Consecrate to me all the firstborn. Whatever is the first to open the womb among the people of Israel, both of man and of beast, is mine."

Then Moses said to the people, "Remember this day in which you came out from Egypt, out of the house of slavery, for by a strong hand the Lord brought you out from this place. . . .

"When the Lord brings you into the land of the Canaanites, as he swore to you and your fathers, and shall give it to you, you shall set apart to the Lord all that first opens the womb. All the firstborn of your animals that are males shall be the Lord's. Every firstborn of a donkey you shall redeem with a lamb, or if you will not redeem it you shall break its neck. Every firstborn of man among your sons you shall redeem. And when in time to come your son asks you, 'What does this mean?' you shall say to him, 'By a strong hand the Lord brought us out of Egypt, from the house of slavery. For when Pharaoh stubbornly refused to let us go, the Lord killed all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both the firstborn of man and the firstborn of animals. Therefore I sacrifice to the Lord all the males that first open the womb, but all the firstborn of my sons I redeem.'"

#### **Colossians 3:12–17**

Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

#### **Luke 2:22-40**

When the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, [Mary and Joseph] brought [Jesus] up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord") and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons." Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

"Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel."

And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed."

And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.

And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

December 29, 2024



St. Paul's  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

A member of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

### **Receiving and giving the love and hope of Christ**



#### **Worship Schedule**

Saturday: 5:00 pm

Sunday: 8:00 am & 10:30 am

Special services during Advent, Lent & Summer

210 E. Pleasant St., Oconomowoc, WI 53066

262-567-5001

[www.splco.org](http://www.splco.org)

# Welcome to St. Paul's Lutheran Church, School, & Early Childhood Center

- † Please fill out an attendance card and place it in the offering plate. † *As the prelude begins, worshipers are encouraged to conclude conversation and quietly prepare for worship.*

## GUEST INFORMATION

Welcome! We're delighted that you've joined us for worship.

If you have questions, or would like more information about St. Paul's, a greeter, elder, or pastor will be happy to help you.

Please fill out an attendance card, located on the pew in front of you, and place it in the offering plate.

We welcome young children to the service. Try sitting closer to the front by a side aisle. There are activity bags located behind the back pews, and a simulcast downstairs if necessary.

## HOLY COMMUNION

The Lord's Supper is not a private meal, but a body-and-soul communion with Christ and His body, the Church. In keeping with the Lord's instruction (cf. 1 Corinthians 11.17-34) and with the common historical practice of the church, St. Paul's welcomes only those who are in full confessional agreement to receive the Body and Blood of Christ. If you hold a confession differing from The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod or are not yet confirmed in our confession of faith, we welcome you to come forward for a blessing (Please indicate by folding your hands over your heart.). If you are physically unable to come forward, please let an usher know and the pastor will come to you and give you communion. Those communing should mark this on the attendance card. If you have questions, our pastors will be pleased to speak with you.

### Distribution and Communion Wine

Please place open hands out to receive the Body of Christ and also to indicate whether you are receiving the Blood of Christ from the common cup or the individual cup. The wine glasses in the center of each tray contain **one drop** of communion wine. The glasses that contain more wine are dark in color.

## LAST WEEK'S ATTENDANCE

5:00 pm – 67      **Total: 346**  
8:00 am – 156  
10:30 am – 123

Scan the QR code and give electronically. This is a safe and easy way to offer your gifts to God.



## THOSE SERVING THIS WEEKEND

	5pm	8am	10:30am
<b>Celebrant</b>	Rev. Dr. Meador	Rev. Dr. Meador	Rev. Dr. Meador
<b>Preacher</b>	Ps. Schockman	Ps. Schockman	Ps. Schockman
<b>Musicians</b>	Allison Mackie	Allison Mackie	Praise Team
<b>Acolytes</b>	TBD	TBD	TBD
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Michelle Wilson	Ingrid Kowieski	Karen Dentice
<b>Elders</b>	Jim Juneau	Arno Kirchenwitz	Jerad Luedtke
<b>Greeters</b>	Dan Maynard	Jim & Jody Arndt Rick Zastrow	Tom Miller
<b>Live Stream</b>	N/A	Edwards	N/A
<b>Radio</b>	N/A	Cheryl Tesch	N/A
<b>Ushering Team</b>	Mark Baganz	Joel Tesch	Mike Neff

### Prayer before communing:

Dear Savior, at Your gracious invitation I come to Your table to eat and drink your holy body and blood. Let me find favor in Your eyes to receive this Holy Sacrament in faith for the salvation of my soul and to the glory of Your holy name; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**Radio Broadcast:** Members of St. Paul's for blessings received

## ST. PAUL'S MEDIA

- † **Radio: LIVE Sunday at 8am on WTKM (104.9 FM)**
- † **YouTube: LIVE Sundays at 8am (stpaulsev.lutheranchurch7279 )**
- † **Web: Anytime at [www.splco.org](http://www.splco.org) or YouTube**

## DIVINE SERVICE

Lutheran Service Book  
Setting 1, pg. 151

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# Sword Spoken by Simeon

by Rev. Jason A. Schockman, Associate Pastor  
St. Paul's Lutheran Church  
Oconomowoc, Wisconsin

The First Sunday after Christmas  
29 December, A.D. 2024  
Ex 13.1-3a, 11-15; col 3.12-17; Lk 2.22-40

Why is Simeon's story a comfort to us as life grows long?

Why will Jesus be the fall of many?

What could an inoffensive Gospel give us? What can't it give us?

What need does this offensive Gospel meet?

Why is there nothing more wonderful than the forgiveness of sins?

What do we see when we see Jesus?

What truth defines us as the Holy Spirit moves us to call on God as our dear and loving Father?