

# THE MESSENGER

St. Paul's Lutheran Church  
511 S. Walnut  
Strasburg, Illinois 62465  
(217) 644-2661  
stpaulsstrasburg@gmail.com



**JANUARY 2025**

Dear Friends in Christ:

If you remember, last month I said I was breaking the third point of Article Eleven of the Formula of Concord into bite size portions and so I wrote on the first portion "Christ will be effective and active in us." So, this month we move on to the second portion which proclaims the Biblical truth that Christ "will convert hearts to true repentance."

It would seem that this would be a no brainer, in that if Jesus came and didn't convert, change peoples' hearts, and did not demand that we acknowledge our sins through repentance, thereby acknowledging Him as the one who forgives, then there really isn't a need for Jesus to come into this world negating the whole explanation that Christ is "effective and active in us."

So then one must ask, how does Christ "convert hearts to true repentance?" God proclaims to Israel through the prophet Ezekiel in 36:26 *"And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh."* Jesus explains it this way to Nicodemus late one evening in John 3:3, *"Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God."* Jesus teaching the people in John 6:44 says, *"No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day."* This is the work of the Holy Spirit as Luther says in the Small Catechism in the explanation to the Third Article of the Apostles' Creed, *"I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith."*

It has always been and will always be God's work of bringing sinners to Himself for the express purpose that we would turn from our sins and walk in His righteousness! As Jesus proclaims in Luke 5:32 *"I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance."* Or as Jesus says to the disciples before His ascension in Luke 24:46-47 *"...Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, 47 and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.* Why do we repent? Because we have been taught by the Holy Spirit to repeat what the Lord has said to us, we are sinners, we are in need of a Savior, Jesus is that Savior, and has forgiven us of those sins that He came and died for that we may be forgiven. This is why we are quick to proclaim the exact same message that to St. Paul was so vitally important even so much so to lose his life for. That being what he wrote to the Corinthian church in 1 Corinthians 15:3-4, *"For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, 4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures..."*

Yes, the Law shows us our sins that we were born into and have committed since then, but it is Jesus who has changed our sinful hearts as we have been called by the Holy Spirit to trust in Christ, reborn in Him, and now admit we are not whom He has called us to be, as we repent of our sins and receive His blest promise that those sins are what He died for that we may be forgiven. So Christ has converted us and allows us now to live in repentance before Him and one day forever literally in His presence!



**BIRTHDAYS**

- 1- Brendon & Renea\* Bowers(16)
- 3 Tim Lenz
- 4- Anna Schlechte; Lisa Shelton
- 6- Richard & Cathy Stremming(63);  
Tim Beals
- 7-Tim & Delreen Lenz (30)  
James\* Hortenstine; Imogene Lading;  
Whitney Furr
- 8-George Glasscock
- 9- Ron & Carolyn Boldt (59)
- 10-Deb & George Glasscock (44);  
Linda & Theron\* Newell (39);  
Rosemary Schlechte;  
Ryan Sporleder
- 11-Chris Ashmore
- 12-Mac & Lois Ogle (70)
- 13-Matthew\*& Ellen McCoy (7)
- 14-Shelby Beltz; Michael Orr
- 15-Gerald\* Susan Hanfland (50);  
Derryl Pikes; Dusty Rincker;  
Gary Schultz; Tyler\* Vonderheide
- 16-Debbie Glasscock
- 17-Tori Daniels; Lori Mathis;  
Kathy Pieper; Mark Richards
- 18-Dean Rentfro
- 19-Doreen Whybrew
- 20-Amy Stremming
- 21-Noah Prosser; Sheree Doehring;  
Jacob\* York
- 22-Chris Bowers; Lane Hoene;  
Colleen Storm
- 23-Muriel Merriman
- 24-Jennifer Buening; Charlie\* Logan
- 25-Gerald\* Hanfland
- 27-Melba Kircher; Jennifer Logan;
- 28-Jim & Phyllis Weiss (42);  
Kathie Harley; Roger Kessler
- 29-Jim & Sharon Rincker (54)
- 30-Maurina Batson; Jeremy Pieper



Wed. Jan. 15 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 P.M.  
Sun. Jan. 19 Choir Sings- "By One Spirit "

The choir is always ready to welcome new members! If you like to sing, come to any rehearsal and we will help you get started.



