

++++THE GUIDE +++
ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH-STRASBURG ILLINOIS

December 25, 2022

Christmas Day

Pastor	Kene Whybrew	Secretary	Sue Bowers
Pastor's Cell	815-383-1148	Secretary HRS	M-W 4-7PM TH 12-4PM
Pastor's Home		Church Office	217-644-2661
Pastor's E-mail	chebrev@yahoo.com	E-mail	stpaul1cms@consolidated.net
Pastor's Address	512 S Walnut St Strasburg	Address	511 S Walnut St Strasburg
Sunday School Supt	Karen Kull	Website	stpaul-strasburg.com
Altar Flowers	Kenna Wirth	YouTube	St. Paul's Lutheran Church Strasburg Illinois
Organist	Muriel Merriman		
Choir Director	Karen Rentfro	Pause for Peace	217-644-3124
Accompanist	Sheryl Vonderheide	Prayer Chain	217-821-3038
Greeter	Dean Schultz		

THIS WEEK WITH THE LORD

SUN.	8:30 AM	Communion Service-choir sings
TUE.	9:00 AM	Morning Bible Study
WED.	8:00 AM	Guide/Bulletin
	8:30 AM	Chair Yoga
	2:30 PM	Social Hall communion
SUN.	8:30 AM	Worship Service

December 18 8:30: 165 Year Ago: 146 Sunday School: 54

Welcome Merry Christmas! Welcome to the manger, which cradles the very Word made flesh. If you are a visitor, we invite you to worship with us again and to please sign our guestbook.

Evangelism Project 2022 Christmas is just a week away here and all over the world. In planning your Christmas gifts to God consider giving a financial gift to St. Paul's Evangelism Project. For the month of December these will be designated for use by Rev. Gordon Alex in Kenya, Africa and Hayden Rensner in the Czech Republic. Both ministries need financial assistance and our prayers. The end goal is for more people to hear of God's salvation and be saved. How blessed we are to be a part of those two ministries.

Birthday Celebration Rosemary Schlechte is going to be 90 years young on January, 10, 2023. The congregation is invited to celebrate this landmark birthday with her on January 8th at an open house in the church social hall from 1:00-2:30 p.m. In lieu of gifts, cards may be sent to 904 West Evergreen, Apt. #8, Effingham, IL 62401

Thank you I would like to extend a sincere thanks to all my St. Paul's church family for their wonderful prayers, get well cards, food and phone calls since my October hip replacement surgery. I am so thankful for the blessing of having no pain and being able to walk well again. Thanks to Pastor Whybrew for his visit and concerns and may all of you have a blessed and healthy 2023! Thank you, Kay Dust

Thank you We would like to thank all of our friends and family for the many prayers, cards and well wishes we have received over the past 6 weeks. We would appreciate continued prayers as I continue my treatment in Effingham in the coming months. Thank you and God's blessings, Kendall and Justin Fulk

LYF Caroling The LYF would like to thank the church members that joined us in Christmas Caroling! It was a great afternoon visiting our friends and family.

Choir Now is a great time to try something new! If you like to sing, the Choir needs you! Just come to any rehearsal and we will get you started!

FOR THE LORD'S WORK

<u>CURRENT OFFERINGS</u>	<u>\$ TO MEET YEARLY BUDGET</u>	<u>\$ RECEIVED</u>	<u>\$ DIFFERENCE</u>
December 11	\$ 3,782.00	\$2,298.00	\$-1,484.00
year-to-date	\$ 189,100.00	\$191,117.00	\$ 2,017.00
<u>Synod-Offerings</u>			
December 11	\$ 385.00	\$ 260.00	\$ -125.00
year-to-date	\$ 19,250.00	\$25,707.00	\$ 6,457.00
<u>TRINITY GOAL-\$10,000</u>		Total to Date	\$9,880.00
Building \$200 Evang. Project \$290 Trinity \$305 Food Co-OP \$100			
Bell Tower \$250 Cemetery \$10 K Hagen Mem \$75 L Lenz Mem \$115			
E Stremming Mem. \$25 Sem. Student \$100			

December 18 \$215.00 Memorials

December 18 \$3,636.00

December 14 \$215.00 Advent

- 1/3 9:00 AM Morning Bible Study
- 1/4 8:30 AM Chair Yoga
- 6:30-7:30 PM WDS
- 7:30 PM LYF @ Trinity
- 1/5 1:30 PM Ladies Aid @ Grace-Hostess Yvonne Pfeiffer & Karen Kull

Mites Sunday Mites Sunday will be January 1st.

