

The Messenger

December 2025

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH
503 S. STATE STREET
CARO, MICHIGAN 48723
www.stpaulcaro.org

REV. RICK BOSHoven
219-669-0877
pastor.bosh@stpaulcaro.org

ZANE A. SIMON,
MINISTER OF FAMILY LIFE
517-215-0629
zane@stpaulcaro.org

OFFICE PHONE: 989-673-4214
lynn@stpaulcaro.org



SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES
AT 8:30 A.M. AND 11:00 A.M.
SUNDAY SCHOOL AND BIBLE
CLASSES AT 9:45 A.M.
WEDNESDAY WORSHIP SERVICE
AT 7:00 P.M.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

STUDY the Word
SEEK the lost
SERVE all people
SHARE our gifts
In JESUS' name.

...St. Paul Lutheran Church

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			



M A T T H E W 1 : 2 1

SLEEP IN HEAVENLY PEACE:

Have you heard of Sleep in Heavenly Peace? They are an organization that makes beds for anyone in need. Their mission is "No kid sleeps on the floor in our town!" You can find out more at their website. **Would you like to volunteer to help at their next bed-building event? It is December 6, from 8:30 AM – 12:30 PM.** You can sign up here:

<https://shpbeds.org/chapter/mi-caro/>
For more information, call 844-432-2337.

FACTS & FIGURES

DATE	SERVICE	ATTENDANCE	OFFERING
10/26 & 10/29	Worship Services	54 + 55 + 25 = 134	\$4,765.00
11/2 & 11/5	Worship Services	63 + 84 + 22 = 169	\$4,978.45
11/9 & 11/12	Worship Services	59 + 69 + 31 = 159	\$7,848.17
11/16 & 11/19	Worship Services	68 + 56 + 27 = 151	\$4,146.00
Needed each week			\$8,642.37

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The deadline for the January 2026 issue of *The Messenger* is:
Monday, December 15 at 12:00 (noon)

Articles may be emailed to **lynn@stpaulcaro.org** or put in Secretary mailbox.

To ensure that I get all information correct, please only submit by email or in my mailbox. No phone calls please. Thank you!

NEWSLETTER SPONSORS FOR 2025

If you would like to sponsor the newsletter for a month, please see or call Lynn in the office at 989-673-4214. The cost is only \$25 for a month.

CHILDREN'S BULLETIN DRAWING

The winners for the Children's Bulletin Drawing for October are - **Connor, Addison, Stella, and Cora**. If you haven't yet, you can either pick up your prize at the church office M-F, 8:30-4:30, or you can tell myself (Lynn), or Pastor, or the Elder on any Sunday and they can let you choose a prize from the prize box. The winners for November will be announced in the January newsletter.



CHRISTMAS CAROLING

Please join us for Christmas Caroling for our shut-ins on Saturday, December 20th, from 5:00 - 7:00 PM. Pizza and

fellowship to follow at the church.

A goodwill offering will be gathered for family gifts. See you there!



Scripture Readings: December

7	OT: Isaiah 11:1-10 PS: Psalm 72:1-7 EP: Romans 15:4-13 GO: Matthew 3:1-12
14	OT: Isaiah 35:1-10 PS: Psalm 146 EP: James 5:7-11 GO: Matthew 11:2-15
21	OT: Isaiah 7:10-17 PS: Psalm 24 EP: Romans 1:1-7 GO: Matthew 1:18-25
28	OT: Isaiah 63:7-14 PS: Psalm 111 EP: Galatians 4:4-7 GO: Matthew 2:13-23

J.O.Y. TRIP ~ December 14, 2025

Just Older Youth will meet in our church at **12:15 PM on Sunday, December 14**, and travel to Nick's Country Oven in Cass City for lunch. After lunch, we will go to the Cass City United Methodist Church to see the Tom Thumb Singers' concert beginning at 3:00.

PLEASE JOIN US for Christian fun and fellowship!! Just Older Youth (JOY) includes everyone 50 and older. Please sign the sheet posted on the board in the narthex if you can come.



Our sympathy to the family and friends of **Dorothy Cottrell**. Dorothy was born on September 21, 1930 to Elmer and Augusta (Schaneck) Keinath. She died on October 24, 2025 at age 95.



The family of Dorothy Cottrell would like to extend a thank you to all the members of the prayer chain and all of St Paul for the many prayers for our mom these past several years. Also, thanks to Pastor Steele for his many visits and bringing communion, as well as Pastor Boshoven for his last visit and communion shortly before mom's passing. Pastor Boshoven also had a wonderful funeral service. We feel the love and support of our fellow Christian family here at St. Paul. Our deepest thanks. Jane and Larry Scott and the rest of the Cottrell family

December 17 – Today, we remember Daniel the Prophet and the Three Young Men.



