

# The Messenger

December 2024

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
503 S. STATE STREET  
CARO, MICHIGAN 48723  
WEBSITE: [www.stpaulcaro.org](http://www.stpaulcaro.org)

CAMERON K. STEELE, PASTOR  
HOME: 989-673-2516  
CELL: 989-550-3355  
[revcameron.steele@gmail.com](mailto:revcameron.steele@gmail.com)

ZANE A. SIMON,  
MINISTER OF FAMILY LIFE  
517-215-0629  
[zane@stpaulcaro.org](mailto:zane@stpaulcaro.org)

OFFICE PHONE: 989-673-4214  
eMail: [lynn@stpaulcaro.org](mailto: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				



# FACTS & FIGURES

DATE	SERVICE	ATTENDANCE	OFFERING
10/27 & 10/30	Worship Services	53 + 84 + 20 = 157	\$5,592.90
11/3 & 11/6	Worship Services	91 + 55 + 22 = 168	\$6,789.55
11/10 & 11/13	Worship Services	83 + 71 + 22 = 176	\$5,874.00
11/17 & 11/20	Worship Services	55 + 66 + 25 = 146	\$6,633.55
Needed each week			\$8,642.37

## NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The deadline for the  
January 2025 issue  
of *The Messenger* is:  
**Monday, December 23  
at 12:00 (noon)**

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

## CHILDREN'S BULLETIN DRAWING

The winners for the Children's Bulletin Drawing for October are - **Grant, Nolan, Cora, & Stella!** 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 winner for November will be announced in the first Sunday bulletin in December and in the January newsletter.

## CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR Pastor and Zane:

It is the custom to give a gift of money to our called staff. Please give your contribution to any usher, Elder, or to Lynn in the office before Monday, December 16. It will be given to Pastor and Zane on December 22, at 11:00, during the Children's Christmas Service.

## 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 per month.



# ADVENT SCHEDULE

**Wednesday, 11/27/24:**

**7:00 PM**

**Thanksgiving Eve  
With Communion**

**Sunday, 12/01/24:**

**8:30 & 11:00 AM**

**1st Sunday in Advent  
With Communion**

**Wednesday, 12/04/24:**

**5:30 PM**

**Advent Meal - sponsored by  
LWML**

**7:00 PM**

**1st Advent Midweek  
With Communion**

**Sunday, 12/8/24:**

**8:30 & 11:00 AM**

**2nd Sunday in Advent  
With Communion**

**Wednesday, 12/11/24:**

**5:30 PM**

**Advent Meal - sponsored by  
Youth**

**7:00 PM**

**2nd Advent Midweek  
With Communion**

**Sunday, 12/15/24:**

**8:30 & 11:00 AM**

**3rd Sunday in Advent  
With Communion**

**Wednesday, 12/18/24:**

**5:30 PM**

**Advent Meal - sponsored by  
TBD**

**7:00 PM**

**3rd Advent Midweek  
With Communion**

**Sunday, 12/22/24:**

**8:30 AM**

**4th Sunday in Advent  
With Communion**

**11:00 AM**

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

**Tuesday, 12/24/24:**

**7:00 PM**

**Christmas Eve  
Candlelight Service  
No Communion**

**Wednesday, 12/25/24:**

**9:30 AM**

**Single Worship Service  
Christmas Day  
With Communion**

**Sunday, 12/29/24:**

**8:30 & 11:00 AM**

**First Sunday After Christmas  
With Communion**

**Tuesday, 12/31/24:**

**5:30 PM**

**New Years Eve  
With Communion**



**It's that time of year to order Poinsettias to enhance the church for the Christmas season. The cost this year is only \$18.00. If you did not get an order form in your mailbox, there are extras on the table in the narthex.**



## **PRAYER CHAIN**

Have you ever thought about becoming a member of the Prayer Chain but you just are not sure of what kind of commitment that would mean on your part. Well, let me tell you. Below are the Prayer Chain Guidelines. Every week you get a list of who to pray for and once every four weeks you get a list of families (5-6 families per week for 4 weeks) to pray for also. If this is something you might be interested in, let me know.

