

# The Masthead

## Monthly Newsletter

*"Equip, Support, Serve and Witness Where God Calls Us!"*



**JANUARY 2024**

Church Office: 248-541-0613 & School Office: 248-546-6555



St. Paul Lutheran Pastor  
Rev. Jakob Andrzejewski

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Front Page .....	1
Ministry .....	2-3
Stewardship News .....	4
School News .....	5
Notes & Directory .....	6
Birthdays .....	7
Calendar .....	8

### JANUARY SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

Kindergarten Round-up  
Preschool Information Night  
Big Bash Game Info (Superbowl LVIII)  
Young Adults Roller Skating



## From Vicar Adam Hiles

*"If Advent is all about awaiting the arrival of something, then Epiphany is all about revelation of what has come. All of Advent, we awaited Jesus' coming. This beautiful Christmas season, we celebrate His coming in His birth by the virgin Mary. Soon, during this upcoming season of Epiphany, we focus on His revelation; we see who this Jesus is, and what exactly that means.*



ADAM HILES  
(VICAR)

*The greatest example of this revelation is when Mary and Joseph presented the baby Jesus to Simeon in the temple. You'd expect that, seeing a baby that looks like all the other babies, Simeon wouldn't think much of Jesus. But Simeon did not have vague ideas about who the Christ would be, or nebulous views about who his Lord was. By the revelation of the Holy Spirit, when Simeon sees the infant Christ, he sees God's salvation, the light for the revelation of the Gentiles and the glory for Israel. And in this, Simeon rejoiced.*

*In the same way, we do not await the coming of our Lord with vague ideas about who He is. Rather, we await Him as He has been revealed to us by the Holy Spirit: The Crucified One, who by His death and resurrection won for us salvation, and will return to judge the World. In this, we too rejoice.*

*Since we know full well who our Lord is, let us continually press on to know Him by devoting ourselves to His Word. Let us await Him by singing the very song of Simeon as we see God's salvation in the Supper, and receive His very body and blood as we are bid by Christ's own invitation. And awaiting Him, may we gladly submit to God's law, and rejoice in doing the works which He has prepared for us.*

*A blessed Epiphany season to you all, and a very happy New Year!"*  
Vicar Adam

# MINISTRY

**“May your faith be renewed and your spirit be uplifted as you embrace the blessings of the New Year. Happy New Year!” “As we step into a new year, let us remember that God’s love and grace are always with us.**



## Annual Big Game Bash

Plans are being made and we hope you plan

to watch the game with us on **February 11th** in the church lounge. Come watch the Big Game on the Big Screen while enjoying some food and some great fellowship. Game kickoff will be determined. Watch the Sunday News & Notes for updates. We will have a sign up at the Welcome Center so we can approximate how many people will be coming. If you have any questions, please contact Chuck Brewer, (586) 822-8619.

**Thank You-**The PTL would like to give a big, thank you to all of the parents, teachers, and friends of St Paul who donated items and helped with the Christmas Shoppe. The children had a great time shopping, and it was another successful event!

## Meal Train- Baby Andrzejewski has arrived!

Pastor and Rachel are so excited to welcome Baby Jayden into their family. Interested in blessing the Andrzejewski family with a delicious meal? Sign up by visiting the link below

to schedule a meal drop-off date that works best for you. We are looking for 3-4 volunteers per week. Please read the special instructions on the site for food preferences, “leave on porch” drop-off instructions and times. Please contact Amanda Brandt [amvbrandt@gmail.com](mailto:amvbrandt@gmail.com) or call/text 313-319-4341 if you need assistance or have any questions.

