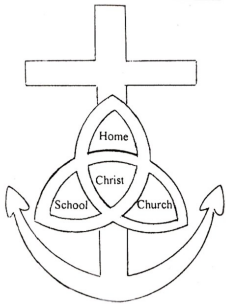


# ST. PAUL EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH

December 2025



Building Relationships  
in Christ

## St Paul Ev Lutheran Church

1415 Tenth Ave  
Rochelle IL 61068  
Ph: 815-562-2744

Church Email:  
[churchoffice@stpaulrochelleil.org](mailto:churchoffice@stpaulrochelleil.org)

Website: [stpaulrochelleil.org](http://stpaulrochelleil.org)

Vacancy Pastor

Rev. Michael Wolff

Marcia Schnorr, DCM

Parish Nurse

After hours: 562-6823

## St. Paul Lutheran School

Ph: 815-562-6323

Steve Hall, Principal

School Email:  
[office@stpaulrochelleil.org](mailto:office@stpaulrochelleil.org)

Website:  
[stpaulrochelleil.org](http://stpaulrochelleil.org)

## JOIN US!

In person at  
6:00pm Saturday  
or 9:00am Sunday



OR

FacebookLive  
At 9:00 am

OR

WRHL Radio  
1060AM  
At 10:00 am  
Or  
93.5 FM

## ADVENT: A TIME OF LOOKING FORWARD

Advent is a time to look forward to the coming of Christ the first time at His birth and looking forward to His second coming. You have been looking forward to getting a full-time pastor for two and a half years now. Pastor Gudgel can look forward to helping you to strengthen the programs you have and look forward to building up struggling ministries that need full-time attention. However, Advent is also a time of preparation. Members of St. Paul must evaluate their own place in the church and what they can do to fulfill the mission of the Church of making disciples of all nations and bring the Gospel to people in Rochelle. It will be a time of joy as you welcome Pastor and Karen to your church family. I pray God's blessings on your life together.

I am looking forward to serving the people of Resurrection Lutheran Church in Rockford. It is much closer to my home and a smaller congregation. I will meet with them on Sunday, December 14 after the worship service. My first Sunday service will be January 4, 2026. This is not a vacancy call, but a call to serve them as long as possible. I will not be conducting Christmas services as a pastor, but as a person in the pew for the first time in 36 years. I must make sure that I don't read the pastor's part in the services. However, I will miss my friends here at St. Paul. We can look forward to Christmas and the joy of the season.

While our lives change, the Word of God doesn't. Jesus came to fulfill God's mercy and grace as promised in the Old Testament. As the Lamb of God, He came to fulfill all of the sacrifices made for sin beforehand. He sacrificed Himself for the sins of all the world from Adam to the last person alive when He comes the second time as the Judge and Savior in all of His power and glory. However, it has been said that there are three comings of Christ, first as a human being, the final at the end of time, and the time Jesus comes to us and makes us His people. The first and last coming of Jesus Christ mean nothing without Him coming to us in faith. Jesus came to us in Baptism where the Holy Spirit recreated us into the image of Christ. He comes to us in the Word and Holy Communion. He comes to us as we seek to serve Him by loving others as Christ loved us. I don't know if I will see you again, but I know we will see each other at His final coming.

Love in Christ, Pastor Wolff



Come and Celebrate!

The installation of  
Rev. Michael Gudgel  
as our Pastor and Shepherd  
will be  
Saturday, December 13<sup>th</sup>  
at 3:00 p.m.

Pastors from our Circuit and surrounding area have  
been invited to participate in the service.

A celebration dinner welcoming Pastor Gudgel, his wife  
Karen, and their children Ella and Jack will be held in  
the gym after the service.



Advent services will held on December  
3, 10 & 17 at 6:00 p.m..

The Christmas Eve Family Christmas  
service will be at 4:00 p.m. The Can-  
dledlight service will be at 7:00 p.m.

The Christmas Day service will be at  
10:00 a.m. Please note the time change  
from previous years.

There will not be a New Year's Eve  
service..

### Guild Bake Sale

The Women's Guild will be holding their  
annual Christmas bake sale on December  
6th and 7th after church services. Noth-  
ing will be priced. It will be free will  
offering. Proceeds will go to various  
Guild programs such as Bibles for the 3rd. graders. Dona-  
tions of bake goods would also be appreciated.



