



# PERSPECTIVE

## Monthly Newsletter of

St. Paul Lutheran Church—ELCA

200 N. Commercial Street • Neenah, WI 54956

(920) 725-3961 • [stpaulneenah.org](http://stpaulneenah.org)



*Gathering Joyfully, Growing Spiritually, & Going Faithfully,  
Sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ!*

**JANUARY 2024**

### **From Pastor Amy**



The new year is almost upon us. It's a time when we reflect on the past year – the blessings we've received, the sorrows we've experienced, the difficulties we've faced. It's also a time of looking forward into the new year and wondering

what God has in store for us. What does 2024 hold for us?

We don't know what the new year holds for any of us and that can bring a certain level of anxiety. As I think about this, I remember the Scripture I shared with you back in the September Perspective – *"Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."* (Joshua 1:9) These words are so important as we head into the new year. Whatever 2024 holds for us – the good and the difficult – we will not be alone. Jesus, himself, promised, *"I am with you always, to the end of the age."* (Matthew 28:20) We can face whatever circumstances and situations we encounter with the reassurance that Jesus is with us. He is our Rock, our Refuge and Strength. We can count on Jesus to see us through every experience.

Knowing that, perhaps the greatest New Year's resolution we can make is to lean on Jesus, to put our trust in him in all things. When the "stuff" of life happens we too easily try to rely on our own strength, our own power, our own abilities. But

Jesus invites us to turn to him, to ask for what we need, and to trust that he will provide for us.

As you reflect on 2023, how was it that you experienced Jesus' presence with you – in the good times and the difficult times? What evidence do you have that God is faithful to His promises? Draw on these experiences of Emmanuel, "God with us", in your life as you head into the new year. Know that Christ goes with you and seeks to bless you with God's presence, love, and grace all the year through.

My blessing for you in 2024 is my favorite benediction:

*As you go on your way may God go with you;  
May God go before you to show you the way;  
May God go behind you to encourage you;  
Beside you to befriend you; above you to watch over;  
Within you to give you peace.  
Amen.*

Serving Jesus with you,  
Pastor Amy

### **FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

2023 Total Budget	\$382,335
Total Income (as of 11/30/23)	\$314,545
Total Expenses (as of 11/30/23)	\$338,964
Difference	(-\$ 24,419)



## ASSISTING MINISTERS

**Hoks, Dave**; Dec. 31; Jan. 21

**Thompson, Eric**; Jan. 14; Jan. 28; Feb. 11

**Tipler, Linda**; Jan. 7; Feb. 4

## GREETERS

**Eckrich, Sue**; Dec. 31; Jan. 21

**Grondahl, Butch**; Jan. 14

**Orlady, Nancy**; Jan. 7; Jan. 28

**Procknow, Kathy**; Feb. 11

**Wyman, Laura**; Feb. 4

## USHERS

**Bauer, Roger**; Jan. 14; Feb. 4

**Boche, Don**; Dec. 31; Jan. 21; Feb. 11

**Evenson, Gene**; Dec. 31; Jan. 21; Feb. 11

**Grondahl, Butch**; Jan. 14; Feb. 4

**Haufe, Linda**; Jan. 7; Jan. 28

**Hemp, Lyle**; Jan. 14; Feb. 4

**Macias, Alicia**; Jan. 7; Jan. 28

**Parker, Linda**; Jan. 7; Jan. 28

**Tipler, Eric**; Dec. 31; Jan. 21; Feb. 11

**Tipler, Cody**; Dec. 31; Jan. 21; Feb. 11

## LECTORS / COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

(c.a.)

