

**ST. PAUL LUTHERAN
CHURCH AND SCHOOL**

701 Washington Street Grafton, WI 53024
262-377-4659
splgraffton.org
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Welcome!

We are glad you are worshipping today!

Fellowship: Refreshments available in the Gathering Hall Sundays 9am-10:45am.

Holy Communion: Celebrated during all Worship Services on the first, third & fifth weekends each month.

Parents With Children: Children's bulletins & Busy Bags are available. There is a quiet room in the back of church.

We Care Cards: Everyone attending is asked to complete a card found in the pew rack and collected during worship.

Volunteers (Acolytes, Live-stream & PowerPoint help): Sign-up at tinyurl.com/SPLsignups.

Traditional Worship

*Saturday 5pm
Sunday 8am, 11am

Contemporary Worship

*Sunday 9:30am

*Live-streamed at:

splgraffton.org/church/livestream &
vimeo.com/event/3215174

Servant Leaders:

Pastor: Luke Anderson
Pastor: Jacob Schultz
Pastor of Care Ministry: Timothy Maschke
Pastor Emeritus: Larry Prahl
Pastor Emeritus: John Sueflow
Pastor Emeritus: Kenton Wendorf
Principal: Michael Yurk
Director of Music: Valerie Bremer
DCE: Tracy Krueger

**EQUIPPING
Every Generation
to *Live Rooted*
in **JESUS****



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
December 15, 2024

**THIRD SUNDAY
of ADVENT**

*Rejoice in the Lord always.
I shall say it again:
rejoice! The Lord is near.*

Philippians 4:4-5



AS WE GATHER...Are you feeling the joy? At this point in the month of December, studies show that many people are not feeling joy. Many people are feeling overwhelmed as they approach Christmas, feeling stressors that include not having enough money, missing loved ones, and anticipating family conflict. No matter how we come to our time of worship today, even if stressed, distracted, and frazzled, what great timing to hear what God speaks to us in this season and each day. From all our Readings today, we hear of joy! It is a joy not based on our own momentary perspectives of how things should go, but rather a joy from God's eternal perspective for our sake and what has freely been done for us. As our Advent season continues, may our true joy be found in the one for whom we prepare—Christ, who was born for us and who is with us and for us and is today in our midst as He comes to us in the means of grace.

COMMUNION STATEMENT

As you prepare to receive the Lord's Body and Blood, please review these questions:

1. Am I sorry for my sins and do I repent of them?
2. Do I believe in Jesus as my Savior and that His body and blood are truly present together with the bread and the wine?
3. Do I want to live as a forgiven Christian, in love to God & neighbor, with the help of the Holy Spirit?
4. Am I a member of an LCMS congregation or a congregation in fellowship with the LCMS?

*If you are not in agreement with these questions,
please refrain from communing or speak with a pastor before communing.*

TRADITIONAL WORSHIP SERVICES—Saturday 5pm; Sunday 8am, 11am

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

LIGHTING OF CANDLES and RINGING OF THE BELL

ANNOUNCEMENTS (*Offerings may be placed in collection box near the exits. We Care Cards collected during sermon hymn.*)

OPENING HYMN "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"

LSB 341

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

John 1:5, 9; 15:10–11; Psalm 100:1–5

Pastor: We light the third Advent candle as we prepare for the arrival of the Savior, who would come to His people in human flesh, and who promises to come again. In a world of darkness, a light shines. Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

People: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

Pastor: The third, pink Advent candle has been known as the shepherd candle or the candle of joy. The third Sunday of Advent is known also as Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete in Latin means "rejoice," as found in Philippians 4:4. We find our joy in Christ this season and always as we prepare to celebrate His birth. Jesus affirms the joy found only in Him as we remain connected to Him: "If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love. These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full."

People: The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.

Three Advent candles are lit.

HYMN "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

LSB 357, St. 5

CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION

Philippians 4:4–7

Pastor: As we gather today to hear God's Word and call upon Him in prayer and praise, we come before Him as people who are broken by an imperfect world, burdened by sin, and bearing guilt for the things we have done and the things we have left undone.

People: We confess we do not rejoice in everything; instead, we let the weight of this world bring us down. Instead of seeing all good things from Your hand, at times we focus on that which does not give You glory nor bring lasting joy to our lives. We confess we have been anxious about our sin and our circumstances of life. Create in us a clean heart and renew in us a right spirit that we may abide in Your love and that Your joy may be in us, and our joy may be full.

