



# PERSPECTIVE

## Monthly Newsletter of

St. Paul Lutheran Church—ELCA

200 N. Commercial Street · Neenah, WI 54956

(920) 725-3961 · [stpaulneenah.org](http://stpaulneenah.org)



*Gathering Joyfully, Growing Spiritually, & Going Faithfully,  
Sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ!*

NOVEMBER 2024

### From Pastor Amy



As I write this, we are two weeks away from election day. Anxiety is high as we wonder about the outcomes of the various elections and what our future holds as individuals and as a country.

In as much as we are citizens of this country, we are first and foremost citizens of the Kingdom of God. As we will affirm and celebrate on November 24, Christ is our King! We look to Jesus to guide all of our decision making, trusting in Jesus' promise of abundant life for all of us. As Christians and followers of Jesus, we must allow our faith to inform our vote. Jesus was very clear about the greatest commandment: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your mind, with all your soul, with all your strength. And another is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself." The votes we cast are not just about ourselves. Our votes need to be about our neighbors, especially those who are on the fringes and those who are most vulnerable.

Come November 6, election day will be over and candidates will be declared elected. But that doesn't mean the work is over. In fact, the real work will just be beginning. We will look for ways to work TOGETHER to build a stronger common life where love of neighbor is the guiding principle. God created us to live in community with one another. We are called to look after each other, to advocate for one another. We will need to listen to each other for the sole purpose of understanding. Then we will thrive as individuals, as a community, and as a country.

I do hope and pray that each and every one of you reading this will cast your vote on November 5. In the days leading up to election day, I encourage you to pray for all those running for office – for those who will be elected and those who will not be elected. Pray that we may move forward into the future with hope, goodwill, and love for one another. Pray that the Holy Spirit will move through us pushing us to find common ground, value each other, and keep us faithful to the only one who is always faithful to us – Jesus Christ our Lord.

In Christ's service,

*Pastor Amy*

### Ecumenical Thanksgiving Eve Service

**Wednesday, November 27**

**6:30 p.m.**

**St. Paul Lutheran Church**

St. Paul Church is hosting this year's Ecumenical Thanksgiving Eve worship service. Eight churches are involved in this year's worship! And there will be a joint choir of all the churches directed by our own Eric Ihde! Join us as we give thanks to God for the many blessings we have received day in and day out.

If you would be willing to donate bars or cookies or serve for the fellowship time after the Thanksgiving worship service, please sign up on the Welcome Desk or call the church office.



Date	11/3/2024	11/10/2024	11/17/2024	11/24/2024	12/1/2024	12/8/2024
<b>Assisting Minister</b>	Dave Hoks	Linda Tipler	Dave Hoks	Eric Thompson	Linda Tipler	Eric Thompson
<b>Lector</b>	Paul Roth	Kathy Tonn	Jessica Hess	Audrey Borchers	Marianne Kolb	Jody Tews
<b>Communion Assistants</b>	Dave Hoks Laura Wyman Laura Johnson		Dave Hoks Cindy Strong One needed		Linda Tipler Laura Wyman Laura Johnson	
<b>Ushers</b>	Roger Bauer Butch Grondahl Lyle Hemp	Don Boche Gene Evenson Eric Tipler Cody Tipler	Linda Parker Alicia Macias Linda Haufe	Roger Bauer Butch Grondahl Lyle Hemp	Don Boche Gene Evenson Eric Tipler Cody Tipler	Linda Parker Alicia Macias Linda Haufe
<b>Greeters</b>	Laura Wyman	Kathy Procknow	Sue Eckrich	Nancy Orlady	Butch Grondahl	Laura Wyman
<b>Altar Team</b>	Connie Morgenstern Connie Humski Linda Haufe		Peggy Wendt Linda Haufe Connie Humski		Connie Morgenstern Connie Humski Linda Haufe	

**Rev. Amy Engebose**  
Pastor  
pastor@stpaulneenah.org

**Kris Grutzner**  
Bookkeeper  
office@stpaulneenah.org

**Todd Nerenhausen**  
Facilities Manager  
tnerenhausen@stpaulneenah.org

**Council**  
Don Boche, President  
Kathy Procknow, Vice-President  
Audrey Borchers, Secretary  
Monika Knapp  
Kurt Mayer  
Shelley Taycher

