



### **Purpose Statement**

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

### **News for Sunday, December 7 First & Second Sunday of Advent**

**Join us for Worship at 9:00 a.m.  
Coffee Fellowship be served.**

#### **NAME TAG SUNDAYS!**

Today is Name Tag Sunday! This will help us all! The ushers will remind us to make our own nametags as we enter the sanctuary. The nametags and markers on the table by the sound booth.

### **Christmas Program practice at 10:30 a.m. at St. Paul**

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

Click [HERE](#) to watch the Livestream

**We Remember in Prayer;** those hospitalized this week: Lori Dewey; those on our Home Visitation list and those on our prayer list: Maggie N., John Renner, the Woodworth family. Michelle Klinger, Pastor Bree, Matt Friel, Sandy Julifs, Mike, 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.

#### **Christmas Tree help needed!**

We need **YOUR** help following worship to get the Christmas tree and decorate. We need a couple of guys to get the tree out of storage and put together. Many hands make light work. Thank you in advance!

#### **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 December 14 during worship. In addition, a family is needed for the 8:00 p.m. Christmas Eve worship service. Please let Sue know if any dates work for your family. Thank you in advance!

#### **Dear St. Paul Members & Friends,**

We are excited to share some great news - Pastor Mark Luepke has agreed to continue serving as our part-time interim minister after the New Year. We have been blessed with his passionate preaching, and are thankful that he will continue sharing the Good News with us at St. Paul. He will be available to encourage staff and meet with parishioners. Thanks be to God!

Blessings,  
St. Paul Council

#### **Please join us for BBT in December!**

Breaking Bread Together or BBT is a time of sharing life, God's love and a meal together! These are no host gatherings for all interested parties. BBT is meeting twice this month: Monday, December 8 at 11:30 a.m. at **Froggy's in Rock Falls**. This is a change due to The LUXX not being open on Mondays.

#### **Benefit Dinner**

**Join us for a Benefit Dinner to support Kathryn Rowzee on Saturday, December 13, 4:30-7 p.m.** (or until we run out of food) **at Immanuel Lutheran Church** (501 8<sup>th</sup> Ave., Rock Falls). The menu offers two different meal options: *A. Smoked Pork, Scalloped Potatoes, Salad & Dessert, B. Spaghetti, Salad, Bread & Dessert.* Both meal options come with a beverage choice of coffee, lemonade or water. *Carry-outs will be available.* **A free will offering will be received to support the medical expenses of Kathryn Rowzee.** Kathryn, who studies at the University of Dubuque, is in the midst of high grade cancer treatment and partial loss of her leg. We invite you to keep Kathryn and all involved in her care in your prayers. **Please mark your calendars and come enjoy food, fellowship and support for Kathryn Rowzee on December 13!** *Special thanks to Thrivent for the Thrivent Action Team Grants towards supplies so that donations toward Kathryn's care can be maximized!*

#### **St. John's and St. Paul CAROLING**

Please join Maureen and Dawn for caroling again this year! There is no better way to gather and share the Christmas spirit! Sunday, December 14, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. We will start and finish in St. Paul's west parking lot (carpooling as you wish). To try to keep us to two hours, we will carol to shut-ins. Please talk to Dawn by Tuesday, 12/9 if you want to talk about our stops. Dress warmly, wear your boots, (and bring a hot drink if you wish).

**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 14<sup>th</sup>, then at St. Paul on December 21<sup>st</sup>. The practices have begun.

**Christmas Cookies needed**

A sign-up sheet is posted by the Coffee Fellowship to bring cookies to share following the Christmas program on December 21. Thank you in advance for signing up.

**A Stable Lamp is Lighted**

This Advent Study Guide and related materials are available on the table at the back of the sanctuary by the Head Usher table. The large colored sheet is a guide for each day's reading/activity/song. The two large white sheets can be colored, and the characters can be cut out and then added to the stable each day. A finished sample is there to look at. There is a bulletin insert with a Stocking the Streets shopping list. You are welcome to participate in this at your choosing.

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

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.

**Gratitude Sunday**

Sunday, November 16, was Gratitude Sunday. If you did not have a chance to turn in your 2026 Planned giving card and Time & Talent Sheet, you may do so by putting it in the offering plate or turn it into the church office. There are planned giving cards and T&T sheets on the back table in the sanctuary. Thank you! Please prayerfully consider how you can help support life-giving ministries at St. Paul with your planned giving and volunteering your time and talents. Thank YOU!

**It's that time of year**

**Church Council meets monthly, serving the church through leadership.** People of God, the nominating committee will soon be seeking nominees for council. You have two options: Option #1 – Prayerfully consider serving on Church Council in 2026; Option #2 – Pray that God will raise up leaders in our congregation willing to serve on Church Council. NOW is the time to be choosing and enacting option 1 or option 2. **Thank you for your diligence in this!**

**Musicians!** Please share your gifts with us Christmas our Christmas Eve. service! The Christmas Eve. candle light service is at 8:00 pm. Please contact Dawn Zeigler.

**Contributions for 2025** must be turned in to the church office by the morning of December 29<sup>th</sup>, to be counted for 2025. Thank you!

**Offering envelopes for 2026 will be** available for pick-up **December 14**. Please dispose of 2025 envelopes at the end of the year as your number for 2026 may be different. If you cannot find your envelopes or you would like some, please contact the church office.

*Money is being collected for a Christmas Love Gift for Pastor Mark. If you would like to donate, please do so by bringing or mailing your cash or check made out to St. Paul to the church office designating "for Pastor's gift" by Sunday, December 21.*

**Children's Offering**

The 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   |  |
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| <b>Monday, December 8</b><br>BBT at Froggy's in Rock Falls – 11:30 a.m.   | Coffee Fellowship at 10:00 a.m.<br>Caroling -meet in St. Paul's parking lot – 1:00-3:00 p.m.   |
| <b>Tuesday, December 9</b><br>Pastor Mark will be in the office – 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  | <b>Next week – December 14</b><br>Opener/Head Usher/Closer – Dan Bartel<br>Acolytes – Bartel family<br>Advent Reader – <i>Volunteer Needed</i><br>Greeters – Bartel family<br>Ushers – John Renner, Diane Yoeckel<br>Reader – Carolyn Duncan<br>Sound – Bradyn Arians<br>Communion Assistant – Chad Arians<br>Altar Guild – Debbie O'Brien, Diane Yoeckel<br>Coffee Fellowship – <i>Volunteer needed</i> |
| <b>Wednesday, December 10</b><br><b>Office closed all day</b>   |  |
| <b>Thursday, December 11</b><br><b>Office closed all day</b><br>Congregation Council meeting – 5:30 p.m.  |  |
| <b>Saturday, December 13</b><br>Benefit Fundraiser at Immanuel – 4:30-7:00 p.m.   |  |
| <b>Next Sunday, December 14</b><br><b>Third Sunday of Advent</b><br>Worship/Communion service at 9:00 a.m.<br>Christmas program at St. John's – 9:30 a.m. |  |