

JANUARY 2025 St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church Connection
106 S. Maple St. PO Box 357 North Freedom, WI 53951

Message from the Pastor



New Year's Resolutions

...choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your forefathers served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.” (Joshua 24:15)

Do you make New Year's resolutions? Some of us do. We may resolve in 2025 to exercise more, eat healthier food and lose weight. We may commit ourselves to completing a project at home or learning a new skill. Often, we start the year with good intentions. But all too often our resolve weakens and evaporates as the weeks and months go by.

Joshua had led the Israelites for 20 years and was now retiring. In his farewell address he called on the Israelites to make a resolution: Fear the LORD, serve with all faithfulness, throw away the gods their forefathers worshiped (Josh. 24:14). Joshua committed himself and his household to the worship of the LORD in retirement until he died at age 110. Would the Israelites do the same after Joshua was gone?

Throughout their history, the Israelites in the Old Testament made big promises to God, but they weren't very good at keeping them. The Lord God had to discipline them, and let them suffer defeats, to get their attention and get them back.

But though the Israelites, and though you and I, don't always follow through on our resolutions, God always does. We just celebrated the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ. God was resolved to save this world and knew just the right time

to send his Son to be that Savior. Jesus was resolved to obey his Father's will, even when it meant the most agonizing pain of the cross. By the triune God's resolve, we have been set free from all sin and Satan's power!

Whether or not you make New Year's resolutions, let's be resolved every day to follow our Lord Jesus. Make the commitment to come to church on Sundays, and read God's Word every day. No matter what happens this year, in good fortune or bad, you know the Lord is going to love you and help you. So let's join Joshua in saying, this year and every year: "As for me and my household, we will serve the LORD!"

--Pastor Timothy Blauert

Worship Services & Daily Devotions

Our devotions this month will take us through Joshua, Ruth, and 1 Samuel, and Psalms 37-43 on Sundays. Devote some time each day to the Lord!

In our worship services we will be in the season of Epiphany: Christ revealed as God's Son. We will offer communion on Jan. 5 and 19.

With the Lord

On Thursday, Dec. 19, the Lord graciously took the soul of Linda Faivre home to heaven. A funeral service is being held for her on Monday, December 30 at 11 a.m., with visitation an hour before the service. Visitation is also at Redlin Funeral Home on Sunday, Dec. 29, from 2 to 5 p.m.

Please remember Linda's family, including husband Arvin, in your prayers. "He will wipe away every tear from their eyes" (Rev. 21:3).



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Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, January 11

Our annual meeting will take place on the 2nd Sunday of the month between the two church services, starting at about 8:30 a.m. We will have an election of 2 council positions (3 men, Harold Boehler, Bill Page and John Shimniok are running); the 2024 annual report; approval of the 2025 budget, and other reports and business. Please make plans to come!

LADIES' AID NEWS

The Ladies' Aid will have their first meeting on Tuesday, January 14th at 6:30 p.m. This will be a planning meeting for the year as well as a time for fellowship. All women of St. Paul's are welcome to attend!



BIBLE STUDY

Our first Bible study of the year will start on Sunday, January 19th with the topic: "Unlocking Mysteries of the Old Testament".

Why did they have all those Old Testament sacrifices, and what did they mean? What about their worship life? Why don't we still do the things they were required to? Come to our Bible study on Sundays between the services this winter and learn more!

Sunday School Update

Thank you to the Sunday School and confirmation students for bringing us the gospel of our Savior's birth on December 24th! Sunday School resumes January 5th.

CARDS



Mary Klemm is our Sunshine Lady for St. Paul's. If anyone is sick or needs a card of encouragement, please contact her.

ALTAR GUILD

The altar guild sign-up sheet for 2025 is on the table in the fellowship hall. This is a great way to help with worship at St. Paul's. Please speak with Rose Vertein if you are interested and have questions. Thank you!



Altar Flowers

On the table in the fellowship hall, please sign up to bring altar flowers for a particular Sunday, in honor of a birthday or anniversary, in memory of a loved one, or just on your own. Please refer to the directions in the fellowship hall for caring for altar flowers.

Our Offerings & Service to the Lord

Nov. 24, 7:30 am	Attend.: 34; Offering: \$1,640
10 am	Attend.: 12; Offering: \$595
Nov. 27 (Thanks.)	Attend. 18; Offering: \$170
Dec. 1, 8:30 am	Attend.: 46; Offering: \$1,755
Dec. 8, 7:30 am	Attend.: 40; Offering: \$1,360
10 am	Attend.: 10; Offering: \$294
Dec. 15, 7:30 am	Attend.: 21; Offering: \$1,515
10 am	Attend.: 8; Offering: \$275
Dec. 22, 7:30 am	Attend.: 36; Offering: \$2,620
10 am	Attend.: 23; Offering: \$725

Ave. attendance: 8:30 am: 46; 7:30 am: 33; 10 am: 13.

Offering envelopes for 2025 are in the fellowship hall. Please pick up your envelopes if you haven't done so yet.

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ST. PAUL'S "INFORMATION" PAGE

Pastor: Rev. Timothy Blauert

Church secretary: Elaine Shimniok

Contact us: Church office: 608-522-4493.

Pastor's cell phone: 507-279-8560.

Email: stpaulsnf@hotmail.com or
tkblauert@outlook.com.

Website address: www.stpaulslutheran-nf.org

Worship times: Sundays 7:30 and 10 a.m.

First Sunday, 8:30 a.m.

Communion, 1st & 3rd Sundays

Sunday School: Sundays at 8:45 a.m., or after
the service on the first Sunday of the month.

Adult Bible study: Sundays at 8:45 a.m. or
after the service on the 1st Sunday of the month.

Church Council

President: Jim Dohner

Vice-president: Dave Zimmerman

Secretary: Paul Fuller

Treasurer: Mark Shimniok

Financial secretary: Jeremy Zimmerman

Head usher: Roy Schneider

Ladies' Aid

President: Elaine Shimniok

Secretary: Lynn Zimmerman

Treasurer: Elaine Shimniok

Sunshine Lady: Mary Klemm

LWMS Reporter: Linda Ennis

Church organist

Susan Grossenbacher

Church Custodian Vonnie Leifer (& Walt
Klaetsch)

**Please remember our shut-in members with
your prayers and visits**

Victor Schneider (at home)

Ellie Schultz

Please let Pastor know if you are sick, in the hospital, or are having any other difficulties. He'll be glad to visit and have a devotion and pray with you, as well as offer communion. Contact information for him is in the left column of this page.

Happy Anniversary to:



Phil and Mary Klemm – January 14, 2008



Happy Birthday to:

Lynn Zimmerman – January 1

Paul Fuller – January 4

Jacob Shimniok – January 5

James Ahrensmeyer – January 6

Mary Klemm – January 11

Ben Henke – January 17

Callie Hammermeister – January 26

Chad Zimmerman – January 26

Angela Filip – January 29

Passage to remember this month: "Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD rises upon you." (Isaiah 60:1).

GAME NIGHT: Monday, January 20th

Bring a favorite board game and a snack to share, and join us for an evening of fun at St. Paul's! We'll get started at 6:30 pm that Monday. Friends are welcome to come too!