[mealtrain.com/qk00e8](http://mealtrain.com/qk00e8)



## Monthly Bible Readings January 2024 Three-Year Series B



DATE	FESTIVAL	OLD TESTAMENT	PSALM	EPISTLE	GOSPEL
Jan. 7	The Baptism of Our Lord	Gen. 1:1-5	Psalm 29	Rom. 6:1-11	Mark 1:4-11
Jan. 14	Second S. a. the Epiphany	1 Sam. 3:1-10 (11-20)	Psalm 139:1-10	1 Cor. 6:12-20	John 1:43-51
Jan. 21	Third S. a. the Epiphany	Jonah 3:1-5, 10	Psalm 62	1 Cor. 7:29-31 (32-35)	Mark 1:14-20
Jan. 28	Fourth S. a. the Epiphany	Deut. 18:15-20	Psalm 111	1 Cor. 8:1-13	Mark 1:21-28

## MINISTRY

**HELP Un-Decorate With Us!** We need extra hands to help un-decorate the church from the holidays. Meet us at 10:00 a.m. Saturday, January 13 to help out. Thank you.

**Need A Prayer!** There is a group of individuals at St. Paul called Prayer Warriors, who are ready to pray for you! Please feel welcome to submit your prayer request to Chris Steiber via text/call 248-515-1983 or email [christinemsteiber@gmail.com](mailto:christinemsteiber@gmail.com). All prayer requests will be kept confidential. For public prayer in worship, please contact the church office.

**Electronic Giving** Just as you rely upon receiving income on a regular basis, St. Paul Lutheran Church & School relies on your regular contributions. St. Paul offers a convenient electronic giving option to help you keep up with your intended offerings. There are two ways to get started: The easiest and fastest way: Enroll at our website [www.stpaulroyaloak.org](http://www.stpaulroyaloak.org). or you can complete an Electronic Giving Authorization form (available in the church lobby) and return to the church office. For questions, contact LeeAnne Millinger, 248-584-3128 or Ken Milz,

**Woman of the Year Luncheon**—Each year, the Council of Lutheran Women honors women throughout the greater Detroit area who have been selected as their church or organizations 'Woman of the Year'. These women exemplify service to our Lord in His church and in the community. A special luncheon and recognition off campus will be given in honor for her in March along with other area Women of the Year. Watch in News & Notes for tickets to go on sale to attend the luncheon or contact Colleen Olsen at (248) 288-0769 for questions.

**Men's Fellowship Breakfast**—Once a month men of our congregation get together on the third Saturday of each month to enjoy great fellowship, breakfast and share in devotions and a Bible study. We will meet Saturday, January 20 at 7:30 a.m. in the church lounge. Bring a friend or neighbor. Plan to come and meet other new friends and enjoy a meal and a morning of camaraderie.

# LUTHERAN YOUNG ADULTS

**Friday  
Night  
January  
5th  
5:15-  
7:15pm**

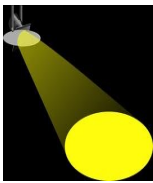


**Ages  
18-30ish  
\$5  
includes  
skate  
rental**

**Skate World**  
15 mile and Dequindre in Troy, MI



# STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY



## SPOTLIGHT on STEWARDSHIP

Giving isn't always easy. If you're struggling financially, it can be even harder. Monthly bills, credit card payments, and inflation seem to take everything there is – and nothing is left over for giving. Perhaps you want to give, but

just don't see a way to make it happen.

Good news! God sees your situation. He knows your needs and has your ultimate good on his mind. He knows how to take care of you and how to grow you as a disciple, even in the midst of financial difficulty.

And giving is part of this – not the only part, but an important part.

*For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*

*Matthew 6:21*

In the midst of the Sermon on the Mount as he's teaching about money, Jesus makes this surprise statement: our hearts follow our treasure. We would think it would work the other way – we'd put our treasure where our hearts already are. But this isn't the way Jesus says it works. Giving is important because it helps to determine the direction of our hearts.

### It Can Be Done

The Bible gives us several examples of individuals and even churches giving out of difficult financial circumstances. These stories inspire us as we see how God provided for those who gave and how he used their gifts to bless others.

### THE WIDOW OF ZAREPHATH

Because of King Ahab's wickedness, God had pronounced a drought on the land. Elijah delivered this news to King Ahab, and then went into hiding. God further directed him to a town called Zarephath. In this town was a poor widow, who was likely further impacted by the drought. God directed her to feed Elijah.

When Elijah arrived, he asked this widow for a drink and for a piece of bread. She responded that she didn't have any bread; she was about to use her last flour and oil to make a final meal for herself and her son, who were on the verge of starvation. Elijah promised her that God would supply flour and oil for her and her son through the entire

drought if she would feed him first. She took God at his word and fed Elijah first, and God took care of her and her son.

