



PERSPECTIVE

Monthly Newsletter of

St. Paul Lutheran Church—ELCA

200 N. Commercial Street • Neenah, WI 54956

(920) 725-3961 • stpaulneenah.org



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

JANUARY 2025

From Pastor Amy



*"...I will bless you...so that you will be a blessing."
(Genesis 12:2b)*

These words were spoken by God to Abram when God asked Abram and his wife, Sarai, to leave their life as

they knew it behind in order to go to the place God would show them. *"I will bless you....so that you will be a blessing."* Little did Abram know all the ways God would bless him and that those blessings would impact generation upon generation.

These words of God to Abram are true for us as well. God blesses us daily in all sorts of ways so that we, in turn, may bless others. Sometimes we know how our kindness, generosity, and actions affect others. Sometimes we simply trust God to work through us blessing others in ways we will never know.

We, at St. Paul Lutheran Church, have been richly blessed by God both as individuals and as a congregation! Our mission is now to be a blessing to others – friends, family, neighbors, and strangers alike. Toward that end, the Congregation Council has chosen as SPLC's theme for 2025 "Blessed to be a Blessing."

Throughout this year we, as a congregation, will be focusing on ways in which we can bless others. This is already happening in many ways – welcoming a guest at worship, making a care call to a fellow member, providing for the blessing box, serving Community Table

meals (and talking with the guests!). But just as we have been so richly blessed, God challenges us to expand our understanding and reach of "blessed to be a blessing."

You are invited to get creative with us in discerning new and exciting ways we can positively impact the lives of others! The daytime warming shelter and Fat Tuesday coffee and donut drive-thru (watch for more information in the February Perspective!) are just two examples of upcoming blessing projects. We have a plethora of opportunities to bless others with our companionship, our love and care, our generosity, our gifts, our time, our talents...we are overflowing with God's blessings!

So ask yourself, what is something I/we can do to bless others, showing them how much God loves them? This will be an exciting year as we intentionally live and act on our mission, "Blessed to be a Blessing"!

Serving Jesus with you,
Pastor Amy

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

January 26, 2025

following the 9:30 worship service

This meeting will be in-person only.

Agenda items include the approval of the 2025 budget, election of new council members, voting members to various ministry organizations, and nominating committee, as well as update on capital improvement projects.

Your participation is important! Please plan to attend!



Date	1/05/2025	1/12/2025	1/19/2025	1/26/2025	2/2/2025	2/09/2025
Assisting Minister	Dave Hoks	Eric Thompson	Dave Hoks	Eric Thompson	Linda Tipler	Eric Thompson
Lector	Marianne Kolb	Audrey Borchers	Jody Tews	Jim Morgenstern	Paul Roth	Eric Ihde
Communion Assistants	Dave Hoks Laura Johnson Laura Wyman		Dave Hoks Cindy Strong Laura Johnson		Linda Tipler Laura Johnson Laura Wyman	
Ushers	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
Greeters	Laura Wyman	Butch Grondahl	Kathy Procknow	Sue Eckrich	Laura Wyman	Nancy Orlady
Altar Team	Peggy Wendt Linda Haufe Connie Humski		Connie Morgenstern Connie Humski Linda Haufe		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, Treasurer
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.





Council Corner

The Council met on December 10, 2024. A member of the Discernment Team provided an update. A dinner was held at St. Paul on November 13, 2024, with many community partners. Community needs were identified, including two voids that St. Paul may help with: a youth drop-in and a daytime warming shelter. At this time, the Discernment Team will lead an effort to set up a daytime warming shelter at St. Paul. Congregation involvement will be necessary for staffing and interacting with participants. Training will be provided.

The Discernment Team and Building Task Force met together on December 2, 2024. A joint report will be given to the congregation sometime in February 2025.

The mission theme for 2025 is “Blessed to be a Blessing”. St. Paul is a blessing in so many ways.

There were some unexpected expenses in November for the boiler, but St. Paul is still operating in the black year-to-date.

The annual congregational meeting is scheduled for January 26, 2025. An informational budget 2025 meeting will be held on January 19, 2025. Both meetings will begin after the church service.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Procknow, Council Vice President

Annual Report

The annual report will be available on Sunday, January 12.

Budget Information Meeting

The Congregation Council will hold a budget information meeting on Sunday, January 19 after worship in the overflow area of the sanctuary. This is an opportunity for people to ask questions about the 2025 budget and seek additional information ahead of the annual meeting in order to make the annual meeting go smoothly. The 2025 budget will be in the annual report available on January 12.

Un-Decking the Halls!

We will take down the Christmas decorations after worship on Sunday, January 5. Many hands make light work! Please plan to stay and help us!

Daytime Warming Shelter

We are looking into opening up the fellowship hall as a daytime warming shelter on days that are bitterly cold. In order to make this happen, we are in need of many people to help staff this much needed shelter. The daytime warming shelter will be open 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. on days when the temperature falls below zero degrees. There will be two shifts of 3-4 volunteers (8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. and 12:30 p.m. -4:30 p.m.). If you would be willing to help staff the daytime warming shelter, please call the church office. Other churches will also be partnering with us. Training will be provided! The discernment team is working with someone who has a great deal of experience working with daytime and overnight shelters as we seek to set up guidelines and protocols that make our daytime warming shelter a safe place to be.



