

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

January 4, 2026

Second Sunday after Christmas

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	stpaulsstrasburg@gmail.com
Pastor's Address	512 S Walnut St Strasburg	Address	511 S Walnut St Strasburg
Education Supt	Diane Jack	Website	stpaul-strasburg.com
Altar Flowers	Doris Supan	YouTube	St. Paul's Lutheran Church
Organist	Muriel Merriman		Strasburg Illinois
Choir Director	Karen Rentfro	Pause for Peace	217-644-3124
Accompanist	Sheryl Vonderheide	Prayer Chain	217-821-3038
Greeter	Mark & Melissa Luce		

THIS WEEK WITH THE LORD

SUN. 8:30 AM Worship Service
 9:30 AM SS, Alpha, W.L.S., H.S. College+
 5:30 PM Worship @ Grace
 6:30 PM Bible Trivia
 6:30 PM LYF Meeting @ Trinity

MON. 6:30 PM Council Meeting

TUE. 9:00 AM Bible Study

WED. 8:30 AM Chair Yoga
 6:30-7:30 PM WDS

THURS 8:30 AM Blanket Making
 1:30 PM Ladies Aid

SUN. 8:30 AM Communion Service
 9:30 AM SS, Alpha, W.L.S., H.S. College+
 11-12:30 LYF Soup Luncheon @ Trinity
 5:30 PM Worship Service @ Grace

December 28 8:30: 110 Year Ago: 157 Sunday School: 36

Welcome We're so glad you're here! There are many good reasons to come to church, but the best one is to worship and thank God for His amazing love — shown through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. That's what our church is all about. If you are a *visitor*, we *invite you to worship with us again and to please fill out the visitor connection card listing your information on both sides and depositing the card in the box in the narthex.*

2026 Offering Envelopes The 2026 Offering Envelopes can be picked up in the narthex. You can begin using them on Sunday, January 4, 2026.

THE LORD'S WORK

<u>CURRENT OFFERINGS</u>	<u>\$ TO MEET YEARLY BUDGET</u>	<u>\$ RECEIVED</u>	<u>\$ DIFFERENCE</u>
December 28	\$ 3,971.00	\$ 9,484.00	\$ 4,779.00
year-to-date	198,521.00	204,085.40	\$ 51.40
<u>Synod-Offerings</u>			
December 28	\$ 481.00	\$ 530.00	\$ -61.00
year-to-date	\$ 24,531.00	\$26,120.00	\$ 1,540.00
TRINITY GOAL-\$10,000		Total to Date	\$9,880.00
Building \$420 Trinity \$365 Sem.Student \$20 Luth Care Center \$100			
B Pfeiffer-Tech fund \$2095 Mission Work \$150 \$For Missions 23			
Sunday School \$50 R Stremming Mem \$45			

December 25 \$ 1,181
December 28 \$ 4,906
December 30 \$ 2,095
December 31 \$ 5,100

- 1/13 9:00 AM Morning Bible Study
- 7:00 PM LFL @ Grace
- 1/14 8:30 AM Chair Yoga
- 2:30 PM Social Communion
- 6:30-7:30 PM WDS
- 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal
- 1/15 1:30 PM Cemetery Association Meeting

LYF Meeting The January LYF meeting will be held on Sunday, January 4th at Trinity, 6:30pm. Following the meeting, members will be preparing for the soup luncheon.

LYF Soup Luncheon The joint LYF of Grace, St. Paul's and Trinity will be hosting a Soup Luncheon on Sunday, January 11th at Trinity Lutheran Church. The youth will begin serving homemade chili and chicken noodle soup, hot dogs and potato chips and desserts from 11 a.m. until 12:30 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 11th!

Lost & Found There is a black coat hanging in the social hall and a cane in the narthex.

Christmas Shoe Boxes We appreciate everyone's help with the 146 shoe boxes we sent to Operation Christmas Child in November. We are beginning again to collect items for 2026. The items we are collecting for January are small toys. We are always glad to receive other items that can be packed in the boxes at any time. Thank you for sharing.



