

The Epistle

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

January 2025



Gathered to Go . . . to study God's Word, Worship together; and to walk with Christ by loving, serving and nurturing all God's people where ever they are and whatever their circumstances.

From Pastor Lori

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.” Hebrew 12:1-3

Dear Siblings in Christ,

The word that stands out to me in this passage is, endure. To endure means to “suffer something patiently.” As God’s people, we are told to expect trials as we wait for Christ’s return. The only way we are capable of enduring the hardships of life is by looking to Jesus, who is the founder and perfecter of our faith. He gave his life so that we would be able to persevere in his name.

We can experience hope during the challenging times of life because of God’s promises. God has promised to never leave us or forsake us. Which leads to the other meaning of the word, endure - “to remain in existence, to last.” This is where our hope comes from...that God’s love and faithfulness endures forever.

As we travel through this new year, enduring the joys and trials it has to offer, I thank God for His enduring love and for the opportunity to run the race of faith with you through the ministries of St. Paul’s. I am also grateful for your encouragement and support as I begin treatment for breast cancer. May God give us the wisdom and courage we need to not only endure but thrive in 2025!

Your sister in Christ,
Pastor Lori

If you need pastoral care while Pastor Lori is recovering from surgery,
call Rev. Jonathan Dribbler at 585-281-3595.

A Quote from Martin Luther

*Glory to God in highest heaven,
Who unto man His Son hath given;
While angels sing with tender mirth,
A glad new year to all the earth.*

Church Council News

Faith Formation

In January... The Sunday morning class will start a 12-week study on three of the Old Testament Prophets, Jonah, Joel and Amos. Join us to learn what these minor prophets have to teach us about the importance of slowing down and making time for God in our lives. Classes start **January 5th**.

The Wednesday morning class will be doing an 8-week study called, Forgiveness: Received from God, Extended to Others. Classes start on **January 8th**.



Social Ministry

Hunger Offering for January

For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink. I was a stranger and you welcomed me in.

Matthew 25:35

Each month we collect an offering to help feed hungry people and help hurting communities in our county and around the world. Sixty percent of the offering is used to combat world hunger. Forty percent is given to local organizations to help them “feed” people either physically, emotionally or spiritually. This month, the local part of our hunger offering will be given to **The Living Well**.



Your offering can be placed in the offering plate at the back of the sanctuary or mailed directly to church. Remember to designate the amount you want to give on the hunger line of your envelope or write “Hunger Offering” on the memo line of your check.

Thank you for helping to care for our neighbors near and far!

Grab and Go Lunches

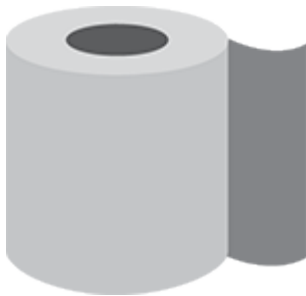
January’s Grab and Go Lunches will be **January 10th and January 24th**. On **January 10th** we will serve chili, dinner rolls and apples. On **January 24th** we will serve macaroni and cheese, cookies and apples. If you are able to help with either of these lunches please sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board. We are so grateful for so many generous people who help with these lunches. The recipients are also very thankful. You may contact [REDACTED] [REDACTED] if needed. Thank you for any help you are able to provide this month.



Sharing Shed January 2025
Core Values: Generosity, Service, Connectivity

Thank you for continuing to support our ministry of The Sharing Shed. It is a wonderful way to help our neighbors who sometimes need just a little extra to help them through the days they are facing. Our Core Values show through in the way we are connected to our neighbors and serve them by being generous in our giving!

During the month of January, we would like to stock our shelves with household items such as: Single rolls of paper towels and toilet paper; boxes of Kleenex; laundry products; Clorox wipes; dish soap; and hand soap (no bars of soap, please). Thank you!



Worship

January News from the Pews

Sunday January 5, 2025

Jeremiah 31:7-14 Ephesians 1:3-14 John 1:1-18
Hymn of the Day: Of the Father's Love Begotten

Second Sunday of Christmas

Sunday January 12, 2025

Isaiah 43:1-7 Acts 8:14-17 Luke 3:15-17;21-22
Hymn of the Day: Down Galilee's Slow Roadway

Baptism of Our Lord

Sunday January 19, 2025

Isaiah 62:1-5 1 Corinthians 12:1-11 John 2:1-11
Hymn of the Day: Jesus Come, For We Invite You

Second Sunday after Epiphany

Sunday January 26, 2025

Nehemiah 8:1-3 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a Luke 4:14-21
Hymn of the Day: Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness

Third Sunday after Epiphany

Blessings to all as we move from the Christmas Season to the Season of Epiphany and the Season of Light. You will once again see that the paraments are green, unless it is a festival Sunday. The wreath has been replaced by the Epiphany Star. We will celebrate the Baptism of Our Lord on Sunday January 12, 2025 and the paraments will then be white. The theme of baptism will be heard throughout the Epiphany Season. With that, the baptismal font will be at the front of the sanctuary and our service will begin with the Thanksgiving for Baptism rather than the confession. It is a time that we can all reflect on our baptismal promise to let our light shine before others. We are all Children of God and disciples in this ever changing world. As we worship together we are blessed to go out into the world and share our light with those around us. Thanks be to God!