Pastor Whybrew: chebrev@yahoo.com  
Church: stpaulsstrasburg@gmail.com  
Website: stpaul-strasburg.com  
YouTube: St. Paul's Lutheran Church Strasburg Illinois  
Facebook: St. Paul's Lutheran Church

**Articles for Newsletter & Guide**

Information for the Guide needs to be in the office by 8:00AM on **Wednesday morning**.  
Articles for the Newsletter should be in the office by the **15th** of the month.



Weekday School will resume January 8th 6:30-7:30 P.M.

**Pause for Peace**

As your day draws to a close, spend a few moments with God, reflecting on His love and care for you throughout the day. Just dial 644-3124 to hear His message.



You can start using your 2025 Offering envelopes January 5, 2025.

**St.Paul's Cemetery Annual Meeting**

The annual meeting of the St. Paul's Cemetery Association will be held on January 16, 2025 at 1:00 P.M. in the church social hall.



**2025 OFFICERS**

<b>President-</b>	<b>Gerry Schlechte</b>
<b>Vice. Pres.-</b>	<b>Otto Rincker</b>
<b>Secretary-</b>	<b>Lisa Rincker</b>
<b>Treasurer-</b>	<b>Bob Schlechte</b>
<b>Stewardship-</b>	<b>Kay Dust</b>
<b>Head Usher-</b>	<b>Gary Kull</b>
<b>Elder-</b>	<b>Heath McCormick</b>
<b>Trustee-</b>	<b>Don Telgmann</b>
<b>Assist. Education-</b>	<b>Troy Uphoff</b>
<b>S.S. Supt.</b>	<b>Diane Jack</b>

**Installation of Officers will be  
January 5 during the 8:30 AM Service  
+++++**



**Your 2024 Thanksgiving Offering in the amount of  
\$1,005.00 went to support the following charities:**

Lutheran Care Center (20%)	\$201.00
Lutheran Hour Ministries (15%)	\$150.75
LWML Mites (15%)	\$150.75
KFUO Radio (10%)	\$100.50
Bethesda (10%)	\$100.50
LCMS World Relief (10%)	\$100.50
Food for the Poor (10%)	\$100.50
Dakota Ranch (10%)	\$100.50

\*\*\*\*\*



**January Meeting** The January LYF meeting will be held on Sunday, January 5th at St Paul's, 6:30 P.M. 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 12 at Trinity Lutheran Church. The youth will be serving homeade chili and chicken noodle soup, hot dogs, 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 towards local youth group activities and trips. We appreciate your support and hope to see you after church on the 12<sup>th</sup>!

**JANUARY SCHEDULE**

**Greeters-**

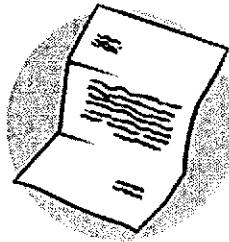
- Jan. 5- Barb Ohnesorge
- Jan. 12-Gary Wirth
- Jan. 19-Gary & Karen Kull
- Jan. 26-Pastor & Doreen

**FEBRUARY SCHEDULE**

**Greeters-**

- Feb. 2- Darin & Collen Storm
- Feb. 9- Diane Jack
- Feb. 16-Rick & Susie Allen
- Feb. 23-Kay & Howard Dust

**ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS**



**2024 CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS**

All members who use offering envelopes will receive a 2024 contribution statement shortly after the first of the year. Any questions about the statement can be directed to the church office.





The Annual Weekday Christmas party was held on Tuesday evening, November 26 in the social hall. The children and adults enjoyed great snacks provided by the Board of Education who also gave them new shirts. The girls received red shirts with the different names of Jesus. The boys got gray and black Jesus-themed shirts. Camden Logue won the candy for guessing the nearest number of pieces in the container. After the party, the St. Paul's kids proceeded to church for their first Christmas Eve Program practice. It was a fun evening for all.

\*\*\*\*\*



St. Paul' Lutheran Church: Thank you so much for your continued support while Jen and I have been at Seminary. I am truly blown away by your love and generosity. I can't tell you enough how thoughtful we are. We are so blessed! God is good!  
 I'm glad to hear that the VBS program between St. Paul's and Grace was successful. I will be praying that God uses that ministry to be a blessing to the rest of the community. I'm sorry to hear about the ATV accident. It's during trying times like this that the love and comfort of the resurrection is so important. Jen and I are praying for you and the families involved.  
 Jen and I are doing well. 4<sup>th</sup> year at Seminary is proving to be difficult. Jen is working in a classroom with infants this year. She doesn't have much experience in the area, but she's seeing it as a opportunity to learn and grow so that we will be better prepared for when we have kids someday. We love you and will be praying for you.  
 In Christ, Micha Brown



**Thank you** Kay Dust, Susan Hanfland, Dawn Schlechte, and Mariah Williams for donating treats to the Weekday School/Confirmation children during November. The treats are very much appreciated!

