

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
556 W. Haysville Rd.
Jasper, IN 47546

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St. Paul's Epistle

D E C E M B E R 2 0 2 5

Volume 21 Issue 12

A note from Pastor Tim...

If you have been in our sanctuary the past couple of weeks, you can't help but see the majority of our decorations for the season of Advent have been put up.

The council, parents, and confirmation students always do a great job, and this year is no different. The evening goes smoothly, it is enjoyable, and results of their efforts are immediately recognizable.

A few new items were purchased this year, which you will certainly notice. These were made possible through memorial donations for Dave Kieffner and Kristi Fuhrman. We were happy to have a designation for those funds and trust the families will find a level of joy in seeing where those memorial gifts went.

The majority of the time, such gifts are left undesignated and as a result, sit unused for an indefinite period of time. When there are areas within the church where a loved one was personally invested, and memorial donations are offered in their name, the intended purpose is for that to be used. I encourage any families this may be applicable to, consider what was meaningful, or an area that can be updated or replaced, and share that vision. That is a way of blessing the church and honoring those who had faithfully served.

Pastor Timothy Holt



St. Paul's Lutheran Church Mission Statement

Worship Boldly, Empower for Discipleship, Cultivate Spiritual Maturity, Strengthen Community, Serve.

Easy Tips to Make Stocking Stuffers Extra Special

Great stocking stuffers are fun for the whole family. Below are some tips to make these even more special!

Mix Useful and Fun Stuff: Add a mix of handy things (like hand creams or mini flashlights) along with some fun surprises (like stickers or glow sticks). Keeps it practical but still playful!

Make it Personal: Toss in a little something that matches their interests. For example, a nail polish for the glam lover, or a puzzle for someone who loves a challenge.

Go with a Theme: Pick a vibe for each stocking like, *self-care*, *cozy vibes*, or *winter must-haves*. It makes everything feel more thought-out.

Add a Little Note: Slip in a quick note or a small card with each gift for an extra bit of thoughtfulness.

Wrap Everything Up: Wrap each little gift on its own. It makes such a difference!

These stocking stuffer ideas show you don't have to spend a ton to make meaningful gifts. Give some of these tips a try, and keep the holidays extra special without going overboard on spending!



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS



| | | | |
|-------|---------------------|-------|---------------------|
| 12/01 | Jennings Neukam | 12/18 | Preston Brinkman |
| 12/02 | Anthony Mann | | Stephanie Hautsch |
| | Deann Mann | | Ryan Phillips |
| | Bucky Seitz | | Crystal Salmon |
| 12/03 | Connie Shipman | | Arlene Vonderheide |
| 12/04 | Bruce Terwiske | 12/19 | Doris Salmon |
| | Reagan Weisheit | | Jim Hoffman |
| | | | William Vonderheide |
| 12/05 | Huntter Fehribach | 12/20 | Allan Huebner |
| 12/07 | Steven Dodd | | Kathy Eisenhut |
| 12/08 | Brooke Neukam | | Nicole Lammers |
| 12/09 | Mary Lou Himself | | Colten Lottes |
| | Andrea Lindsey | 12/21 | Jeanne Hoffman |
| | Kurt Schepers | | Linda Huebner |
| 12/10 | John Church | 12/22 | Will Sendelweck |
| | Judy Kieffner | | MacKenzie Lichlyter |
| | Kaitlyn Kline | 12/23 | Kaitlyn Bauer |
| | Linda Schmitt | 12/24 | Benjamin Cooper |
| | Davin Kellar | | Jessie Lichlyter |
| 12/11 | Christopher Ziegler | 12/25 | Debbie Bauer |
| 12/12 | Julia Stenftenagel | | Kent Beckman |
| 12/14 | Bailey Buse | | Anthony Schmitt |
| | Darrin Buchta | 12/26 | Amy Beckman |
| 12/15 | Marie Neukam | | Eli Holt |
| 12/16 | Rose Hoffman | 12/28 | Cheryl Hauser |
| 12/16 | Olivia Ruckriegel | | Deena Lewis |
| | Janice Seitz | 12/29 | Anja Greulich |
| | | | Katie Popp |
| 12/17 | Clay Green | | Kristen Ruhe |
| | | | Tripp Weisheit |
| | | 12/30 | Kierstin Bapple |
| | | 12/31 | Sydni Wiseman |

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES



| | |
|-------|----------------------------|
| 12/02 | Greg & Jennifer Bauer |
| 12/05 | Gene & Kathy Eisenhut |
| 12/10 | Jason & Julia Stenftenagel |
| 12/27 | Steve & Brandi Dodd |
| 12/28 | Ken & Sarah Giesler |
| 12/29 | Bruce & Tina Terwiske |
| | Harvey & Lisa Himself |
| 12/30 | Jeff & Gretchen Shelton |