### WEEKLY PRAYER REQUESTS

1. Remember to pick up your copy in your church mailbox on Sunday.
2. Pray these requests daily.
3. Pray God's will. Pray requests to God, not answers.
4. Pray fervently. "The effectual fervent prayers of a righteous person availeth much." James 5:16
5. Use Christian discretion to keep requests confidential.
6. Inform me when answers are received. These, too, will be passed along for the encouragement of prayer chain members.
7. Prayer request can be given to: Lynn LeBlanc 673-4214 (Church Office) or [lynn@stpaulcaro.org](mailto:lynn@stpaulcaro.org)

### EMERGENCY PRAYER REQUESTS

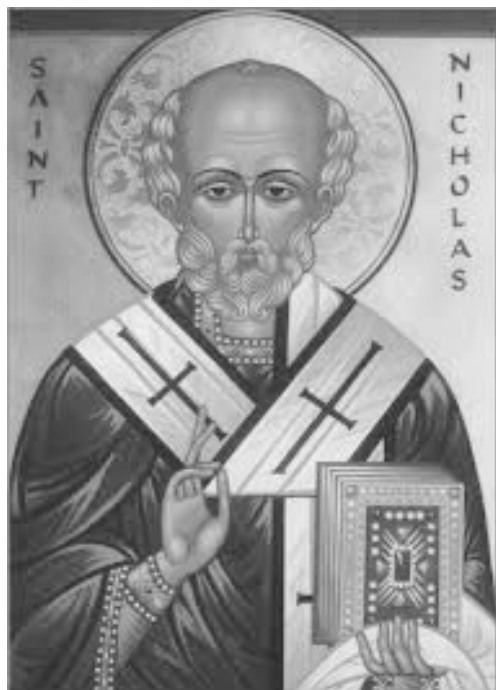
1. You will be contacted by telephone.
2. Pray IMMEDIATELY after receiving an emergency prayer request. Don't leave your phone until you have prayed so that you do not become involved in other things and put off until too late or you forget altogether.
3. Add this request to your weekly prayer request list.

If at any time you find the above guidelines impossible to follow, please call Lynn and have your name removed from the Prayer Chain.

## December 6

### Nicholas of Myra, Pastor

Of the many saints commemorated by the Christian Church, Nicholas (d. A.D. 342) is one of the best known. Very little is known historically of him, although there was a church of Saint Nicholas in Constantinople as early as the sixth century. Research has affirmed that there was a bishop by the name of Nicholas in the city of Myra in Lycia (part of Turkey today) in the fourth century. From that coastal location, legends about Nicholas have traveled throughout time and space. He is associated with charitable giving in many countries around the world and is portrayed as the rescuer of sailors, the protector of children, and the friend of people in distress or need. In commemoration of "Sinter Klaas" (Dutch for Saint Nicholas, in English "Santa Claus"), December 6 is a day for giving and receiving gifts in many parts of Europe.



*Good news from Heaven the angels  
bring,  
Glad tidings to the earth they sing;  
To us this day a child is given,  
To crown us with the joy of Heaven.*  
-Martin Luther

## **Sunday December 22, 11:00 AM Children's Christmas Worship**

St. Paul's Sunday School students, teachers, leaders, and friends will lead our worship on December 22 in our 11:00 AM service. The entire service will be dedicated to the message of Christmas brought to us by our youngest members. Please come and support our young ones and their teachers by hearing the message of Jesus from them. Note: *We will NOT offer the Sacrament of Holy Communion during this 11:00 AM service.* Our 8:30 worship will be Traditional with Holy Communion.

## **Meal Following Children's Christmas Service**

If you are planning on attending the meal after the Children's Christmas Service on December 22, please sign up on one of the sign up sheets. There will be one on the Bulletin Board in the Narthex and one in the Sunday School. The service is at 11:00, the meal will follow.

## Operation Christmas Child 2024 Packing Party

We thank God we were able to have our 8th Annual Operation Christmas Child Packing Party on Sunday, October 27th. We had 23 volunteers participate this year. We thank all who donated toward this ministry, whether it was monetary donations, shoebox filler items, helping set up the Fellowship Hall, or helping at the Packing Party. With all of your help, we packed 200 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!**

Thanks to Tim and Becki Bates, Linda Bitzer, and Ed & Karen Mozden for helping us set up for the Packing Party. They completed the whole process in an hour. Simply amazing!

