

Receiving and giving the love and hope of Christ

# Weekly Announcements

December 14, 2025



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

### New Teacher for 2025-2026

On Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, the St. Paul's Lutheran Church congregation voted to call Heidi Hahn to be a teacher beginning in the 2025-2026 school year. Heidi has already accepted the call and will officially begin in her role as classroom teacher July 1, 2026. In the interim, Heidi will be serving as a classroom aide and substitute teacher two days each week for the remainder of the second quarter and half of the third quarter. We give thanks to God for providing St. Paul's with another called teacher.

### Midweek Advent worship and dinner

Our midweek Advent worship services are on Wednesdays. Worship services are held at 12:15pm and 6:30pm. Prior to the evening service, there is a hymn sing at 6:15pm. Dinner is served in the fellowship hall from 5-6:15pm for a free-will offering. This week's meal is sponsored by the Board of Operations. They will be serving soup, salad and desserts. Please come join us!



**LUTHERANS  
FOR LIFE**

### Life Thoughts in the Church Year

God sends us, like John, to be His messengers and share His Gospel with the world before He comes (Matthew 11:10). Instead of grumbling against one another (James 5:9), we have the

privilege of sharing Christ's forgiveness, comfort, and encouragement with those having feeble knees and anxious hearts (Isaiah 35:3-4), especially with those frightened women facing surprise pregnancies, women enduring the cross of barrenness, and those carrying the guilt of abortion.

### WANTED: Yarn

Trish, who helps with the Lord's Cupboard, is in need of yarn--any type of yarn. She is making lap quilts for nursing home residents. If you have any extra yarn lying around, please put it into a bag with Trish's name on it and place it on top of the small chest freezer between the fellowship hall and the kitchen. Thank you--it is very much appreciated!



**Matthew 11:10 – “This is he of whom it is written, ‘Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.’”**

John prepared the way for Jesus by preaching repentance. Then, when Jesus' ministry was complete and He was

raised from the dead, He sent out His disciples to preach “repentance for the forgiveness of sins” (Luke 24:47). We never outgrow the need for repentance — for examining our lives, turning away from our sins and turning toward Jesus in faith to receive his forgiveness and strength for a renewed life of godliness.

## YOUNG ADULTS & YOUTH GROUP INFORMATION

### St. Paul's Young Adults (SPLCO YA)

We provide opportunities at St. Paul's for young adults (18 – 30ish) to be together in community together and build one another up.

#### Upcoming SPLCO YA Events

- 12/21 | Reformation Tap Society | 4pm @ Brewfinity
- 01/06 | Monthly Study | 6:30pm @ SPLCO (Room 219)



Join Our  
Contact List!

### Lutheran Young Adults League (LYAL) Christmas Party

Young adults (ages 21–35) are invited to a Christmas celebration on Saturday, December 20<sup>th</sup>, at 5:00 PM at Luther Memorial Chapel (Gymnasium), 3833 N Maryland Ave, Shorewood, WI 53211. Join us for a semi-formal evening of fellowship, a Christmas meal, and reflection on the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Please RSVP at: [lyalchristmasparty.rsvpify.com](http://lyalchristmasparty.rsvpify.com). Questions or dietary restrictions should be emailed to [LutheranYoungAdultsLeague@gmail.com](mailto:LutheranYoungAdultsLeague@gmail.com).

### St. Paul's Youth Group

#### December

- December 14      Deliver Christmas food bags 11:45am-1pm  
                         **ALL YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY 1pm**
- December 21      **NO YOUTH GROUP**
- December 28      **NO YOUTH GROUP**

#### January

- January 4          High School Youth Group 7-8:30pm
- January 11        High School Youth Group 7-8:30pm
- January 18        High School Youth Group 7-8:30pm
- January 25        NERF CLASSIC

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **Sunday School students singing**

Our Sunday School students will be singing on Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup>, at the 10:30am Worship Service. They will be singing *Prepare the Royal Highway* (LSB 343). If you have any questions, please contact Tina Gartzke (tina.gartzke@splco.org) or Amber Butler (amber.butler@splco.org).

### **Lord's Cupboard Thanksgiving food bags**

We are very thankful for all the donations of food, money, time and energy from everyone who helped in one way or another. Because of your generosity with your time, talent and treasure, we were blessed to provide food to 240+ households this Thanksgiving! Most received a Thanksgiving meal food bag (172 bags), a turkey (50) or a gift card (some only a gift card). That is approximately 650+ people that knew St. Paul's is here to make their life a little easier and better. On our pantry distribution evening, 11/17, which was our busiest yet for a Thanksgiving pantry night, we had 98 households (part of the 240) given food and 230 to go meals (turkey, mashed potatoes and gravy, stuffing and a vegetable). LC is grateful, thankful and blessed!