We thank Pastor Wolff for serving as our va-  
cancy Pastor for the past 2 1/2 years. Two cof-  
fee hours will be held in his honor on **Satur-  
day, December 6 at 5:00 pm before our  
service and Sunday, December 7 after  
our worship.**



### President's Notes

December will be a very busy and a very excit-  
ing month in the life our Congregation. It will  
be a time of celebration and a time of giving  
thanks.

Before the service on the 6<sup>th</sup> and after the ser-  
vice on the 7<sup>th</sup> we will have a time that we can  
say goodbye and give thanks to Pastor Wolfe  
for ministering to our congregation during our  
vacancy. He truly was a blessing to us while we  
waited for the shepherd that God would send  
us. Then on Saturday the 13<sup>th</sup> we give thanks to  
God, and celebrate the installation of Pastor  
Gudgel as our new Pastor. What exciting  
times lie ahead as we begin a new chapter in  
the life of our Congregation. The last day of  
the month will mark the end of Mr. Hall's full  
time employment as Principal and the start of  
his retirement. We give thanks for his many  
years of leading our Day school.

And while all of this is going on let us not for-  
get the reason for the season. Advent begins a  
four week time of waiting and preparation for  
both the celebration of Jesus's birth at Christ-  
mas and the three comings of Christ: past, pre-  
sent and future.

As I said, what a busy and exciting month lies  
ahead of us.

May you all have a blessed Christmas.

Bob Mortimer 312 316 6519

## MONTHLY MISSION OFFERING

For the month of December, we will be gathering baby items for our local Crisis Pregnancy Center in Rochelle. Instead of a monetary gift, we are asking all of you to bring items for babies, as Jesus came as a Baby with needs, so many babies coming into this world need help.

The babies and their mothers are usually in desperate conditions, as the choice to give life brings some hardships. We want to lovingly support and supply these new lives with the necessities of life and offer a good start in life.

For the entire month of December and the first part of January, we will have a playpen in the back of church where you can drop off your gifts for babies. The playpen will be put up after Pastor Gudgel's installation.

There is a need for all kinds of clothing, blankets, disposable diapers, toys, socks and other supplies. Bring them as you come to church.

We are blessed in being able to take care of and support these new lives and their mothers who have brought them into the world



### January Newsletter Deadline

December 15

Please turn your items in by the deadline.

Thanks!

Mary Parsley	12/01
Michelle Metzger	12/03
Daniel Johnson	12/03
Mary Truckenbrod	12/06
Linette Feltes	12/11
Ruth Furman	12/11
Barry Casey	12/13
Chase Martinson	12/14
Jodi Hayes	12/13
Steven Truckenbrod	12/13
Emma Metzger	12/14
John Albaugh	12/16
Terri Stover	12/17
Henry Bunger	12/19
Eileen Duval	12/19
William Bettner	12/20
Casondra Rowley	12/21

Dean Svela	12/22
Laura Kirk	12/25
Trisha Rodeghero	12/25
Bridgid Johnson	12/26
Michael Casey	12/27
Janet Halsne	12/27
Liberty Hayes	12/28
Shepard Hayes	12/28
Mike Metzger	12/29
Julie Cole	12/31
Leni Haedt	12/31
Elijah Metzger	12/31



## WORSHIP THIS MONTH

<b>December 3</b>	6:00 p.m. Advent Worship
<b>December 6</b>	6:00 p.m. Contemporary
<b>December 7</b>	9:00 a.m. Liturgical w/Communion
<b>December 10</b>	6:00 p.m. Advent Worship
<b>December 13</b>	3:00 p.m. Installation service
	6:00 p.m. NO Service
<b>December 14</b>	9:00 a.m. Liturgical
<b>December 17</b>	6:00 p.m. Advent Worship
<b>December 18</b>	2:15 p.m. Thursday Fellowship Worship (Tentative)
<b>December 20</b>	6:00 p.m. Contemporary
<b>December 21</b>	9:00 a.m. Liturgical w/Communion
<b>December 24</b>	4:00 p.m. Family Christmas Worship
	7:00 p.m. Christmas Candlelight
<b>December 25</b>	10:00 a.m. Christmas Day Worship



## Pastor's Office Update

We are updating the Pastor's office for the first time in 18 years with a fresh coat of paint and new office furniture. If you would like to contribute to this project, please bring it to the office or put it in the offering plate and designate it for Pastor's office. We will keep you updated on the progress of the project's funding.

