St. Paul Lutheran Church News Bulletin

November 15, 2026

St. Paul Lutheran Church
434 N Lincoln St
West Point, NE 68788

Website: stpaulwp.org **Phone:** 402-372-2111 **Email:** stpauloffice@stpaulwp.org

It is the Mission of St. Paul Lutheran Church to reach the lost with the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ, and to equip the saved for a life of Christian service.

Pastor John P. Gierke

Church Office: Penny Haase
President: Dennis Mueller
Elders: Larry Abrahams, Mark Groth, David Hughes, Mark Johnson, Bill McAllister and Terry Mohl

Worship Services

Regular worship services are Saturday evenings at 6pm and Sunday mornings at 9am. Holy Communion is celebrated on the first and third weekends of the month.
The worship service program can be viewed on our website, and the video services are streamed on YouTube, aired Mondays at 10am on cable channel 11, and radio broadcasted Sundays at 11:30am on KTIC FM 107.9 and AM 840.
Cost to sponsor a Lutheran Hour or St. Paul broadcast is $60.

Daily Chapel

Each morning at approximately 9:45 am on AM 840 and 11:50 am on FM 107.9. Donations of any amount are welcome for this program. **The cost is $121.00 a week. Please make checks to "Daily Chapel".**

As We Gather

As we reach the end of the Church Year, there is a heightened sense of urgency in all the Readings, hymns, and other propers. These remind us that Christ will certainly come again, that this return draws closer with each passing day, and that we do not know when that day will be. Therefore, we are to be ready and prepared for Jesus to come again—and to meet Him at our own death. Paul, in writing to the Thessalonians in the Epistle, warns that "the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night" (1 Thessalonians 5:2). Paul warns against complacency, exhibited by those who say, "There is peace and security" (v. 3). In the Gospel, Jesus tells the parable of the talents, warning again that we do not know when He, the master, will return; the precious gift of faith must be invested in His means of grace now (Matthew 25:14–30). In the Old Testament Reading, the prophet Zephaniah warns about complacency and misjudging God's character, so that he can point us to God's true nature: "a mighty one who will save" (Zephaniah 3:17).

The Lutheran Hour - Our Weekly Message Of Hope

November 15, 2026
"Fruitful Trees"
Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Glenn Nielsen
The tree of Christ's cross bore life-giving fruit.
Genesis 1:11-12; 1 Peter 2:24

Encouraging Stewardship

November 15 – 25th Sunday after Pentecost
Colossians 1:10 – "Walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God." Living a godly life really is its own reward. Does the life St. Paul describes here sound more enjoyable than a life of worry, self-aggrandizement and self-centeredness? God wants us to walk closely to our Lord and imitate Jesus for a reason: so that we will be blessed and happy.

This weekend's Lutheran Hour and St. Paul Broadcast are sponsored by St. Paul Ladies Aid.

As of August 1, the new rates to sponsor either the Lutheran Hour or the St. Paul Broadcast will be **$60.00 apiece.**

This Week At St Paul Lutheran Church

Sunday, November 15:
7:45 am - Adult choir practice in the church basement
9:00 am – Worship and communion
10:30 am - Bible Study
"Don't Give The Enemy A Seat At Your Table"
Monday, November 16:
10:00 am – Sunday service on cable channel 11
Tuesday, November 17:
Wednesday, November 18:
8:20 am - School Chapel in the church sanctuary
9:00 am - Rebekah Circle in the church basement
6:00 pm - Confirmation classes for 7th & 8th grade public students
7:00 pm - Youth **(Guys and Gals)** Devotions at Bill & Peg McAllister's
Thursday, November 19:
7:00 pm - Miriam Circle in the church basement
Friday, November 20:
Saturday, November 21:
6:00 pm – Worship
Sunday, November 22:
7:45 am - Adult choir practice in the church basement
9:00 am – Worship
10:30 am - Bible Study
"Don't Give The Enemy A Seat At Your Table"

Email News Bulletin

Emails with this news bulletin are available. Call or email the office to sign up.

Beacon Messages

Beacon messages are texts or emails sent out to alert changes to the services and important information. To sign up, please call or email the church office, with a cellphone number or email to receive the alerts. If your contact info has changed, please inform the church office.

Announcements

To have an announcement displayed on the slides before and after church or sent as a beacon, the information must be sent to the church office by noon on Thursdays.