At the time that he defeated Judah and captured Jerusalem, the Babylonian King Nebuchadnezzar took captive a number of young noblemen. He carried them back to Babylon to be brought up and trained in the literature and language of the Chaldeans. Among these were four of note: Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. The king commanded them to be educated for three years and then to serve at his pleasure. They were to eat the king's food, all of which had been offered to his idols.

Though carried far away from their native land, Daniel and the others remained faithful to the God of Israel. They declined to eat the king's fare, surviving instead on vegetables and water. Yet they were preserved in their health. Daniel was given the gift of interpreting dreams. When Nebuchadnezzar had a troubling dream, he refused to reveal it and demanded that his counselors tell him the dream and its interpretation or be killed. The four young Judeans prayed, and the dream and its meaning was revealed to Daniel. Daniel and the three received high office as a result.

The king famously demanded Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah (all of whom he renamed in honor of his own

gods) to bow down to an image he made. With great resolve, the Judeans stood fast and refused. They were tossed into a massively overheated furnace, but one "like the son of the gods" appeared in the furnace and sheltered them. They came out of the flames unhurt and even without the smell of smoke upon their clothes. The king was thus brought to confess that their God was indeed true and mighty.

Later, Daniel was maliciously accused under the reign of another king in the Persian Empire that succeeded the Babylonians. Despite a royal decree, he continued to pray three times a day toward Jerusalem. He was thrown into a lions' den and left overnight. But the Lord shut the lions' mouths, and Daniel's life was spared. In both the fiery furnace and the lions' den, the Church has always seen types of Christ's victory over death and the grave and hints of the resurrection.

Daniel also had many visions about the end times. He foresaw the enthronement of the Son of Man, coming on clouds and with great glory. He foretold how the Lord would establish a kingdom that would last forever. He foresaw the resurrection of the dead, when the righteous would shine like stars.

The Greek translation of Daniel contains a canticle that the young men sang in the furnace, the Benedicite Omnia Opera, of which the following hymn stanza is a paraphrase.

*Praise, all you people, the name so holy
Of Him who does such wondrous things!
All that has being, to praise Him solely,
With happy heart its amen sings.
Children of God, with angel host
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!
Alleluia, alleluia! (LSB 797:5)*

Weedon, W. (2016). *Celebrating the Saints*.
Concordia Publishing House.



ADVENT SCHEDULE

Wednesday, 11/26/2025:

7:00 PM

**Thanksgiving Eve
With Communion**

Sunday, 11/30/2025:

8:30 & 11:00 AM

**1st Sunday in Advent
With Communion**

Wednesday, 12/03/2025:

5:30 PM

**Advent Meal - Meatballs
sponsored by LWML**

7:00 PM

**1st Advent Midweek
With Communion**

Sunday, 12/07/2025:

8:30 & 11:00 AM

**2nd Sunday in Advent
With Communion**

Wednesday, 12/10/2025:

5:30 PM

**Advent Meal - Tacos
sponsored by Youth**

7:00 PM

**2nd Advent Midweek
With Communion**

Sunday, 12/14/2025:

8:30 & 11:00 AM

**3rd Sunday in Advent
With Communion**

Wednesday, 12/17/2025:

5:30 PM

**Advent Meal - Soup and Sandwiches
sponsored by LaValleys**

7:00 PM

**3rd Advent Midweek
With Communion**

Sunday, 12/21/2025:

8:30 AM

**4th Sunday in Advent
With Communion**

11:00 AM

***Children's Christmas Service*
No Communion**

Wednesday, 12/24/2025:

7:00 PM

**Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service
No Communion**

Thursday, 12/25/2025:

9:30 AM

**Single Worship Service
Christmas Day
With Communion**

Sunday, 12/28/2025:

8:30 & 11:00 AM

**First Sunday After Christmas
With Communion**

Wednesday, 12/31/2025:

5:30 PM

**New Years Eve
With Communion**

Operation Christmas Child 2025 Packing Party

We thank God we were able to have our 9th Annual Operation Christmas Child Packing Party on Sunday, October 26. We had 16 volunteers participate this year. We thank all who donated toward this ministry, whether it was through monetary donations, shoebox items, helping set up the Fellowship Hall, or helping at the packing party. With all of your help, we packed 156 shoebox gifts! God has truly blessed us here at St. Paul with giving hearts and willing, helping hands. We thank and praise Him for His goodness!

Our Amazing Setup & Packing Crews

Thanks to Tim and Becki Bates, Linda Bitzer, Karen Mozden, Doug and Doris DeRocco, Marilyn Hinderer, Liz Zuercher, and Cathy Erla for helping us set up for the packing party. The whole process was done in an hour. Simply amazing!