### Anniversaries

M/M Jeff Casey	12/04
M/M Michael Metzger	12/06
M/M Tim Ball	12/14
M/M Peter O'Rorke	12/18
M/M Mike Metzger	12/21
M/M David Chapman	12/24

*If we missed your important day or have it listed incorrectly, please call the church office (815.562.2744)*

# The Parish Nurse's Notes:

Dear St. Paul Family and Friends,

*That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands....* | John 1:1

Have you ever really thought about everything you have touched with your hands? Have you ever intentionally held hands with anyone to show comfort, to welcome them, to seal a deal, or let the other person know you care? If you have ever visited a long-term care facility, you probably encountered several people reaching out for your touch as you passed their way. The well-known Romanian orphanage study of 1989 identified the correlation between lack of touch and Failure to Thrive. Many NICUs now have volunteers to spend time cuddling the infants. These are all good things! Hallmark said it best, "reach out and touch someone."

Nevertheless, touching others with our hands can be a bad thing when we do not keep our hands clean. You might mean the touch in a good way—but it turned out bad because you shared some germs and the person became ill. This is especially true when someone is very weak and not able to fight off the germs you share.



Good handwashing is the single most important thing we can do to prevent infectious illnesses in ourselves and others. Regular handwashing can help control the spread of respiratory illnesses, diarrhea, and other contract or airborne infections.

The Center for Disease Prevention recommends the following handwashing technique:

- \* Wet hands using clean, warm or cold running water to wet your hands.
- \* Turn off the tap and apply soap to your hands.
- \* Rub your hands together to create lather, scrubbing every surface of your hands for at least 20 seconds. This is a good time to sing or hum the "Happy Birthday" song twice or "Jesus Loves Me" once.
- \* Rinse your hands under clean, running water. (Use your elbow or a towel to turn the water on and off.
- \* Dry your hands using a clean towel or air dryer. Use a towel to open the door to exit the restroom.

Children learn good handwashing from their role models. Adults are role models. Are you using the correct handwashing technique? The parish nurse office has some "fake germs" and a glow light that is a fun way to test your skills. Children or adults--if you want to practice, stop in the parish nurse office and practice or just enjoy the experience.

In the healing Christ, Marcy Schnorr, EdD, RN-BC (DC-Parish Nurse)

**Parish Nurse Office Hours** remain Monday through Friday 8:00-11:30am or by appointment. You may also call Marcy's home (815-562-6823). If she is not home, please leave a message. It will be returned as soon as possible.

**Donations for the Parish Nursing/Medical Clinics Initiative in Ethiopia** need to be in by December 15<sup>th</sup> so that appropriate inventories for the customs review in Ethiopia can be completed prior to our trip. Marcy and a team of five other LCMS parish nurses, a deaconess from Lutheran Church Charities, and a few supporters will leave January 3 for Ethiopia. Marcy and the parish nurses will be teaching a parish nurse course for 50 parish nurse coordinators (1 for each synod/district) of the Lutheran Church in Ethiopia (Mekene Yesus). Donated medical supplies will be used to set up small clinics in the 50 parish nurse sites—and other rural clinics.

Maggie Niemi and others on the parish nurse team at St. Paul will be available to cover for Marcy during her absence (January 3-19).

## Community Outreach to Senior Living Sites:

Christian Senior Ministry to Liberty Village and Hawthorne Inn are in a state of transition due to the retirement of Pastor Frick. Our regular outreach will be on hold pending their search to replace Pastor Frick.. Once their new schedule is set, we will know the day and time of our outreach. This change does not affect the outreach to Lincoln Manor. The December devotion and fellowship will be **December 4 at 2pm.**



The annual Christmas gifts to the nursing home residents will be prepared and delivered between December 4-6 with the following schedule: December 4 (9am-?) inventory all donations and shopping as needed and December 5 (9am-?) sort items and prepare for packaging (a few volunteers would be appreciated). **December 6 (9am-?) packing gift boxes and delivering to nursing homes. Several volunteers needed....with sufficient volunteers the task is completed in a couple of hours.**

**Board for Health and Human Care** will meet at 8am (Saturday, Dec. 6<sup>th</sup>) prior to the gift packing.



**OK Club** will meet on Friday, December 12<sup>th</sup> at noon at church with lunch from Jimmy Johns. After a brief devotion, the group will pack the cheer boxes for the members of our family of faith who are known to be homebound or otherwise experiencing a difficulty.



**Thursday Worship and Fellowship** will be **Thursday, December 18<sup>th</sup> at 2:15pm.** **NOTE THE DATE change due to Christmas.**

This service is specifically planned for those whose health needs make attending weekend worship difficult.

Pastor Gudgel will be providing an abbreviated service with communion. Marcy will be available to assist with any health needs and to provide some refreshments following the service. If you need assistance with transportation, please contact Marcy or the church office a couple of days in advance and every effort will be made to obtain a ride for you.

