

E4ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

WEST POINT, NE

December 1, 2024

Rev. John P. Gierke, Pastor

FROM THE ELDERS:

November 27, 2024

Regular Worship services are Saturday evening at 6 pm and Sunday morning at 9 am. Holy Communion is the weekend of the First and Third Sundays of the month. Services are on the projection screens. Hymnals are in the pews for those who choose to use them. We ask that you sign the fellowship pad, available in the pews, and pass it to others in your pew as you greet them. Anyone wishing to be contacted by the pastor, or join our congregation is asked to supply their contact information. **We welcome you to view our services on our website, Facebook, and the West Point cable channel 11 (Monday mornings at 10 am).**

A Beacon Message is sent out in case of changes to our worship services. If you do not receive the Beacon messages, please call the church office to have your cell phone number and/or email added to the list.

An e-mail bulletin is available. If you have not received this, please call the church office to update your email address.

**Your name, O LORD, endures forever,
Your renown, O LORD, through all generations.
Psalm 135:13 (NIV)**

St. Paul Board of Elders

Larry Abrahams, Mark Groth, David Hughes,
Mark Johnson, Dennis Mueller, Justin Miller

Phone numbers for the Elders are posted on the bulletin board in the narthex.

2024 Holiday Services

Thanksgiving Day Worship and Communion, November 28, 9 am.

Midweek Advent Services, Wednesdays, Dec. 4, 11, & 18, 7 pm.

Midweek Advent Meals will be served Wednesdays. 5:30 – 6:45 pm

Children's Christmas Program, Sunday, December 15 2 pm at the Nielsen Center

Annual Cookie Walk, Sunday, Dec. 15, following the Children's Christmas Program.

Christmas Eve Services, December 24, 4:30 and 7 pm. Both with communion.

Christmas Day Service, December 25, 9 am, with communion.

New Year's Eve Service, December 31, 6 pm, with communion.

No Service New Year's Day.

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

Thanksgiving is a time that causes nearly everyone, including unbelievers, to count their blessings. While all of us are grateful for food, clothing, shelter, and good health along with family and loyal friends, only those who have faith in the Son of God can be truly thankful for the greatest blessing of all -- the forgiveness of sins and the hope of eternal life.

"Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift" (2 Corinthians 9:15)!

Please call ahead before coming to the Church office. Please use the number for St. Paul Lutheran Church for any church business calls. 402-372-2111.

Services at St. Paul Lutheran Church:

Saturday, 6 pm, and Sunday, 9 am.

Holy Communion is the First and Third Sunday weekends of the month.

Our service is shown online on our website:

www.stpaulwp.org

Our Sunday Service,

airs each week on Monday morning, 10 am, on cable channel 11.

Midweek Lenten Services will air Thursdays at 10 am.

Due to time restrictions, the broadcast Sunday mornings at 11:30 am on KTIC FM 107.9 and AM840 is the service from the previous week.

BROADCASTS ON AM 840 and FM 107.9

The Lutheran Hour, Sundays at 11 am.

St. Paul Broadcast, Sundays at 11:30 am.

This week's

Lutheran Hour Broadcast

and St. Paul Broadcast

are sponsored by St. Paul Ladies Aid.

To sponsor a Lutheran Hour Broadcast or our St. Paul Broadcast, please contact the church office at 402-372-2111. Cost is \$40.00 per broadcast.

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. Cost is \$81 a week. Please make checks to "West Point circuit", marked "Daily Chapel," in the memo line, and send to Cleo Toelle at 127 E. Walnut St., West Point, 68788.

The Lutheran Hour

December 1

"Will Everything Sad Come Untrue?"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

A mother and her young son trade a life of privilege for one of poverty,
a story that is borderline unbelievable, yet nonetheless true.

(Jeremiah 33:16)

The Lutheran Hour

December 8

"Completely Ordinary Human"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: [Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler](#)

Everyone has a story to tell and yours can be one
through which Jesus is working to make the world new again.

(Malachi 3:7)

The Lutheran Hour

December 15

"Sorrow Welcomed Here"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: [Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler](#)

The church welcomes people, but does it also welcome their problems? Dr. Michael Zeigler says the
church should be a place that makes room for both joy and sorrow.