\*\*\*\*\*

**THANK YOU** to everyone who helped in any way with the Samaritan's Purse Christmas shoe boxes. We had 122 to take to a collection center in Mattoon. They will be boxed and sent to a distribution center and then delivered into the hands of boys and girls through local churches around the world. These churches share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with the children by using a discipleship program called The Greatest Journey. This 12 lesson program teaches millions of children how to faithfully follow Christ and share Him with others. Continue to pray for the boxes that they will help change lives.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Thank you** Thank you all for your prayers, kind words, meals, cards and encouragement during my recent diagnosis, surgery and recovery. God has truly blessed us with a caring church family. God's blessings to you all.  
 Karla Tabbert

\*\*\*\*\*

**Thank you** Thank you to the caroler's for stopping and sharing your beautiful voices. I enjoyed it!  
 Joyce Ulmer

\*\*\*\*\*

**Thank you** 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!

**Thank you** Thank you to everyone who helped and assisted in anyway in making the Christmas Eve program possible.

**Christmas program directors** – Dee Dee Batson & Susie Allen;

**Music Director**-Sheryl Vonderheide

**Preschool/Kindergarten teachers**-Autumn McCormick & Kim Storm;

**Preschool/Kindergarten helpers**-Claire McCormick & Shelby Beltz

**Organist**- Muriel Merriman

**Tech Support**-Gary Wirth & Mike Pfeiffer

**Behind- the-scenes**-Sue Bowers, Neva Hagen, Dalton Storm

**Candy**-Trent & Troy Uphoff

\*\*Offerings collected will be used to support all educational programs within the church

Lutheran Ladies of Strasburg Minutes – December 5, 2024

Our December Meeting was after we finished with our Christmas Celebration Project and was held at Friday's restaurant in Effingham, Illinois.

Our President, Muriel, called the meeting to order.

We received a thank you from Carla Tabbert. Twilla Newell told us our gift to Ashville, N.C. was very much appreciated.

There was an Amendment to our By-laws, Section II, to state, "serve for a term of two years or whatever deems necessary," instead of "serve for a term of two years."

Charlene and Muriel purchased and decorated a new Christmas tree for the social hall. Members were reminded by the schedule and to bring cookies to the Bank in Strasburg to celebrate Christmas.

This year our Christmas celebration was to visit three memory facilities. We sang Christmas Carols, handed out beautiful decorated cookies and a surprise to the residents. We also gave one facility blankets from the blanket group that meets each month. We all enjoyed our experience which gave us all the Christmas Spirit.

Our Project for December is to contribute to the Bartels Benefit.

The Quarterly was passed out along with Hostess and Flower Committee information.

Upcoming event: LWML National Convention, June 26-29, 2025 in Omaha, Nebraska.

The January Flower Committee will be Charlene Telgmann for St. Paul's and Holly Giertz for Grace. The January Hostesses will be Yvonne Pfeiffer and Linda Doehring. Muriel thanked the December Flower Committee of Doreen and the Grace Christmas Committee.

Our verse for the day was, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish, but have eternal life." John 3:16.

We closed with prayer. Our next meeting will be January 2, 2025 at Grace Social Hall.

Happy Birthday to Chris Storm, Maude Hartman, and Cindy Roley.

Vivian Granat, Secretary

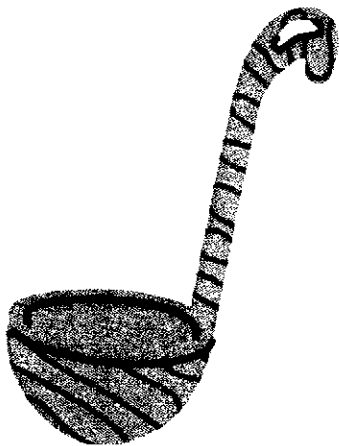
Join us for LYF's

# Soup Luncheon

JANUARY 12, 2025

11 AM-12:30 PM

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH  
STEWARDSON, IL



MENU:

Chili and Chicken Noodle Soup,  
Hot Dogs, Potato Chips,  
Desserts and Beverages

**Free Will Donations Accepted**



Proceeds will benefit the Grace/St. Paul/Trinity LYF  
in preparation for their various trips and activities.

