

WEEKLY CHURCH NEWS

December 21, 2025

St. Paul Lutheran Church
10792 North 210 East • Seymour, IN 47274
The Reverend Stephen Wood, Pastor

***OUR MISSION:** Walking in Faith – Sowing Christ’s Love*

**TODAY’S WORSHIP
LEADERS**

Leaders:

Pastor Steve Wood
Intern Beth Sheedy

Organist: Olga Otte

Deacons:

Dan Holle; Karen Dringenburg

Communion Assistant:

Lou Ann Hoevener (8:00)
Dan Davis (10:15)

Communion Prep:

Wanda Engelau (8:00)
Gretchen Lawles (10:15)

Lectors:

Amelia Shaw (8:00)
Leon Seitz (10:15)

Acolytes:

Caleb Baker & Layne Thompson (8:00)
Daniel Hendrix (10:15)

Projectors:

Kaelynn & Sam Engelau (8:00)
Thomas & Ruth Ann Hendrix (10:15)

Camera:

Hannah Baker

Altar flowers are provided by:

Bill & Judy Wonning

St. Paul Lutheran Church is a congregation of The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (E.L.C.A.). It is referred to as “Borchers” since Rev. Henry Borchers, who served our congregation from 1857-1881, advised and influenced a small group of pioneer settlers that wanted to establish a congregation in the area. This year we celebrate 173 years of life and ministry. We look forward to many more years of growth and change as we seek continually to be faithful to God’s call to mission.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion is offered at the 8:00 a.m. services on the 2nd and 4th Sundays and at the 10:15 a.m. service on the 1st and the 3rd Sundays of the month. Christians who believe in the true presence of Christ in the bread and wine for our forgiveness and salvation are invited to receive Holy Communion.

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

STAFF

The Reverend Stephen Wood.....Pastor
Beth Sheedy.....Pastoral Intern
Trish Tangman.....Care Team Director
Jamie Baker.....Youth & Family Ministries
and Technology Director
Maddie Whiteside.....Youth & Family Ministries
Jennifer Duncan.....Borchers Preschool Director
Michelle Wood.....Secretary
Jennifer Duncan & Sam Plumlee.....Custodians

We gather today as God’s beloved children to worship our Heavenly Father. We praise his holy name, we listen eagerly for his words of comfort, hope, and challenge to us, and we offer ourselves to him in dedicated service. May you be blessed as you worship here today.

This week: December 21-26

Sunday 21st 4th Sunday of Advent
 8:00 am Communion
 9:00 am Christmas Program
 practice (until 1:00)
 9:00 am Adult Sunday School
 10:15 am Communion
 1:00 pm Christmas Caroling
 5:30 pm Luther League
 Christmas Party

Monday 22nd NO PRESCHOOL
 8:00 pm Dartball at home
 (The Pastors)

Tues. 23rd NO KIDS BELLS

Wed. 24th NO PRESCHOOL
 6:40 pm All students to
 Sunday School rooms
 7:00 pm Children's Program
 Refreshments
 8:30 pm Candlelight service in
 Borchers Chapel

Thurs. 25th OFFICE CLOSED
 NO BORCHERS BREAKFAST
 CLUB
 9:00 am Christmas Day service

Friday 26th OFFICE CLOSED
 NO PRESCHOOL

Next week: December 28-January 2

Sunday 28th 8:00 am Communion
 9:00 am Sunday School
 10:15 am Worship

Monday 29th NO PRESCHOOL
 8:00 pm Dartball—BYE week

Tues. 30th NO KIDS BELLS

Wed. 31st NO PRESCHOOL

Thurs. 1st OFFICE CLOSED
 NO BORCHERS BREAKFAST
 CLUB

Friday 2nd OFFICE CLOSED
 NO PRESCHOOL

Sat. 3rd 2:00 pm Judy & Bill Wonnig
 Anniv. Open House
 (until 4:00)

Pastor Steve & Michelle are gone
 today for Eli's graduation.

Pastor Steve & Michelle will be gone
 on vacation December 26-January 2

Trish Tangman is gone on vacation
 December 30-January 5

HEARING ASSISTANCE—We have headphones available for those in need of assistance with hearing. They are located on the table at the entrance of the sanctuary.