**Julie Owens**  
Parish Administrator  
parishadmin@stpaulneenah.org

**Eric Ihde**  
Handbell & Sanctuary  
Choirs  
ihdeeric@gmail.com

**Tim Krause**  
Custodian

**Jill Hagen**  
Organist

## MINISTRY TEAM CONTACTS

**Worship Ministry:** Pastor Amy Engebose  
pastor@stpaulneenah.org

**Prayer Ministry:** Mike Dvorachek  
mdvorachek@centurylink.net

**Property Ministry:** Eric Tipler

**Meal Ministry:** Alicia Macias  
aliciacamimilooscar1@yahoo.com

**Mission Team:** Jill Hannemann  
jilli1216@aol.com

**Knit2gether:** Diana Vieth  
nina500@icloud.com

**Quilting Angels:** Bev Quella  
baquilla@gmail.com

Worship Services: Sundays at 9:30 a.m.  
(in-person and online at Facebook and YouTube)  
Office Hours: Monday—Friday, 8:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.





## Game On! It's A Neenah ELCA Chili Cookoff!

The four Neenah ELCA churches are hosting a chili cookoff on election day, November 5, 4:00 - 7:00 p.m. at Our Savior's Lutheran Church! Each church is submitting a chili for the cookoff and the community gets to vote for their favorite! A freewill offering will be received. Thank you to Chef Jeff Tews for making St. Paul Church's chili!

In order to make the chili cookoff a success, we need your help. Workers are needed to greet, serve, and clean up at the cookoff. We also need bars and cookies donated for the dessert table. If you are able to help at the cookoff, you can sign-up online using the QR code below or by calling St. Paul Church office.



We also need chili ingredients donated for our chili. A sign up sheet is located on the welcome desk at the church.

Thanks everyone, for your help!

## Council Corner

Council met October 8, 2024. The September meeting was cancelled since few members were available to meet.

The Property Team proposed setting up Christmas lights on the bushes along Commercial Street to brighten up a dark area. A lift has been present in the parking lot which was used to work on upper areas of the building outside. On the south side of the basement level, it was noted that all windows need to be replaced due to deterioration. This will be part of the Capital Improvement Project in 2025. The Building Feasibility Team contacted two developers to assess our building.

On November 13 the Discernment Team will be hosting a "Dinner and Conversation" with our neighboring social services entities such as Human Services, Advocap, Community Table, Double Portion, Friendship Place, YMCA, and Youth Go to discuss how we might partner together in the future. These two teams (the Building Feasibility Team and the Discernment Team) will report to the congregation November 17 after worship.

Council also discussed a preliminary draft of the 2025 budget.

Respectfully submitted,

Audrey Borchers, Council Secretary

## PLEASE NOTE:

The deadline for the December *Perspective* is November 15 due to the Thanksgiving holiday and Advent beginning December 1. Thank you!

## Blessing Box Donation Item for November

### Canned meats / proteins

Please bring your donation to the box in the narthex. You may also donate money instead in your offering envelope (or one from the pew rack) if you do not want to do the shopping. Thank you!



## Isaac Family Update

"God bless St. Paul Church!" is what Mama Viviane often says as the family celebrates milestones in their new home! For those who aren't familiar with Viviane and the Isaac family, in 2022 St. Paul Church formed a Good Neighbor Team through World Relief, a nonprofit organization that comes alongside refugees and other immigrants as they rebuild their lives in the United States. Our team of 11 individuals, along with the support of the entire congregation, welcomed and supported Mama Viviane, a widow from Congo, and her family of nine children (three young adult and six school-aged children) when they arrived on June 17, 2022 and during their initial resettlement period. We have had the privilege of accompanying this amazing family as they learned a new language, settled into school and jobs and began the process of adjusting to life in a new country.

This summer and fall have brought many reasons to give thanks to God. Babies Jephthe (born to Dorcas and Tresor) and Isaac (born to William and Joyce) are growing and thriving. Daniella graduated from high school this summer and has begun work as a caregiver at an assisted living facility. Mama Viviane, JR and William are all working. The school aged children — Shadrach, LeRoche, Mike, Sifa and Vivi — are involved students at their high school, middle school and elementary schools in Appleton. Recently we had a chance to take them apple and pumpkin picking, and everyone had a great time!