We thank the following volunteers who helped at the Packing Party: Linda Bitzer, Becki & Tim Bates, Lisa Graf, John & Sue Cherniawski, Ann Sattelberg, Marsha MacKenzie, Judy Mohr, Hilda Buchinger, Bonnie Creutz, Jocelyn, Violet, and Canton Tetil, Susan and Zac Simpson, Marilyn Hinderer, Rich & Barb Parsell, Zane Simon, and Robyn Blasius. **What an amazing and hard-working crew!** They packed and prepared the 200 shoeboxes for transport to the Drop Off Center in November. Again, thanks to their hard work, we were done and on our way home in an hour and a half. We packed 14 more shoeboxes with the leftover items, making 214 so far. We may have more items coming in, so stay tuned for our Final Wrap Up in the January Newsletter for the final total of shoeboxes gathered this year.

Thank you to the following congregation members who contributed \$370.00 to help purchase items to be packed in the shoeboxes: Liz Zuercher, Patti Gaudett, Donna Rieck, Rich & Barb Parsell, and Linda Bitzer.

We thank the following members of St. Paul who contributed a total of \$520 toward the shipping cost of our shoeboxes: Thrivent Financial for Lutherans Grant, Pattie Gaudett, Bonnie Creutz, Rich Parsell, Marsha MacKenzie, and Marilyn Hinderer.

We give a huge thank you to everyone who dropped off items for shoeboxes during our month-long ingathering prior to the packing party. Thank you to Marilyn Hinderer and Cheryl Voss for wrapping many shoeboxes in bright-colored Christmas paper. We thank Linda Bitzer for assembling a mega amount of craft kits, John & Sue Cherniawski for the pencils, glue sticks, crayons, pencil sharpeners, erasers, and scissors, and Mitzi LaValley for the zipper pouches, glue sticks, pencil sharpeners, glue bottles, colored pencils, rulers, markers, crayons, and erasers. We thank Hilda Buchinger for the 12 handmade dresses and 8 tote bags. We thank Mary Reinbold from St. Michael's in Richville for donating 34 handmade dresses. And we thank all of you who dropped off items in the tote during our month-long ingathering. We don't know who you are, but we thank God for your generous support. We thank Pastor Steele for his support of this ministry.

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. My late Grandma Mattlin often said, "It warms the cockles of my heart."

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





## **THE LUTHERAN WITNESS** **SUBSCRIPTIONS :**

It's time to subscribe to *The Lutheran Witness (LW)* to ensure a discounted rate. *The Lutheran Witness* is the official periodical of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and is published 11 times a year. It provides Missouri Synod lay people with stories and information that complement congregational life, foster personal growth in faith, and help interpret the contemporary world from a Lutheran Christian perspective. The *Michigan In Touch* will no longer be included with the subscription.

The new subscription year doesn't begin until March 2025, but orders need to be to the District office before mid-December, 2024 to take advantage of a discounted District rate of **\$21.20/year**. (Price increase is due to CPH production cost increase.) Individual subscriptions ordered directly from CPH are \$24.99/year.

Payment for subscriptions should be made directly to **St. Paul Lutheran Church**. Please have your money to the **church office by December 6** so I have time to send it on to District on time. Thank you!



## **2025 ENVELOPES**

Your contribution envelopes for 2025 will be in your church mailbox around mid-December. *After the new year, please discard your unused 2024 envelopes and use only from your new box. The envelope numbers do change from year to year.* If you have your check automatically sent to the church from your bank I will keep them here for you, unless you tell me otherwise. Also, if I keep your envelopes, let me know if you want me to give you all the extra envelopes (Building Fund, Lent, etc.) Thank you!

## **CHRISTMAS CARDS**

Did you know the LWML sells cards for all occasions? There are Birthday, Anniversary, Thank You, Get Well, Sympathy, Christmas, and many other occasions. They sell for 50¢ each or 12 for \$5.00 mix or match and are located in the card case next to the table. **There is a box on top of the card case to put your money for card purchases.** Checks can be made to: ***St. Paul Lutheran LWML***.

During the weeks prior to Christmas, there will also be *Christmas cards by the box* on the table in the Narthex. **Those cards will not be Mix or Match.** They will be sold by the box for the price on the bottom of the box. \$5.00 for regular (12 count box), or \$10.00 for a Value box (24 count).



## Counter Needed

If you can help Melissa Koehler out by being a counter (not the kind in your kitchen or bathroom, but a person that counts), please let her or Lynn in the office know and I can pass your name on to her.

