

**ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**WEST POINT, NE**

**December 3, 2023**

**Rev. John P. Gierke, Pastor**

**FROM THE ELDERS:**

December 1, 2023

**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.

Give Thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever.

St. Paul Board of Elders

Larry Abrahams, Mark Groth, DJ Weddle, David Hughes,

Chris Schiller, Mark Johnson, Dennis Mueller

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

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

**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)!*

**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.

**St. Paul Parish Coordinator:** extra help is needed in our office – full or part time. Contact Larry Abrahams if interested at 402-380-8928.

Services at St. Paul Lutheran Church:

Saturday, 6 pm

Sunday, 9 am

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

2023 Holiday Services

*\*Midweek Advent Services: Dec. 6, 13 and 20, 7 pm.*

*\*Children's Christmas Program: Sunday, December 10, 2 pm  
at the Nielsen Community Center,  
followed by our \*Annual Cookie Walk.*

*\*Saturday, December 23, 6 pm Worship*

*\*Sunday, Dec. 24, 9 am Worship*

*\*Christmas Eve, Sunday, Dec. 24, 4:30 pm, Worship & Communion  
7:00 pm, Worship & Communion*

*\*Saturday, December 30, 6 pm Worship*

*\*Sunday, Dec. 31, 9 am Worship*

*\*New Year's Eve, Sunday, Dec. 31, 6 pm, Worship & Communion*

Bible Study

In the church basement following Sunday morning worship service.

Our Sunday Service,

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

Our Midweek Advent Services will air Thursdays,  
December 7, 14 and 21 at 10 am  
on cable channel 11.

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

is given by Ladies Missionary Aid Society  
of St. John's Lutheran Church, Beemer.

This week's St. Paul Broadcast

is given in memory of Gerald Jahnke by friends and family.

**Sponsors are needed**  
**for The Lutheran Hour Broadcast**  
**and our St. Paul Broadcast.**

Cost is \$40.00 per broadcast.

Please contact the church office at 402-372-2111.

**Our service is shown online on our website:**

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

**Daily Chapel:**

**each morning at approximately 9:45 am**  
**on AM 840 and 11:50 am on FM 107.9.**

**Daily Chapel:** Cost is \$81 a week. Donations of any amount are welcome for this program. 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. Or you may drop off checks here at St. Paul church. Thank You.

**To Sponsor a Lutheran Hour or St. Paul radio broadcast**

Please contact the church office at 402-372-2111.

Cost is \$40 per broadcast.

**The Lutheran Hour**

December 3

**"Before They Call"**

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler  
SOS and Mayday are distress signals that cry out for rescue.  
So is "Lord, have mercy!"  
(Isaiah 64:4)

**The Lutheran Hour**

December 10

**"A-T Walker"**

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler  
A wilderness can be scary,  
but if someone is with you who knows the way out,  
you're not really lost.  
(Isaiah 40:3)

**The Lutheran Hour**

December 15

**"Empty Boxes - A Christmas Special**  
**from Lutheran Hour Ministries"**

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Jason Broge

## **This week at St. Paul Lutheran Church:**

- Sunday, Dec. 3: 7:45 am – Choir Practice  
9 am – Worship & Communion  
Bible Study following worship
- Monday, Dec. 4: Pastor's Day Off  
10 am – Sunday Service on cable channel 11
- Tuesday, Dec. 5:
- Wednesday, Dec. 6: 8:15 am – Chapel  
4:45 pm – Children's Christmas Program  
Rehearsal at the Nielsen Community Center  
No 7/8 Grade Confirmation Class
- Thursday, Dec. 7: 6-8 pm – Women's Thursday Evening Bible Study  
Topic is "The Quest" by Beth Moore.
- Friday, Dec. 8:
- Saturday, Dec. 9: 6 pm – Worship
- Sunday, Dec. 10: 7:45 am – Choir Practice  
9 am – Worship  
Bible Study following worship  
2 pm – Children's Christmas Program and  
Cookie Walk at the Nielsen Community Center



**The time is coming soon to ring bells for Salvation Army.** We are setting things up a bit differently this year and concentrating on one week of ringing and collecting. The money we bring in during this 'Week of Ringing' will be available for emergency assistance in our community throughout the coming year. (A small percentage is made available to the Nebraska Salvation Army unit.)