(Zephaniah 3:14-20)

This week at St. Paul Lutheran Church:

- Sunday, Dec 1: 7:45 am – Adult Choir Practice
8 am – No Children’s Christmas Program practice
9 am – Worship and communion followed by Fellowship in the narthex
10:30 am – “Growing in God’s Grace” for kids
in the church basement conference room
- Monday, Dec 2: 9 am – Ladies Aid assembles cheer baskets
10 am – Sunday Service on cable channel 11
- Tuesday, Dec. 3: 5-8 pm - Living Nativity/F&M Bank parking lot
- Wednesday, Dec 4: 8:15 am - Chapel
5:00 pm - Public School Confirmation class
5:30-6:45 pm - Advent Meal in church basement
7:00 pm - Midweek Advent Worship
- Thursday, Dec 5: 2:00 pm – Ladies Aid
- Friday, Dec 6:
- Saturday, Dec 7: 6 pm – Worship followed by fellowship in the church basement
- Sunday, Dec. 8: 7:45 am – Adult Choir Practice
8 am – No Children’s Christmas Program practice
9 am – Worship followed by Fellowship in the narthex
Bible Study “Called to Serve” in church basement after worship
10:30 am – “Growing in God’s Grace” for kids
in the church basement conference room



Growing in God's Grace: Sundays, 10:30 am – 11:30 am.

All Kids Welcome to learn about Jesus, through Singing, Bible Stories, Prayer and Fun!

Join us in the church basement conference room.

All parents are invited to Adult Bible Class in the church basement during this time.

Christmas Program Practice: For all children, ages PK – 8. Sundays in November and December, from 8 - 9 am in the school music room. Practices: November 3, 10, 17, 24 and December 8. No practice Sunday, Dec. 1. Christmas Program is Sunday, December 15.

Boxes of Christmas Cards are available for sale in the church narthex. Please place payment for cards in the container provided.

Ladies Aid assembles cheer bags, for shut ins, Mon., Dec. 2, 9 am in the church basement.

Donations of homemade cookies, toiletries, puzzle games, little candy bars, Kleenex's, pens or pencils are welcome from the congregation. Items can be brought to church Sat. evening, Nov. 30, and Sun. morning Dec. 1. Thank you for your help and support.

Poinsettias will be used to decorate the church at Christmas time. You may bring in a poinsettia, or order from Flower & Gift Gallery, for a cost of \$19.50, which includes delivery. Contact the church office to have your poinsettia given in honor or memory of loved ones.

A request has been received for use of the church for a non member wedding, November 1, 2025. If any member is planning to use the church November 1, 2025, please contact the church office by December 3, 2024, or it will be booked.

Special Mission Event here at St. Paul: Saturday, Dec. 7, 6 pm and Sunday, Dec. 8. 9 am Worship and 10:15 Bible Class. Gary Thies, LCMS Mission Development Counselor, brings a presentation with pictures and artifacts direct from the mission field. He has visited 75 countries and connects weekly with over 100 LCMS missionaries around the world. He will share the news of what is really happening in missions through the LCMS. Bring a friend!!

Living Nativity: Hosted by Grace Lutheran, St. Mary's and St. Paul's, Tuesday, Dec. 3, 5pm-8pm, on Main Street. There will be a Signup Genius set up to fill in the schedule. Grace Lutheran Time spot: 5-6pm. St. Paul: 6-7pm. St. Mary: 7-8pm. Minimum of eight people per shift, but can use up to 10 or 11. Shifts are about 20 minutes. If you can't fill in during St. Paul's time, feel free to sign up under the other churches. Also needed are 1-2 greeters and 1-2 costume helpers. Donations are welcome to help cover costs.

Salvation Army bell ringing: Tuesday, Dec. 3 through Sunday, Dec. 15. The usual weekend times will be scheduled Dec. 7 & 8, but we would like to cover a variety of times and places. If you have a place and time you would like to ring during that week, please contact Teala at Grace Lutheran Church. 402-372-2050. \$1555.50 was collected last year. \$1025.00 in assistance was given locally during January to October.

High School Guys: Devotions and Fellowship, Wednesday Evenings, 7 pm, at the McAllisters, 103 Kaup St. Bring a friend!

High School Gals: Devotions and Fellowship, 1st and 3rd Sunday evenings, starting Oct. 6, 7 pm, at the McAllisters, 103 Kaup St. Bring a Friend!

Hurricane Helene Disaster Response

The flooding from Hurricane Helene has cause devastation across several districts of the LCMS. Instead of sending any funds to the Nebraska District office, we ask that you give directly to one of the districts that are on the ground and offering assistance through Lutheran Early Response Team projects, local congregations, and Recognized Service Organizations.

***Southeastern District LCMS**

They are coordinating with local and state officials as well as their partners at Lutheran Servants for Christ, LERT, and LCMS Disaster Response. The most important need is an immediate need for *18,000 personal hygiene kits and 15,000 flood clean-up kits for the Asheville area*. You can find the supplies list to make these kits [in the link here](#). If you can help with this, please ship the prepared kits to Emmanuel Lutheran Church (51 Wilburn Pa, Asheville NC 28806.) Visit their [disaster relief information and donation page here](#).