GLUTEN-FREE COMMUNION WAFERS—We have gluten-free communion wafers available. Indicate to the pastor when you come up for communion if you need these.

FOOD PANTRY—The food pantry item being collected in December is peanut butter. Please place your donations in the wooden box near the kitchen marked "Food Pantry", or in the basket near the main entry doors. Items will be taken to either Anchor House, Provisions or Jamestown Apartments.

TURNING POINT—In December, we are collecting new or gently used blankets (twin or full size) for Turning Point domestic violence shelter. There is a collection box near the kitchen.

ALTAR FLOWERS are in honor of Judy & Bill Wonnig's 50th wedding anniversary.

Church phones are finally working!

Thank you for your patience!

HELP NEEDED: Sunday School Snacks

Please sign up at the Welcome Center.

Plan to provide snacks for 60.

Suggestions are: fruit, muffins, donuts and prepackaged snacks.

Christmas Caroling

TODAY 1:00-4:00 p.m.

Please sign up at the Welcome Center.

Christmas Program Practice

TODAY

This is our long practice day — from 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.. Lunch is provided.

Luther League Christmas Party

TODAY at 5:30 p.m.

Christmas Fazoli's dinner and "Dirty" Elephant Gift Exchange

Holiday Worship Schedule

Wednesday, December 24

7:00 p.m. Children's Program

All are invited to join us in the Fellowship Hall after the Children's Program for refreshments and a hot chocolate bar. Bring snacks to share and enjoy this time together.

8:30 p.m. Candlelight Service in Borchers Chapel

Thursday, December 25

9:00 a.m. Communion Service

Worship Helpers Are Needed

Worship helpers are needed
for our Christmas services.

Please sign up at the Welcome Center.

Borchers Breakfast Club

WILL NOT MEET

December 25 and January 1

HOT SOUP IN A COLD MONTH

Beginning January 8

This annual tradition is a way to care for seniors in our community. Each person who attends Borchers Breakfast Club on a Thursday in January gets to take home a pint of homemade soup. When we have enough donated, soup is also delivered to a few additional folks in the area! If you are able and willing to donate **any** amount of soup toward this effort, please sign up at the Welcome Center. You can sign up for as little as one gallon of any type soup you like!

Offering Envelopes

Offering envelopes are in the narthex. If you don't see your name and wish to have envelopes, please contact the church office.

The congregation is invited to celebrate
Judy & Bill Wonning's
50th Anniversary

Saturday, January 3, 2026 2:00-4:00 p.m.

St. Paul Lutheran fellowship hall

Your presence would be the greatest gift
as we commemorate this golden anniversary.

RSVP to wonningjudy@gmail.com

Bless the New Parsonage with Scripture!

As the framing goes up on our new parsonage, everyone is invited to stop by and write a favorite Bible verse on the studs. Add a word of faith, hope, or blessing that will surround this home for years to come. There will be a container with Sharpies within the house. Everyone is invited to help in dedicating this space with God's Word! Any questions, please talk with Pastor Steve.

Altar Flower Sign-up Sheet

The new sheet for 2026 is available at the Welcome Center.

Lutheran World Relief Blanket-Making

Beginning January 5 Monday and Wednesday at 1:00

We will meet from January thru the end of March to make blankets for Lutheran World Relief to send all over the world. Anyone is welcome to come help! No sewing experience required.

Women's In-Depth Bible Study

Thursday, January 8 at 7:00 p.m.

Be ready to watch Session 7. Any questions, talk to Mandy Otte.

Treasurer Books & Annual Reports

Due by January 11

Place them in the marked box in the church office.

God's Global Barnyard Update

THANK YOU to everyone that gave offerings to God's Global Barnyard this year. We raised \$1094.81! Sunday School classes were able to purchase one of EVERY animal pictured on the barns, as well as extras!

Cookie Walk Update

THANK YOU for supporting Luther League's Cookie Walk on a cold and snowy Sunday. We were able to raise \$1,356 for this summer's youth trip! Trip plans will be voted on at the January Luther League meeting.