### **Lord's Cupboard Christmas food bags**

Lord's Cupboard food pantry will be packing 175 Christmas food bags on Saturday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, at 9am in the Fellowship Hall. We are planning for it to take 1.5 hours. Families and friends are welcome to help setup, pack and cleanup.

The approximate cost for the Christmas food bag is \$15 plus the \$15 gift card (1-4 people in household) or \$30 gift card (for 5 or more in household) which we give them to purchase their own ham or turkey.

If you would like to contribute to Lord's Cupboard to cover the cost of these food bags, you can go online: [splco.org](http://splco.org) and scroll down on the donation page to Lord's Cupboard, or you can put a check made out to "Lord's Cupboard-St. Paul's" in an envelope marked for Lord's Cupboard and put it in the offering plate or drop it off to the church office.

Please let your family, friends and neighbors know if they need a little extra help, Lord's Cupboard is here, year round! We do not have any residency or income requirements. And we are here for our church family also!

Contact Mary with any questions at [mary@splco.org](mailto:mary@splco.org) or 414.333.3421

Thank you so much for your donations and your prayers for our neighbors in need and our hard working, faithful volunteers!

## **Congregation at Prayer**

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer

The Third Sunday in Advent: *Narcissism or Salvation?*

December 14 –21, 2025

### ***Narcissism or Salvation?***

“The world” tells us to find comfort by “looking within ourselves.” Unfortunately, what we find there often leads to despair. The true antidote for the anxious heart (Isa 35.4) can come only from outside ourselves. Eternal hope, help, and comfort comes from the LORD. (Ps 146.5) Though we wait with patience until the coming of the Lord, (Jms 5.7) God has shown us, in Christ, His eternal power. Though He seemed like the “least in the kingdom of heaven,” He was, in fact, “the greatest.” Those who have “ears to hear” (Mt 3.15) understand that what is true of Christ is also true of His beloved.

### ***Order 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**

**Christ-Centered Theme:** Jesus Christ is the true hope of every anxious heart.

**Verse:** Psalm 51:5 Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin my mother conceived me.

**Psalm:** Psalm 146 and/or the appointed daily psalms for General Psalms in Psalm Schedule  
**LSB, p. 304**

## Catechism: *The Lord's Prayer Fifth and Sixth Petition*

<i>The Lord's Prayer (Fifth Petition)</i> <b>And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those trespass against us.</b>	Preschool +
<i>What does this mean?</i> We pray in this petition that our Father in heaven would not look at our sins, or deny our prayer because of them. We are neither worthy of the things for which we pray, nor have we deserved them, but we ask that He would give them all to us by grace for we daily sin much and surely deserve nothing but punishment. So we too will sincerely forgive and gladly do good to those who sin against us.	2nd Grade +
<i>The Lord's Prayer (Sixth Petition)</i> <b>And lead us not into temptation.</b>	Preschool +
<i>What does this mean?</i> God tempts no one. We pray in this petition that God would guard and keep us so that the devil, the world, and our sinful nature may not deceive us or mislead us into false belief, despair, and other great shame and vice. Although we are attacked by these things, we pray that we may finally overcome them and win the victory.	3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade +

## The Third Sunday in Advent: *Narcissism or Salvation?*

Day	Bible Stories for Families with Young Children	Readings for Adults & Older Children	
<b>Sun.</b>	God Creates the World (Part 1): Genesis 1	Psalm 24, 25, 110	Matt 11.2-15
<b>Mon.</b>	God Creates the World (Part 2): Genesis 1-2	Psalm 122, 40, 67	Lm 2:1-3:66
<b>Tue.</b>	God Creates Adam & Eve: Genesis 2	Psalm 33, 85, 91	Lm 4:1-5:22
<b>Wed.</b>	Sin Enters the World: Genesis 3	Psalm 50, 14, 16	Ezk 1:1-2:10
<b>Thur.</b>	Cain and Abel: Genesis 4	Psalm 18:1-20, 126, 62	Ezk 3:1-5:17
<b>Fri.</b>	Noah and the Flood: Genesis 6-7	Psalm 102, 130, 16	Ezk 6:1-7:27
<b>Sat.</b>	Sunday's Gospel Reading: Matthew 1:18-25	Psalm 24, 25, 110	Ezk 8:1-9:11