We will be ringing in different places and times between Tuesday, December 5 & Monday, December 11. There will be a QR code available for those who'd like to make a donation electronically. Teala (Grace office: 402-372-2050, Trinity office: 402-372-2271) will have a schedule available for sign-up; but if there's a time and place you'd like to ring during that time period, let her know. If it's not our usual time and place, please be sure we have permission to ring. Let's have the bell ringing somewhere, every day during those 7 days!  
St Paul will be ringing bells Sunday, Dec. 10, at the Nielsen Community Center before and after our Children's Christmas Program. Please plan to help support the Salvation Army bell campaign.

### **Living Nativity on Main Street!**

Exciting news this year! The Living Nativity is during the Christmas Festival on Main St. It's now a West Point Ministerial Association event. What a great way to work together to proclaim the central message of Christmas. **Date: December 5; 5-8 PM.** At least 7 people are needed for each 20-minute shift; all ages welcome. Plan to come 10 minutes before your shift starts to put on costumes; don't worry, they fit over winter coats!

We've divided the hours: 5-6 pm, Grace & Trinity; 6-7 pm, St. Mary's; 7-8 pm, St. Paul's. However, you are welcome to sign up for whatever time works best for you. Contact Renee Schmid (316-841-5217 or [renaze\\_dvm@yahoo.com](mailto:renaze_dvm@yahoo.com)) to sign-up.

We will also need some set up help from 3-5 pm and 4-5 people to clean-up from 8-8:30. At least 3 leaf blowers are needed. For those shifts, contact Pr. Priscilla at Grace (402-372-2050).

**The Church Directory App:** is now ready for use. We will need an email to send each family their own unique code. Please call the office at 402-372-2111 to set this up.

**A congregation member** is in need of help clearing her driveway and sidewalks when it snows. If you can help, please call 402-380-0871. Thank You.

**Ladies Aid** will assemble Cheer baskets Monday, December 11, 9 am in the church basement. We would love to have your help by contributing items to place in the bags, or help putting the baskets together and distributing them. Suggested items are- homemade cookies wrapped individually, snack size containers of applesauce, pudding, fruit cups, etc, chapstick, candy, small lotion containers. We have approximately 25 shut ins. A box is in the back of the church to place your items.

**Practice for St. Paul Children's Christmas Program** is each Sunday through Dec. 3, 8-9 am in the music room at St. Paul Lutheran School. Final practice is Wednesday, Dec. 6, at the Nielsen Center from 4:45-6:45 pm with food being provided. The Christmas Program is Sunday, Dec.10, 2pm, at the Nielsen Center with the Cookie Walk to follow.

**Grief Share, Surviving the Holidays:** Wednesday, Dec. 6, 6-8 pm, at Franciscan Healthcare. Free event. To register, contact Chaplain Tom Manhart at 402-372-6708.

[tmanhart@franhealth.org](mailto:tmanhart@franhealth.org). How to deal with emotions, what to do about traditions, helpful tips for surviving social events, How to find hope for the future.

**Women's Thursday Evening Bible Study:** 6-8 pm in the church basement. Topic is "The Quest" by Beth Moore. All women of the community are welcome.

**Come Make a Joyful Noise!** Choir practice is Sundays, 7:45 am, in the church basement. All voices welcome!

**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.

**Living Nativity at St. Paul's/St. John's Lutheran Bancroft:**

Sunday, Dec. 17, 5:30-6:30 pm in front of St. Paul's Lutheran Bancroft Church. Cookies and refreshments will be provided. Youth dressed in costumes and live animals. The Christmas narrative will be read and Christmas carols sung.

**St. Joseph's Retirement and Hillside Villa Giving Tree:** Help make the season bright for residents. Obtain a gift tag from the Christmas tree in BankFirst 127 E. Walnut St. Deliver gifts to BankFirst by Fri, Dec. 15.

**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](mailto: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:**

**Please save Graybeal's receipts** from August 15, 2023 – April 15, 2024. Receipts may be turned in at the school, or put in the bins in the back of church.

**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](http://www.boxtops4education.com) or by clipping actual "Box Tops" from products and turning them into the school office. 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. Also, you can cut the actual "Box Top" from the product and turn them into the school office. Please make sure the box tops have not expired. We earn \$0.10 for each actual box top.

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](http://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](mailto:gracewpn@hotmail.com).