

WEEKLY CHURCH NEWS

December 14, 2025

St. Paul Lutheran Church
10792 North 210 East • Seymour, IN 47274
The Reverend Stephen Wood, Pastor

***OUR MISSION:** Walking in Faith – Sowing Christ’s Love*

**TODAY’S WORSHIP
LEADERS**

Leaders:

Pastor Steve Wood
Intern Beth Sheedy

Organist: Olga Otte

Deacons:

Dan Holle; Karen Dringenburg

Communion Assistant:

Intern Beth (8:00)
Dan Davis (10:15)

Communion Prep:

Jodi Brown (8:00)
Teresa Browning (10:15)

Lectors:

Amy Rotert (8:00)
Micah Wayt (10:15)

Acolytes:

Emily Morris & Claire Engelau (8:00)
Kayla Franke (10:15)

Projectors:

Susie Schnitker (8:00)
Kathy England (10:15)

Camera:

Jamie Baker

Altar flowers are provided by:

Susan Holle

St. Paul Lutheran Church is a congregation of The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (E.L.C.A.). It is referred to as “Borchers” since Rev. Henry Borchers, who served our congregation from 1857-1881, advised and influenced a small group of pioneer settlers that wanted to establish a congregation in the area. This year we celebrate 173 years of life and ministry. We look forward to many more years of growth and change as we seek continually to be faithful to God’s call to mission.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion is offered at the 8:00 a.m. services on the 2nd and 4th Sundays and at the 10:15 a.m. service on the 1st and the 3rd Sundays of the month. Christians who believe in the true presence of Christ in the bread and wine for our forgiveness and salvation are invited to receive Holy Communion.

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

STAFF

The Reverend Stephen Wood.....	Pastor
Beth Sheedy.....	Pastoral Intern
Trish Tangman.....	Care Team Director
Jamie Baker.....	Youth & Family Ministries and Technology Director
Maddie Whiteside.....	Youth & Family Ministries
Jennifer Duncan.....	Borchers Preschool Director
Michelle Wood.....	Secretary
Jennifer Duncan & Sam Plumlee.....	Custodians

We gather today as God’s beloved children to worship our Heavenly Father. We praise his holy name, we listen eagerly for his words of comfort, hope, and challenge to us, and we offer ourselves to him in dedicated service. May you be blessed as you worship here today.

This week: December 14-19		
Sunday 14th	3rd Sunday of Advent	
	Sertoma Angel Tree gifts due	
	Newsletter deadline	
	8:00 am	Communion
	9:00 am	Cookie Walk
	9:00 am	Christmas Program practice
	9:00 am	Adult Sunday School
	10:15 am	Communion
Monday 15th	9:00 am	Preschool
	1:00 pm	Blanket Making
	7:00 pm	Church Council
	8:00 pm	Dartball at White Creek
Tues. 16th	6:30 pm	Kids Bells
Wed. 17th	9:00 am	Preschool
Thurs. 18th	9:00 am	Borchers Breakfast Club (Christmas Party)
	9:30 am	Tai Chi
	12:30 pm	Ruth Circle
	7:00 pm	Men's Group
Friday 19th	9:00 am	Preschool

Pastor Steve & Michelle will be gone on December 21 for Eli's graduation.

Next week: December 21-26		
Sunday 21st	4th Sunday of Advent	
	8:00 am	Communion
	9:00 am	Christmas Program practice (until 1:00)
	9:00 am	Adult Sunday School
	10:15 am	Communion
	1:00 pm	Christmas Caroling
	5:30 pm	Luther League Christmas Party
Monday 22nd	NO PRESCHOOL	
	8:00 pm	Dartball at home (The Pastors)
Tues. 23rd	NO KIDS BELLS	
Wed. 24th	NO PRESCHOOL	
	6:40 pm	All students to Sunday School rooms
	7:00 pm	Children's Program Refreshments
	8:30 pm	Candlelight service in Borchers Chapel
Thurs. 25th	OFFICE CLOSED NO BORCHERS BREAKFAST CLUB	
	9:00 am	Christmas Day service
Friday 26th	OFFICE CLOSED NO PRESCHOOL	

HEARING ASSISTANCE—We have headphones available for those in need of assistance with hearing. They are located on the table at the entrance of the sanctuary.