**OK Club and Senior Supper Club** will join for a special (self-pay) Christmas dinner at Luna on **Sunday, December 21 at noon.** Other seniors are welcome to participate. Please contact Marcy with your registration by December 17<sup>th</sup>.



## LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES

**WRHL 1060 AM—7:30am Sundays**

December 7	Chosen for What?
December 14	Pictures of Patience
December 21	Everybody is Somebody
December 28	Get Ready for the Best

**Join us for our 9:00am Sunday service or listen to our broadcast on WRHL(1060AM) or (93.5 FM) at 10a.m. It is also on Facebook Live at 9:00am.**

## Worship Anew

Comcast channel 138 on TLN—11:30am Sundays	
December 7	Stirring Things Up
December 14	Lord, Give Us Patience
December 21	The Word Became Flesh
December 24	Christmas Can't Be Stolen
December 28	Save the Child!

## CHRISTMAS



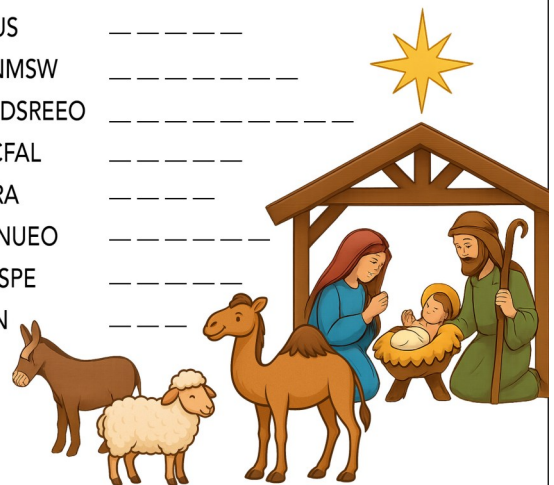
Our PK Christmas program will be on December 14<sup>th</sup> at 1pm. The K-8 program is also scheduled for the 14<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m.. Both programs will be in the sanctuary.

# Puzzle!

## The Christmas Story

Unscramble each set of letters to form a word from the Christmas story. One letter in each set doesn't belong. Write each extra letter below, on the line above the correct number. Then answer the question: What did we all receive at Christmas?

- (1) TGLBEHHEME \_\_\_\_\_
- (2) NEAGLO \_\_\_\_\_
- (3) NRMEDAG \_\_\_\_\_
- (4) ODEKSNY \_\_\_\_\_
- (5) AMGYR \_\_\_\_\_
- (6) OHESJIP \_\_\_\_\_
- (7) EFJSUS \_\_\_\_\_
- (8) ITEENMSW \_\_\_\_\_
- (9) SPHDSREEO \_\_\_\_\_
- (10) EMCFAL \_\_\_\_\_
- (11) TLSRA \_\_\_\_\_
- (12) CSSNUEO \_\_\_\_\_
- (13) HEVSPE \_\_\_\_\_
- (14) ENIN \_\_\_\_\_



1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14		

Answers: Bethlehem (G), Angel (O), Manger (D), Donkey (S), Mary (G), Joseph (I), Jesus (F), Wise men (T), Shepherds (O), Camel (F), Star (L), Census (O), Sheep (V), Inn (E), God's gift of love

# St. Paul Lutheran School

*"Putting Faith in Education"*



## *Thoughts from the Principal...*

Advent is about waiting. It is about waiting for the birth of the babe in a manger, but also about waiting for the triumphant return of the victorious Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on that last day.

Waiting is a prominent part of life. We should be good at it considering the amount of practice we get. We wait at the stoplight. We wait at the doctor's office. We wait in the checkout line. We wait for that phone call. Waiting is a part of life. Waiting for the Lord IS life.

The baby in a manger is the Savior. The people of the Old Testament waited for the Messiah promised already in Genesis 3:15. On that night in Bethlehem, the promise was fulfilled. The Savior has Come! He is the light of the world.

I pray that during this time of Advent and Christmas, we can truly recognize the joy that is ours through our Savior. This is a big deal! Jesus Christ suffered all of the punishment for the sins we have committed, are committing, and will commit in the future. We are forgiven! We are saved! We are free!

May we use this freedom to share our Christmas joy with others. Go and make disciples!!

Merry Christmas!

Steve Hall; Principal



The teachers and staff would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas. We are grateful for your support of our school!



The school Christmas programs are December 14th. The pre-school program is at 1:00 and the K-8 program is at 4:00. Both programs will be held in the church sanctuary.