2023 Offering Envelopes The 2023 offering envelopes are ready to be picked up in the narthex. Please **DO NOT** begin using the envelopes until **January 1, 2023.**

Adopted Seminary Student 2022-23 St. Paul's has received information from Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Indiana about the student we are sponsoring through the Student Adoption Program. Our student is Joshua Gerken. He is a first-year student at the seminary and is married to Rachel. His hometown is New Haven, IN. His birthday was December 6. Please show support to Joshua with prayers, monetary gifts to the Seminary Student fund, and cards and notes of support. Joshua's address is: 6600 North Clinton St., Box 224, Fort Wayne, IN 46825

NO Class There will be no Sunday School classes on December 25th and January 1st.

2023 Elected Officers The elected officers for 2023 are as follows:

President- Gerry Schlechte, Vice-Pres.- Jim Weiss, Secretary- Lisa Rincker, Treasurer- Bob Schlechte, Elder- Mike Rincker, Trustee- Tim Lenz, S.S.Supt.- Karen Kull, Assistant Education- Troy Uphoff, Head Usher- Dalton Storm, Stewardship- Kay Dust, Dir. Of Technology- Mike Pfeiffer. We thank all who volunteered to participate in the election. We also thank those who have served as officers during past years.

Officer Installation The installation of new officers for 2023 will be Sunday, January 1.

LYF Soup Luncheon The Joint LYF of Grace, St. Paul's, and Trinity will be hosting a Soup Luncheon on Sunday, January 8 at Trinity Lutheran Church. The youth will begin serving homemade chili and chicken noodle soup, hot dogs, potato chips and desserts from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. Dine-in and To-go available! Proceeds from your freewill donations will go toward local youth group activities and trips. We appreciate your support and hope to see you after church on the 8th!

Higher Things Conference - July 2023

An informational meeting will be held for LYF members and parents about the Higher Things conferences being held this summer. If you are interested in attending and learning more, please join us at 6:00pm on Sunday, January 8th at Trinity.



ANNIVERSARIES

29-Gary* & Mary Brehmer
30-Jesse* & Rachel Wallin

BIRTHDAYS

25-Chris Tabbert
26-Kingston* Rincker
27-Don Doehring; Breck Beltz
28-Noah Vonderheide
29-Mariah Williams; Stephanie Tracy

HOUSEHOLDS OF THE WEEK

Rick & Susie Allen, Chris & Jennifer
Ashmore, Dee Dee Batson, Courtney Beals,
Tim & Susie Beals,

Recorded Services

Website: stpaul-strasburg.com

YouTube: St. Paul's Lutheran Church
Strasburg Illinois

Facebook: St. Paul's Lutheran Church

PRAYER

Diane Paraiso	Melba Storm
Anna Schlechte	Nick Hanfland
Frances York	Carolyn Stremming
Mary Rincker	Norma Huddleston
Wayne Wirth	Floyd Storm
Dave Polk	Dianna Gibson
Joe Oakley	Robert Pfeiffer
Kendall Fulk	

LIMITED MOBILITY

Rose Schlechte- Villas of Hollybrook
Robert Stremming-Heartland Senior
Living
Noma Huddleston - Lakeland
Healthcare Center
Imogene Lading – Villas of Holly Brook
Bill Orr
Rosemary Sporleder-Brookstone
Mattoon
Mildred Rincker – Heartland, Neoga
Doris Stremming – Lutheran Care
Center
Melba Storm- Heartland Senior Living

