



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!*

FEBRUARY 2025

From Pastor Amy



Abundance. Plentiful. More.
Increase. Expand. New.
Build. Overflowing.
Lighthearted. Carefree.

Scarcity. Not enough.
Wanting or needing more.
Cut back. Reductions.
Eliminate. Worry. Stress.

Fear.

Which of these two descriptions above best fits your life right now? Our country? Our community? Our congregation?

I, for one, am being overwhelmed by the “abundance of scarcity” language that has infiltrated our society. It’s absolutely everywhere; we “pick it up” and it soon becomes a part of our daily language just like “um” or “so” and before long it pervades our being to the point that we actually start believing it—we don’t have enough; we live in scarcity. Satan wants us to believe that God is abandoning us or punishing us or “teaching us a lesson”. Satan wants most to pull us away from the God who loves us and is eternally devoted to us. Scarcity thinking drives a wedge between us and God.

But scarcity thinking is all a lie! God is not a stingy God! God is a generous, giving God. Our world is being challenged—economic times are tough, jobs are being lost, money is tight, grocery bills are high, fear and uncertainty for the future is high—but God has not changed—God is still a God of Abundance! Perhaps what needs to change is our understanding of abundance.

When we pray the Lord’s Prayer, the prayer Jesus taught as the model for all prayers, we pray, “Give us this day our daily bread.” Martin Luther explains this petition as asking God to provide for the needs (bread—the basic sustenance of life) for all people (“us”) for today and everyday (“today” and “daily”). Think about this for a moment. We ask God to provide for our basic needs (not our wants) on a daily (not a weekly, monthly or yearly) basis. If we think about our prayer request that way, how many of us can honestly say that God did not provide for our basic needs (physical, emotional, spiritual, etc.) yesterday? In fact, if we’re honest, didn’t God provide abundantly more than what we really needed?

We have been blessed by God to overflowing. Now it’s our turn to use those God-given blessings to bless others. Our theme for 2025 here at St. Paul Church is “Blessed to be a Blessing”. What blessings have we been given in abundance that we can pass along to bless other people? We’re not just talking about material things. We’re also talking about time, talents, abilities, compassion, love, a listening ear. Each day ask yourself, “how can I bless someone today?” Then do it! And be open to those blessing opportunities that “pop up” as you go about your day. You never know how God will be asking you to bless someone else! And you might just find that you are blessed as well!

Serving Jesus,

Pastor Amy



Date	2/2/2025	2/9/2025	2/16/2025	2/23/2025	3/2/2025	3/9/2025
Assisting Minister	Linda Tipler	Eric Thompson	Dave Hoks	Eric Thompson	Linda Tipler	Dave Hoks
Lector	Paul Roth	Eric Ihde	Jessica Hess	Marianne Kolb	Audrey Borchers	Jody Tews
Communion Assistants	Linda Tipler Laura Johnson Laura Wyman		Dave Hoks Cindy Strong Laura Johnson		Linda Tipler Diane Morse Laura Wyman	
Ushers	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	Roger Bauer Butch Grondahl Lyle Hemp
Greeters	Laura Wyman	Nancy Orlady	Sue Eckrich	Butch Grondahl	Laura Wyman	Kathy Procknow
Altar Team	Connie Humski Linda Haufe		Peggy Wendt Connie Humski Linda Haufe		Connie Morgenstern Connie Humski Linda Haufe	

Rev. Amy Engebose
Pastor
pastor@stpaulneenah.org

Kris Grutzner
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Todd Nerenhausen
Facilities Manager
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Council
Don Boche, President
Kathy Procknow, Vice-President
Audrey Borchers, Secretary
Monika Knapp, Treasurer
Sherm Jansen
Kurt Mayer
Shelley Taycher

Julie Owens
Parish Administrator
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Eric Ihde
Handbell & Sanctuary
Choirs
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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
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Mission Team: Jill Hannemann
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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.





Pastor Out of Office

Pastor Amy will be having surgery on February 6 and will be out of the office Feb. 6-23 while she recovers. If you are in need of pastoral care during that time, please contact Julie in the church office and she can get in touch with one of the other ELCA pastors in Neenah. On Sunday, February 9, we welcome Pastor Karen Jewell-vanBuskirk to St. Paul Church as she preaches and leads worship. On Sunday, Feb. 16, we will welcome Pastor Debra (Dee) Sim as she preaches and leads us in worship. And we welcome Pastor Alan Schaffmeyer who will be preaching and leading worship on Feb. 23.