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of the Word, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

HYMN "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

LSB 357, St. 6

SALUTATION and PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray. Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

MUSICAL REFLECTION (11am) "Get Ready – Here He Comes," Children's Choir

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Zephaniah 3:14–20 The joy and restoration of God's people.*
(Holy Bible p. 1004)

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE *Philippians 4:4–7 Joy in and through Christ.* (Holy Bible p. 1250)

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA VERSE *Matthew 11:10b*

Pastor: Alleluia. Behold, I send My messenger before Your face,

People: who will prepare Your way before You. Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL *Luke 7:18–35 Messengers from John the Baptist.* (Holy Bible p. 1098)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the seventh chapter.

People: (sung) Glory to You, O Lord.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: (sung) Praise to You, O Christ.

SERMON HYMN "Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding"

LSB 345

SERMON "Rejoice in the Lord Always!" by Pastor Schultz based on the readings.

NICENE CREED (see screens or back cover of LSB)

OFFERTORY HYMN "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

LSB 357, St. 7

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH (see screens)

SACRAMENT

PREFACE 2 Timothy 4:22

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

SANCTUS "Holy, Holy, Holy"

LSB 208

WORDS OF INSTITUTION (see screens or LSB 179)

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST 1 Corinthians 11:26; Revelation 22:20

Pastor: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

People: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

LORD'S PRAYER (see screens or back cover of LSB)

PEACE

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: Amen.

AGNUS DEI "Lamb of God"

LSB 210

PREPARATION (see screens or top of Page 2)

DISTRIBUTION Common cup and individual cup are offered on both the lectern and pulpit sides.

Please assist the pastor or server when receiving the chalice for common cup.

Non-alcoholic wine (pink) is served in individual cups in the center of the tray.

"Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness"

LSB 849

"Rejoice, My Heart, Be Glad and Sing"

LSB 737

DISMISSAL

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING (see screens)

BENEDICTION Numbers 6:24-26

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and † give you peace.

People: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN "Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee"

LSB 803

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CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP SERVICE-9:30am

PRE-SERVICE	NICENE CREED
WELCOME (Offerings may be placed in collection box near the exits. We Care Cards collected during opening song.)	SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT Words of Institution / Lord's Prayer / Preparation / Distribution / "Light of the World;" "O Come O Come, Emmanuel" / Dismissal
INVOCATION	PRAYERS
OPENING SONGS "Come Thou Long Expected Jesus;" "God With Us"	WORD OF GOD Luke 7:18-35 (Holy Bible p. 1098)
CONFESSION and WORD OF FORGIVENESS	SERMON "Rejoice in the Lord Always!" by Pastor Schultz based on the readings.
SONG OF PRAISE "God With Us"	BLESSING
CHILDREN'S MESSAGE by Tracy Krueger, DCE	CLOSING SONG "He Shall Reign Forevermore"
WORD OF GOD Philippians 4:4-7 (Holy Bible p. 1250)	



WEDNESDAY MIDWEEK ADVENT SERVICES

6:30pm

December 18; Grades 1-2

BIBLE STUDIES & MORE

SUNDAY MORNING RELIGIOUS ED HOUR

9:30am—Family Life Center

December 15: Joshua 3-4: Leaving a Legacy
Dr. Jim Pingel

December 22 & 29: No Class

SUNDAY SCHOOL



Come join us for the fun! Sunday School runs Sundays September-May from 8:15-9:15am, and is open to children ages 3 thru 6th Grade.

12/15: This week we will be learning that Jesus is humble, so we show humility. We will read Luke 2:1-7 as we look at the story of Jesus born in a stable.

12/22: No Sunday School this week. Merry Christmas!

12/29: No Sunday School this week. Class resumes January 5. Happy New Year!

Questions?

Tracy Krueger at tracy.krueger@splgrafton.org

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH



All 6-8 graders are invited to join us for Middle School Youth. We will meet the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month from 3-4:30pm in the Youth Room. Please watch for email updates and reminders throughout the year.

12/22: Enjoy Christmas break!

GIVING TREE THANK YOU!



THANK YOU for all your help! The Panther Parents would like to thank everyone that helped brighten the Christmas season for so many families right here in our community. Without your generosity, these families would not have had much this Christmas.

Thank you and have a very Merry Christmas!

