

# DECEMBER 2025      St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church Connection

106 S. Maple St.   PO Box 357   North Freedom, WI 53951

## ***Message from the Pastor***



### **Advent**

*A voice of one calling: "In the desert prepare the way for the LORD; make straight in the wilderness a highway for our God." (Isaiah 40:3)*

It seems that the whole month of December, as well as the last few days of November, should be called the Christmas season. Christmas specials are on TV, radio stations switch to holiday music, and Christmas decorations are seen everywhere.

But the church's Christmas season doesn't begin until December 25, Christmas itself. Before we get to Christmas we go through the season of Advent. Advent starts on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday before Christmas, which this year is Nov. 30, and ends on Dec. 24, Christmas Eve.

The name "Advent" means "coming." You can understand why it's called that. Christmas is coming! Of course—but there is more to it than that. It also reminds us that our Lord who came is coming again. Like the believers of the Old Testament all the way to John the Baptist, we need to prepare the way for the Lord.

The above passage was a prophecy of the one who prepared the people for the Messiah's immediate coming. John the Baptist, Jesus' relative (see Luke 1), came to the wilderness region by the Jordan River to proclaim the message: "Prepare the way! The kingdom of God is near!" He called on the people to repent of their sins. John baptized those who repented and put their trust in the Lord. He assured them that they were forgiven and they were ready for the Lord's coming.

As we go through our season of Advent, let's not get so distracted by busy schedules and events that take us away from Christ. Every day, prepare the way for the Lord's coming. Let's make our lives straight and prepare a highway for our God to come into our lives. Let's come to church each Sunday, confessing our sins, receiving the news that we are forgiven, and believing in our Savior.

The Lord is coming! Prepare for our Savior's birth, and for his coming at the end so he may take us to heavenly bliss and life eternal!

*--Pastor Timothy Blauert*

### **December Worship**

Sunday, Dec. 7. 2nd Sunday of Advent. 8:30 a.m. communion service. Theme: Come, Lord Jesus! As Judge.

Sunday, Dec. 14. 3rd Sunday of Advent. 7:30 and 10 a.m. worship. Theme: Come, Lord Jesus! As Messiah.

Sunday, Dec. 21. 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent. 7:30 and 10 a.m. communion services. Theme: Come, Lord Jesus! As Immanuel.

Sunday, Dec. 28. 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Christmas. 7:30 and 10 a.m. worship. Theme: Our Savior Is Born, a true Son.

***Daily Devotions in December*** will continue to come from the gospels of Mathew, Mark and Luke. Sunday devotions will be from Psalms 112-118. Grow daily in the Word!

Meditations are available at church for the next quarter. You may also pick up All Things New, an Advent devotion booklet, a gift from the faculty of Martin Luther College.



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

**CHRISTMAS SERVICES**

Wednesday, December 24:

3:30 p.m. Children's Christmas service

6:00 p.m. Christmas Eve candlelight

Christmas Day, December 25:

8:30 a.m. Christmas song service



**Sunday School**

St. Paul's Sunday School will be presenting "The Angels Share the Story of the Birth of Jesus Christ" at the children's service on Dec. 24, 3:30 p.m. Parents, please be sure to have your children come for Sunday School each Sunday, not only for the classes but for them to learn their parts and songs for the service.

**LADIES' AID CHRISTMAS DINNER**

The Ladies Aid invites women to join them for a Christmas dinner at The Vintage in Sauk City, Tuesday, Dec. 2 at 6 p.m. Please sign up at church. If you need a ride, or can drive a carpool, meet at church no later than 5:15 p.m.

**Christmas Bags:** Please sign up at church for what you would like to bring to fill Christmas bags for elderly, shut-ins and special needs. We will fill the bags after fellowship on Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Church Council Meeting: Sunday, Dec. 14, 8:30 a.m.**

*A CHRISTMAS COOKIE EXCHANGE* is planned by the Ladies Aid for Saturday, Dec. 13 at 10:30 a.m. Please see the box at the table for more information and sign up (and your recipe in) by Sunday, Dec. 7, so we'll know how many everyone will need to make.