WEATHER CANCELLATION POLICY

Church services will be held, unless a travel ban has been issued for Jackson County. Please make your own decision if you want to venture out in inclement weather. **WE WANT EVERYONE TO BE SAFE! *If there is a travel ban in Jackson County, all church activities will also be cancelled.***

BORCHERS BREAKFAST CLUB

Borchers Breakfast Club will coincide with the Seymour School Corporation's decisions for school closings and delays. If Seymour schools are closed OR delayed, Borchers Breakfast Club will be CANCELLED. Please listen to WZZB 1390 AM or 99.3 FM, or watch for closings on television stations.

**December 21,
2025**

GOING DEEPER

The purpose of this page is to provide a tool or instrument for your spiritual growth. This page contains a brief synopsis of the readings as well as some questions for your reflection to help you go deeper with the Word. On the back is a day by day listing of scripture readings with possible prayer request. Individuals are listed on their day of birth—so that you might pray for them on their birthday. Also on the back is the prayer list for the congregation. Keep on Growing Spiritually!!

READINGS FOR THE DAY:

Isaiah 7:10-16: An Israelite and Aramean military coalition presented a serious threat to King Ahaz of Judah. In response, Aha decided to secure his throne and kingdom by seeking Assyrian help. Isaiah reminds Ahaz that human attempts to establish security will fail. The prophet gives the sign that is the only source of true safety: Immanuel, God is with us!

Romans 1:1-7: Most of the Christians in Rome do not know Paul. In this letter's opening he introduces himself as an apostle divinely appointed to spread God's gospel. The gospel's content is the promised coming of Christ, and Paul's mission is to bring about the obedience of faith among all nations, including his Roman audience.

Matthew 1:18-25: Matthew's story of Jesus' birth focuses on the role of Joseph, who adopts the divinely-begotten child into the family of David and obediently gives him the name Jesus, which means 'God saves.'

'From Sunday & Seasons, copyright 2025 Augsburg Fortress'

QUESTIONS TO PONDER:

1—How is God offering your community guidance and grace right now? (Isaiah 7:10-16)

2—How might God be inviting you to notice, pray for, or welcome our neighbors? (Romans 1:1-7)

3—What could the Holy Spirit, through the story of Joseph and his excessive, outrageous generosity, be inviting you to risk this Christmas? (Matthew 1:18-25)

4—How do these texts speak to you today?

Prayer: *Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that hinders our faith, that eagerly we may receive your promises. Amen.*

NOTES

MEMORY VERSE: MATTHEW 1:21

²¹She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.

GOING DEEPER IN PRAYER

Sunday 12/21

Psalms 120:1-7

Acts 27:1-44

✦ Steve McGrew, Jaden Begley, Katie Otte,

Luke Wenthe

✦ world peace

Monday 12/22

Psalms 121:1-8

Acts 28:1-31

✦ Leah Otte

✦ preparations for children's Christmas program

Tuesday 12/23

Psalms 122:1-9

Romans 1:1-32

✦ Warren Newkirk, Layne Thompson

✦ safety for people traveling

Wednesday 12/24

Psalms 123:1-4

Romans 2:1-29

✦ Howard Wenthe, Janet Isbell

✦ angel tree recipients

Thursday 12/25

Psalms 124:1-8

Romans 3:1-31

✦ for people to experience the joy of Christmas

Friday 12/26

Psalms 125:1-5

Romans 4:1-25

✦ Stacey Claycamp, Sarah Davis

✦ for people who work outside

Saturday 12/27

Psalms 126:1-6

Romans 5:1-21

✦ Kamie Taulman, Logan Runge, Mairi Shaw

✦ Christians in the Middle East

PRAYER LIST

Recent Hospitalizations:

Adelee Davis (cancer—relative of Daryl Paswater)

Susie Alstatt (surgery)

Tammi Reinbold (knee surgery)

Other Prayer Requests:

Waldron Rust (fall)

Betty Toxey (fall-grandmother of Erik Zakrzewski)

Gib Claycamp (fall)

Carol Browning

Red Angel (fall)

Jeff (thyroid removal—co-worker of Chris Otte)

Jaxon Reinhart (cancer—friend of Grant & Caleb Wheatley)

Hannah Young (health issues)

Dillon Williams (son-in-law of Tim & Kathy England)

Randy Bridgewater

(motorcycle accident—brother-in-law of David Bode)