St. Paul Financial Information as of November 30, 2024

2024 total budget	\$363,343
YTD Income as of 11/30/24	\$331,636
YTD Expenses as of 11/30/24	\$311,666
Difference	\$ 19,970





Ladies' Lunch Bunch

All ladies are invited to join our new Ladies' Lunch Bunch on Wednesday, January 15 at 11:30 a.m. at The Black Bear, 1932 North Richmond Street, Appleton. We will meet once a month for fun conversation and good food on the second Wednesday of the month.

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

Thank you!

Seeking Thrivent Members

Did you know that each year Thrivent members are able to apply for two Thrivent Action Grants of \$250 each for a mission or ministry project? St. Paul Lutheran Church has been the recipient of several Thrivent Action Grants in 2024 for such things as VBS supplies, blessing box items, choir music for the Ecumenical Thanksgiving service, hygiene supplies, souper bowl food and supplies, cinnamon roll sale, food for Community Table, fleece for tie blankets for the Community Christmas Dinner, and so much more!

We are compiling a list of all SPLC people who are Thrivent members so we know who we can contact as a need arises that a Thrivent Action Grant would help with the cost. Action grants can be used as seed money for education, service project, or fundraiser. The grant money will come in the form of a debit card. There is a simple online application that needs to be filled out – if you've never done that before, we have people who can help you!

Please let Pastor Amy know if you are a Thrivent member!

Blessing Box Donation Item for January:



canned pasta meals: NoodleRoni, BeefaRoni, Spaghetti-O's, etc.

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!

Thank you! Thank you!

Our thanks to everyone who helped make the Advent and Christmas seasons so wonderful!

- * to all who helped decorate the sanctuary
- * to all of our musicians
- * to all who helped in any way with the Community Christmas dinner
- * to all those who purchased poinsettias
- * to those who participated in the Adopt-a-Family
- * to Shelley Taycher who made the quilt squares that went with our Advent-Christmas-Epiphany theme, "Words for Beginning"
- * to the Sunday School children, Marianne Kolb, Carol Ihde, and Ellie Grondahl for the nativity play on December 22
- * to the St. Paul staff for all of their extra work



BIRTHDAYS



January 3

Katie Mayer

January 7

Barb Slomski

January 8

William Meinholz

January 10

Becky Freeman

January 11

Mike Quella

January 12

Alexis Davis

January 13

Sue Haldemann

January 15

Amanda Neuman

January 17

Pam Verbrick

January 18

Marianne Kolb

January 19

Juanita Howe

Debra Lee

January 23

Ryan Ellis

January 29

Stan Meyer

January 30

Eli Grondahl

January 31

Sandra Beyer

Laura Wyman

Our Sympathy to the family of Mel Ravey who died on November 25, 2024. His memorial service was held at St. Paul Lutheran Church on Thursday, December 5.

We also extend our sympathy to the family of Dorothy Forslund, who died on November 30. Her memorial service was held at Valley Funeral Home on Thursday, December 5.

And we extent our sympathy to the family of Al Morse, who died November 22. A celebration of Life will be at a future date.

Parish Records

Deaths:

Allan Morse, 11/20/2024

Mel Ravey, 11/25/24


Dorothy Forslund, 11/30/24

Did You Know?

In 2024 an average of 10 viewers watched worship services live on Facebook and YouTube each Sunday. An additional 34 viewers watched at a later time on YouTube. Currently there are 102 subscribers to the St Paul YouTube page (www.youtube.com/@stpaulneenah).

January Calendar



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 Christmas I 9:30am Worship 7:00pm Al-Anon	30	31 9:00am Quilting Angels 11:30am Community Table	1 New Years Day Office Closed	2 9:00am Conv. on Scripture 7:30pm Sanctuary Choir	3 9:00 am Knit2gether	4 11:30am Community Table
5 Epiphany  9:30am Worship 10:45am GIFT Time 7:00pm Al-Anon	6 1:30pm Memory Care Respite 6:30 pm Building Feasibility Team	7 9:00am Quilting Angels 11:30am Community Table 6:30pm Exec. Comm. 7:00pm Property Committee	8 10:00am Staff Meeting	9 9:00am Conv. on Scripture 7:30pm Sanctuary Choir	10 9:00am Knit2gether	11 11:30am Community Table
12 Baptism of Our Lord 9:30am Worship 10:45am GIFT Time 5:30pm Confirmation 7:00pm Al-Anon	13 1:30pm Memory Care Respite	14 9:00am Quilting Angels 11:30am Community Table 6:30 pm Council	15 10:00am Staff Meeting 11:30 Ladies' Lunch Bunch @ The Black Bear	16 9:00am Conv. on Scripture 7:30pm Sanctuary Choir	17 9:00am Knit2gether	18 11:30am Community Table
19  9:30am Worship 10:45am Budget Info meeting 10:45am GIFT Time 7:00pm Al-Anon	20 12:00pm Perspective deadline	21 9:00am Quilting Angels 11:30am Community Table	22 10:00 Staff meeting	23 9:00am Conv. on Scripture 7:30pm Sanctuary Choir	24 9:00am Knit2gether	25 11:30am Community Table
26 9:30am Worship 10:45am Annual Congregational meeting 10:45am GIFT Time 5:30pm Confirmation Class 7:00pm Al-Anon	27	28 9:00am Quilting Angels 11:30am Community Table 7:30pm Worship & Music Team meeting	29 10:00 Staff meeting	30 9:00am Conv. on Scripture	31 9:00am Knit2gether	1 11:30am Community Table

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



From the Staff of
St. Paul Lutheran Church