

# December

2025

## Behold

*"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call His name Immanuel" (which means, God with us). - Matthew 1:23*

Advent, among many things, is the season of beholding. The Greek word for behold is "Idou," which is an exclamatory particle meant to call immediate attention to a person, act, or statement. It is meant to stop the hearer in their tracks and to ponder the divine and holy importance of a person, event, or declaration. It is a pivotal announcement of greatness that should fill us with wonder and worship.

Indeed, Advent is about the person (Jesus Christ), the act (for God so loved the world), and the statement (God has come to save us). Our world has turned the season into a lot of things, but seldom does it stop to behold its significance and meaning. We have become far too busy and preoccupied with all the lesser (mostly good) things of Christmas. We need to be reminded to behold the coming of Immanuel. And no, it's not the Black Friday sales, the flashing lights on our Christmas trees, the family gatherings, and the giving of gifts. Although, I will participate in three of the four. (I'll let you guess the one I'll skip.)

As you will learn about me you will learn that I love acronyms. So allow me to introduce you to my latest acronym, B.E.H.O.L.D. .

**B - Be still** - In the hectic pace of Christmas, choose to be still. As it says in Psalm 46:10, *"Be still and know that I am God."*

**E - Enter in** - Imagine what it must have been for the shepherds to enter in and behold the Christ child. On November 11th, the skies declared the glory of God with Northern Lights. Enter in and behold the glory that God came to save you.

**H - Hold Christ** - There is nothing like a parent holding onto their baby for the first time. Take hold of Jesus with that same joy this Advent season.

**O - Observe Others** - The coming of Christ is to be shared with others. Observe how others are experiencing Him and share those moments with one another.

**L - Love and be Loved by God** - *"For God so loved the world..."* Christmas is God's declaration that He loves you and an invitation to love Him in return.

**D - Daily Honor and Worship Him** - One of the amazing things about the season is that even most of the unchurched world loves the music of Christmas. They may not even know the meaning, but many know the songs. Take time to reflect on and worship through the music of Advent.

We, Brenda and I, are so looking forward to beholding Christ together with you this Advent season.

For the Praise of His Glory,  
Pastor Darren

**St Paul Lutheran Church  
Council Minutes**

The November council minutes will be included in next months Epistle.

**2025 Church Council**

Jacob Marz - Chair	
Kim Graff - Secretary	Kelly Sargent - Treasure
Randy Wendt	Paul Muske
Kathy Pederson	Angel Rummel
Sarah Groebner	Andy Renner

St Paul Attendance

11/2 9am - 98                      11/9 9am - 114  
 11/16 9am - 116                    11/23 9 am - 94

Budget Recap Year-To-Date (01/01/25 to 11/26/25)

Total Funds for Budget	\$172,987.34	Total Operating Funds	\$205,987.34
Memorial Loan	+\$33,000.00		
	\$205,987.34		
Budget	-\$215,059.31	Operating Exp.	-\$213,174.43
Difference	(\$9,071.97)	Difference	(\$7,187.09)

**Thrivent Financial**—As always, St. Paul Lutheran Church is grateful for your consideration when you make charitable giving plans. If you are a Thrivent Financial member eligible to direct Choice Dollars<sup>SM</sup>, we ask you to consider St. Paul Lutheran as you help direct Thrivent Financials charitable funds.

**Direct Giving opportunities are available all year long here at St. Paul's!**  
**Enjoy the convenience of not having to find your envelopes and write out a check each week. These direct gifts are set up through your bank and can be customized by amount and frequency to fit your needs! If you are interested in signing up for Direct Giving talk to Katie in the office or contact your bank today!**



Memorials Given 10/25/2025 - 11/24/2025

<u>In Memory:</u>	<u>Given by:</u>	<u>Designated for:</u>
Douglas Schiller	Roger & Kelly Sargent	St. Paul Lutheran Church
	Ed Meidl	St. Paul Lutheran Church
	Richard & Lois Zihlke	St. Paul Lutheran Church
	Tim & Jill Vogel	St. Paul Lutheran Church
	Daniel Kettner	St. Paul Lutheran Church
	Peggy Larson	Good Shepherd Scholarship

**Deadlines:**

**Sunday Bulletin:** Wednesday by 10 am.

**Epistle:** 20th of each month. Please call or email the church office with additions or changes for the bulletins or Epistle. [stpaul\\_lutheran@hotmail.com](mailto:stpaul_lutheran@hotmail.com)

Help us keep our Church Directory up to date! We would like to get updated pictures of each member family for the directory.

If you have a nice family photo you would like to use instead, you can email a copy to Katie at [stpaul\\_lutheran@hotmail.com](mailto:stpaul_lutheran@hotmail.com) at any time.

### **CHURCH GREETERS WANTED!**

We are bringing back church greeters! This was something that went away during the covid pandemic, and we are excited to bring it back!