**Time and Gifts Inventory**- Thanks again for returning your Time and Gifts Inventories to St. Paul's. The results were tallied and have been given to the appropriate church council members to invite our members to serve. Praise the Lord!

We had hoped we would receive a lot more surveys, but we did receive 23. Many were interested in helping plant flowers and weed the garden/landscaping areas around the church. We have several volunteers to donate their time in decorating the church for holidays. One new member wants to serve as a church officer that is not already doing so! Many will be happy to place flowers in church, donate food at the funeral dinners and help set up for those events. WE have several people willing to write members in the military! We are fortunate to have members that will teach WDS, SS and help with Bible School as they have done in the past. We also have several church members that are willing to house visiting Pastors and provide a meal for visitors—great stewards!

Perhaps you failed to turn in those inventories in Oct.. And you have many talents to share or would like to volunteer to help YOUR home church in various ways.....please let any church council member or our Pastor know anytime.  
Thank You!

## St. Paul's Wednesday Evening Weekday School Calendar 2024-25 for Grades 1-8

### AUGUST 2024

Wed., 21 6 pm Registration; WDS 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Wed., 28 6:30-7:30 p.m.

### SEPTEMBER

Wed., 4 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Wed., 11 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Wed., 18 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Wed., 25 6:30-7:30 p.m.

### OCTOBER

Wed., 2 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Wed., 9 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Wed., 16 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Wed., 23 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Wed., 30 6:30-7:30 p.m.

### NOVEMBER

Wed., 6 6:30-7:30 p.m. (Music 7:30-8) \*

Wed., 13 6:30-7:30 p.m. (Music 7:30-8) \*

Wed., 20 6:30-7:30 p.m. (Music 7:30-8) \*

**TUE., 26 6:30-8 p.m. – Christmas Eve Practice +**

**No Class on Wed., Nov 27**

### DECEMBER

Wed, 4 6:30 Advent Service, 7-8 p.m. Christmas Eve Practice +

Wed., 11 6:30 Advent Service, 7-8 p.m. Christmas Eve Practice +

Wed., 18 6:30 Advent Service 7-8 p.m. Christmas Eve Practice

**MON., 23 6-7:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Dress Rehearsal +**

**TUES., 24 6:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Program**

### JANUARY 2025

Wed., 8 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Wed., 15 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Wed., 22 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Wed., 29 6:30-7:30 p.m.

### FEBRUARY

Wed., 5 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Wed., 12 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Wed., 19 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Wed., 26 6:30-7:30 p.m.

### MARCH

Wed., 5 6:30 Lent, 7-8 p.m. WDS

Wed., 12 6:30 Lent, 7-8 p.m. WDS

Wed., 19 6:30 Lent, 7-8 p.m. WDS

Wed., 26 6:30 Lent, 7-8 p.m. WDS

### APRIL

Wed., 2 6:30 Lent, 7-8 p.m. WDS

Wed., 9 6:30 Lent, 7-8 p.m. WDS

Wed., 16 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Wed., 23 6:30-7:30 p.m.

**SUN., 27 8:30 a.m. CONFIRMATION (8th grade)**

Wed., 30 6:30-7:30 p.m.

### MAY

**Wed., 7 6:30-7:30 p.m. WDS End of Year Picnic & Program (Congregation invited)**

\* Music practice these weeks from 7:30-8 p.m. is for the St. Paul's Christmas Eve program

+ No WDS instruction Nov. 26 through December. There will be Christmas Eve practice only these weeks.

Updated 8/21/2024



The Strasburg American Legion Auxiliary will be holding a drive in January for items for Illiana VA Facility in Danville. Items can be dropped off at the Village Office on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. Drive ends January 31, 2025.

**Inpatients:**

3 n 1 body wash  
Mouthwash (nonalcoholic)  
Soft snacks like little Debbie's,  
hostess, pudding or  
applesauce  
Candy  
Stick deodorant  
Aftershave  
Shaving cream  
Razors  
Polident  
Toothpaste  
Toothbrush covers  
Lip balm  
Body lotion  
Vaseline  
Small gift bags (3 for 1.25 at  
Dollar Tree) solid colors for  
women clinic  
Powder (no medicated just body)  
Gift cards for ice cream like Dairy  
Barn, DQ, Mikes frosty  
Gift cards to eat out like Culvers,  
Burger King, Subway, and  
Dominoes  
Puzzle books  
Adult coloring books  
Car models  
Model glue  
Model paint  
Acrylic paint  
Paint brushes  
Small round butter tub or sour  
cream lids  
Paint by number kits  
Black fuzzy poster kits  
Small art kits found at Dollar Tree