**CHRISTMAS CHOIR:** If you would like to sing in our choir for Christmas Eve candlelight and Christmas Day, please let our director Susan Grossenbacher know. We hope to begin practices in December.

**GAME NIGHT, Tuesday, Dec. 16th**



We'll get together for our monthly game night on Tuesday, Dec. 16 at 6:30 p.m. Bring your favorite board or card game, a snack to share, and a friend!

**THANK YOU** to all who brought hats, mittens and socks for kids this winter! They will be distributed to St. John's Lutheran School, Baraboo, and North Freedom Elementary.

**THANK YOU** to all who helped decorate the church for Christmas!



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

**BAPTISM**



On Sunday, November 9, Lincoln John Shimniok, son of Brendon and Carrah Shimniok, was baptized during the 10 a.m. service. Witnesses to the baptism were Jaime Conlin and Brent Astle. We welcome Lincoln to the family of our Lord, and St. Paul's family!

**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 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.

**Poinsettias:**



If you would like to donate a poinsettia in memory of loved ones for Christmas, please sign up at the table in the fellowship hall. Directions when to bring them are on the sheet on the table.

***"The King Shall Come":***

***ADVENT BY CANDLELIGHT***



WHERE: St. John's in Rock Springs

WHO: All ladies and girls

WHEN: Friday, Dec. 5<sup>th</sup> TIME: 7 pm

Please join us as we prepare our hearts for Advent & Christmas! We will enjoy dessert & fellowship following the program. Questions? Call Christie Karow at 524-5289.

***Our Offerings & Service to the Lord***

Oct. 26, 7:30 am Attend.: 31; Offering: \$1045  
10 am Attend.: 11; Offering: \$370  
Nov. 2, 8:30 am Attend.: 53; Offering: \$1,950  
Nov. 9, 7:30 am Attend.: 28; Offering: \$1,080  
10 am Attend.: 38; Offering: \$1,520  
Nov. 16, 7:30 am Attend.: 38 ; Offering: \$1,300  
10 am Attend.: 15; Offering: \$335  
Nov. 23, 7:30 am Attend.: 24; Offering: \$790  
10 am Attend.: 67\*; Offering: \$978  
Nov. 26, Thanksgiving, Attend: 17; Offering: \$263

\*The Nov. 23, 10 am service included the 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> graders from St. John's, Baraboo, who sang for us.

Average attendance: 8:30 am (combined): 53; 7:30 am: 30; 10 am: 33.

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



Sunshine Lady: Mary Klemm  
LWMS Reporter: Linda Ennis

**Church organist**

Susan Grossenbacher

**Church Custodian** Vonnie Leifer

**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](mailto:stpaulsnf@hotmail.com) or

[tkblauert@outlook.com](mailto:tkblauert@outlook.com)

**Website address:** [www.stpaulslutheran-nf.org](http://www.stpaulslutheran-nf.org)

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

First Sunday, 8:30 a.m.

Communion, 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month.

**Church Council**

President: Jim Dohner

Vice-president: Dave Zimmerman

Secretary: John Shimniok

Treasurer: Mark Shimniok

Financial secretary: Jeremy Zimmerman

Head usher: Bill Page

**Ladies' Aid**

President: Elaine Shimniok

Secretary: Kristine Blauert

Treasurer: Elaine Shimniok

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

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. His contact information is on the left column of this page.



**Happy Birthday to:**

Faith Blauert – December 8

Lacy Zimmerman – December 9

Judy Sorenson – December 10

Brendon Shimniok – December 13

Brad Hammermeister – December 16

Tricia Klingenmeyer – December 16

Melvin Gaetzke – December 22

Ray Sorenson – December 25

*Passage to ponder this month: Galatians 4:4,5*

*But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son to be born of a woman, so that he would be born under the law, in order to redeem those under the law, so that we would be adopted as sons.*