



Purpose Statement

Living Christ centered lives so we may love all, serve our community, and share the Word.

News for Sunday, November 16 Gratitude Sunday

**Join us for Worship at 9:00 a.m.
Christmas Program practice at St. Paul at 10:30 a.m.**

Click [HERE](#) for the 9:00 a.m. Worship bulletin

Click [HERE](#) to watch the Livestream

We Remember in Prayer; those on our Home Visitation list and those on our prayer list: John Renner, the Woodworth family. Michelle Klinger, Pastor Bree, Matt Friel, Sandy Julifs, Mike, Lori Dewey, Dylan Wescott, Phyllis Jacobson, and Betty Steinke

During this time of transition if you have an emergency, please call Sue in the church office or one of the council members who will contact the pastor that is covering during that time.

Gratitude Sunday is November 16, 2025. This will be a time for all of us to pledge our time, talents and treasures for 2025. It takes commitment from everyone to keep St. Paul running smoothly. There are planned giving cards as well as Time & Talent forms on the back table in the sanctuary. If you can't be here November 16th please return your planned giving cards, time and talent sheets to the office. Thank you! Please prayerfully consider how you can help support life-giving ministries at St. Paul with your pledges and volunteering your time and talents. Thank YOU!

RETIREMENT CELEBRATION: St. John's will celebrate Pastor Leo Patterson's 20-year ministry with them on Sunday, November 16th. We will enjoy a meal together following worship. Everyone is welcome! Pastor Leo will have friends and family attending the service on that day as well as the luncheon following.

Help Needed

We are also for a volunteer(s) to power wash the white fence behind the church. It really could use a good cleaning. Talk to Nancy about helping.

Thank you in advance for helping out on this task.

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Students and families: Thank you for being a part of our combined Christmas program this year! St John's and St. Paul have paired up so we can have an even bigger group of students for our 2025 program. Our practices will take place at both churches, alternating locations. We will perform the Christmas Program twice. First at St. John's on December 14th, then at St. Paul on December 21st. The practices have begun.

Advent Wreath Lighting

Would your family like to light the Advent wreath and share the reading and litany in worship this Advent? Families are needed to assist with Advent Wreath Lighting and Litany on November 30, December 14 and December 21 during worship. In addition, families are needed for the Christmas Eve worship service. Please let Sue know if any dates work for your family. Thank you in advance!

LSSI Holiday Hope Chest

Once again, we are participating in the LSSI'S Holiday Hope Chest. LSSI anticipates serving close to 500 clients this year. Because the need is great, we are increasing the number of gifts to purchase for clients. We have spoken for 10 children, 5 teens and 5 adults. Lists are available to choose from in the west entryway. Other options will be provided also. Gifts will need to be returned to the [church](#) (unwrapped) by Thursday, December 4th.

If you have any questions or concerns, please call me at: 815-718-5223. Thank you. ~ Carolyn Duncan

Birthday Open House

You are invited to Open House celebrating Lucille Beyer's 95th Birthday. It will be Sunday, November 23 from 1:00-3:00 p.m. at the Sterling Township Building. (505 West Lynn Blvd).

Installation Service

You are invited to the service when Pastor Katie Ricks will be installed at First Presbyterian Church in Sterling, on Sunday, November 23 at 2:00 p.m. A reception will follow. All are welcome.

A Stable Lamp is Lighted

Look for these Advent materials: Advent Study Guide; Advent interactive Calendar; and Stocking the Streets shopping list. They will be available to take home beginning November 23.

All of us at ELCA World Hunger bring you warm Advent greetings!

This season’s Advent calendar and study guide from ELCA World Hunger invite you to prepare room in your home and hearth for yourself and your loved ones before going into the world to act on behalf of your neighbors. In a time of global suffering and anxiety, Richard Wilbur’s hymn “A Stable Lamp Is Lighted” calls us to embrace the tension of the moment, the natural desire for a place of our own, and our call to care for the stranger:

**A stable lamp is lighted
whose glow shall wake the sky;
the stars shall bend their voices,
and every stone shall cry.**

The simple act of making a hospitable, warm, cozy place — even in a stable — moves the sky, the stars and the stones to tremble. ELCA World Hunger’s seasonal packet has resources for creating a place of care, rest and reflection for you and your family so that you feel prepared to strengthen your community.

Children’s Offering

The November and December children’s offering will be for the God’s Global Barnyard through the ELCA Good Gifts. A gift to God’s Global Barnyard will be used where needed most to support livestock, agriculture and other sustainable-development projects, which help farmers and families with the resources they need to thrive.

THIS WEEK

Monday, November 17

BBT at Mom’s Diner in Dixon – 11:30 a.m.

Tuesday, November 18

Pastor Mark will be in the office – 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Wednesday, November 19

LWR Quilting – 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Next Sunday, November 23

Confirmation Sunday

Worship/Communion service at 9:00 a.m.

Confirmation reception at 10:00 a.m.

Christmas program practice at St. John’s – 10:30 a.m.

Next week – November 23

Opener/Head Usher– Mary Ordean

Closer – Chad Arians

Acolytes – Ordean family

Greeters – Keith Peugh, Dan Dir

Ushers – Gary Fields, Janie Billings

Reader – Keith Peugh

Sound – Bradyn Arians

Communion Assistant – Chad Arians

Altar Guild – Janie Billings, Susan Kuehl

Confirmation Reception