FRIENDS & FAMILY **(non-members)**

Gayle Klitzing(panc cancer Gary &
Roger Kull Cousin)
Randy Doty
Pat Williams (bypass surgery)
Lori Cannon (Chris Kramer cousin-
cancer)
Laikyn Bauer (Digeorge syndrome)
Matt Durbin
Ivan Crutcher (cancer, Karen Rentfro's
uncle)
Caralea (Moffett) Smith (cancer,
undergoing treatments)

Adopted Seminary Students 2022-23

Joshua Gerken
6600 North Clinton Street
Box 224
Fort Wayne, IN 46825

Micah Brown
Campus Post Office Box
801 Seminary Pl.
Saint Louis, MO 63105-3196

Joy to the World

- 1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.
- 2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let men their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
- 3 No more let sins and sorrows grow Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found, Far as, far as the curse is found.
- 4 He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love, And wonders, wonders of His love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748 Text: Public domain

Invocation

- P In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

Lighting of the Wreath

Psalm 100

- P On this holy day, we light the Christ Candle as we rejoice in the birth of our Savior Jesus, the Word made flesh, the Child of Bethlehem. The Christ Candle is a symbol of His presence among us. In the words of the psalmist, we, the people of His pasture, celebrate the birth of our Good Shepherd.
Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth!
- C **Serve the LORD with gladness!**
- P Come into His presence with singing!
- C **Know that the LORD, He is God!**
- P It is He who made us, and we are His;
- C **we are His people, and the sheep of His pasture.**
- P Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and His courts with praise!
- C **Give thanks to Him; bless His name!**
- P For the LORD is good; His steadfast love endures forever,
C **and His faithfulness to all generations.**

The candles are lit.

Opening Sentences

John 1:1, 4–5, 9; Isaiah 9:6; 52:10

P In the beginning was the Word,

C **and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.**

P In Him was life,

C **and the life was the light of men.**

P The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

C **The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.**

P For to us a child is born, to us a son is given;

C **and the government shall be upon His shoulder,**

P and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,

C **Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

P The LORD has bared His holy arm before the eyes of all the nations,

C **and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.**

Confession and Absolution

John 1:4–5; Isaiah 52:10

P Jesus, Word made flesh, You came to dwell among us, but the darkness of our sin separates and we often fail to bask in the light of Your presence.

C **We are sinful and unclean; we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment.**

P John writes in our Gospel lesson, "In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." Heavenly Father, too frequently we live in the darkness of unbelief.

C **Forgive us, Lord, for those sins we know, and those sins we do not know.**

P For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.

C **Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to be born into this world and in our flesh for us, to live a perfect life we can never attain, and to give His life as a perfect sacrifice for you. For His sake, He forgives you all your sins. Christ was born to live for us, to die for us, that we by faith will rise with Him in victory. He was born as our Savior to forgive. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray.

Most merciful God, You gave Your eternal Word to become incarnate of the pure Virgin. Grant Your people grace to put away fleshly lusts, that they may be ready for Your visitation; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 62:10–12

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle

Titus 3:4–7

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Choir Sings - "Gentle Mary Laid Her Child" (Dommer)

Verse

Luke 2:14

Alleluia. Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased! Alleluia.

Holy Gospel

Luke 2:1–20

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

The Gospel is Read

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

379 O Come, All Ye Faithful

LSB 379

1 O come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant! O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold Him Born the king of angels: Refrain

ref O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

- 2 Highest, most holy, Light of Light eternal, Born of a virgin, a mortal He comes;
Son of the Father Now in flesh appearing! Refrain
- 3 Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation, Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God In the highest: Refrain
- 4 Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this happy morning; Jesus, to Thee be glory giv'n!
Word of the Father Now in flesh appearing! Refrain

Text: tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–80, alt.; John F. Wade, c. 1711–1786 Text: Public domain

Sermon "Glory to God" Luke 2:1-20

Nicene Creed

- C I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.**
And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.
And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayer of the Church

- P** Let us pray in song and in words spoken for the Church of God and for all people according to their needs.