## Scripture Readings December

1	OT: Jeremiah 33:14-16 EP: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13 GO: Luke 19:28-40
8	OT: Malachi 3:1-7b EP: Philippians 1:2-11 GO: Luke 3:1-14 (15-20)
15	OT: Zephaniah 3:14-20 EP: Philippians 4:4-7 GO: Luke 7:18-28 (29-35)
22	OT: Micah 5:2-5a EP: Hebrews 10:5-10 GO: Luke 1:39-45 (46-56)
29	OT: Exodus 13:1-3a, 11-15 EP: Colossians 3:12-17 GO: Luke 2:22-40

## Calendar Notes

### Twelve Days of Christmas

The song “The Twelve Days of Christmas” reminds us that this season stretches from Christmas Day (the celebration of Jesus’ birth) to January 6 (Epiphany, the day we celebrate the arrival of the magi).

For years, many people assumed that there was symbolism in the items referred to in the song, even perpetuating a story that it originated as a secret way for Roman Catholics to perpetuate the catechism when Catholicism was officially outlawed in England. Various charts have been published, suggesting that the “two turtle doves” meant the Old and New Testaments and the “six geese-a-laying” the six days of creation. However, there is nothing historical to support this theory and, in reality, such tidbits of doctrine would be true for all Christians, not just Roman Catholics.

It seems to be just a fun song celebrating a wonderful season of the church year. For further fun, a group computes the estimated cost each year of purchasing all of the items on the list. In 2023, the bill ran to \$201,972.66.





Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which shall be to all people; for there is born to you this day a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord. In these words you clearly see that He is born for us. He does not simply say, Christ is born, but to you is born; neither does He say, I bring glad tidings, but to you I bring glad tidings of great joy. Furthermore, this joy was not to remain in Christ, but it shall be to all people.

-Sermons of Martin Luther  
*Christianity Today*

I truly believe that if we keep telling the Christmas story, singing the Christmas songs, and living the Christmas spirit, we can bring joy and happiness and peace to the world.

-Norman Vincent Peale



I want to thank everyone that donated money to help me pay off my Amigo. I really needed a new one because my old one needed so much work on it and it needed new tires. Thank you again because I really love my new Amigo. You guys are so wonderful.

Thank you,  
Judy Mohr

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**J.O.Y. TRIP ~ SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15th, 2024**

*joy*

Just Older Youth will meet at the church following late service on Sunday, December 15th, and go to the Pompei restaurant in Reese for lunch, then on to St. Lorenz Lutheran church in Frankenmuth for their Christmas concert at 3:00. We will enjoy seeing some beautiful Christmas lights on our way home.

**PLEASE JOIN US** for Christian fun and fellowship!! Just Older Youth includes everyone 50 and older. If you can come, please sign the sheet posted on the board in the narthex.



# 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**

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**

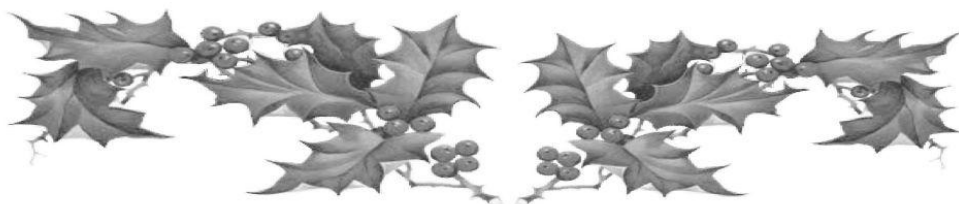
Robyn Blasius  
Zachary Turner  
Andrew Weidman

### **December 30**

Ethan Cumper  
Vicki Reinbold

### **December 31**

Scott Hadaway  
Derek Mozden  
Albert Pearsall  
Arryelle Wiesen



Let's read through the entire Bible in one year!  
 Here is the plan for December.  
 Our last month for this year!

December 2024						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 2 Cor 11-13 Acts 20:7-12	2 Acts 20:13-21:36	3 Acts 21:37-23:35	4 Acts 24-26	5 Acts 27	6 Acts 28 Ephesians 1-2	7 Eph 3-5:14
8 Eph 5:15-6:24 Colossians 1:1-23	9 Col 1:24-4:18	10 Philemon 1 Philippians 1-2:11	11 Php 2:12-4:23	12 James 1-3	13 Jam 4-5 1 Timothy 1-2	14 1 Tim 3-6:10
15 1 Tim 6:11-21 Titus 1-3 2 Tim 1	16 2 Tim 2-4:18	17 2 Tim 4:19-22 Hebrews 1-4:13	18 Heb 4:14-7:28	19 Heb 8-10	20 Heb 11-12	21 Heb 13 1 Peter 1-2:3
22 1 Pet 2:4-5:11	23 1 Pet 5:12-14 2 Pet 1-3	24 1 John 1-4:6	25 1 John 4:7-5:21 2 John 1 3 John 1	26 Jude 1 Revelation 1-2	27 Rev 3-6	28 Rev 7-10
29 Rev 11-14	30 Rev 15-18	31 Rev 19-22	Eph = Ephesians Col = Colossians	Phm = Philemon Php = Philippians	Jam = James Tim = Timothy	Heb = Hebrews Pet = Peter