BUILDING FAITH PODCAST

NEW Episode goes LIVE on Monday, **December 16!**



Building Faith

-A St. Paul Lutheran Podcast Series-



CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR'S OFFICES CLOSED

Christmas

Tuesday, December 24
Wednesday, December 25

New Year's

Tuesday, December 31
Wednesday, January 1, 2025

THURSDAY MORNING MENS BIBLE CLASS

Topic: Hebrews

Led by: Bob Kasten

Day/Time: Thursdays, 6:30am

Location: Front Conference Room

NIGHT OF PRAISE SATURDAY, JANUARY 18, 2025

6:30PM-7:15PM FLC for REFRESHMENTS

7:15PM-8:15PM SANCTUARY for PRAISE & SING

- freewill offering -

ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT STUDENTS ATTENDING THE
LUTHERAN YOUTH GATHERING IN SUMMER 2025 IN NEW ORLEANS.

PLEASE CONTACT STACEY MAMMEN WITH QUESTIONS
262-689-8494

REMINDER: 2025 OFFERING ENVELOPES

Please stop by the tables in the Gathering Hall to pick up your

2025 Offering Envelopes.

If you have any questions please contact Martha Witt in the Church Office at 262-377-4659, Ext. 332

DECEMBER BULLETIN DEADLINES

The deadline for bulletin announcements will be changing due to the schedule of our printer. Here are the changes for December:

December 22: Due Monday, December 16, 10am

December 29: Due Monday, December 16, 10am

January 5: Due Monday, December 16, 10am

Thank you!

ST. PAUL ADVENT + CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

Wednesday Advent 6:30pm
December 18; Grades 1-2

Weekend of December 22
Saturday 5pm
Sunday 8am, 9:30am, 11am

Christmas Eve
Tuesday, December 24
12pm, 2pm Traditional
4pm Contemporary
7pm, 11pm Candlelight

Christmas Day
Wednesday, December 25
9:30am
Traditional/Communion

Weekend of December 29
Saturday 5pm
Sunday 8am, 9:30am, 11am

New Year's Eve
Tuesday, December 31
5pm Traditional/Communion

No Monday Night Services November 25 - December 30.
Resumes January 6, 2025.



Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased. Luke 2:14

SCHOOL NEWS FROM MR. YURK



1. Congratulations to the 6th Grade Boys Basketball Team for taking 2nd place at the Living Word Tournament last weekend and the 5th/6th Grade Girls Team for taking 3rd place.
2. Enrollment for the 2025-26 school year is right around the corner. A special Pre K & K Information Night is scheduled for Thursday, January 9 at 6pm. Registration for new families will open on January 15. Those interested in the Wisconsin Parental Choice Program, enrollment will open up February 1.
3. School will be on Christmas Break December 21 - January 5. Merry Christmas to our entire St. Paul family.

St. Paul Lutheran
Prek & Kindergarten
Information Night
January 9, 2025 @ 6PM

2025 Registration Begins January 15th

Enrollment Information

Focused on Excellence + Centered on Christ

LIVING WORD
LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL

Christmas CONCERT

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15 | 4:00 PM
AT FIRST IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
W67N622 EVERGREEN BLVD | CEDARBURG, WI

FEATURING: basiC, Concert Choir, Concert Band, Symphonic Band, Una Voce

DIRECTORS: Mr. Zachary Roeglin, Ms. Katharine Wierschem

ACCOMPANIST: Ms. Valerie Bremer

"THIS WILL BE A SIGN FOR YOU: YOU WILL FIND A BABY WRAPPED IN SWADDLING CLOTHES AND LYING IN A MANGER" LUKE 2:12

"Come to the Manger"

DO YOU KNOW OF SOMEONE WHO NEEDS A COMFORTING HUG & REMINDER OF GOD'S LOVE FOR THEM?

Stop by the church office and pick up a prayer shawl and make a special delivery. If you need help or have questions call Marilyn Goeman at 262-377-1691.

This is a great time to share God's love!

CHRISTMAS SHOPPING WITH SCRIP

With gift cards from more than **750 top brands**, find gifts for everyone on your list! **The travelers** (Kwik Trip, BP, Mobil, Speedway). **The foodies** (Culver's, Noodles, Qdoba, Panera, Eaton's, Buffalo Wild Wings). **The caffeine aficionados** (Starbucks). **The trendsetters** (TJMaxx, Ulta, Target, Dick's Sporting Goods, Walmart). **The home improvement DIYers** (Home Depot, Menards, Fleet Farm) and the on **the fly-ers** (Amazon). Plus so much more! Our final order before the Christmas holiday will be placed on **Friday, December 20 at 8:30am!**

Questions? Contact Meagan Steinke at 262-377-4659.