Church Office Hours

Hours are Monday through Thursday 8:00 am - 4:30 pm and Friday 8:00 am - 12:00 pm.
If you are out of town, please call 402-372-2111 before coming to make sure someone will be in the church office.

St. Paul "On-a-Mission" Bags

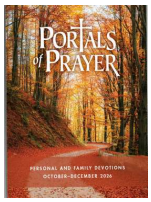
Make every trip a mission trip! Wherever you go, you'll have the opportunity to tell anyone who asks you about Jesus and that's the reason for the hope that we have. Then invite them to come to St. Paul if they don't already have a church home.



Today, a member family has donated 50 bags, with the proceeds going to Mission Central. **Pick up a bag today!**

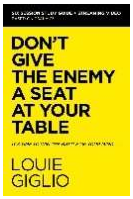
Portals Of Prayers

New copies of Portals of Prayer are now available for you to pick up. They are on the table in the Narthex, please help yourself.



New Sunday Bible Study

New Bible class will be "Don't Give The Enemy A Seat At Your Table" by Louie Giglio.
Join us in the basement after fellowship.



Sunday Service

Our Sunday worship service airs Mondays on Cable Channel 11 at 10:00 am.

Board Positions

We are in need of filling several board positions.
Board of Parochial School Education (1)
Board of Stewardship (2)
Board of Parish Education (4)

Please contact Dennis Mueller, President, for more information about these positions if you have someone in mind or might be interested yourself.

Lectors Needed

We are in need of more people to read the Bible readings for our Saturday and Sunday worship services. If you are interested or know of someone, please call the church office at 402-372-2111.

School Chapel

School Chapel will be on Wednesday mornings at 8:20 am. Everyone is welcome to attend.
Last quarter Chapel offering of $115.00 went to "Jesus Our Savior Lutheran Outreach in Winnebago.

Youth Devotions

Wednesday, November 18th, youth (guys and gals) devotions will meet at 7:00 pm at Bill and Peg McAllister's. All high school students are welcome.

Volunteers Needed

Looking for volunteers to help take some of our members to and from appointments. If you would like to volunteer, please contact the church.

New Members

Our church family is blessed to welcome new members Thomas and Jennifer Maleshafske, parents of Gwyneth. They have

come to St. Paul from St. Paul Lutheran church in Emerson.

Baptism

Weston Ray Gibson and his daughter, Jordan Lee Gibson (mom Ashley Garret) will be baptized on Saturday, November 14th. May God bless them both on this day and every day that follows.

Lutherans For Life

We'd love to have you join us for Lutherans for Life this Thursday, November 19th at 1:30 pm at St. John's Beemer. Our Bible Study will focus on the importance of waiting and patience, and of course, there will be food, coffee, and fellowship. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Pastor Belinsky at (402) 528-7278.

Living Nativity

The West Point Ministerial Association is again having the Living Nativity and Horn T Zoo at the West Point Family Christmas Festival downtown, Tuesday, December 1, in the F & M bank parking lot. We have made some changes that we hope everyone will enjoy.

Instead of characters in costume the whole time, at 4:45 pm, 5:45 pm and 6:45 pm we will be having folks come out to create the scene as the Nativity Gospel is read. We will begin with a carol, read the story and then sing Silent Night. Pr. Hukki will read at 4:45 pm, Pr. Gierke at 5:45 pm and Fr. Weeder at 6:45 pm. In-between presentations, the 'stained glass window' painted on plywood by Don Maack will be in place of the much simpler and smaller stable. **Teala will keep the master signup sheet in the office at Grace, so please call (402) 372-2050 or stop in during office hours. All ages are welcome to participate.** Plan to be there on the half hour to get in costume and be ready by the time the first carol is sung at the ¾ hour.

Opportunities to participate:
Set-up: 3:30-ish, 3-4 people to help.

Presentation times: 2 people to help with costumes each time; and between 7-10 silent actors (sign up for whatever time works best for you, not by congregation time slots as in the past).

Clean-up: 7:15-7:45-ish, 2-3 people to clean up and/or 3-4 people with leaf blowers to do final 'sweep' of the parking lot.

Christmas Program Schedule

We are excited for your child(ren) to be a part of sharing the Christmas story this year with our church families, school families, and the community.