# December 2024

<b>St. Paul Lutheran Church</b> <b>Phone: 989-673-4214</b> <b>lynn@stpaulcaro.org</b> <b>Web: www.stpaulcaro.org</b>		<b>Pastor: Cameron K. Steele</b> <b>Home: 989-673-2516</b> <b>Cell: 989-550-3355</b> <b>RevCameron.Steele@gmail.com</b>		<b>Family Life Minister: Zane Simon</b> <b>Cell: 517-215-0629</b> <b>zane@stpaulcaro.org</b>		
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1 First Sunday in Advent</b> 8:30 Contemporary with Holy Communion 9:45 Bible Class / Sunday School 11:00 Traditional with Holy Communion 12:15 1st & 2nd Year Confirmation	<b>2</b> 5:30 Choir Practice 6:30 Handbells	<b>3</b> 8:30 Quilters 5:30 Contemporary Rehearsal 6:30 Board of Elders	<b>4</b> Midweek Advent 1 5:30 Advent Dinner - Sponsored by LWML 7:00 Worship Service	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8 Second Sunday in Advent</b> 8:30 Traditional with Holy Communion 9:45 Bible Class / Sunday School 11:00 Contemporary with Holy Communion 12:15 1st & 2nd Year Confirmation	<b>9</b> 5:30 Choir Practice 6:30 Handbells Practice	<b>10</b> 8:30 Quilters 5:30 Contemporary Rehearsal 6:00 Endowment Fund Meeting	<b>11</b> Midweek Advent 2 5:30 Advent Dinner - Sponsored by Youth 7:00 Worship Service	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15 Third Sunday in Advent</b> 8:30 Contemporary with Holy Communion 9:45 Bible Class / Family Sunday School 11:00 Traditional with Holy Communion 12:00 JOY Trip 12:15 1st & 2nd Year Confirmation	<b>16</b> 5:30 Choir Practice 6:30 Handbells Practice	<b>17</b> 8:30 Quilters 5:30 Contemporary Rehearsal	<b>18</b> Midweek Advent 3 5:30 Advent Dinner - Sponsored by TBD 7:00 Worship Service	<b>19</b>	<b>Elders:</b> Eric Bitzer 550-0297 Bob Eremia 810-691-1302 Kent Graf 673-5496 David Hoard 550-2969 Jamie LeBlanc 545-2131 Bill McQueen 598-0444 Bob Smith 325-1038 Garrett Tetil 670-6221 Brian Voss 286-1461 John Weidman 550-4764 Gary Zick 673-7449	
<b>22 Fourth Sunday in Advent</b> 8:30 Traditional with Holy Communion 9:45 Bible Class / Sunday School 11:00 Children's Christmas Service 12:15 1st & 2nd Year Confirmation	<b>23</b> 5:30 Choir Practice 6:30 Handbells Practice	<b>24</b> 7:00 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	<b>25</b> Christmas Day 9:30 Single Traditional Service with Holy Communion Office Closed	<b>26</b>		
<b>29 Fifth Sunday Door Offering</b> 8:30 Traditional with Holy Communion 9:45 Bible Class / Sunday School 11:00 Traditional with Holy Communion 12:15 1st & 2nd Year Confirmation	<b>30</b> 5:30 Choir Practice 6:30 Handbells Practice	<b>31</b> 8:30 Quilters 5:30 New Year's Eve Service	<b>Prayer Chain:</b> Church Office: 673-4214 lynn@stpaulcaro.org	<b>Flower Chair:</b> Delores Fiebig Nancy Vant	<b>Ushers:</b> Darlene Gusko Gary Zick Jay Hecht	<b>Matt Braun</b> <b>Rickwalts</b> <b>Marsha MacKenzie</b>