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

Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father 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** – Delaney Heffern; Art Schuck; Ed Kranick—heart attack; John Wickersham; Joyce Anderson; Carol Lenz—hospice; Catherine Weidler-Loney—cancer; Tammy Frazier—cancer; Bob Bratz; Ian McMillan; Joanne Kullman; Carol Fellin—cancer care; Jim Braatz; Ruth Polcha; Virginia Meintz; Nancy Wolter; Don Meyer—cancer; Ann Duggan; Jim Duggan; Marilyn Marohn; Sally Eubanks; Dick Allen; Truman Seifert—acute myeloid leukemia; Carolyn Nagel—lung cancer; Don Schmitt; Karen Meyer—cancer; Stan Kuehl; Marian Faltersack; Michael Stollenwerk; Marilyn Runyard; Linda Leidel; Lucille Campbell—cancer treatment

**FAMILY & FRIENDS OF MEMBERS – Those with cancer:** Layla Pelnar (Lynn's granddaughter)—thyroid cancer; Gary Barborich—intestinal cancer; Bob Duchow (Dorothy's son); Lexi—undergoing double mastectomy; Sue Malone (Dan & Brenda Maynard's friend)—brain cancer; daughter of Bill & Sarah Mertens; Janice Mulvaney Krueger—lung cancer; Della—Diana Radtke's sister; Lauri; Dana—recent cancer diagnosis; Daniel (Bill Merten's brother); Curt Duchow (Dorothy's son)—mantle cell

lymphoma; Rhonda—breast cancer; JoyAnn; Dan Faltersack—COPD; Jeff—stage four colon cancer; Jeff—non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma; Missy (Sheila Ram’s niece)—breast cancer; Dawn—lung cancer; Jim (Jackie Meyer’s dad)

**Other:** Dean Wilcox (Tina Gartzke’s brother); Joe Rohde (Sue Beles’ brother)—healing; Mark—heart attack; Beth Dowhen; Todd (Sandy Raben-Roger’s cousin)—blood clots; Dorothy—Alzheimer’s; Patricia Eberhardt (Chad’s mom); Paul; Bob; George; Paul; Doug—CCL; Scott Kleist (Jim & Ann Duggan’s son)—MS; Paul Fellin—broken leg

**Those serving in the military-deployed:** Madelynn Matthews—Air Force; Trevor Thiel—Alaska (Fort JBER); 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 and 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

**Public Reception of New Members:** Aaron DeWitt  
Elizabeth Knea  
Matt & Leah Wawrzyn

**Thanksgiving:** Gary Barborich—successful cancer surgery

*Lord’s Prayer and Morning or Evening Prayer from the Catechism*  
*Hymn of the Week: Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding* LSB 345

<b>Looking forward to the Fourth Sunday in Advent</b> <b>Hymns: 357 (356, 810, 355) 900</b>	<b>December 21, 2025</b>
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***The Carpenters (Pastor O’Donnell)***

Joseph of Nazareth was a humble and faithful man whose vocation was to make and repair things to improve peoples’ lives. By the Spirit of God, he became the protector and provider for the Virgin Mary and her Spirit-conceived Son, (Isa 7.14) the “King of glory,” (Ps 24.9) the supreme gift and repairer and restorer of souls and of all creation, Jesus, the Christ. (Mt 1.18-25) He is “Immanuel”—God with us,” (Isa 7.14) and we “. . . are called to belong to Jesus Christ,” (Rm 1.6) the One who is risen from the dead (Rm 1.4) called to participate in His ministry of repairing and restoring weary souls and our broken world.



# Mission Education Experience **DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**

June 20<sup>th</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup>, 2026

*This is an opportunity to be shaped by the Gospel as you learn of the good work God is doing through His Word in the DR, and consider how that same Gospel work may impact our life together here at home.*

- Learning the theological approach to mission in the DR
- A chance to live and eat in close proximity to the mission team
- Working (in the AC!) to make the seminary library more functional for the students

Young Adults (18 - 30ish)

Slots: 8 maximum (4 minimum)

Cost: ~ \$1525\* (\$125 per day, \$650 airfare)

Requirements: U.S. Passport, willingness to learn, and a desire to serve

Sign up deadline is December 30, 2025

Contact Sam Ewert at [young.adults@splco.org](mailto:young.adults@splco.org) with your interest or questions.

\* There is some financial support available to defray costs, please talk to Pastor Schockman if dollars are the ONLY reason you're not going.



# REFORMATION TAP SOCIETY

Theology and conversation  
with a bit of hops.