ANNIVERSARIES

29-Gary* & Mary Brehmer
30-Jesse* & Rachel Wallin
1-Brendon & Renea* Bowers

BIRTHDAYS

28-Noah Vonderheide
29-Mariah Williams;
Stephanie Tracy
3-Tim Lenz

HOUSEHOLDS OF THE WEEK

Neva Hagan, Susan & Gerry Hanfland,
Maude Hartman, Sara & Kenny Hayes,
Kathy (Stodden) & Jacob Helmuth, Randy
Stremming, Richard & Cathy Stremming,
Robert Stremming, Sharon Stremming,
Shirley Stremming,

PRAYER

Dianna Gibson Anna Schlechte
Nick Hanfland Clay Tabbert
Frances York Wayne Wirth
Ronda Schlechte Nick Oller
Cathern Stremming
John Wittenberg

LIMITED MOBILITY

Ramona Radloff (Shelby Rehab &
Healthcare)
Chris Storm (Lutheran Care Center
RM#31)
Beulah Ulmer (The Manor-Shelbyville)
Rose Schlechte- StoneBridge
Robert Stremming
Imogene Lading – Villas of Holly Brook
Bill Orr
Rosemary Sporleder-Brookstone
Mattoon
Mildred Rincker – Heartland, Neoga
Doris Stremming – Willowbrook,
Effingham
Margaret Swank – Willowbrook
Effingham

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

Richard & Donna Feldhake(Kim
Telgmann's parents)
Walton Foster (medical-Chris Kramer
nephew)
Trevor Roy (accident, Grace
Vonderheide friend)
Ken Daily (Karen Pfeiffer's father)
stroke
Walker Warden (cancer)
Christie Dust (Howard & Kay's
daughter) (Primary Progressive
Multiple Sclerosis)
Matt Durbin

Adopted Seminary Students 2025-26 **4th Year Student**

**Joshua Gerken (Wife Rachel, son
Callan)**
5418 Brighton Dr.
Fort Wayne, IN 46825

**2025-26 Vicar assignment to St. Paul
Lutheran Church, Eldora, Iowa**
Hunter Kinnison (Wife Naomi)
1105 Washington St.
Eldora, IA 50627

2nd Sunday After Christmas – Setting Three

Of the Father's Love Begotten

LSB 384

- 1 Of the Father's love begotten Ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega, He the source, the ending He,
Of the things that are, that have been, And that future years shall see
Evermore and evermore.
- 2 Oh, that birth forever blessèd, When the virgin, full of grace,
By the Holy Ghost conceiving, Bore the Savior of our race,
And the babe, the world's Redeemer, First revealed His sacred face
Evermore and evermore.
- 3 This is He whom seers in old time Chanted of with one accord,
Whom the voices of the prophets Promised in their faithful word.
Now He shines, the long-expected; Let creation praise its Lord
Evermore and evermore.
- 4 O ye heights of heav'n, adore Him; Angel hosts, His praises sing.
Pow'rs, dominions, bow before Him And extol our God and King.
Let no tongue on earth be silent, Ev'ry voice in concert ring
Evermore and evermore.
- D 5 Christ, to Thee, with God the Father, And, O Holy Ghost, to Thee
Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving And unending praises be,
Honor, glory, and dominion, And eternal victory
Evermore and evermore. Amen.

Text: Aurelius Prudentius Clemens, 348–c. 413; (sts. 1–4): tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.; (st. 5): tr. Henry W. Baker, 1821–77 Text: Public domain

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

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

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C **who made heaven and earth.**

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

P O almighty God, merciful Father,

C **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

Introit

Psalm 147:1, 5, 11–12; antiphon: John 1:14

Kyrie

LSB 186

C **Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.**

Gloria in Excelsis

LSB 187

C **Glorify be to God on high: and on earth peace, goodwill toward men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee, we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory. O Lord God, heav'nly King, God the Father Almighty. O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon**

us. Thou that takest away the sin of the world, receive our prayer. Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us. For Thou only art holy; Thou only art the Lord. Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost, art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C **And with thy spirit.**

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, You have poured into our hearts the true Light of Your incarnate Word. Grant that this Light may shine forth in our lives; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Old Testament Reading