Included are some photos of our Isaac family: Dorcas and baby Jephthe at their home in the Milwaukee area; the proud graduate Daniella and family; and the day at the apple orchards. What a blessing this family continues to be for all of us at St. Paul Church!





## Ladies' Lunch Bunch

All ladies are invited to join our new Ladies' Lunch Bunch on Wednesday, November 13 at 11:45 at Four Seasons Restaurant on South Commercial Street in Neenah. We will meet approximately once a month for fun conversation and good food!

Please RSVP to Tamie O'Dell on Sunday mornings or via email ([gtodell87@gmail.com](mailto:gtodell87@gmail.com)) if you will be joining us so that we can make sure to have enough room for people.

Thank you!

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## Update on the St. Paul Discernment Team

The St. Paul discernment team met for the first time on June 6th, under the guidance and with the facilitation of Cathy Cowling. Members of the team are Audrey Borchers, Mike Dvorachek, Dave Hoks, Lona Jorgensen, and Cindy Rieck. We have met seven additional times since that first meeting as we discern what God is calling us to do and be in this neighborhood and community.

During this ongoing discernment process, we have prayed, read, watched, studied, considered, talked, and listened. We have looked at the demographics of this community. We have identified community partners-others who are providing services in this neighborhood that St. Paul Lutheran Church is a part of. In order to get to know our community better, we have had conversations with these community partners, focusing on their missions, assets, needs and visions. During these conversations, we tried to practice talking less and listening more!

As part of these community conversations, the team met with representatives of a number of businesses and organizations, including the YMCA, Friendship Place, Fox Valley Community Table, YouthGo, Pillars, Double Portion meal ministry, City of Neenah Community Development, Community Clothes Closet, and Shellattés. These revealing conversations deepened our understanding of the good work done in response to needs in our neighborhood. They also opened our eyes to unmet needs and areas that are underserved.

The discernment team, along with Pastor Amy, is inviting our community partners to a Community Partner Dinner Conversation on Wednesday, November 13 at St. Paul. We want to share a meal with potential partners, get to know one another, and talk about ways we can all partner together to better serve those in need in our community. We are looking forward to the conversations that result from this gathering!

We ask that you continue to hold St. Paul Lutheran Church in your prayers as, with the Spirit's guidance, we move forward in discerning what God is calling us to do and be in this neighborhood and community.