Coupon Books are being sold to fundraise for the school. The books are filled with great deals and savings opportunities. Contact your favorite student, the school office, or Marissa Svela if you are interested in purchasing one.



## Welcome

On behalf of the children, families, and staff of St. Paul we welcome Pastor Gudgel and his family! Praise God for His goodness!

School chapel services are held each Wednesday at 8:40 and the congregation is invited. Mark your calendars as we are blessed to have President Buss leading chapel at St. Paul on January 14 and April 8. God is good!



Plans are underway for the annual Jane Reineck Crusader Dinner/Auction. Mark your calendars for Friday, April 17<sup>th</sup>.

This year more than ever funds are needed to support the Frieda Pickreign /Jane Reineck Scholarship Fund. Please consider a donation to this essential fund as we "Make Disciples of All Nations"!



## December 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>30</b> 9:00am Worship 10:00am Bible Class 10:00am Special Congregation Meeting	<b>1</b> 5:30pm Dayschool Board	<b>2</b> 7:00am Men's Bible Breakfast @ Sunrise 6:00pm Inreach/Outreach	<b>3</b> 8:40am Chapel 9:45am Women's Bible Studies 6:00pm Advent Worship	<b>4</b> 2:00pm Outreach to Lincoln Manor	<b>5</b> 9:00am Sort Nursing Home Gifts	<b>6</b> 8:00am Health & Human Care 9:00am Packing Nursing Home Gifts 5:00pm Pastor Wolff Reception 6:00pm Contemporary Worship
<b>7</b> 9:00am Worship w/Comm 10:00am Pastor Wolff Reception 10:00pm Christmas Tree Decorating 10:00pm Guild Bake Sale	<b>8</b> 5:30pm Elders	<b>9</b> 7:00am Men's Bible Breakfast @ Sunrise 6:30pm WOW Bible Study	<b>10</b> 8:40am Chapel 9:45am Women's Bible Studies 6:00pm Advent Worship	<b>11</b> 1:30pm Esther-Naomi Circle	<b>12</b> 12:00pm OK Club @ Church RSVP Evelyn 815-562-4668	<b>13</b> 3:00pm Pastor Gudgel Installation w/meal to follow
<b>14</b> 9:00am Worship 1:00pm PK Program 4:00pm K-8 Program	<b>15</b> Newsletter Deadline 6:00pm Church Council	<b>16</b> 7:00am Men's Bible Breakfast @ Sunrise	<b>17</b> 8:40am Chapel 9:45am Women's Bible Studies 11:30am Hannah-Tabitha @ Butterfly 6:00pm Advent Worship	<b>18</b> 2:15pm Thursday Fellowship Worship	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 6:00pm Contemporary Worship
<b>21</b> 9:00am Worship w/Comm 10:00am Bible Class 12:00pm OK Club & Sr Supper Club @ Luna	<b>22</b> School Break through January 4	<b>23</b> 7:00am Men's Bible Breakfast @ Sunrise 6:30pm WOW Bible Study	<b>24</b> 4:00pm Family Christmas Worship 7:00pm Christmas Candlelight Worhsip	<b>25</b> 10:00am Christmas Day Worship	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 6:00pm Worship w/ Communion
<b>28</b> :00am Worship 00am Bible Class	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 7:00am Men's Bible Breakfast @ Sunrise	<b>31</b> 9:45am Women's Bible Studies	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 6:00pm Contemporary Worship

ST PAUL EV LUTHERAN CHURCH  
1415 Tenth Avenue  
Rochelle IL 61068

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PERMIT NUMBER 93

The mission of St. Paul Ev. Lutheran Church:  
*Building relationships in Christ now and forever.*

### JOIN US!

Live in person on Saturday at 6:00pm or Sunday at 9:00am



OR

9:00 am Facebook Live - St. Paul Lutheran Church Page

OR

10:00 am on WRHL Radio 1060AM or 93.5 FM

Pastor Michael Wolff, Vacancy Pastor 562-2744

Marcia Schnorr, Parish Nurse 562-6823

Steve Hall, Principal 562-6323

Church Office 562-2744, School Office 562-6323,

Church Office E-Mail Address: [churchoffice@stpaulrochelleil.org](mailto:churchoffice@stpaulrochelleil.org) Website: [stpaullev.org](http://stpaullev.org)



*Now may  
the Lord of peace  
himself give you  
peace at all times  
and in every way.  
The Lord be with all of you.*

2 Thessalonians 3:16, NIV