What's Your Favorite Hymn?

Hymns comfort. Hymns educate. But most importantly, hymns praise God and reinforce His Word. Our hymnal is full of beautiful hymns that were written by faithful believers. Some of them go back as far as the 3rd Century. Others are by people who are still alive.

The hymns used during worship are chosen to reinforce the readings and preaching for each Sunday. Occasionally, there will be hymns that might be unfamiliar to you. That is how we learn the hymns of the church.

In order to make sure there is a good mix of hymns that might be unfamiliar as well as hymns that are familiar, we would like your input. Fill out the form on the welcome table in the narthex. The Worship and Music Committee will commit to including them throughout the year as they apply to the readings and preaching for the day or as a communion hymn.

Worship Leadership

	1/5	1/12	1/19	1/26
Assisting Ministers	Elaine Gleason	Brian Foster	Whitney Booth	Elaine Gleason
Ushers (2)		Dave and Charlene Nielsen		
Greeters	Dan Malte		Dan Malte	
Readers			Cathy Booth	
Altar Guild	Ann Kirch			Ann Kirch
Sound Board	Charlene Nielsen		Charlene Nielsen	
Computer	Dorothy Oswald	Various Volunteers	Various Volunteers	
Counters	Dorothy Oswald and Ingrid Michael		Dave Nielsen and Clem Nielsen	Dorothy Oswald and Ingrid Michael

Congregational Care

St. Paul's Core Values

We are now focusing on our Core Value of SERVICE. The goals for Service, set by the Church Council, are:

1. To have a "Volunteer Want Ads" space in the Epistle that will provide information to our members about volunteer opportunities in the community. Such as Habitat for Humanity; the Living Well; Milly's Pantry, etc.
2. To learn more about each of the organizations that receive money from our local hunger offering by having them come and do a temple talk. This will begin in January.

Watch the Epistle and weekly bulletins for ways you can SERVE our community.



Church Directory

An updated **church directory** will be available in January. This is a wonderful tool for contacting your fellow members at St. Paul's.

Please take a moment to check your information and let Jennifer know by the end of December if there are any changes/additions to your address, phone number or email.

Winter Weather Updates

When the weather is questionable or if a weather warning has been issued by the National Weather Service/Sherriff's Department, please check your email to see if in person worship has been cancelled and to access the Zoom link. If you do not have an email address, you will receive a telephone call to inform you of the closure.



“Shower” Each Other with Messages of Love

Each month, we will “shower” someone from St. Paul’s with messages of love. Please take a moment to send the person/s listed below a note of encouragement. May God use our communications to remind the recipient of God’s faithful presence and love.

This month we are “showering” our new members with our love. Their addresses are:



[Redacted names and addresses]

Memorials
[Redacted names and addresses]

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays
[Redacted names and addresses]



Anniversaries
[Redacted names and addresses]

Reminders

Prayer Requests in Public Places

Prayer is an important part of our faith. It is one of the ways we support each other during times of illness, crisis and grief. This is a faithful and powerful practice. Our intentions are often in the best place. However, some people prefer to keep their situation private. If you would like to include someone on the prayer list in the bulletin, during worship or through an email, please ask for their permission to make it public. Thank you.

Office Hours for the Month of January

Please check the weekly announcements for the office hours!

Key Policy Update

The key code will be changed in February. Be on the lookout for an email from Jennifer regarding the new code.



Community Events

Community Prayer Service

The next Community Prayer Service will be on Tuesday, January 7th at 12:15 pm with a service on *God of Possibilities*.

Volunteer Want Ads

Habitat for Humanity

Provide lunch for the Saturday workers

Call [REDACTED]

The Living Well

Various opportunities to support the programs that serve adults and children in need in our community.

Call [REDACTED]

Penn Yan Community Café

Help prepare and serve meals to the community on the second and last Tuesday of every month.

Call [REDACTED]

Yates Christmas Program

Provides a program to ensure that no child in Penn Yan and Dundee School Districts goes without during the holiday season. Donate items, help distribute items, bell ringing

Call [REDACTED]

Thank You Notes

2024

*To our friends at
St. Paul's -*

*Wishing you peace and joy
throughout the season*

*Thank you so much for
letting us use your
lovely facility for our
dance classes!*

Ellen at Zumba!

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH STAFF

NEWS FOR THE FEBRUARY 2025 EPISTLE IS DUE JANUARY 24TH