GLUTEN-FREE COMMUNION WAFERS—We have gluten-free communion wafers available. Indicate to the pastor when you come up for communion if you need these.

FOOD PANTRY—The food pantry item being collected in December is peanut butter. Please place your donations in the wooden box near the kitchen marked "Food Pantry", or in the basket near the main entry doors. Items will be taken to either Anchor House, Provisions or Jamestown Apartments.

TURNING POINT—In December, we are collecting new or gently used blankets (twin or full size) for Turning Point domestic violence shelter. There is a collection box near the kitchen.

CARDS FOR SHUT-INS AND OTHERS

Please pick up cards TODAY in the narthex! All that's needed to send cards is in the bags; just address the envelopes and sign the cards. Take a few minutes to share Christmas joy this season!

Angel Tree for Jackson County Sertoma Christmas Miracle

Due TODAY

Please return UNWRAPPED items and place in container by the tree near the kitchen.

COOKIE WALK

TODAY 9:00-10:00 a.m.

Price: \$25 per box

Cookies will be available in the fellowship hall during the Sunday School time.

This is a Luther League fundraiser.

Making Blankets for Lutheran World Relief

Monday, December 15 at 1:00 p.m.

All are welcome to come join us!

Trip to Festival of Trees

Tuesday, December 16

A group of folks will be attending the Jackson County History Center's Festival of Trees on Tuesday, December 16th in Brownstown. St. Paul's own Carmen Herkamp has decorated a tree in the display. We'll vote on our favorite tree and then enjoy lunch at Blondie's Pizzeria. *Join the group by signing up at the Welcome Center.*

Kids Bells

December 16 at 6:30 p.m.

Ruth Circle

Thursday, December 18 at 12:30 a.m.

Will meet at Cortland Diner

Men's Group

December 18 at 7:00 p.m.

We meet the 3rd Thursday of each month. Come for Bible study and fellowship. ***All men are welcome!*** Questions? Talk to Chris Otte or Dean Dringenburg.

Newsletter Deadline

TODAY

Please give information to the church office.

Christmas Caroling

December 21 1:00-4:00 p.m.

Please sign up at the Welcome Center.

Christmas Program Practice

Sunday, December 21

This is our long practice day — from 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.. Lunch is provided.

Luther League Christmas Party

December 21 at 5:30 p.m.

Christmas Fazoli's dinner and "Dirty" Elephant Gift Exchange

Offering Envelopes

Offering envelopes are in the narthex. If you don't see your name and wish to have envelopes, please contact the church office.

Holiday Worship Schedule

Wednesday, December 24

7:00 p.m. Children's Program

All are invited to join us in the Fellowship Hall after the Children's Program for refreshments and a hot chocolate bar. Bring snacks to share and enjoy this time together.

8:30 p.m. Candlelight Service in Borchers Chapel

Thursday, December 25

9:00 a.m. Communion Service

Worship Helpers Are Needed

Worship helpers are needed
for our Christmas services.
Please sign up at the Welcome Center.

Borchers Breakfast Club

WILL NOT MEET
December 25 and January 1

HOT SOUP IN A COLD MONTH

Beginning January 8

This annual tradition is a way to care for seniors in our community. Each person who attends Borchers Breakfast Club on a Thursday in January gets to take home a pint of homemade soup. When we have enough donated, soup is also delivered to a few additional folks in the area! If you are able and willing to donate any amount of soup toward this effort, please sign up at the Welcome Center. You can sign up for as little as one gallon of any type soup you like!

Altar Flower Sign-up Sheet

The new sheet for 2026 is available at the Welcome Center.

Thank You

Thank you to Greg and Dennis Rust for the most perfect Christmas trees for Borchers Chapel. Thank you to the Luther League for carrying the nativity scene to the Chapel.

Special thanks to Pastor Steve, Intern Beth, Olga Otte and Jamie Baker for a very special, memorable service for Floyd Browning. Thank you to those who worked in the kitchen and donated food. We appreciate you!. Thanks to everyone for visits, cards, calls and most important — prayers.

Carol Browning and family

Bless the New Parsonage with Scripture!