Yours in Christ,

The St. Paul Discernment Team

Audrey Borchers  
Mike Dvorachek  
Dave Hoks  
Lona Jorgensen  
Cindy Rieck



**BIRTHDAYS**



**November 1**

Grayson Koeune

**November 3**

Anthony Lieton  
Darrell Wickman

**November 4**

Gary Parker

**November 6**

Rachel Kaufman

**November 8**

Karen Gavinski

**November 10**

Mike Schultz

**November 11**

Jeff Tews  
Jody Tews

**November 12**

Gary Procknow

**November 13**

Joanne Blom  
Lyle Hemp

**November 15**

Laura Thacker

**November 18**

Edna Marquardt

**November 21**

Peg Hoks

**November 22**

Aaron Jones  
Ashley Jones

**November 24**

Amos Ihde

**November 27**

Jerry Arseneau  
Jon Jorgensen  
Paul Robinson

**November 28**

Joe Neuman

**November 29**

Gary O'Dell

**November 30**

Becky Gillis

**ANNIVERSARIES**

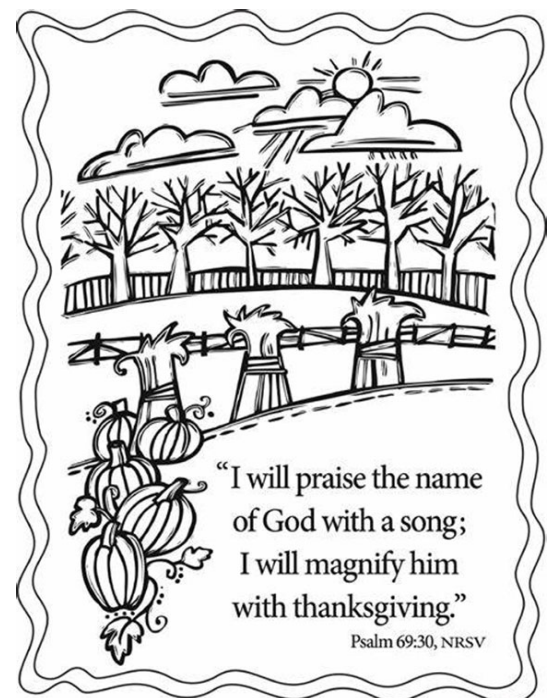


**November 12, 1966**

Amos & Carol Ihde

**November 26, 1966**

Roger & Marcia Kavanaugh



# November Calendar



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>27 Reformation Sunday</b> 9:30am Worship 10:45am GIFT Time 5:30pm Confirmation 7:00pm Al-Anon	<b>28</b>  6:30pm Bible Study	<b>29</b> 9:00am Quilting Angels 11:30am Community Table	<b>30</b> 10:00am Staff Meeting	<b>31</b> 9:00am Conversations on Scripture 7:30pm Sanctuary Choir	<b>1</b> 9:00am Knit2gether	<b>2</b> 11:30am Community Table
 <b>All Saints' Sunday</b> 9:30am Worship 10:45am GIFT Time 7:00pm Al-Anon	<b>4</b> 1:30pm Memory Care Respite 6:30 pm Building Feasibility Team	<b>5</b> 9:00am Quilting Angels 11:30am Community Table 4:00-7:00 Chili Cook-off 6:30pm Exec. Comm.	<b>6</b> 10:00am Staff Meeting	<b>7</b> 9:00am Conversations on Scripture @ Shellatte's 7:30pm Sanctuary Choir	<b>8</b> 9:00am Knit2gether	<b>9</b> 11:30am Community Table
<b>10</b> 9:30am Worship 10:45am GIFT Time 5:30pm Confirmation 7:00pm Al-Anon	<b>11</b> 1:30pm Memory Care Respite	<b>12</b> 9:00am Quilting Angels 11:30am Community Table 6:30 p.m. Council	<b>13</b> 10:00am Staff Meeting 5:30 Community Partner Dinner	<b>14</b> 9:00am Conversations on Scripture @ Shellatte's 7:30pm Sanctuary Choir	<b>15</b> 9:00am Knit2gether NOON Perspective deadline	<b>16</b> 11:30am Community Table
 <b>17</b> 9:30am Worship 10:45am GIFT Time 7:00pm Al-Anon	<b>18</b> 5:00pm Community Christmas Dinner meeting	<b>19</b> 9:00am Quilting Angels 11:30am Community Table	<b>20</b> 10:00 Staff meeting	<b>21</b> 9:00am Conversations on Scripture @ Shellatte's 7:30pm Sanctuary Choir	<b>22</b> 9:00am Knit2gether	<b>23</b> 11:30am Community Table
<b>24</b> 9:30am Worship 10:45am GIFT Time 5:30pm Confirmation 7:00pm Al-Anon	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 9:00am Quilting Angels 11:30am Community Table	<b>27</b> 10:00am Staff Meeting 6:30pm Ecumenical Thanksgiving Eve Worship here	<b>28 Thanksgiving Day</b> Office Closed	<b>29</b> Office Closed	<b>30</b> 11:30am Community Table

ADVENT begins Sunday, December 1. In addition to the Sunday morning services, we will also offer Wednesday evening worship services December 4, 11, and 18. Christmas Eve service will be held at 4:00 p.m. The office will be closed on Christmas Day.

St. Paul Lutheran Church – ELCA  
200 North Commercial Street  
Neenah, WI 54956

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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**APPLETON CONFERENCE PRESENTS:**

**BONHOEFFER:  
PASTOR. SPY. ASSASSIN.**

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8**

**SHOWTIME 1PM, DOORS OPEN @12:30PM**

**ENTRY \$10 | FREE DRINK | FREE POPCORN**

**MARCUS HOLLYWOOD CINEMA  
513 N WESTHILL BLVD APPLETON**

Resvation required. Registration closes November 24,  
2024. Limited Tickets.

Bonhoeffer Movie Rated PG-13 Run Time 2H12M

Discussion to follow at Tom's Drive-In

Questions: Rev.Tauna Roth 920-442-0347



*THIS EVENT SPONSORED BY A GRANT FROM THE APPLETON CONFERENCE*