FOOD BANK ITEM
FOR DECEMBER IS:
BABY ITEMS

October Attendance

| | |
|-------------------------|-----|
| October 5 | 167 |
| October 12 | 140 |
| October 19 (Fall break) | 79 |
| October 26 | 133 |

In Service to Our Country

Austin Breitwieser
Redzikowo, Poland
AMC Luke Himself
Virginia Beach, VA
Cooper Uebelhor
Colorado Springs, CO



On Sunday, November 2nd, we celebrated All Saints' Day, giving thanks for all the faithful who have gone before us — those who have shaped our faith, guided our steps, and shared God's love with us. May their lives remind us to walk in hope, serve with compassion, and shine Christ's light in the world.



St. Paul's will be collecting food items for our local food bank during the month of December. This would be a great way to get the whole family involved in giving this Christmas season. Create a box for the whole month or add single items to the grocery cart in the welcome center. See the Reverse Advent calendar below for a list.

-Donna Rasche

Nellie Madeline Chinn Baptism

The Chinn family and congregation celebrated the baptism of Nellie Madeline Chinn, daughter of Andy and Gabbie. Nellie was born on September 17, 2025, and is the beloved little sister of Calla and Drew. Proud grandparents are Bruce & Tina Terwiske and Bruce & Sarah Chinn. Her sponsors are Lydia Hollinden and Jared Myrick. May God bless Nellie and her family as she begins her journey of faith.



REVERSE
ADVENT CALENDAR

EACH DAY ADD AN ITEM TO A BOX.
ON CHRISTMAS EVE DONATE THE CONTENTS TO A
FOOD BANK.

- December 1 - box of cereal
- December 2 - peanut butter
- December 3 - stuffing mix
- December 4 - boxed potatoes
- December 5 - macaroni and cheese
- December 6 - canned fruit
- December 7 - canned tomatoes
- December 8 - canned tuna
- December 9 - dessert mix
- December 10 - jar of applesauce
- December 11 - canned sweet potatoes
- December 12 - cranberry sauce
- December 13 - canned beans
- December 14 - box of crackers
- December 15 - package of rice
- December 16 - package of oatmeal
- December 17 - package pasta
- December 18 - spaghetti sauce
- December 19 - chicken noodle soup
- December 20 - tomato soup
- December 21 - can corn
- December 22 - can mixed vegetables
- December 23 - can carrots
- December 24 - can green beans



At the November 16th worship service, the Wiseman family and friends shared special music in honor of Hoyt Wiseman's 80th birthday! Thank you, Hoyt, for all you've done and continue to do for the St. Paul's Family and thanks to all who shared their musical gifts with the congregation!



CEMETERY DUES REMINDER: Active members, desiring burial rights, are required to pay cemetery dues of a minimum of \$20 per family. This includes all members in immediate family, including non-member spouses, and children under the age of eighteen. Every member over eighteen years of age shall be required to pay the minimum cemetery dues as an individual. No additional charge for gravesites shall be made to members of St. Paul's whose dues are current.

PERSONAL CARE HOME
RESIDENTS & HOME-
BOUND

Northwood

| | |
|---------------------|---------|
| Gladys Chanley | 406 |
| Delbert Sendelweck | Rm. 426 |
| Wilma Buchta | Apt 3 |
| Harold Hembree | 403A |
| Patricia Sendelweck | Apt 23 |
| Juanita Hembree | 102 |

Brookside Village

| | |
|-----------------|---------|
| Mary Ann Jerger | Rm. 111 |
|-----------------|---------|

Homebound

| |
|-------------------|
| Marcella Weisheit |
| Robert Huebner |
| Pat Opel |



OUR CHILDREN
OUR FUTURE !!

SUNDAY SCHOOL
DECEMBER 2025

- 12/7
Christmas Program Practice
- 12/14
Christmas Program Practice
- 12/21
Christmas Program + Party
- 12/28
Winter Break: No Class



Our Sunday School children spent a beautiful Sunday morning celebrating God's creation through their fall activity following service! It's such a blessing to watch their faith blossom as they learn, laugh, and grow together in Christ's love.