**Gillis, Becky**; Jan. 7 c.a.; Feb. 4 c.a.

**Hess, Jessica**; Feb. 25 lector

**Hoks, Dave**; Jan. 21 c.a.

**Jorgensen, Lona**; Jan. 21 c.a.

**Kalfahs, Darlene**; Jan. 21 c.a.

**Kolb, Marianne**; Jan. 7 lector

**Morgenstern, Connie**; Feb. 4 lector

**Morgenstern, Jim**; Jan. 14 lector

**Roth, Paul**; Feb. 11 lector

**Strong, Cindy**; Jan. 7 c.a.

**Tews, Jody**; Jan. 21 lector

**Thacker, Kelly**; Jan. 28 lector

**Tipler, Linda**; Jan. 7 c.a.; Feb. 4 c.a.

**Tonn, Kathy**; Dec. 31 lector

**Wyman, Laura**; Feb. 4 c.a.

## **Rev. Amy Engebose**

Pastor

pastor@stpaulneenah.org

## **Tamie O'Dell**

Parish Administrator

todell@stpaulneenah.org

## **Kris Grutzner**

Bookkeeper

office@stpaulneenah.org

## **Eric Ihde**

Handbell & Sanctuary

Choirs

ihdeeric@gmail.com

## **Todd Nerenhausen**

Facilities Manager

tnerenhausen@stpaulneenah.org

## **Linda and Gary Parker**

Custodians

## **Jill Hagen**

Organist and Custodian

## **Council**

Jessica Hess, President

Don Boche, Vice-President

Audrey Borchers, Secretary

Monika Knapp, Treasurer

Dave Fink

Alicia Macias

Amy Mentz

Kathy Procknow

Shelley Taycher

## MINISTRY TEAM CONTACTS

### **Worship Ministry:**

Pastor Amy Engebose

pastor@stpaulneenah.org

### **Prayer Ministry:**

Mike Dvorachek

mdvorachek@centurylink.net

### **Property Ministry:**

Don Boche

dboche@gmail.com

### **Meal Ministry:**

Jody Tews

Cindy Rieck

Alicia Macias

### **Mission Team:**

Jill Hannemann

jilli1216@aol.com

### **Stewardship:**

### **Quilting Angels:**

Bev Quella

### **Safety Team:**

Don Boche

### **Men's Fellowship:**

Don Boche

### **Knit2gether:**

Diane Vieth

Worship Services: Sundays at 9:30 a.m.

(in-person and online at Facebook and YouTube)

Office Hours: Monday—Friday, 8:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.





***TAMIE'S RETIREMENT BRINGS MANY OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE—MAY WE COUNT ON YOUR HELP?***

During COVID-19 Tamie took on a lot of additional tasks that had been volunteer-based prior to the pandemic. With her retirement coming on Easter Sunday, March 31, 2023, we are looking for volunteers to take on these tasks once again. If you are able to help out with any of these, please see Tamie after worship or call the office during the week (M, W-F). They take very little time and would be a huge help! Here are some of the things we could use your help with:

- Bulletin assembling (Friday mornings)
- Offering counting (teams of 2; need 2-3 teams) – this can be done Sundays after church or on Monday mornings
- Altar Team helpers to change out paraments for each season

In addition, we need people to help step into the roles of:

- Online streaming (see Gary O'Dell)
- Ushers (see Don Boche or call Tamie in the office)
- Assisting Ministers (call or see Pastor Amy)
- Communion Assistants (call or see Pastor Amy)
- Greeters (call Tamie in the office)
- Coffee Hour hosts (sign up on table in narthex or call Tamie in the office)

**come  
serve  
with us**

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***THANK YOU!! THANK YOU!!***

Our thanks to everyone who helped make the Advent and Christmas seasons so wonderful!

- \* To all who helped decorate the sanctuary
- \* To all of our musicians
- \* To all who helped in any way with the Community Christmas dinner
- \* To all those who purchased poinsettias
- \* To those who participated in the Adopt-a-Family
- \* To the St. Paul staff for all of their extra work

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***ANOTHER WAY TO GIVE TO ST. PAUL CHURCH***

Many people support our church by giving cash, a check, or through online giving. We have a QR code by which you can also give. To give a one-time or recurring gift online, scan the QR code which will take you directly to our website's online giving page. Follow the simple steps there and you're all set. If you have any questions, please contact the church office. Thank you for your thoughtful support of St. Paul Lutheran Church! We're able to do what we do because of you!!





## **Staff News**

As the council prepared the 2024 budget for approval by the congregation at the annual meeting, about \$50,000-\$60,000 needed to be cut from budget requests. Some staff hours were reduced and the position of Communications Specialist was removed from the 2024 budget.

We thank Cheryl Hentz for being our Communications Specialist for the past 1½ years. Cheryl has been a great member of the staff and has kept us all “in the loop” with church news through Luther Lines, *Perspective*, our website, Facebook, and other forms of communication. Thank you, Cheryl!

We are now accepting applications for the position of Parish Administrative Assistant. This position is 24 hours per week.

This highly visible position will assist with the day-to-day operation of the church including worship related activities, office duties, and ministry support.