***Florida-Georgia District LCMS**

They are collecting funds and coordinating volunteers for LERT projects, and also collecting gift cards for the needs of local congregation staff and families. [Learn more and make donations here](#).

***Mid-South District LCMS**

They are currently collecting funds for LERT projects while waiting for flooding to recede. Follow this work on their Facebook page. Their disaster response updates and donation information [can be found here](#).

Moms and grandmoms join in prayer: 8am Fridays, Trinity Lutheran Church in the Fellowship Hall. 1546 N Luther Rd. Fremont, NE

Lutheran High Fremont Coffee & Conversation: Everyone welcome.

8:30 am, Sept. 19, Oct. 17, Nov. 21. 105 E. 6th Street, Fremont, NE Questions: Dawn Cooksey (402)-990-9444 dcooksey@luhifremont.org

NEEDED: St. Paul Parish Coordinator: Immediate opening for full time or part time position in the church office. Please contact Larry Abrahams at 402-380-8928 if interested.

LWML: Lutheran Women's Missionary League is collecting canceled stamps (those that have been mailed, antique stamps, etc.) This project is ongoing until the Convention in June 2025. For questions contact Linda Meyer at 402-372-6415.

Women's Thursday Evening Bible Study: 6-8 pm in the church basement. All women of the community are welcome.

Grief Support West Point: The last Monday of each month, 5:30 – 6:30 pm at Franciscan Healthcare Assisi Conference Room, West Point. Short presentation followed by open discussion. Nobody is forced to talk if they do not want to talk. This is a time to learn about grief and mourning, and give and receive support from others. No registration required for these monthly sessions.

Children's Activity Bags: Cloth bags are hanging on the hooks in the back of the church for children to use that have coloring pages, small toys, a snack, crafts and other surprises. Please hang back up after use at the end of the service.

Use your time and talents! Be a Lector, Video Tech, Audio Tech or Projectionist for our worship services, or serve as a Wedding Coordinator for weddings. Training is provided. Contact the church office at 372-2111.

Main Street Living

“Main Street Living” is a liturgical worship service broadcasting a different local pastor each Sunday morning. It airs along with the classic Lutheran Hour program, “This is the Life”. Both can be viewed on KLKN Channel 8 (Lincoln) & WOWT Channel 6.2 (Omaha). Worship services are interpreted and closed captioned for the deaf and hard of hearing.

Visit www.mainstreetliving.com/lincoln for more information and to view current and past episodes.

Lutheran Hour Ministries

Daily Devotions from LHM will help strengthen and encourage your faith as you do the same for others. Have them delivered right to your inbox, podcast the audio devotional, access them on your mobile device through the FREE app, or listen with Spotify, iHeart Radio, Alexa, or Google Home. Seasonal Devotions for Advent and Lent are also available in both English and Spanish. Perfect for personal reflection or to share with family, friends and congregations, these seasonal meditations will help prepare you to celebrate the true meaning of these seasons.

Lutherans for Life: meets every other month on the third Thursday of the month at St. John's in Beemer at 1:30 p.m. in the basement. Gospel focused Bible Study about God's call to support life from conception to natural death. If you have any questions, please call Pastor Belinsky at (231) 383-3300 or e-mail him at pastormike01@gmail.com.

Missionary Support: To financially support Jana Inglehart (Dominican Republic) or Ruth Maita (pronounced My-tah) (Puerto Rico) donations can be sent to Mission Central, 40718 Hwy E 16, Mapleton, IA 51034. Designate name in the memo line.

To support Josh Lange & family, (Asia) donations can be sent to Mission of Christ Network, PO Box 533 Concordia, MO 64020. Designate name in the memo line.

To financially support Jacob Fraher and family (Kenya) donations can be sent to Faith Aid, P.O. Box 4326, Ashburn, VA 20148. Designate name in the memo line.

E-MAIL BULLETIN AVAILABLE.

If you have not received this, please call the church office and update your email address.

402-372-2111

If you have not signed up to be included in our Church and/or School Messaging system, please call the church office at 402-372-2111. With your cell phone number and/or email, we can keep you updated on cancellations, Church or School events and special messages.

RIGHT NOW MEDIA

Check out this digital library with numerous Christian resources for Bible Study, personal and family devotions and for living out your faith.

Link to this “Netflix of Video Bible Studies” with more than 20,000 videos, including over 2,000 safe entertaining videos just for kids.

Scan the QR code or text the code: STPAULWP to the number 49775 to welcome you to a link to register for free.

This resource is currently being provided for you by St. Paul members and Board of Parish Education.