Florence Otte (health)

Lawrence Monroe

Kim Dringenburg (health)

Patricia Lewis (cancer—Tim England's mother)

Steve McGrew (fall)

Don Ray (friend of Larry Guinn)

Bobby Akemon (cancer—friend of Jennie Hoene)

Brooke Elmore (cancer—friend of Tammi Reinbold)

Kevin Trask (cancer—friend of Chris Otte)

Linda Lloyd (medical—Tim England's aunt)

Olivia Sons (epileptic seizures—friend of Kathy England)

Ed Engelau (cancer)

Angie Lucas (cancer)

Wanda Zakrzewski (fall-grandmother of Erik Zakrzewski)

Dan Anderson (father of Rich Anderson)

Charlie Fox (father of Ben Fox)

Pastor John Wanamaker (cancer)

Bob Butcher (health issues—friend of Susie Alstatt)

Sandy Smith (Robert Smith's mother)

Courtney Hardebeck (illness—friend of Cassie Fox)

Pegi Bricker (spinal surgery—friend of Kendra Harris)

Megan White (leukemia—friend of Kendra Harris)

Monty Reynolds (prostate cancer—friend of Kathy England)

Hallie Crane (leukemia—friend of Heidi Wheatley)

Annie Walton (friend of Carrie Morrison)

Hannah & Jimmy Whitaker

(medical concerns—friends of Kathy England)

Paul Lewis (melanoma-step-dad of Tim England)

Mark Gillespie (cancer-friend of Charlotte Guinn)

Ernie Kleffman (back)

Treva & Danny Edwards

(health issues—relatives of Robert Smith)

Michelle Sallee (cancer—friend of Gretchen Lawles and

Linda Guinn)

Debbie Schroer (kidney cancer-mother of Tracey Engelau)

Prayer for Homebound Individuals:

Patty Herkamp; Selma Mellenbruch, Paul Newkirk, Sonna Wenthe

Prayer for Long Term Care Issues:

Helen Carter; Andy Runge; Gavin Brown (friend of Leah Otte); Robert Noblitt (Chris Kleffman's father)

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S LOVE

We Worshipped:

December 14 — 8:00 service: 71 10:15 service: 38

Financial Report:

Dec. 7— Spending Plan: \$7,201.00 Other giving: \$125.00 New parsonage: \$75.00
TOTAL: \$7,401.00

Dec. 14— Spending Plan: \$3,233.25 Other giving: \$70.00 New parsonage: \$25.00
TOTAL: \$3,328.25

WORSHIP LEADERS FOR DECEMBER 28:

Communion Assistant:

Lou Ann Hoevener (8:00)

Communion Prep:

Mandy Otte (8:00)

Lectors:

Mandy Otte (8:00)

Kendall Alstatt (10:15)

Acolytes:

Abe Engelau & Ben Rapp (8:00)

Henry Fountain (10:15)

Projectors:

Natalie Fish (8:00)

Marc Fountain (10:15)

Camera:

Tim England

Altar flowers are provided by:

Bill & Judy Woning

Sunday School Snacks:

Need volunteer

READINGS FOR DECEMBER 28:

1 John 4:1-12, Romans 31:35-39

John 1:1-5, 2 Corinthians 4:6-7

Titus 3:3-7, John 14:26-31

Psalms 98, Luke 2:13-20

OUR CORE VALUES:

1. **Spirituality** – to worship, grow and develop spiritually as Christians.
2. **Outreach** – to spread the message of God's love and grace by word and action
3. **Service to Others** – to live Christ's message to love one another

You can support the mission of our church by coming to worship, engaging in study, sharing the word, bringing a friend to church, taking part in Care Team initiatives, volunteering at church or in the community and loving one another. We invite you to join us in this journey.

HOW TO CONTACT US:

Office: 522-7364

2nd Line: 522-7484

Pastor Steve: 812-498-7829

Email: stpaul Lutheran@stpaul-borchers.org

Web Site: stpaul-borchers.org

Michelle's office hours:

Monday—8:30-2:30

Wednesday—8:30-2:30

Friday—8:30-12:30

Facebook:

St. Paul Lutheran Church-Borchers

Services are available on YouTube:

St. Paul Lutheran Church-Borchers