Reformation Tap Society talks are casual and thoughtful adult conversations about important things. *Under the theme, "Lead Me to Christ, the Rock," the 2025-2026 Reformation Tap Society season explores the various ways in which Christ is the foundation of a holy and purposeful life.* Though we welcome adults of any age, topics and language are aimed at those 18-35. Our speakers understand that RTS is a public event, so the conversation won't be raw, but our speakers are encouraged to practice candor geared towards younger adults. Parents of children under high school age should collaborate on a babysitter, then come and enjoy the beverages, food, and conversation. RTS is an opportunity to hear perspectives not regularly heard in popular culture. All are welcome.

RTS is held on the 3rd Sundays, September through May. We gather at 5pm, have a "beer talk" from the brewmaster at about 5:25, and at about 5:30 our speaker takes the mic. The speaker will present on a topic of interest, then take questions until 6:15 or so. (BTW, you're welcome even if you're not a beer fan. Other beverages are available.)

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**December 21, 2025**

*Keep Christ in Christianity*

Presenter: Aaron Moldenhauer

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**5-7p.m.**

**BrewFinity Brewery**

N58W38900 Industrial Rd. Suite D

Oconomowoc, WI 53066

[www.brewfinitybrewing.com](http://www.brewfinitybrewing.com)

**First time guests  
get a free  
beer or soda on us!**

## WEEK AT A GLANCE

<b>MONDAY</b> <b>December 15</b>	Lord's Cupboard Drive-Thru & Meal	Parking Lot	5:30 pm
<b>TUESDAY</b> <b>December 16</b>	SPLS Children's Christmas Service SPLS Children's Christmas Service	Church Church	9:00 am 5:30 pm
<b>WEDNESDAY</b> <b>December 17</b>	Midweek Advent Worship Advent Supper Advent Hymn Sing Midweek Advent Worship	Church Fellowship Hall Church Church	12:15 pm 5:00 pm 6:15 pm 6:30 pm
<b>THURSDAY</b> <b>December 18</b>	Church Choir Rehearsal Praise Team Rehearsal	Balcony Church	6:30 pm 7:30 pm
<b>SATURDAY</b> <b>December 20</b>	Women of Joy Divine Worship	Whelan's Church	8:00 am 5:00 pm
<b>SUNDAY</b> <b>December 21</b>	Divine Worship Life Application Bible Study Public School Confirmation Sunday School Divine Worship Reformation Tap Society	Church Fellowship Hall Meet in F.H. Meet in F.H. Church Brewfinity	8:00 am 9:15 am 9:15 am 9:15 am 10:30 am 5:00 pm

## BIBLE STUDIES

### Life Application Bible Study

**Sunday: 9:15 am – Fellowship Hall**  
262-567-5001

### Sunday School

**Sunday: 9:15 am – Fellowship Hall**  
December 14, 2025

### **The King's Table**

**Bible Truth:** God gives all good gifts.  
2 Samuel 4:4; 9:1-13

### Women of Joy

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

### Journeyman

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

## NEXT WEEKEND

	5:00 PM	8:00 AM	10:30 AM
<b>Readings</b>	Is 7.10-17	Ps 24	Rom 1.1-7
<b>Acolytes</b>	TBD	TBD	TBD
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Jackie Meyer	Amber Butler	Stacey Balistreri
<b>Elders</b>	Chuck Laabs	Arno Kirchenwitz	Ryan Schneider
<b>Greeters</b>	Mark & Sue Baganz	Duane & Sharon Peterson Bruce & Mary Bojko	Tom Miller
<b>Live-Stream</b>	N/A	Hertneky	N/A
<b>Radio</b>	N/A	Chuck Muecke	N/A
<b>Ushering Team</b>	Gary Flanagan	Dan Friedrich	Erik Benes

**DECEMBER 21, 2025**

**THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT**

**Pastor:** Lance Armstrong O'Donnell

**Title:** *The Carpenters*

**5pm & 8am Worship**

LSB, Divine Service, Setting 3, pg. 184

**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 Third Sunday in Advent

### Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 35:1–10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus; it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who have an anxious heart, "Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you." Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy. For waters break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. And a highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Way of Holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it. It shall belong to those who walk on the way; even if they are fools, they shall not go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

### Epistle: James 5:7–11

Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door.

As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

### Holy Gospel: Matthew 11:2–15

When John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?" And Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. And blessed is the one who is not offended by me."

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is he of whom it is written,

"Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you."

Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force. For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John, and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. He who has ears to hear, let him hear."