BECOME A TUITION ANGEL

The Tuition Angel program gathers funds to help parents who desire a Christian education for their children, but struggle to afford it. You can help a family with all or some of their tuition costs. Though tuition rates are below the actual cost to educate a student, for many middle and income families, that amount is out of reach. You can help with a one time donation, or monthly donation in whatever amount you choose. Please call the school office at 372-2355 to learn more.

Volunteer Opportunities at St. Joseph Elder Services

Drivers to deliver Meals on Wheels (Approximately 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.)

Front Desk at the Retirement Community

(Presence, greet visitors, direct as needed [phone is answered by the staff])

Front Desk at the Villa

(Presence, answer the phone and direct calls, greet visitors.)

Join in and help with activities.

(Bingo, card games, etc. with groups or individuals)

Help transport to religious services or activities

(Push wheelchairs, walk with walkers)

Please contact Jane if you would like to volunteer or have any questions.

Email: jweiler@sjeswp.org Phone: 402-372-1118 x519

It's a blessing to be able to watch the service online, on our website and You Tube. Offerings are used to help make this online service possible and to continue the work of the church and school. If you cannot worship in person, please continue to give your tithes and offerings, that we can continue the work of spreading the Good News of the Gospel. Offerings can be mailed to St. Paul Lutheran Church, 434 N. Lincoln St., West Point, NE 68788, dropped off in the mailbox at the south door of the church, or use "*Joyful Response*". Thank You.

"Joyful Response": your offerings go directly from your bank account to our St. Paul Lutheran Church and School account. Please call the church office to set this up. Have your bank account number and routing number when you call. Your donations can be given weekly, monthly, or bi-monthly, and you will receive a giving statement.

Help support St. Paul Lutheran School through the following programs:

Best Choice® Save-A-Label™ Program: Participating is as easy as 1-2-3!

Shop at your grocer for BEST CHOICE products. There are more than 4,400 Best Choice® items at more than 3,000 stores. Brands include Best Choice®, Clearly by Best Choice®, and Best Choice® Superior Selections®. Save the UPC portion only of the labels from those products. It is not necessary to send in the whole label. To ensure it is a Best Choice product look for the words "Best Choice®" printed above the UPC symbol. Turn the UPC codes into the school office! We receive \$30 for every 1,000 labels we send in.

Box Top's for Education: Cash can be earned for St. Paul School through the Box Tops for Education program, via the Box Tops App, by visiting online at www.boxtops4education.com. It's as easy as 1, 2, and 3.

1) Purchase eligible Box Tops products.

2) Redeem your earnings by going to the Box Tops App or online, within 14 days from purchase, and scan or enter your receipts (both paper and digital receipts are eligible). There is a maximum of scanning 50 receipts per day per registered account.

The actual "Box Top" from the product is no longer accepted

3) St. Paul earns cash rewards which are directly deposited into the school's account.

You can also earn BONUS cash rewards by redeeming 14-digit Bonus Box Top Codes OR participating in periodic bonus cash opportunities on both the App or online. Offers are updated all the time, so make sure to check back often!

Casey's Rewards Program. Did you know that Casey's has a Rewards program and that our school is participating in the Cash for Classrooms part of that reward program? You earn points on all your Casey's purchases in-store, online, or at the pump. You can then turn those points into donations to St. Paul School.

You can join Casey's Rewards by creating an account through the Casey's app by downloading it from the App Store or on Google Play or online at Caseys.com. You then start earning points on your everyday purchases and turn those points into a donation to our school.

To donate your points just find St. Paul Lutheran School in the rewards section of the program. It's that easy!

All Casey's donations go directly to our school. Funds are disbursed twice a year, in December and April, via a check to the school. There is no minimum amount required. We have already received funds from generous community donors.

Each month, the Salvation Army and Food for the Heartland provides non-perishable food items, bread, and vegetables/fruits for area residents. Volunteers from local churches distribute the food at the drive-through pickup held the third Saturday of each month. Any Cuming County resident can pick-up food; there are no income restrictions. Grace Lutheran Church has received several grants to add protein and dairy to the monthly distribution, and that money has supported this program for 2 years. Unfortunately, the funds are running low. Each month, anywhere from \$750 - \$800 is needed to pay for the protein and dairy items for the 70-80 households that receive food. We are asking for help in raising additional money to continue to provide protein/dairy monthly. Perhaps your business, church, club, family would like to sponsor a month, or two, or more.

Donations designated for the monthly food distribution may be sent to Grace Lutheran Church 104 South Colfax Street, West Point, NE 68788 for 'protein/dairy monthly distribution'. If you have questions, please contact the church at 402-372-2050 or gracewpn@hotmail.com.