TREASURER'S REPORT

FINANCIAL SUMMARY FOR OCTOBER 2025

| INCOME | Month | Year to Date |
|--|--------------|---------------|
| OFFERING | \$ 13,527.00 | \$ 202,033.80 |
| BENEVOLENCE | \$ 606.00 | \$ 6,988.00 |
| SACRED PLACES | \$ 650.00 | \$ 177,586.07 |
| BACKPACK BUDDIES | \$ 383.19 | \$ 2,398.36 |
| LOOSE OFFERING | \$ 322.00 | \$ 4,880.00 |
| MISCELLANEOUS INCOME* | \$ 309.00 | \$ 1,005.29 |
| THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS | \$ 9.00 | \$ 1,158.00 |
| INTEREST INCOME | \$ 3.69 | \$ 30.12 |
| TEMPORARY TRANSFER OF E.D. JONES FUNDS** | \$ - | \$ 45,000.00 |
| TOTAL | \$ 15,809.88 | \$ 441,079.64 |
| EXPENSES | \$ 24,127.81 | \$ 432,960.87 |

*Miscellaneous income amount was a reimbursement of a credit card late fee, quarterly deposit from Prudential Financial Services and reimbursement for youth camp

**Temporary loan of E. D. Jones investment account funds to bridge gap until Sacred Places grant award money is received. Will be paid back.

St. Paul's Women of the ELCA—November 4, 2025 Meeting

Women of the ELCA met on November 4 @ 6:30. 14 members were in attendance. President Darlene Ziegler opened the meeting with a devotion based on Psalm 16.

Regular and Birthday offerings were collected followed by prayer.

Secretaries report was read and approved. Treasury report was read. Motion to accept by Marie Neukam and seconded by Donna Rasche, motion carried.

Program & Fellowship report: December meeting will be carry-in meal with a Christmas program. Meeting will begin at 6:00. All women of the congregation are invited to attend.

Stewardship & Service report: Baby blankets were delivered. 7 to Tri Cap and & to Trotter House. Items for Homeless were delivered to Sandy Hoing. Help for Christmas party is needed. No date has yet been set. Will let us know. Items for Lutheran World Relief were delivered, with 6 other churches from area participating. Blanket tacking will be November 13 at 1:00. Donna and JoAn thanked all who helped with the kitchen cleaning.

Taking items for Food Pantry using the reverse Advent Calendar found in bulletin.

Visiting report for October was read.

Old Business: Shoe Boxes need to be turned in by November 16.

WELCA Christmas donations will go to Sandy Hoing for Evansville Homeless-\$300, Food Pantry-\$500. and Pastor Holt- \$200. Motion was made by Kathy Jarboe and seconded by Linda Mason. Motion carried.

\$7000.00 from Ham Salad account will be given to church council to use were needed.

Motion by Vicky Eisenhut and seconded by Kathy Jarboe. Motion carried.

Physical offering to the Dove House will be collected at the December meeting.

New Business: Worked on WELCA committees for 2026.

Correspondence: Thank you from Trotter House.

Birthdays: Carl Wening (11/15) by Melanie Freyberger and Mary Ann Kieffner (11/16) by Jamie Harris.

Thanked October Committees: Visiting- Jeanne Hoffman and Kathy Jarboe, Kathy also sent cards.

Darlene Ziegler and Rosie Hoffman, cards by Darlene Ziegler. Flowers- Beth Buchta,

Food Pantry item- Paper Products

With no further business a motion to adjourn was made by Marie Neukam and seconded by Linda Mason. Motion carried followed by Lord's Prayer.

Members than filled 20 + shoe boxes for Samaritan's Purse.

Secretary, Jeanne Hoffman

Women of the ELCA

WELCA

The next WELCA meeting will be on Tuesday, December 2nd at 6:00 PM.

WELCA would like to thank everyone that has donated material that is used to make baby quilts. Pictured is Lora Williams. She has donated tubs of material for this project. The result are beautiful handmade quilts that are donated to non profit organizations. Thank you Lora and to the congregation for your continued support.



Wreaths Across America is a program dedicated to the placement of Christmas Wreaths on the gravesites of Veterans buried in Arlington Cemetery and elsewhere in our nation. St. Paul's Church similarly participates.

Artificial wreaths are provided thanks to cemetery donations, and will be placed on the gravesites of Veterans buried at St. Paul's Cemetery.

The Cemetery Board is asking for volunteers on Saturday, December 13th at 2:00 PM. The event will go on rain or shine since it is in conjunction with the national event being held on this same date.

Everyone is invited to attend to remember those who served our country.

Wreaths will be removed from the graves on Saturday, January 3rd, 2026 at 12:30 PM. Please plan to participate or observe this patriotic event to honor our Veterans.

If you have any questions, call Marvin, Tom, or Harvey.



WREATHS -across- AMERICA
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13TH AT 2:00 PM