We thank the following volunteers who helped at the packing party: Linda Bitzer, Tim and Becki Bates, Ann Sattelberg, Marsha MacKenzie, Hilda Buchinger, Bonnie Creutz, Marilyn Hinderer, Liz Zuercher, Cathay Erla, Karen Mozden, Doug and Doris DeRocco, Karen Elmy, Dolores Fiebig, and Mitzi LaValley. What an amazing and hard-working crew! Thanks to their hard work, we were done and on our way home in an hour and a half. With the leftover items, we were able to pack 9 more shoeboxes, making our total 165 so far. We may have more items coming in, so stay tuned for our Final Wrap Up in the January Newsletter.

Thank You for Your Generous Donations

Thank you to the following members who contributed a total of \$235 to help purchase items to be packed in the shoeboxes: Pattie Gaudett, Donna Rieck, Jackie Garcia, Dolores Fiebig, and Liz Zuercher.

We thank the following members of St. Paul who contributed a total of \$770 toward the shipping cost of our boxes: Thrivent Financial for Lutherans Grant, Pattie Gaudett, Bonnie Creutz, Marsha MacKenzie, Suzanne Reed, and Rich and Barb Parsell.

A huge thank you to everyone who dropped off items for shoeboxes during our month-long ingathering prior to the packing party. We mention those we know below, but to the many who we do not know, we thank you for your support.

Special Thanks for Extra Help

Thank you to Marilyn Hinderer and Cheryl Voss for wrapping many shoeboxes in bright colored Christmas paper. We thank the following ladies who came at various times to help wrap boxes, assemble "Go" boxes, and affix the labels to the boxes: Marilyn Hinderer, Liz Zuercher, Bonnie Creutz, Karen Elmy, Cathay Erla, Barb Parsell, Ann Sattelberg, Sue Morris, Becki Bates, and Karen Mozden.

Thanks to Linda Bitzer for assembling a mega amount of craft kits and sharpening hundreds of pencils; John & Sue Cherniawski for the pencils, glue sticks, crayons, pencil sharpeners, erasers, and scissors. We thank Hilda Buchinger for the 4 hand-made tote bags and misc. items. We thank the Quilters for the donation of fabric to be included in 20 sewing kits. We thank Mary Reinbold from St. Michael's in Richville for the donation of 30 hand-made dresses, and for taking the time to give the quilting group a tutorial on making the dresses.

We thank Pastor Boshoven and Zane Simon for their support of this ministry. We give a huge shout-out to Eric Bitzer for going above and beyond the call of duty to help us during this past six weeks with all of the shuffling of tables and finding storage space for our Operation Christmas Child shoebox items and other supplies.

A Final Word of Thanks

We thank God for the opportunity to serve Him in this ministry and we thank God for all of you who helped. It is heartwarming to see God's people work together to help spread the Gospel of Christ to the ends of the earth. As my late Grandma Mattlin often said, "It warms the cockles of my heart."

In thanksgiving for you,
Dave & Diana
Project Leaders for St. Paul

Evangelism Team

The Evangelism Team for St. Paul met in November and brainstormed some fantastic ideas on how we can better serve our congregation and community. If you're interested in learning more, please join us for our next meeting on **Thursday, December 11th at 12:30 PM** in the church meeting room. If you have any questions, please contact Cindy Morley, Evangelism Chair. We hope to see you there!

UPDATE FROM OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

As we close the books on another National Collection Week for Operation Christmas Child, we ask for continued prayers for this ministry. Please consider the following prayer points:

- May God direct each shoebox into the hands of just the right child, and may He prepare the hearts of those who receive them to hear God's Word and receive His love.
- May the shoeboxes bring joy to children facing poverty, sickness, famine, or war, especially those in hard-to-reach areas where believers face hardships for professing faith in Jesus.
- May God meet the needs of these children—physical, emotional, and spiritual.
- May the shoeboxes open doors for children and their families to hear of Jesus' unconditional love for them.
- May many children come to faith through the follow-up program "The Greatest Journey," and dedicate their lives to serving Jesus.
- May God bless the many volunteers who are involved in the collection, shipping, processing, and distribution of the shoebox gifts.

Thank you for helping us with this important and rewarding ministry outreach.

Dave & Diana Mattlin – Project leaders for St. Paul

Stay tuned for the January Newsletter, where we will share the final shoebox totals and, hopefully, information about where our shoeboxes were sent.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

God's Blessings as you celebrate your special day!