Fem Care February

Did you know that feminine hygiene items such as tampons, pads, and the like are NOT covered by SNAP benefits? We will be collecting feminine care products during the month of February to make available through the Blessing Box as well as to our Community Table and Daytime Warming Shelter guests. Thank you in advance for your donations of fem-care products!

Ladies' Lunch Bunch

All ladies are invited to join our new Ladies' Lunch Bunch on Wednesday, February 12 at 11:30 a.m. at a restaurant to be yet decided. Watch your worship announcements and/or email blasts (LutherLines). We 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!

Daytime Warming Shelter

We will be opening up the Fellowship Hall as a daytime warming shelter on days when it's bitter cold outside. 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 is 10 degrees or lower. There will be two shifts of 3-4 volunteers (8:15 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.

We are also looking for a volunteer coordinator for the daytime warming shelter. This person will send out a group text or email to our list of volunteers to fill our volunteer staff needs on days when the daytime warming shelter will be open. If you are interested in helping out in this way, please contact Pastor Amy.



St. Paul Financial Information as of December 31, 2024

2024 total budget	\$363,343.00
YTD Income as of 12/31/24	\$383,115.99
YTD Expenses as of 12/31/24	\$347,527.45
Difference	+ \$ 35,588.54



St. Paul Serves Fox Valley Community Table



Please mark your calendars for the first date St. Paul serves Fox Valley Community Table in 2025: Tuesday, February 25! A warm and nutritious winter lunch will be offered and we look forward to your continued participation in this important ministry. Please look for specific information in early February in the bulletin announcements and LutherLines about how you can help by donating funds or food and helping to serve.

We are so grateful for all those generous St. Paul folks who donated money or food and helped to serve our last meal in 2024 on November 26th! Thanks to your generosity, over 80 meals (both dine in and take out) were served to our neighbors. We continue to follow Jesus' example as we share what we have with those in need. Please consider joining us in serving our February 25th meal.

With gratitude,
Cindy Rieck and Jody Tews

GATHER BY THE BAY

Young Adults 18-35

Exploration
Fellowship
Service
Fun :)



ecsw.org/young-adult-ministry



Check This Out!

Gather by the Bay, a time of exploration, fellowship, service and fun!

The website address (if you prefer) is ecsw.org/young-adult-ministry



Prayer Service for Peace

The Neenah-Menasha Ministerial Association is hosting a community prayer service for peace on Sunday, February 23 at 2:00 p.m. at St. Gabriel's Catholic Church. This is an opportunity for all of us to come together and pray for peace throughout the world. As part of the service, worshipers will be invited to light a battery-operated candle and place it on a large floor map on the country for which they are praying. Children from area churches are making posters for peace to decorate the worship space that day. Please plan to join us for this special prayer service.

The St. Paul Chili Cook-off Returns March 2

Do you think you have the best chili recipe? Is it good enough to beat the chili of our reigning chili champ, Pastor Amy?

We are looking for about 10 volunteers to bring in a stockpot of their chili. We will meet downstairs after church to share some fellowship and taste-test all chili recipes. There will be a ballot box for people to vote for their favorite chili.

Do you want to win bragging rights? Sign up at the welcome desk or call the church office to enter your chili in the cook-off! We are looking for people to donate desserts and people to help set up and clean up.

Contact Jessica Hess if you have any questions.



COMMUNITY
PRAYER SERVICE

Pray for Peace

Sunday, February 23 at 2:00 PM

Join us for an hour of readings, reflection, and song as we pray for our brothers and sisters who are suffering across the world.
ALL ARE WELCOME!

St. Gabriel Parish
900 Geiger St., Neenah, WI 54956
Sponsored by the Neenah-Menasha Ministerial Association

Blessing Box Donation Item for February:

Hygiene items: toothbrushes (both adult and child); dental floss; travel-sized toothpaste; travel-sized mouthwash

Please bring your donation(s) 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!