361 O Little Town of Bethlehem

LSB 361

- 4 O holy Child of Bethlehem, Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in, Be born in us today.

We hear the Christmas angels The great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Immanuel!

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835–93 Text: Public domain

P Father, on this day we recall how great is Your love for us, sending Your Son into our world as an infant, to be our Savior and to forgive our sins.

C **Thank You, Lord, for this Christmas gift.**

364 Away in a Manger

LSB 364

3 Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay Close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care, And take us to heaven to live with Thee there.

Text: Vineyard Songs, 1892, Louisville, alt. Text: Public domain

P Jesus, on this day we recall how great is Your love for us; You came from heaven to live on earth as one of us, and one with us, to forgive our sin.

C **Thank You, Lord, for this Christmas gift.**

358 From Heaven Above to Earth I Come

LSB 358

13 Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child, Prepare a bed, soft, undefiled,
A quiet chamber set apart For You to dwell within my heart.

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt. Text: Public domain

Prayer of the Church

P Holy Spirit, on this day we recall how great is Your love for us, gathering us together through the water of Baptism and nourishing our faith through the Word and the body and blood of Jesus for the forgiveness of our sin.

C **Thank You, Lord, for this Christmas gift given, received, and kept unto life eternal.**

P Gracious Lord, You have bared Your holy arm before the eyes of all the nations, that the ends of the earth shall see Your salvation. Even amid Christmas peace and joy, we experience the hurt and harm of this world. We lift up all those who suffer in mind, body, or spirit, *[especially . . .]*. Reach out to them with Your holy arm and the light of our Savior that they may be comforted in their time of need, seeing the salvation You have prepared for all through faith.

All these things we bring before You, through Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh.

C **Amen.**

389 Let All Together Praise Our God

LSB 389

7 Your grace in lowliness revealed, Lord Jesus, we adore
And praise to God the Father yield And Spirit evermore; We praise You evermore.

Text: tr. F. Samuel Janzow, 1913–2001; Nicolaus Herman, c. 1480–1561

Text: © 1969 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001500

Preface

- P The Lord be with you.
C **And also with you.**
P Lift up your hearts.
C **We lift them to the Lord.**
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

Proper Preface

- P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for in the mystery of the Word made flesh You have given us a new revelation of Your glory that, seeing You in the person of Your Son, we may know and love those things which are not seen. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You.
C **Amen!**

Prayer of Thanksgiving

- P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.
Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C **Amen.**

The Words of Our Lord

Proclamation of Christ

P As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

C **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

P O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

Lord's Prayer

C **Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

Pax Domini

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **Amen.**

Distribution Hymns

Angels from the Realms of Glory

LSB 367

Silent Night, Holy Night

LSB 363

The Herald Angels Sing

LSB 380

Gentle Mary Laid Her Child

LSB 374

Post-Communion Thanksgiving

P Let us pray.

Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Benediction

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and T give you peace.

C **Amen.**

383 A Great and Mighty Wonder

LSB 383

1 A great and mighty wonder, A full and holy cure:
The virgin bears the infant With virgin honor pure! Refrain

ref Proclaim the Savior’s birth: “To God on high be glory And peace to all the earth!”

2 The Word becomes incarnate And yet remains on high,
And cherubim sing anthems To shepherds from the sky. Refrain

3 While thus they sing your Monarch, Those bright angelic bands,
Rejoice, O vales and mountains, And oceans, clap your hands. Refrain

4 Since all He comes to ransom, By all be He adored,
The infant born in Bethl’em, The Savior and the Lord. Refrain

5 All idols then shall perish And Satan’s lying cease,
And Christ shall raise His scepter, Decreeing endless peace. Refrain

Text: Germanus, c. 634–c. 734; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt. Text: Public domain

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series A, Quarter 1. Copyright © 2022. Concordia Publishing House.
All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Acknowledgments

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.
Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2022 Concordia Publishing House.