Important Information/Dates:
The schoolchildren will be practicing the program during school hours. We will be holding practice for both School and Church families from 10:15 - 11:00 am on Sunday, November 22nd and Sunday, December 6th in the Music Room at St. Paul School. There will be NO practice, Sunday, November 29th.

Dress Rehearsal During School Hours:
Wednesday, December 9th at the Nielsen Center from 9:00 - 10:00 am. Weather permitting, students will walk to the Nielsen Center to practice.

Joint Dress Rehearsal For Both School And Church Families:
Thursday, December 10th at the Nielsen Center from 4:30 - 6:00 pm. Pizza will be provided.

Day of the Christmas Program: Sunday, December 13th
K-6th Grade students arrive at the Nielsen Center at 1:30 pm
Pre-K students arrive at the Nielsen Center at 1:45 pm
Cookie walk to follow.

Attire:
Wear your Christmas best!

Thank you,
St. Paul Lutheran School Staff

Spread Some Joy

It's that time of year to spread some joy to our church shut ins. Ladies Aid would love your help. We pack approximately 20 bags with goodies and deliver them to homes, and nursing homes. Ideas for items needed - cookies (individually wrapped), candy, small tissue packs, lotion, word puzzles, coloring books, ChapStick. If you'd love to help that day, we start on the morning of December 7th at 9:00 am in the church basement then deliver them. There will be a container in the back of church marked for items. If you have freshly baked items, please bring them to the church kitchen the Sunday before and mark for shut ins. Spreading God's love to all.

Christmas Cards

The holiday season is fast approaching, and Ladies Aid is once again offering boxed Christmas cards for sale. A variety of designs are on display on the table in the narthex, for $10.00 each box. Stop by before or after service to pick up yours while supplies last.



Newsworthy

If you have a St. Paul Church or school event or activity that you would like included in our weekly newsletter/ bulletin you can contact the church office. We would love to also include some pictures.

Learn More About St. Paul

Scan the QR code to visit our website and learn more about our Church.

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

While walking along in front of his church, the minister heard the intoning of a prayer that nearly made his collar wilt. Apparently, his 5-year-old son and his friends had found a dead robin. Feeling that a proper burial should be performed, they had secured a small box and cotton batting, then dug a hole and made ready for the disposal of the deceased. The minister's son was chosen to say the appropriate prayers and with sonorous dignity intoned his version of what he thought his father always said: "Glory be unto the Faaather, unto the Sonnn and into the hole he goes."



LETTER FROM THE TRUSTEES

Dear Members of St. Paul,
We are so blessed to have each one of you as a member of our St. Paul Lutheran Church community. Thank you for your support and continued participation.
Our church building has stood strong for many years, but we currently have several maintenance needs that require our attention. As you know, our stained-glass windows need to be repaired. In addition, we are facing a few major challenges: there are multiple leaks in the roof, the foundation requires structural attention, and the parsonage needs new windows and doors.
During this season of giving, we humbly ask if you would consider making an additional donation to help address these critical updates. With your help, we can preserve and repair our beautiful church home and properties.
Thank you in advance for your support and for helping us care for our church home.
Warmly,
St. Paul Board of Trustees.



Holiday Schedule

Thanksgiving Day, November 26:
9:00 am – Worship and Communion
Wednesday (Midweek) -
December 2 (Elders)
December 9 (Need volunteers for meals)
December 16 (Ladies Aid)
5:30 pm - Meals
7:00 pm - Worship
Christmas Eve, December 24:
4:30 pm - Worship and Communion
7:00 pm - Worship and Communion
Christmas Day, December 25:
9:00 am - Worship and Communion
December 26:
6:00 pm - Worship
December 27:
9:00 am - Worship
New Year's Eve, December 31:
6:00 pm - Worship and Communion
New Year's Day, January 1, 2027
No Service
January 2:
9:00 am - Worship and Communion
January 3:
9:00 am - Worship and Communion



Generous Donation

We are deeply moved to share that a member of our church family has generously and anonymously donated $20,000 toward replacing the windows in the parsonage. This extraordinary gift brings us much closer to securing and beautifying our sacred space and properties for generations to come. While the donor wishes to remain unknown, we give thanks to God for their incredible faithfulness, sacrifice and love for our church community. Please join us in prayerful thanksgiving for this blessing.