1 Kings 3:4–15

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle

Ephesians 1:3–14

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia

LSB 190

C **Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

Holy Gospel

Luke 2:40–52

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

C **Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

The Gospel is Read

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise be to Thee, O Christ.**

Apostles' Creed

**C I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.
And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.
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.**

Children's Message

Within the Father's House

LSB 410

- 1 Within the Father's house The Son has found His home,
And to His temple suddenly The Lord of life has come.
- 2 The doctors of the Law Gaze on the wondrous child
And marvel at His gracious words Of wisdom undefiled.
- 3 Yet not to them is giv'n The mighty truth to know,
To lift the earthly veil that hides Incarnate God below.
- 4 The secret of the Lord Escapes each human eye,
And faithful pond'ring hearts await The full epiphany.
- 5 Lord, visit Thou our souls And teach us by Thy grace
Each dim revealing of Thyself With loving awe to trace
- D 6 Till we behold Thy face And know as we are known
Thee, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, Coequal Three in One.

Text: James R. Woodford, 1820-85, alt. Text: Public domain

Sermon "My Father's House" Luke 2:40-52

Offertory

LSB 192

- C **Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit.
Amen.**

Prayer of the Church

- P In peace, let us pray to the Lord:
- C **Lord, have mercy.**
- P For the wisdom of God's Word and a mind to discern truth from error, that we may know Jesus Christ and not depart from Him amid the winds of change and doubt that challenge our faith, let us pray to the Lord:
- C **Lord, have mercy.**
- P For the Church, blessed in Christ, in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, let us pray to the Lord:
- C **Lord, have mercy.**
- P For the preaching of the Gospel of salvation and the seal of the promised Holy Spirit in Baptism, let us pray to the Lord:
- C **Lord, have mercy.**
- P That God would raise up faithful preachers among us to the praise of Christ's glory until we acquire the inheritance promised us in Him, let us pray to the Lord:
- C **Lord, have mercy.**
- P For parents and their children, that they would be given the wisdom and courage to know Christ as Savior and Redeemer and to gather around the Word and Sacraments; and that the Lord would help parents form within their children the knowledge of, and the will to do, what is right according to God's Word, let us pray to the Lord:
- C **Lord, have mercy.**
- P For our president; the Congress; our governor; our legislature; and all who make, administer and judge our laws, that the Lord would make them wise and give them a discerning heart in pursuit of justice for the offender, peace between nations, and protection for the unborn and those least able to defend themselves, let us pray to the Lord:
- C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For the sick and everyone in any kind of need [*especially* _____]; for patience and healing according to God's will; for those who mourn [*especially* _____]; and in thanksgiving for every blessing and kindness shown to us in Christ, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P All these things and whatever else You know that we need, grant us, Father, for the sake of Him who died and rose again and now lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God forever.

C **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

LSB 196

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.**

Salutation

P The Lord be with you.

C **And with thy spirit.**

Benedicamus

LSB 202

P Bless we the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Benediction

LSB 202

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and T give you peace.

C **Amen, amen, amen.**

Once in Royal David's City

LSB 376

1 Once in royal David's city Stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby In a manger for His bed:
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.

- 2 He came down to earth from heaven, Who is God and Lord of all,
And His shelter was a stable, And His cradle was a stall;
With the poor and mean and lowly Lived on earth our Savior holy.
- 3 For He is our childhood's pattern, Day by day like us He grew;
He was little, weak, and helpless, Tears and smiles like us He knew;
And He feels for all our sadness, And He shares in all our gladness.
- 4 And our eyes at last shall see Him, Through His own redeeming love;
For that child so dear and gentle Is our Lord in heav'n above;
And He leads His children on To the place where He is gone.
- 5 Not in that poor, lowly stable With the oxen standing by
Shall we see Him, but in heaven, Set at God's right hand on high.
Then like stars His children, crowned, All in white, His praise will sound!

Text: Cecil F. Alexander, 1818–95, alt. Text: Public domain

Next Week's Reading – Isaiah 42:1-9, Romans 6:1-11, Matthew 3:13-17

This Week's Memory Verse – Luke 2:49 "And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?"

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book

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