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)

December 14, 2025

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 – 110      **Total: 368**  
8:00 am – 140  
10:30 am – 118

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
Celebrant	Ps. Schockman	Ps. Schockman	Ps. Schockman
Preacher	Ps. O’Donnell	Ps. O’Donnell	Ps. O’Donnell
Musicians	Allison Mackie	Allison Mackie	Praise Team
Acolytes	TBD	Caleb Meyer	TBD
Altar Guild	Traci Anderson	Barb Hentz	Wendy Tesch
Elders	Arno Kirchenwitz	Dan Eifert	Jerad Luedtke
Greeters	Larry & Bonnie Vasatko	Chris & Pam Kroupa Dona Thurow Judy Mueller	Anne Fait
Live Stream	N/A	O’Donnell	N/A
Radio	N/A	Chuck Laabs	N/A
Ushering Team	Rick Zastrow	Dave Meyer	Jerad Luedtke

**Radio Broadcast:** Sponsored by Vicky Tuder in praise to God for her grandson’s, Nat’s, 21<sup>st</sup> birthday

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 3, pg. 184

Greeting	
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+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +	
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+ 8am: Elizabeth Knea	
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## Reading: Psalm 146



Praise | the LORD!\*

Praise the LORD, | O my soul!

**I will praise the LORD as long | as I live;\***

**I will sing praises to my God while I have my | being.**

Put not your trust in | princes,\*

in a son of man, in whom there is no sal- | vation.

**When his breath departs he returns | to the earth;\***

**on that very day his plans | perish.**

Blessèd is he whose help is the God of | Jacob,\*

whose hope is in the | LORD his God,

**who made heaven and earth,**

**the sea, and all that is | in them,\***

**who keeps faith for- | ever;**

who executes justice for | the oppressed,\*

who gives food to the | hungry.

**The LORD sets the prisoners free;**

**the LORD opens the eyes | of the blind.\***

**The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;**

**the LORD loves the | righteous.**

The LORD watches over the sojourners;

he upholds the widow and the | fatherless,\*

but the way of the wicked he brings to | ruin.

**The LORD will reign for- | ever,\***

**your God, O Zion, to all generations. | Praise**

**the LORD!**

**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son\***

**and to the Holy | Spirit;**

**as it was in the be- | ginning,\***

**is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**



# Sermon Outline: *Narcissism or Salvation?*

by Rev. Lance Armstrong O'Donnell, Senior Pastor  
St. Paul's Lutheran Church  
Oconomowoc, Wisconsin

The 3rd Sunday in Advent  
14 December, A.D. 2025  
Isa 35.1-10; Ps 146; Jms 5.7-11; Mt 11.2-15

## Introduction

Christ has a \_\_\_\_\_ way for you, a way to prosper you and give you a future, a way that is full of \_\_\_\_\_ and hope and love, a way that \_\_\_\_\_ apathy and anarchy and narcissistic anxiety.

In 1993, 83 percent of 12th grade girls said they wanted to get married someday; this dropped to 61 percent 30 years later. The boys barely budged, maintaining nearly identical views [at over 70%] over the same three decades. (Daniel Cox, "Much Ado About Marriage." 11/27/2025. [www.americansurveycenter.org](http://www.americansurveycenter.org).)

We asked [young adult] participants to tell us what their ideal life looks like right now. Few of these young singles mentioned that marriage and family were important. We then asked them to tell us what their ideal life would be 30 years from now. Incredibly, many said that being surrounded by loving family members and grandkids was how they saw themselves living their best lives in the future. The findings suggest that young adults are aware of the personal benefits of family later in life but fail to understand how this future result requires present-day investments.

What does our culture tell us we must do? What, actually, is such an idea?



## **The Christ Contrast**

How was John the Baptists' and Jesus' time analogous to ours?

How did the preaching of John the Baptist contrast with our cultural norms? (Mt 11.7-10)

How did Jesus' preaching and life contrast with our cultural norms? (See Isa 35.1-10; Mt 11.2-6)

What did the preaching and ministry of Jesus tell us about who He is?

How would our culture have told Jesus to live?

What did Jesus do for us?

How did Jesus show us makes a truly virtuous life?

## **Conclusion**

If we're anxious about the world, to what does the Way of Jesus point us?

CCT: "Jesus Christ is the true \_\_\_\_\_ of every anxious heart" because in Him is life, and that life is the light of men. . . (See John 1.4-5)



# *Christmas Eve & Day*

## **Worship Services**

### **Christmas Eve**

3pm: Songs of Christmas Service

5pm: Christmas Eve Candlelight

8pm: Christmas Midnight (obs.)

### **Christmas Day**

10am: The Nativity of Our Lord