Not only did this build the faith of the widow, but it served as such an important example of faith that Jesus later referred to it (Luke 4:24-26). God had a larger plan than caring for this one family – he was setting this up as an example of his love for all peoples and all nations. The widow probably had no idea the role she was playing in God's redemptive story!

### THE WIDOW AT THE TEMPLE

Jesus was standing where he could see the treasury chest and watching people place their offerings into the chest. People put in varying amounts, some of them quite large. But Jesus' attention was drawn to a poor widow, who put in just two small copper coins.

He called the disciples to him and pointed her out, telling them that her gift was actually greater than the larger gifts of the rich people, because she gave sacrificially – everything she had. (Mark 12:41-44; Luke 21:1-4)

### THE MACEDONIAN CHURCHES

The church in Jerusalem was suffering as a result of famine and poverty. Paul spent considerable time coordinating a collection for the Jerusalem church among churches he had established. And the Macedonian churches had responded – even though they themselves suffered from significant poverty. According to Paul, these churches actually approached him and pleaded for the opportunity to take part in the offering! (2 Corinthians 8:1-5)

The common result in all of these stories is that God was honored through the giving of his people. None of these people or churches gave much in terms of actual amounts – a piece of bread and a drink; two small copper coins; an offering taken from poor churches. But God used each of these gifts to bless others and to expand the faith of his followers.

Excerpt from Good Sense article, *When Giving is Hard*, November 2023

### Three Biblical New Year's Resolutions

It is time again to make New Year's resolutions. Our lives will be blessed in the coming year as we keep these three biblical resolutions.

**Lose weight.** After eating all those holiday season meals, many people resolve to start the New Year off by losing a few pounds. While losing weight may improve one's health, the Bible speaks of losing "weight" that will improve one's spiritual well-being. Consider Hebrews 12:1: "Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us." In this passage, the Christian life is depicted as a race. One who is running in a footrace would not want any extra weight that might hinder his

performance. Likewise, the Christian who is running the Christian race must lay aside anything that might hinder his progress for the Lord. Even good wholesome things can become "weights" that hinder one from living the Christian life. A job, recreational activities, pursuing an education, the love of money, or some sin may become a "weight" in our lives.

**Exercise.** "But refuse profane and old wives' fables, and exercise thyself rather unto godliness. For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come" (1 Timothy 4:7-8). A regular exercise routine profits the body a "little," but a spiritual workout in godly living will profit your soul, your family, your friends, and your work associates.

**Save Money.** Having blown the budget during the Christmas season, many of us will resolve to spend less and save more as we begin the New Year. This will surely put dollars in the bank, but the Lord spoke about how we can deposit money in heaven: "But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also" (Matthew 6:20-21). To the rich young ruler Jesus said, "If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me" (Matthew 19:21). By giving to the Lord's cause and to those who are in need, we actually "save" ("lay up") treasures in heaven. It would be impossible for us to out-give the Lord. He has richly blessed our lives, and we should give back to Him.

# SCHOOL MINISTRY



## St. Paul Lutheran School

100+ Years of God's Grace

### Our Mission

*"Equip, Support, Serve and Witness Where God Calls Us!"*

### Statement of Purpose

St. Paul Lutheran School equips children for a life of service with a foundation of academic, physical, spiritual, and social maturity centered around Christ Jesus.



Mr. Chris Francik, Principal

**Happy New  
Year!**

## BLESSINGS!

As the year 2023 ends and 2024 begins, I pray that each of you sees the work of our Triune God in your life. Through the ups and downs of the previous year, God's Word and presence reign supreme. No matter what the previous year has brought Jesus' promise "to be with us always" from Matthew 28 remains steadfast. I am thankful for the people I have met and become friends with at St. Paul, and I have the opportunity each day to be united with St. Paul students and staff in the truth of God's love, justice, and compassion for all people. I invite you to ponder the words we pray each school day at the end of lunch. "O give thanks unto the Lord, for his mercy endures forever."