December

December 1

Maxwell Holmes

December 2

Lori Calery

December 3

Don Gaudett
Devon Strzelewicz

December 4

Brooke Rocheleau

December 5

Amy Davis
Carson Thayer

December 6

Dara Del Real
Lena Sprague

December 9

Derek Cherniawski

December 10

Alyssa Eremia
Autumn Eremia
Karen Peruski
Megan Tuckey

December 11

Carol Matthewson

December 12

Randy TerBush

December 13

Kameron Schlund

December 14

Erin Ensign
Kasey Flintoft

December 15

Ashley Ewald

December 16

Gabrielle Heida
Lois Spaulding

December 17

Nancy DeBoer

December 18

Christopher Gaudett

December 20

Juliann Holmes
Brittany Owen

December 21

Travis Mozden
James Pryor

December 22

Samantha Will

December 23

Emma Cumper
Kyle Fetting
Marsha MacKenzie
Dystani Wark

December 24

Christina Hoard

December 26

Zane Simon

December 28

Robyn Blasius
Andrew Weidman

December 30

Ethan Cumper
Vicki Reinbold

December 31

Scott Hadaway
Derek Mozden
Albert Pearsall
Arryelle Wiesen



Bible Writing Plan

December 2025

Savor Our Savior!

- 1 - Isaiah 7:14
- 2 - Isaiah 9:6-7
- 3 - Isaiah 11:1-2
- 4 - Micah 5:2-5
- 5 - Psalm 72:9-14
- 6 - Matthew 1:21
- 7 - Matthew 2:10
- 8 - Matthew 1:18-25



- 9 - John 1:1-4
- 10 - John 1:14
- 11 - John 1:16
- 12 - John 3:16
- 13 - Romans 8:1-3
- 14 - Numbers 24:17
- 15 - Luke 1:26-28
- 16 - Luke 1:29-31
- 17 - Luke 1:32-33
- 18 - Luke 1:34-35
- 19 - Luke 1:36-37
- 20 - Luke 1:46-48
- 21 - Luke 1:49-50
- 22 - Luke 1:51-52
- 23 - Luke 1:53-55
- 24 - Luke 1:66-69
- 25 - Luke 2:6
- 26 - Luke 2:7
- 27 - Luke 2:8-9
- 28 - Luke 2:10-11
- 29 - Luke 2:13-14
- 30 - Luke 2:29-32
- 31 - Luke 2:33-35

December 2025

St. Paul Lutheran Church Phone: 989-673-4214 lynn@stpaulcaro.org www.stpaulcaro.org			Rev. Rick Boshoven 219-669-0877 pastor.bosh@stpaulcaro.org			Family Life Minister: Zane Simon Cell: 517-215-0629 zane@stpaulcaro.org		
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday		
Ushers: Darlene Gusko Matt Braun Gary Zick Marsha MacKenzie Jay Hecht Rickwalts	1 5:30 Choir 6:30 Handbells	2 8:30 Quilters 5:30 Contemporary Rehearsal 6:30 Board of Elders	3 Midweek Advent 1 5:30 Advent Dinner - Meatballs & Mashed Potatoes / Noodles Sponsored by LWML 7:00 Worship Service	4	5	6 8:30 - 12:30 Sleep in Heavenly Peace - Bed Building		
7 Second Sunday in Advent 8:30 Contemporary with Holy Communion 9:45 Bible Class / Christmas Service Practice 11:00 Traditional with Holy Communion 12:15 Confirmation Class	8 5:30 Choir 6:30 Handbells	9 8:30 Quilters 5:30 Contemporary Rehearsal 6:00 Endowment	10 Midweek Advent 2 5:30 Advent Dinner - Tacos Sponsored by Youth 7:00 Worship Service	11 10:00 - 11:30 Women's Bible Study 12:30 Evangelism Meeting	12	13		
14 Third Sunday in Advent 8:30 Traditional with Holy Communion 9:45 Bible Class / Christmas Service Practice 11:00 Contemporary with Holy Communion 12:15 Confirmation Class 12:15 JOY Group	15 5:30 Choir 6:30 Handbells	16 8:30 Quilters 5:30 Contemporary Rehearsal	17 Midweek Advent 3 5:30 Advent Dinner - Soup & Sandwiches Sponsored by LaValleys 7:00 Worship Service	18	19 7:00 pm- 7:00 am Christmas Lock-In	20 5:00 - 7:00 pm Christmas Caroling		
21 Fourth Sunday in Advent 8:30 Contemporary with Holy Communion 9:45 Bible Class / Christmas Service Practice 11:00 Children's Christmas Service - no comm. 12:00 Meal - Spaghetti 12:15 Confirmation Class	22 5:30 Choir 6:30 Handbells	23 8:30 Quilters 5:30 Contemporary Rehearsal	24 7:00 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service No communion	25 Christmas Day 9:30 Single Traditional Service with Holy Communion Office Closed	26	27		
28 First Sunday after Christmas 8:30 Traditional with Holy Communion 9:45 Bible Class 11:00 Contemporary with Holy Communion	29 5:30 Choir 6:30 Handbells	30 8:30 Quilters 5:30 Contemporary Rehearsal	31 5:30 New Year's Eve Service	Prayer Chain: Church Office: 673-4214 lynn@stpaulcaro.org Flower Chair: Dolores Fiebig Julie McCreedy				