As the framing goes up on our new parsonage, everyone is invited to stop by and write a favorite Bible verse on the studs. Add a word of faith, hope, or blessing that will surround this home for years to come. There will be a container with Sharpies within the house. Everyone is invited to help in dedicating this space with God's Word! Any questions, please talk with Pastor Steve.

WEATHER CANCELLATION POLICY

Church services will be held, unless a travel ban has been issued for Jackson County. Please make your own decision if you want to venture out in inclement weather. **WE WANT EVERYONE TO BE SAFE! *If there is a travel ban in Jackson County, all church activities will also be cancelled.***

BORCHERS BREAKFAST CLUB

Borchers Breakfast Club will coincide with the Seymour School Corporation's decisions for school closings and delays. If Seymour schools are closed OR delayed, Borchers Breakfast Club will be CANCELLED. Please listen to WZZB 1390 AM or 99.3 FM, or watch for closings on television stations.

**December 14,
2025**

GOING DEEPER

The purpose of this page is to provide a tool or instrument for your spiritual growth. This page contains a brief synopsis of the readings as well as some questions for your reflection to help you go deeper with the Word. On the back is a day by day listing of scripture readings with possible prayer request. Individuals are listed on their day of birth—so that you might pray for them on their birthday. Also on the back is the prayer list for the congregation. Keep on Growing Spiritually!!

READINGS FOR THE DAY:

Isaiah 35:1-10: The prophet describes the return from the Babylonian captivity as a joyous procession to Zion. God's coming reign will bring a renewal of creation in which health and wholeness will be restored.

There is no need for fear, for God is coming to save.

James 5:7-10: In anticipation of the Lord's coming, Christians are called upon to cultivate patience rather than discontent.

Matthew 11:2-11: John the Baptist expects the Messiah to bring God's judgment upon the earth (Matt. 3:11-12). From a prison cell, he wonders whether Jesus is the one who will do this. Jesus' response indicates that God's reign is indeed being fulfilled already through healing and restoration.

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QUESTIONS TO PONDER:

1— What comfort does the Isaiah text bring to you in our world today? (Isaiah 35:1-10)

2—What trials or sufferings are you facing in your life right now? (James 5:7-10)

3—What does it mean that a reed is shaken by the wind? (Matthew 11:2-11)

4—How do these texts speak to you today?

Prayer: *Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way. Amen.*

NOTES

MEMORY VERSE: ISAIAH 35:10

¹⁰And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

GOING DEEPER IN PRAYER

Sunday 12/14

Psalm 119:25-40
Acts 20:1-38
✦ Tony Schafstall
✦ world peace

Monday 12/15

Psalm 119:41-56
Acts 21:1-40
✦ Marshall Claycamp, Elsie Herbert
✦ hospice workers

Tuesday 12/16

Psalm 119:57-72
Acts 22:1-30
✦ Dylan Hatfield, Tucker McIntire
✦ missionaries

Wednesday 12/17

Psalm 119:73-96
Acts 23:1-35
✦ Paul Newkirk, Jon Claycamp, Mike Hoeven-
er, Tyler Schafstall, Vivian Newkirk
✦ community leaders

Thursday 12/18

Psalm 119:97-112
Acts 24:1-27
✦ Cole Kleffman, Elizabeth Rust
✦ pastors

Friday 12/19

Psalm 119:113-136
Acts 25:1-27
✦ Charlie Douglass
✦ confirmation students

Saturday 12/20

Psalm 119:137-176
Acts 26:1-32
✦ Christians in Japan

PRAYER LIST

Recent Hospitalizations:

Adelee Davis (*cancer—relative of Daryl Paswater*)
Gib Claycamp (*fall*)
Susie Alstatt (*surgery*)

Other Prayer Requests:

Family and friends of Alvin Otte
Family and friends of Tom Helwig
Family and friends of Larry Issacs
Carol Browning
Red Angel (*fall*)
Jeff (*thyroid removal—co-worker of Chris Otte*)
Jaxon Reinhart (*cancer—friend of Grant & Caleb Wheatley*)
Hannah Young (*health issues*)
Dillon Williams (*son-in-law of Tim & Kathy England*)
Randy Bridgewater
(*motorcycle accident—brother-in-law of David Bode*)
Florence Otte (*health*)
Lawrence Monroe
Kim Dringenburg (*health*)
Matt Tangman (*hip replacement*)
Patricia Lewis (*cancer—Tim England's mother*)
Steve McGrew (*fall*)
Wayne Rust (*back surgery*)
Don Ray (*friend of Larry Guinn*)
Gene Kruse (*hip replacement*)
Bobby Akemon (*cancer—friend of Jennie Hoene*)
Brooke Elmore (*cancer—friend of Tammi Reinbold*)
Kevin Trask (*cancer—friend of Chris Otte*)
Linda Lloyd (*medical—Tim England's aunt*)
Olivia Sons (*epileptic seizures—friend of Kathy England*)
Ed Engelau (*cancer*)
Angie Lucas (*cancer*)
Betty Toxey (*fall-grandmother of Erik Zakrzewski*)
Wanda Zakrzewski (*fall-grandmother of Erik Zakrzewski*)
Dan Anderson (*father of Rich Anderson*)
Charlie Fox (*father of Ben Fox*)
Pastor John Wanamaker (*cancer*)
Bob Butcher (*health issues—friend of Susie Alstatt*)
Sandy Smith (*Robert Smith's mother*)
Courtney Hardebeck (*illness—friend of Cassie Fox*)
Pegi Bricker (*spinal surgery—friend of Kendra Harris*)
Megan White (*leukemia—friend of Kendra Harris*)
Monty Reynolds (*prostate cancer—friend of Kathy England*)
Hallie Crane (*leukemia—friend of Heidi Wheatley*)
Annie Walton (*friend of Carrie Morrison*)
Hannah & Jimmy Whitaker
(*medical concerns—friends of Kathy England*)
Paul Lewis (*melanoma-step-dad of Tim England*)
Mark Gillespie (*cancer-friend of Charlotte Guinn*)
Ernie Kleffman (*back*)
Treva & Danny Edwards

Prayer for Homebound Individuals:

Patty Herkamp; Selma Mellenbruch, Paul Newkirk, Sonna Wentz

Prayer for Long Term Care Issues:

Helen Carter; Andy Runge; Gavin Brown (*friend of Leah Otte*); Robert Noblitt (*Chris Kleffman's father*)

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S LOVE

We Worshipped:

December 7 — 8:00 service: 138 10:15 service: 87

Financial Report:

Financial report next week

{The weekly amount needed to cover expenses in the
2025 Spending Plan is \$7,354.00}

WORSHIP LEADERS FOR DECEMBER 21:

Communion Assistant:

Lou Ann Hoevenner (8:00)
Dan Davis (10:15)

Communion Prep:

Wanda Engelau (8:00)
Gretchen Lawles (10:15)

Lectors:

Amelia Shaw (8:00)
Leon Seitz (10:15)

Acolytes:

Caleb Baker & Layne Thompson (8:00)
Daniel Hendrix (10:15)

Projectors:

Kaelynn & Sam Engelau (8:00)
Thomas & Ruth Ann Hendrix (10:15)

Camera:

Hannah Baker

Altar flowers are provided by:

Bill & Judy Winning

Sunday School Snacks:

Wanda Engelau

READINGS FOR DECEMBER 14:

3rd Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 35:1-10
Psalm 146:5-10
James 5:7-10
Matthew 11:2-11

OUR CORE VALUES:

1. **Spirituality** – to worship, grow and develop spiritually as Christians.
2. **Outreach** – to spread the message of God's love and grace by word and action
3. **Service to Others** – to live Christ's message to love one another

You can support the mission of our church by coming to worship, engaging in study, sharing the word, bringing a friend to church, taking part in Care Team initiatives, volunteering at church or in the community and loving one another. We invite you to join us in this journey.

HOW TO CONTACT US:

Office: 522-7364

2nd Line: 522-7484

Pastor Steve: 812-498-7829

Email: stpaul Lutheran@stpaul-borchers.org

Web Site: stpaul-borchers.org

Michelle's office hours:

Monday—8:30-2:30

Wednesday—8:30-2:30

Friday—8:30-12:30

Facebook:

St. Paul Lutheran Church-Borchers

Services are available on YouTube:

St. Paul Lutheran Church-Borchers