**KINDERGARTEN ROUND UP:** Mark your calendars. Kindergarten Round Up will be held at 6:30 p.m. on January 18 for all parents who may be interested in sending their children to our kindergarten for the 2024-2025 school year. Mrs. Miranda Lorence will share details of our program, tuition costs, and the curriculum materials used in our school. Health requirements will also be discussed. St. Paul offers a full day kindergarten program from 8:15 a.m. to 3:20 p.m.



**PRESCHOOL INFORMATION NIGHT:** will be at the Royal Oak Farmers Market on January 22 at 7:00 p.m. Look for the St. Paul Display. Contact the preschool director, Christie Sipila at [csipila@stpaulroyaloak.org](mailto:csipila@stpaulroyaloak.org) if you have any questions.

**CHURCH MEMBER SCHOOL FAMILIES:** Reminder to please record your attendance at church services as 50% church attendance is the minimum to receive member tuition. IN-PERSON services: Please make it a point to fill out the regular attendance card or use the kiosk at church. With ONLINE SERVICES: Just listen, record the date, and fill out the form at <http://www.stpaulroyaloak.org/attendance>. Questions can be emailed to [boe@stpaulroyaloak.org](mailto:boe@stpaulroyaloak.org).

### **HELP NEEDED—TEACHER FOR 3 YEAR OLD PRESCHOOLERS:**

Please contact Christie Sipila for info, [csipila@stpaulroyaloak.org](mailto:csipila@stpaulroyaloak.org) or call her at school, 248-546-6555.

### **JANUARY CALENDAR:**

January 8 - Classes Resume  
January 15 -MLK Day (No School)  
January 18 -Kindergarten Roundup (6:30PM)

January 19 -Records Day (School Dismissed at Noon)  
January 22 -Preschool Information Nite (7:00pm)  
(at Farmers Market)

# DIRECTORY & Church NOTES

## DIRECTORY

**St. Paul Lutheran 202 E. Fifth Street  
Royal Oak, MI 48067**

**Pastor Jakob Andrzejewski**  
(cell) 734-644-0059  
revjski@stpaulroyaloak.org

**Church Office**  
248-541-0613

**School Office**  
248-546-6555

**Church Fax**  
248-541-6965

**School Fax**  
248-546-8096

**Church E-Mail:**  
church@stpaulroyaloak.org

**School E-Mail:**  
school@stpaulroyaloak.org

**Facebook:**  
www.facebook.com/stpaulroyaloak

**Website:**  
www.stpaulroyaloak.org

(Please contact Steven Carpenter at [scarpenter@stpaulroyaloak.org](mailto:scarpenter@stpaulroyaloak.org) to request a communication, print publication or new web project for the website. Submit your news, story, recap, event, or photo and it'll be considered for publication.)

## NOTE BITS

**Thank you** so much to all of those who contributed time and talents to the School's Christmas Shoppe. St. Paul is blessed to have so many talented artists. Thank you also to those that volunteered their time setting up and those that helped the day of the sale. The PTL wishes you a Safe and Happy New Year!

Celebrate Sanctity of Human Life Sunday,  
January 21, 2024



## GIFTS GIVEN

**St. Paul Church** in memory of Mary Ann Braun  
by her family

**GIFTS**—You may donate to the church by giving a memorial or honorarium by using the card located in the lobby. This is a two part card, one to go with the gift to the church and the other to be mailed to the family. Contact the church office, 248-541-0613 for any questions.



### **Church Boards**

Board of Education  
Board of Elders  
Board of Evangelism  
Fund Operating  
Music Ministry  
Board of Stewardship  
Board of Trustees  
Women's Guild  
Board of Youth  
Communications & Technology

### **Prayers for our Homebound**

Donna Brewer  
Margaret Kuhlmann  
Irma Pope  
Charlette Schroeder  
Ralph Schroeder  
Don Storck  
Jeanette Till  
Kathleen Ulrich  
Don Whitbeck

### **Prayers for Military**

Eric Banker  
Mark Bowdich  
Paul Bowdich  
Sam Eskew  
Trevor Guilmette  
Brandon Newton  
Brendan Sharp  
Hayden Sharp  
Joe VanDamme  
Tirzah VanDamme  
Jason Zuniga  
Gabrielle Zuniga

To Add/Remove a prayer,  
please email the office at  
[prodway@stpaulroyaloak.org](mailto:prodway@stpaulroyaloak.org).