Key responsibilities include preparing weekly worship service materials; maintaining the church calendar and schedule events; maintain church database and records; answer the phone; greet visitors and members in the office; vendor relations; produce and email weekly and monthly newsletters; report generation; and volunteer coordination.

The successful candidate will possess 3-5 years as an administrative assistant with a strong knowledge of Microsoft Office Suite and desktop publishing. Experience with social media and websites is helpful. Good communication skills (both written and verbal); strong organizational skills; self-starter with ability to act independently; and ability to process highly confidential information and handle finances are traits we are seeking.

Interested persons should send a cover letter and resume by January 19 to Pastor Amy Engebose at St. Paul Lutheran Church or email to [pastor@stpaulneenah.org](mailto:pastor@stpaulneenah.org).

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## ***Farewell From Cheryl***

It is with great sadness that I tell you my position as Communications Specialist has been eliminated, effective Dec. 31, and I will be leaving St. Paul Lutheran Church. I have truly enjoyed the past 19 months at St. Paul, and have come to love it as much as you do. My affection extends to all of you, because YOU are what makes the church!

You may see me around from time-to-time, as I’ve offered to help out until Tamie’s successor is hired and fully trained to where s/he feels comfortable in their new role, and up to the challenge of taking on my duties, as well as their own.

Even though I am physically moving on from this place, a piece of my heart will always be here with all the parishioners, Pastor Amy and the wonderful staff—who have been an absolute joy to work with—and this place of worship. It has been a pleasure getting to know so many of you, and I thank you for making me feel so welcome. I wish you all and St. Paul Lutheran Church nothing but the best in 2024 and beyond.

Peace & Blessings,  
Cheryl



## ***St. Paul Starts Off the New Year by Serving Fox Valley Community Table Five Dates Set for the Entire Year for St. Paul to Host/Serve***

Please mark your calendars for the first date St. Paul serves Fox Valley Community Table in 2024: Tuesday January 30! A warm winter lunch will be offered and we look forward to your continued participation in this important ministry. Please look for specific information in early January about how you can help by donating food and/or helping to serve.

We are so appreciative of all the wonderful St. Paul folks who served our neighbors through this ministry in 2023! As you fill in your 2024 calendar, please note the dates chosen for St. Paul to serve Fox Valley Community Table in 2024:

January 30, April 27, June 29, September 24, and November 26.

*"For which is the greater, the one who sits at table, or the one who serves? Is it not the one who sits at table? But I am among you as one who serves." - Luke 22: 27*



Happy New Year to you all!

Cindy Rieck and Jody Tews

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## ***"Living Lutheran" Magazine Ceases Print Edition***

As noted in the March issue of **Living Lutheran** magazine, the magazine will cease its print publication with the November/December 2023 issue. When the print magazine ends, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America will continue to share stories of the church. However, the ELCA will transition to a fully online approach, employing videos, audio stories, and more. This transition will also include a more robust social media presence and opportunities for user-generated content with the potential for greater engagement from readers.

When the shift to an all-digital platform occurs (at no cost to you and with no login required), there are several ways to keep up with the stories the ELCA publishes. Sign up for **LLStories**, a free email digest, and get Living Lutheran stories sent right to your inbox every week. Select the categories that interest you, and opt to get the digest weekly, every other week, or monthly. On Facebook and Instagram, you can also follow the magazine **@LivingLutheran** to stay apprised of the stories the ELCA is telling every day.

Throughout the past several years, [LivingLutheran.org](http://LivingLutheran.org) has been the magazine's online platform. Storytelling will remain at the core of this work, but this online content and new channels for distribution will give the ELCA more flexibility and options for telling the stories of this church. Please see the November/December print issue's feature story about the print magazine called "A Legacy of Lutheran Storytelling," which chronicles the history of the ELCA as covered by the magazine. On the back page, there is also a short note to readers about this shift in publication.