If you would like to be a greeter, you can sign up in the Narthex, Fellowship Hall or let Katie know by either phone 507-723-5880 or email [stpaul\\_lutheran@hotmail.com](mailto:stpaul_lutheran@hotmail.com)

Like in the past, greeters will be on a rotation. We need two people per service that will greet people as they enter church.

- Notice: Please update your phone numbers and/or email address with the church office! Several of the numbers we have are disconnected and we need to know how to get a hold of you!
- You can leave a note in the box outside of Katie's office, call or email the church office at 507-723-5880 or [stpaul\\_lutheran@hotmail.com](mailto:stpaul_lutheran@hotmail.com).
- We appreciate you keeping us updated!

**Our worship services are live broadcast on YouTube! Just subscribe to our YouTube Channel by going to [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) and searching for St Paul Lutheran Church, Springfield, MN, or simply scan the QR Code with your smartphone. Be sure to subscribe so you will be notified when we go live!**



**Church Directory!** We have an online church Directory!

- \* Go to <https://members.instantchurchdirectory.com/> and create a log-in account with your email the church office has on file. If you can't log in, let Katie know so we can get it entered!
- \* If you don't have access to the internet and would like a printed copy of the directory, let Katie know.
- \* Those with smartphones can easily download the Instant Church Directory app in the Apple App Store or Google Play Store and have the directory at their fingertips!
- \* The online directory can be updated constantly, so information should never be outdated! Email updated pictures, address or phone changes to Katie and they can be added instantly!

Please pray for...the family and friends of Doug Schiller, Jerome Kettner, Doug Rositzke; all those serving in the military, at home and abroad: Jesse Kettner, Cylee Graff, Shane Clemon, Ethan Langseth, and Emily Wendt.

Prayer Chain –If you have a prayer concern you would like passed along, please call Jan Severson (723-6358) or the church office (723-5880). Please specify if you want the concern on (1) the Prayer Chain and/or (2) included in Sunday morning prayers which will be included for **two** Sundays unless otherwise specified.

\* Indicates Choir Singing.

# December 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 6:30 p.m. Parish Ed Meeting	2 7:00 pm Ch. 8 Broadcast	3 10:00 Ch. 8 Broadcast 6:15-7:15 Confirmation 7:15 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	4	5 Office Closed	6
7 9:00 Worship 10:00 Coffee Talk 10:00 Sunday School 10:30 Ch. 8 Broadcast <b>7:00 p.m. SW MN Men's Chorus</b>	8 7:00 p.m. Nativity Choir Rehearsal @ Community Center	9 7:00 pm Ch. 8 Broadcast	10 10:00 Ch. 8 Broadcast 6:15-7:15 Confirmation 7:15 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 7:45 p.m. Council Meeting	11	12 Office Closed 11:00-1:00 SANTA Luncheon & Cookie Sale 2:00 BINGO @ SJLH	13 6:00 p.m. Nativity Pageant
14 <b>10:00 a.m. Sunday School Christmas Program</b> 10:00 Coffee Talk 10:00 Sunday School 12:00 Ch. 8 Broadcast of Sunday School Christmas Program 6:00 p.m. Nativity Pageant	15	16 7:00 pm Ch. 8 Broadcast	17 10:00 Ch. 8 Broadcast 6:15-7:15 Confirmation 7:15 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	18	19 Office Closed	20
21 * 9:00 Worship 10:00 Coffee Talk 10:00 Sunday School 10:30 Ch. 8 Broadcast	22	23 7:00 pm Ch. 8 Broadcast	24 10:00 Ch. 8 Broadcast <b>* 6:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service</b> 8:00 p.m. Ch. 8 Broadcast of	25 Office Closed 9:00 a.m. Ch. 8 Broadcast of Christmas Eve Service	26 Office Closed	27
28 9:00 Worship 10:00 Coffee Talk 10:00 Sunday School 10:30 Ch. 8 Broadcast	29	30 7:00 pm Ch. 8 Broadcast	31 10:00 Ch. 8 Broadcast			St. Paul Lutheran Church, 303 N Cass Ave, Springfield, MN 56087 Church Telephone: 507-723-5880 www.splcspringfield.org stpaul_lutheran@hotmail.com

\* Indicates Choir Singing.