BIRTHDAYS



February 1

Diane Morse

February 4

Bentley Turner

February 5

Wally Wollerman

February 7

Lillian Meinholz
Lisa Lind

February 8

Ceci Pirwitz

February 9

Michelle Miller

February 12

Nancy Lee
Amy Mentz
Shyanne Quella
Tom Wiegand

February 14

Joe Shafer
Eric Shea

February 15

Jeanne Bauer
Sue Eckrich
Clark Kaufman

February 18

Chris Plier

February 21

Eric Thompson

February 22

Aubriann Koeune
Darlene Kalfahs

February 23

Jean Maas Pike

February 25

Ruth Ferdon
Kimberly Heinz

February 27

Laura Johnson
Lisa Miller

February 28

Sage Leiton

ANNIVERSARIES



February 5, 2000

Bryan & Alissa Jones

February 14, 1981

Mike & Peggy Schultz

February 28, 2004

Kevin & Mackenzie Grondahl

PARISH RECORDS

New Member:

Welcome to Christopher Thiesen to St. Paul Church! Chris was received as a new member on January 12.

Baptism:

We welcome into the family of God Henry Connell, son of Jake & Amanda (Sigl) Connell, on January 26. Henry's sponsors are: Wayne Sigl and Leesa Erickson; Todd and Terri Connell.

February Calendar



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 9:30am Worship 10:45am Annual Congregational meeting 10:45am GIFT Time 7:00pm Al-Anon	27	28 9:00am Quilting Angels 11:30am Community Table	29 10:00 Staff meeting	30 9:00am Conv. on Scripture 7:30pm Sanctuary Choir rehearsal	31 9:00 am Knit2gether	1 9:00am Appleton Conf. meeting 11:30am Community Table
2  9:30am Worship 10:45am GIFT Time 5:30pm Confirmation class 7:00pm Al-Anon	3 1:30pm Memory Care Respite 6:30pm Building Feasibility Team	4 9:00am Quilting Angels 11:30am Community Table 6:30pm Exec. Comm. 7:00pm Property Committee	5 10:00am Staff Meeting	6 9:00am Conv. on Scripture 7:30pm Sanctuary Choir	7 9:00am Knit2gether	8 11:30am Community Table
9 9:30am Worship 10:45am GIFT Time 7:00pm Al-Anon	10 1:30pm Memory Care Respite	11 9:00am Quilting Angels 11:30am Community Table 6:30 pm Council	12 10:00am Staff Meeting 11:30 Ladies' Lunch Bunch (place TBD)	13 9:00am Conv. on Scripture 7:30pm Sanctuary Choir	14 9:00am Knit2gether	15 11:30am Community Table
16  9:30am Worship 10:45am GIFT Time 7:00pm Al-Anon	17	18 9:00am Quilting Angels 11:30am Community Table	19 10:00am Staff meeting	20 9:00am Conv. on Scripture 12:00pm Perspective articles deadline 7:30pm Sanctuary Choir	21 9:00am Knit2gether	22 11:30am Community Table
23 9:30am Worship 10:45am GIFT Time 2:00pm Prayer Service for Peace at St. Gabriel's 7:00pm Al-Anon	24	25 9:00am Quilting Angels 11:30am Community Table 7:30pm Worship & Music meeting	26 10:00am Staff meeting	27 9:00am Conv. on Scripture 7:30pm Sanctuary Choir	28 9:00am Knit2gether	1 11:30am Community Table
2 Transfiguration Sunday 9:30am Worship 10:45am GIFT Time 5:30pm Confirmation 7:00pm Al-Anon	3 1:30pm Memory Care Respite 6:30pm Building Feasibility Team	4 9:00am Quilting Angels 11:30am Community Table	5 Ash Wed. 10:00am Staff meeting 6:30pm Ash Wed. Worship	6 9:00am Conv. on Scripture 7:30pm Sanctuary Choir	7 9:00am Knit2gether	8 11:30am Community Table

St. Paul Lutheran Church – ELCA
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Neenah, WI 54956

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Mardi Gras Event!

What: Donuts and coffee for our community on the last day of Epiphany!

When: Monday, March 3 and/or Tuesday, March 4

Who: YOU! We have two opportunities to help:

On Monday, March 3 @ 9 am, we need 2 or 3 people to label coffee cups and package donuts.

On Tuesday, March 4, from 6:45 am until 9:15 am (approximately), we need six volunteers to help direct traffic and hand out donuts and coffee.

Where: St. Paul Church parking lot (we will reverse the traffic for two hours that day; drivers can enter from Commercial Street and exit on Bond Street)

How: This event is covered by a Thrivent Action team grant!

Please contact Jody Tews (920-740-5470 or jlynn2s@yahoo.com) if you can volunteer either day.