### BIRTHDAYS

#### January 1

Hanna Ihde

#### January 3

Katie Mayer

#### January 6

Patrick Pirwitz

#### January 7

Donell Cerney

Barb Slomski

#### January 8

William Meinholz

#### January 10

Becky Freeman

Alex Grandaw

Savannah Jorgensen

Maddie Miller

#### January 11

Mike Quella

#### January 12

Alexis Davis

#### January 13

Sue Haldemann

Delia Ihde

#### January 15

Amanda Neuman

Maya Rodriguez

#### January 17

Pam Verbrick

#### January 18

Marianne Kolb

#### January 19

Juanita Howe

Debra Lee

#### January 23

Ryan Ellis

#### January 25

Jenna Gillis

#### January 29

Stan Meyer

#### January 30

Ellie Grondahl

#### January 31

Sandy Beyer

Easton Hans

Laura Wyman



### St. Paul's Blessing Box



The suggested donation for the month of January is peanut butter and/or Nutella (smaller size jars 12 or 16 oz.). Please leave donated items on the display table or in the wooden crate in the narthex. A huge debt of gratitude to you for your ongoing and generous support of this important ministry!

### Our Sympathies

**Our Sympathy to the family of Kathi Jones** who died on November 30. Kathi's funeral was held at St. Paul Church on December 7.

**We also extend our sympathy to the family of Mariel "Chas" Fink** who died on December 12. Chas' memorial service will be held at St. Paul Church on January 6 at 11:00 a.m. with visitation from 10:00 a.m. to the time of service.

- *Blessed are they who mourn for they will be comforted. (Matt. 5:4)*




# This Month at St. Paul Church



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JANUARY 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>31</b> 9:30am In-Person & Online Worship 	<b>1</b> Office Closed	<b>2</b> 9:00am Quilting Angels Table 11:30am Community Table 6:00pm Executive Committee 7:00pm Property Committee	<b>3</b> 10:00am Staff Meeting	<b>4</b> 9:00am Conversations on Scripture @ Shellatte's 6:15pm Handbells Choir practice 7:30pm Sanctuary Choir practice	<b>5</b> 9:00am Knit2gether	<b>6</b> 11:00am Mariel (Chas) Fink funeral (visitation at 10 a.m.) 11:30am Community Table
<b>7</b> 9:30am Worship 10:45am GIFT Time 5:30pm Confirmation 	<b>8</b> 1:30pm Memory Care Respite 6:30pm Building Task Force meeting	<b>9</b> 9:00am Quilting Angels Table 11:30am Community Table 6:30pm Council Meeting	<b>10</b> 10:00am Staff Meeting	<b>11</b> 9:00am Conversations on Scripture @ Shellatte's 6:15pm Handbells Choir practice 7:30pm Sanctuary Choir practice	<b>12</b> 9:00am Knit2gether	<b>13</b> 11:30am Community Table
<b>14</b> 9:30am Worship 10:45am GIFT Time 5:30pm Confirmation	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 9:00am Quilting Angels Table 11:30am Community Table	<b>17</b> 10:00am Staff Meeting	<b>18</b> 9:00am Conversations on Scripture @ Shellatte's 6:15pm Handbells Choir practice 7:30pm Sanctuary Choir practice	<b>19</b> 9:00am Knit2gether	<b>20</b> 11:30am Community Table 11:59pm Perspective Deadline
<b>21</b> 9:30am Worship 10:30am Budget Info meeting 10:45am GIFT Time 5:30pm Confirmation 	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 9:00am Quilting Angels Table 11:30am Community Table	<b>24</b> 10:00am Staff Meeting	<b>25</b> 9:00am Conversations on Scripture @ Shellatte's 6:15pm Handbells Choir practice 7:30pm Sanctuary Choir practice	<b>26</b> 9:00am Knit2gether	<b>27</b> 11:30am Community Table
<b>28</b> 9:30am Worship 10:30am Annual Congregational Meeting 5:30pm Confirmation	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 9:00am Quilting Angels Table 11:30am Community Table 7:00pm Worship & Music mtg.	<b>31</b> 10:00am Staff Meeting	<b>1</b> 9:00am Conversations on Scripture @ Shellatte's 6:15pm Handbells Choir practice 7:30pm Sanctuary Choir practice	<b>2</b> 9:00am Knit2gether	<b>3</b> 11:30am Community Table

St. Paul Lutheran Church – ELCA  
200 North Commercial Street  
Neenah, WI 54956

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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## Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of St. Paul Lutheran Church will be held immediately following the 9:30 a.m. worship service on January 28. This meeting will be in person only.

Agenda items include:

- ♦ Approval of the 2024 budget;
- ♦ Election of new council members, voting members to various ministry organizations, and nominating committee;
- ♦ Update of capital improvement projects and building feasibility task force.

Your participation is important! Please plan on attending!