## Worship Service Helpers

Date	Sound & Video	Projection	Reader	Greeters	Acolyte	Usher	Organist
12/7	Mueller Family	Mueller Family	Mel Vogel	Carol Carlson	Reagan Plaster Cash Anderson	Team 4	Jo Schwartz
12/14	Paul Muske Jonah Pidde	Jordan Pidde	Kurt Glaeseman	Kevin & Jo Schwartz	Ellen Kral Leo Kral	Team 1	Jeff Krueger
12/21	Groebner Boys	Groebner Boys	Jeanette Pidde	Kurt & Mary Glaeseman	Rylyn Marz Blake Zihlke	Team 2	Jo Schwartz
12/24	Trevor Krebs	Mueller Family	Brittany Cook	Roger & Kelly Sargent	Lydia Vogel Gavin Brown	Team 3	Jeff Krueger
12/28	Dove Family	Dove Family	Paul Muske	Cash Anderson Reagan Plaster	Ellie Jensen Adalyn Rudolph	Team 4	Jeff Krueger

### December Altar Guild

Mel Vogel  
Kelly Sargent

### Usher Teams

- 1 - Don Bloemke, John Marz, Jake Marz, Paul Meidl
- 2 - Doug Gatzlaff, Dave Bittler, Andy Renner
- 3 - Russell Rogotzke, Mark Buerkle, Jeremy Dove
- 4 - Tim Vogel, Scott Vogel, Bill Vogel

### December Birthdays!



### December Anniversaries!



St. Paul's next blood drive will be Thursday,,  
February 12, 2026 from 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Go [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) to schedule your appt.

Lunch provided for all donors and  
volunteers!



**American  
Red Cross**

**Two volunteers are needed to help with the  
blood drive. Contact Katie.**



We need 2 volunteers for BINGO on December 12<sup>th</sup>  
at 2:00 pm. Please let Katie know if you can help out!

Springfield's 39<sup>th</sup> Annual

# Nativity Pageant



**Saturday, December 13 – 6 PM  
& Sunday, December 14 – 6 PM**

**Springfield Area Community Center Grounds**

Pageant is 40 minutes ~ Bleacher Seating available



Pageant Hospitality  
in the Community Center,  
following each performance

No admission charge, a gift from  
the Springfield Area Nativity Theatre Association  
and the community of Springfield

# Santa Cookie Sale



**Friday, December 12**  
**Springfield Area Community Center**

**Lunch served 11:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M.**  
**Cookie Sale starts at 11:00 A.M. until sold out**

*Sponsored by Springfield Area Nativity Theatre Association  
with proceeds helping to sustain the Nativity Pageant*

## Southwest Minnesota Men's Chorus

Presents it's

### Holiday Concert Series



*Good  
News! Great  
Joy!*

**Saturday, Dec. 6 – 7:30PM**  
Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Currie

**Sunday, Dec. 7 – 7:00PM**  
St. Paul Lutheran Church, Springfield

**Sunday, Dec. 7 – 4:00PM**  
United Methodist Church, Lamberton

**Tuesday, Dec. 9 – 7:00PM**  
Tracy Alliance Church, Tracy

### Adopt a Resident for Christmas 2025

Pick up an instruction bag, which contains a bow and a tag with a gender and brief suggestions of gift ideas. Please attach the enclosed tag and bow to the wrapped gift prior to returning to the establishment it was taken from or to St. John's Circle of Care.

Some Ideas: Springfield Market Gift cards, Nonskid socks, cash or checks for hair appointments, puzzle books, after shave, soft lap throws, lotions, nail polish, small winter decorations, body wash, adult coloring books, acrylic paint markers, body wash, and craft kits.

We ask that all gifts be returned to this establishment or St John's Circle of Care by Thursday, December 18<sup>th</sup>.

If you have any questions, please contact Amber at St. John Lutheran Home at 507-723-3224 for more information. THANK YOU to everyone that is able to help with this project!

**St. Paul Lutheran  
Church, LCMC**  
303 N Cass Avenue  
Springfield, MN 56087

Postmaster: Dated material  
Please Deliver Promptly  
Address Service Requested

**Calendar Highlights - December 2025**

7 - SW MN Men's Chorus  
13-14 - Nativity Pageant  
14 - Sunday School Christmas Program  
24 - Christmas Eve Worship

**Phone: 507-723-5880**

[www.splcspringfield.org](http://www.splcspringfield.org)

**Office Hours**

Pastor Darren Olson

[darrenolson553@gmail.com](mailto:darrenolson553@gmail.com)

Parish Coordinator: Katie Mueller

Monday-Thursday 8:00 am-noon

[stpaul\\_lutheran@hotmail.com](mailto:stpaul_lutheran@hotmail.com)

Financial Secretary: Anita Jensen

[Fin\\_secretary@newulmtel.net](mailto:Fin_secretary@newulmtel.net)

Housekeeping: Mary Jo Simonson

Maintenance: Al Groebner

St. Paul EPISTLE is a publication of St. Paul Lutheran Church. It is published monthly to keep members and friends informed of programs and ministries of the church.

Articles may be submitted for publication subject to content.

**Sunday Schedule:**

9:00 a.m. Worship

10:00 a.m. Sunday School (September-May)

10:00 a.m. Coffee Talk



**Give  
Today!**



**Springfield Area Food Shelf hours**  
Tuesday 5:00pm – 7:00pm  
Thursday 9:30am – 11:30am  
625 N Jackson Ave - Springfield, MN 56087  
(Springfield Clinic Lower Level)  
507-723-3663 (FOOD)