# JANUARY BIRTHDAY'S

If we've missed listing your birthday, please contact the church office 248-541-0613


- 1 Danielle Workman
- 2 Lauren Banker  
Deena De La Rosa  
Jay Garrick
- 3 Caleb Hubble  
Erik Olsen
- 4 Jilian Nieman  
Ephraim Simon (Newton)  
Ezra Simon (Newton)
- 5 Becky MacArthur
- 6 Emily Bashore  
Karen Koch
- 7 Jason Brown  
David Hill  
Brian Louwers
- 8 Aaron Brandt  
Dawn Heins  
Andrea Keeble  
Michael Lillis
- 9 Gabrielle Charlton  
Jenelle Jackson
- 10 Brittany Meneghin  
Peggy Schwartz
- 11 Zandra Baker  
Stephanie Markey  
Charlette Schroeder  
Blake Yamarino
- 12 Blake Haney  
Richard Peludat  
Nicole Taylor  
Noah Ulrich
- 13 Paul Brown
- 14 Al Manteuffel  
Amber Martini
- 16 Ruby Krupa-Grob
- 18 Tara Cavicchioli  
Jacob Gostiaux  
Michelle Ohngren  
Jason Roche

- 19 Henry Eising
- 20 Levi Hillenbrand  
Stephanie Laughlin
- 22 Dawn Burch  
Keith Gillespie  
Kaylee Guilmette  
Laura Newell  
Matt Wlotkowski
- 24 Sara Jarvey  
Julie Martz  
Eric Mueller  
Patricia Wetzel  
Courtney Woodward  
Karl Wrosch
- 25 Susie Wlotkowski
- 26 Cary Sides  
Bill Tokar  
Marilyn Tripp
- 27 Susan Cuddington  
Joseph Holeton  
Anna Klein  
Maya Rummel  
Tyler Zenk
- 28 DeAnna Falls  
Gianna Falls  
Jeff Lehman  
Joan Pittman
- 30 Glenda Cieslinski  
Trevor Guilmette  
Larissa Kratt  
Hope Malczynski
- 31 Sara Johnson  
Beverly Limbaugh  
Esther Simon  
(Newton)





# January 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																											
	<b>1</b> <b>New Years Day</b> Office Closed	<b>2</b> 9:00 AM Trustees Office Closed at 12:00pm	<b>3</b> Office Closed at 12:00pm	<b>4</b> 8:00 AM Men's Breakfast-The Avenue  Office Closed at 12:00pm	<b>5</b> Office Closed	<b>6</b>       <i>Epiphany</i>																																																																																											
		School Christmas Break																																																																																															
<b>7</b> 8:15 AM Worship c 9:45 AM Bible Cl 11:00 AM Worship   <i>Baptism of our Lord</i>	<b>8</b> 8:20 AM Day School YCC 9:00 AM Trustees 7:00 PM All Boards 7:00 PM Elders Mtg School Resumes	<b>9</b> 8:20 AM Day School YCC 3:00 PM MLT (staff mtg) 7:15 PM YA (Atwater)	<b>10</b> 8:30 AM Chapel 10:00 AM Bible Class	<b>11</b> 8:00 AM Men's Breakfast-The Avenue 8:20 AM Day School YCC 7:00 PM Choir 8:30 PM Bells	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 10:00 AM Undecorate Church																																																																																											
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<b>21</b> 8:15 AM Worship c 9:45 AM Bible Cl 11:00 AM Worship	<b>22</b> 8:20 AM Day School YCC 9:00 AM Trustees <b>7:00 PM Pk Info Nite (Farmers Market)</b>	<b>23</b> 8:20 AM Day School YCC	<b>24</b> 8:30 AM Chapel 10:00 AM Bible Class	<b>25</b> 8:00 AM Men's Breakfast-The Avenue 8:20 AM Day School YCC 7:00 PM Choir 8:30 PM Bells	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>																																																																																											
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