**Outpatients:**

Pots and Pans  
Baking pans  
Can openers  
Silverware  
Trashcans  
Vacuum cleaners  
Measuring cups and spoons  
Buckets  
Used but working TV's  
Shower Curtain, hooks & liners  
Bathmat  
Bath towels, hand towels,  
washcloths  
Dish towels, dish rags, dish soap  
Queen size sheets  
Queen size blankets  
Mops, brooms & dust pans  
Cleaners, buckets & scrubbies  
Bed pillows  
Hot pads & trivets  
Toilet paper, brush & cleaner  
Paper towel  
Trash bags  
Baggies of all sizes  
Cutting boards  
Toasters  
Blenders  
Mixers  
Coffee filters & coffee makers  
Small microwaves  
Mixing spoons  
Bowls both eating and serving or  
mixing – these can also be  
gently used  
Utility carts to haul stuff from  
store or food pantry must be  
collapsible  
Flashlights with batteries

# St. Pual Lutheran Church

## Walking chart

Month:

Jan-25

							Weekly Totals
1	2	3	4				Total Laps _____ Total Miles _____
Laps _____ Miles _____	Laps _____ Miles _____	Laps _____ Miles _____	Laps _____ Miles _____				
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	Total Laps _____ Total Miles _____
Laps _____ Miles _____	Laps _____ Miles _____	Laps _____ Miles _____	Laps _____ Miles _____	Laps _____ Miles _____	Laps _____ Miles _____	Laps _____ Miles _____	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	Total Laps _____ Total Miles _____
Laps _____ Miles _____	Laps _____ Miles _____	Laps _____ Miles _____	Laps _____ Miles _____	Laps _____ Miles _____	Laps _____ Miles _____	Laps _____ Miles _____	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	Total Laps _____ Total Miles _____
Laps _____ Miles _____	Laps _____ Miles _____	Laps _____ Miles _____	Laps _____ Miles _____	Laps _____ Miles _____	Laps _____ Miles _____	Laps _____ Miles _____	
26	27	28	29	30	31		Total Laps _____ Total Miles _____
Laps _____ Miles _____	Laps _____ Miles _____	Laps _____ Miles _____	Laps _____ Miles _____	Laps _____ Miles _____	Laps _____ Miles _____	Laps _____ Miles _____	
Monthly Totals: Laps _____ Miles _____							

Name \_\_\_\_\_

# "Walking for St. Paul"

## Tally sheet for miles per month

Name	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Totals
Alicia	134.2												134.2
Autumn	63.3	27.1											90.4
Bob and Anna	21.5	20	14.5										56
Chris	54.5	48	62.5										165
Dennis	9.7	6											15.7
Don and Angie	59.4												59.4
Dri and August			69.6										69.6
Gary	44	42	38										124
Gymme	22	28	5										55
Heath	13	3											16
Holly	7	7	13.5										27.5
Jay	51	58	45.45										154.45
Jim	17.8		17.5										35.3
Johanna	68.5	66	62										196.5
Karen	133	130	134										397
Kenna	4												4
Lisa	134.6	132.3											266.9
Lorelei	25.5	20											45.5
Lori	118	115.5	182.1										415.6
Mark	70	115.4	56.7										242.1
Melissa	62.2	60.2	53.7										176.1
Pastor	152.6	60.2											212.8
Phyllis	43	46	60										149
Sarah	54.9	57	41										152.9
Scott	89	105	83.6										277.6
Sharon	17.8	22.5	19.25										59.55
Stephanie	150.6		165.35										315.95
Susan	60.7												60.7
Mariah	3.6	7.2											10.8
Jesse		1.5											1.5
	1685.4	1177.9	1123.75										3985.55

**Congratulations "Walkers":**  
 We have reached a total of 1685.4 miles covered by 29 participants, in our first month of walking. For October, 23 have walked 1177.9 miles. We are over HALF way to our goal. Great job walkers. For November we added a total of 1123.75 which brings our total to 3985.55. We should reach our goal by the end of December.

Remember this is not a contest, and any amount you walk is one step closer to our goal.

Please turn in your tally sheets for December by the 10th of January. January tally sheets can be picked up at the door to the church office by the end of the month.

Thanks to all our walkers