

## Scripture Readings

Jan 4	The Epiphany of Our Lord (observed)	Isaiah 60:1-6	Psalm 72:1-11 (12-15)	Eph. 3:1-12	Matt. 2:1-12
Jan 11	The Baptism of Our Lord	Isaiah 42:1-9	Psalm 29	Rom. 6:1-11	Matt. 3:13-17
Jan 18	Second Sunday after the Epiphany	Isaiah 49:1-7	Psalm 40:1-11	1 Cor. 1:1-9	John 1:29-42a

### MATCHING FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR BUILDING PROJECT

Matching funds up to \$500,000 are available for all contributions made through January 19, 2026, towards the building project approved by the congregation on October 19, 2025. These funds are being generously contributed by one of our church families with confidence that St. Paul's will continue to proclaim the Gospel of Christ with faithfulness for future generations.

If you have any questions or would like to visit with a committee member, please contact the office or you may contact any of the building committee members: Brett Ohlde, Mike Holte, Donna Jordan, T.R. Reiner, Linda Underwood, Garry Stenzel or John Bosch.

All contributions made towards the building project should include a notation for "New Building Fund."

**Friendship Circle** will be collecting Mites for Missions on Sunday, January 4

### This Week's Schedule - December 27 through January 4

<b>Saturday</b>	Worship Service with Holy Communion - 6:30 PM
<b>Sunday</b>	Worship Service with Holy Communion - 9:00 AM
	Family Education - 10:30 AM
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Bulletin Deadline - Noon</b>
	New Year's Eve Service - 6:00 PM
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Office Closed</b>
<b>Next Saturday</b>	Worship Service with Holy Communion - 6:30 PM
<b>Next Sunday</b>	Worship Service with Holy Communion - 9:00 AM
	Family Education - 10:30 AM
	SPMiddles - 5:00 PM
	Undecorate Church - 1:30 PM

## Welcome

to

### St. Paul Lutheran Church

816 9th Street  
Clay Center, KS 67432

E-mail: [spluther@sbcglobal.net](mailto:spluther@sbcglobal.net)  
[www.claycenterlutheran.com](http://www.claycenterlutheran.com)  
Phone: 785-632-5301

REV. PAUL TESSARO,  
SENIOR PASTOR 785-630-0751

REV. MATTHEW VATTHAUER,  
ASSOCIATE PASTOR 817-917-6288

"A Place of Grace, A Source of Hope, A Mission of Mercy!"  
For 137 years!!!

### OUR MISSION

"Existing in God's love and forgiveness, St. Paul proclaims the Gospel of Christ, helps people grow in faith, and nurtures lives of worship and service."

December 27 & 28, 2025

### **The Lord Jesus Undergoes a New Exodus in Order to Save His People from Their Sins**

Herod's efforts to destroy the little Lord Jesus anticipate the cross for which He was born. In response to Herod's edict, Joseph must "take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt" (Matt. 2:13). But the Lord does not abandon the Holy Family there. He brings about salvation for all people, just as He "had spoken by the prophet, 'Out of Egypt I called my son'" (Matt. 2:15). With might and strength, God accompanies His people, causing "his glorious arm to go at the right hand of Moses" (Is. 63:12). Now through Jesus, even our afflictions are borne by Christ on the cross. "He redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them" (Is. 63:9). All of this is accomplished by God's might so that we, too, are claimed as members of His family. For we "receive adoption as sons" in the only begotten Son, Christ Jesus, even as He became like us by His conception and birth of the woman. Thus redeemed by Christ, no longer slaves of sin and death but beloved children and heirs of God, we pray in Jesus' name: "Abba! Father!" (Gal. 4:4-6).

**RADIO BROADCAST** this week is sponsored by Luke & Jess Wohler - Loved Ones who have passed  
The cost to sponsor a broadcast is \$40.00.  
A book is in the Narthex to sign-up for dates.

**WELCOME** to our guests and congregation! We are glad you are here! Thank you for joining us for worship and please feel free to join us again!

**First Sunday after Christmas**

**Hymn #s - 389 vs. 1-3, 764, 790, 725, 386, 376, 389 vs. 4-7**

**SERVING THIS WEEKEND**

<b>Organist</b>	Sat. Connie Paronto/Sun. Nola Schmale
<b>Ushers</b>	Jerry Siebold, Allan Schmale, Ethan Schuette
<b>Greeters</b>	Jeremy & Kristi Hager
<b>Live Stream</b>	Jarrett Wachsnight
<b>Acolyte</b>	Kyson Badsky, Anna Baxter
<b>Communion Assistant</b>	Gene Ferguson
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Kristin Wright, Jess Wohler, Heather Schmale, Maria Pfizenmaier, Kristi Hager
<b>Fellowship Host</b>	Jess Badsky

**FAMILY EDUCATION - 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM**

**Preschool - Kindergarten** - meet in Preschool Room (Basement)  
**1st Grade - 3rd Grade** - meet in Library Room (West Wing)  
**4th Grade - 6th Grade** - meet in Room 11 (West Wing)  
**7th Grade - 8th Grade** - meet in Conference Room (West Wing)  
**9th Grade - 12th Grade** - meet in High School Room (Basement)  
**Adult** - meet in Fellowship Hall (Basement)

Weekly Attendance	Sat	Sun	Total
<b>December 13 &amp; 14</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>139</b>
<b>December 17 - Advent</b>			<b>93</b>
<b>December 20 &amp; 21</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>134</b>
<b>December 24 - Christmas Eve</b>			<b>420</b>
<b>December 25 - Christmas Day</b>			<b>42</b>

Family Education Attendance	Total
<b>December 14</b>	<b>46</b>
<b>December 21</b>	<b>10</b>

**THANK YOU!** to everyone who contributed to our Christmas worship services. From the Children's Christmas Program to all of the worship helpers that assisted with the celebrations! Thanks to those who provided a **Poinsettia** for our Christmas worship - the church is so beautiful and festive! You may pick up your plant following the service on January 4. All plants will be disposed of after that service.

**REMINDER!!!!**

Offerings for 2025 must be received on or before the last service of the year, (December 31) for 2025. A contribution received after that date is counted as a contribution for 2026 for income tax purposes, even if the check was written in 2025.

**IN OUR PRAYERS**

**Congregational Members**

**Remembering our shut-ins:** Bonnie VonLehe-Wakefield Care/Rehab, Georgie Dierking, Larry Rakowsky -Presbyterian Manor; Julie Hillman-Linn Nursing Home; Cedric Pfaff-Well Springs of Westmoreland; Mary Ann Mall, Lola Lehman-Liberty Place; Pauline Burger-Legend; Larry Ernsting - Topeka VA.

**Health concerns:** Kristi Hager, Michelle Tessaro, Cody Hunter, Ron Schmale, Raef Schuette, Larry Ernsting, Lyle Underwood, Nancy Kemp, Dwight Koch, Stan Ohlde, and Larry Rakowsky.

**Our outreach programs:** Prayer Shawl Ministry, Small Group Ministry, Christian Preschool at St. Paul, Radio Ministry, LWML Friendship Circle, and our Youth groups.

**Larger Community Members**

**Healing:** Jackie Hall, Sarah Tessaro, Ron Baehr, Ryan Withee, Bobbie Holz, Emmitt Budy, Dee Hilton, Malissa Milum, Rev. David Grouner, Scott Trautwein, Gary Hilton, Donna Watson, Ron McDaniels, Micah Helms, Addie Voelker, Ann Hunninghake, Arnold Pittenger, Mike Dunn, Sandy Larkey, Irene Bane, John Zeller, Rev. Greg DuBois, Melissa Martin, Benjamin Willroth, Jennifer Zimmerman, Gail Thomas, Lois Nash, Melissa Dunn, Darlene Miller, Darla Wilder, Rachelle Smith, Joe Parrli, Sheila McGrew, Grant & Grace Goodin, Connie Winter, and Kerri Brown

**Military:** Kyle, Enrique, and Cooper.

There will be no Midweek Classes on December 31. Midweek will start back up for the 2nd semester on January 7th with a meal at 5:30pm. If your child/children didn't participate with the meal during 1st semester & would like to be included starting in January, please contact the office to let them know.

Thank you & Happy New Year!

**Mission Efforts beyond St. Paul**

Hope House; LeadaChild; For the Sake of the Church; Lutheran Bible Translators; Lutheran Heritage Foundation; KansaSEED Deaf Ministry; Lutheran Hour Ministries; North Central Kansas LCMS Outreach

Please remember to inform the church office when the person for whom you requested prayer should be removed from the prayer

**Installation of Board Members & Officers will be January 3 & 4, 2026 during worship!**

**An all Boards and Officers retreat is scheduled for January 10, 2026!**

**All members** of **all boards** should attend this important event. We will be making action plans for 2026 and beyond. This group will also make a 2026 schedule of church events.

Meeting at the Church to begin at 9:00 AM.

Lunch will be provided.

Please inform the church office if you will be unable to attend.

**THANK YOU!**

The staff of St. Paul would like to thank you for all of your Christmas wishes, cards, goodies, and gifts during this Christmas season.

We appreciate you thinking of us. God bless you!