Did You Know This About Charitable Contributions from IRA's? The Pension Protection Act of 2006 allowed taxpayers age 70½ and older to make tax-free charitable donations directly from their IRAs. By making a qualified charitable distribution (QCD) from an IRA directly to a qualified charitable organization, up to \$105,000 for 2024 and 108,000 for 2025 in contributions annually are excludable from gross income. These gifts, also known as "charitable IRA rollovers," would otherwise be taxable IRA distributions. This law has since been made permanent by the Protecting Americans from Tax Hikes Act of 2015. Taxpayers age 73 and older (70½ prior to 2020 and 72 prior to 2023) are required to take annual Required Minimum Distributions (RMD) from their retirement accounts. These RMDs are taxable. **However, you can avoid this taxable income by making a QCD. This must be a direct transfer of funds from your IRA trustee to a qualified charity.**

Please contact the finance office if you have any questions or would like further information on this.
Jenni Locke at 262-377-4659 Ext. 335

Music: Valerie Bremer / Heide Young
Leader: Rev. Luke Anderson

Altar Guild: Kathy Lubner & Sharon Hawkins
Sermon: Rev. Jacob Schultz

SERVICE	ELDERS / COMMUNION SERVERS	HEAD USHERS
Sat., 5pm	J. Wegner / M. Young / T. Kohlwey / J. Brooks / M. Yurk	Brian Hadler
Sun., 8am	B. Buske / G. Kern / M. Hauser / L. Kiener	Dean Haas
Sun., 9:30am	G. Hilgendorf / B. Eggold / V. Micha	Chris Hanley
Sun., 11am	G. Metzger / S. Natale / C. Haas / J. Kell	Jonathan Webster

PRAYER REQUESTS

Strength and Healing: *Pamela Anschuetz; Drew Bartell* (son of Mona Bartell); *Steve Beidenbender; Cheryl Boesch; Jason Boesch* (son of Cheryl Boesch); *Jean Dorman* (niece of Norma Prah); Stephanie Elseroad (niece of Sue & Vince Micha); *Cindy Hilgendorf* (sister of Gail Goetter); Tom Kiener (brother of Larry Kiener); *Carol Klug* (daughter of Evelyn Klug); *Dale Poisson; Russ Prah* 9brother in law of Catherine Kiener); *Michelle Reedy* (daughter of Beverly Kelling); *Marion Spiekerman; Jean Stickney; Darlene Sukowski; Doris Tetzlaff* (mother of Kathy Chromy); *Audrey Wollner; Wendy Zetting*

Long Term Illness / Treatment: *Samuel Becker* (grandson of Lucille Becker); *Delaine Bussard* (friend of Debra Kelley); *Christine Capstran* (daughter of Lyle & Terry Sperber); *Tom Fitzgerald* (friend of Tom Lubner); *Dan Haupt* (son of Frank & Bernice Haupt); *Daniel Kekic* (nephew of Paulette Rammel); *Kay Ryder* (sister of Kevin Zirtlaff); *Brian Schroeder; Patrick Swan* (friend of Liz Dehmel); *Bob Willegal* (friend of Tom Lubner)

Death: *Tom Miller*

Rehab: *Ron Kuta*

GIFTS, AND MEMORIALS

Memorials have been given to St. Paul Lutheran Church, Woman's Guild & the Every Generation Faithful Together Ministry Expansion Fund in memory of *Delores Lorenz*.

A Memorial has been given to St. Paul Church in memory of *Frank Balistreri*.



LWML CHRISTMAS CARDS

Christmas Cards to share the blessings of faith and the joy and peace of Christmas are available in the Gathering Hall while supplies last!

*Support LWML missions with your purchase of these cards.
 Thank You!*

WAYS TO GIVE AT ST. PAUL

Visit splgraffton.org/church and Look for the **Give Now! Button**

- **Plate:** Offerings may be placed in a collection box near the exits.
- **Mail/Drop-Off:** 701 Washington Street, Grafton, WI 53024. Office hours are Monday-Friday, 8am to 4pm.
- **VancoOnline Electronic Giving:** Visit splgraffton.org/church/giving (then click Online Giving).
- **Vanco Mobile App:** Vanco Mobile is a mobile giving app that enables you to make one-time or recurring gifts from your smartphone. Visit the Apple App Store or Google Play and search for "Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement" to download the app.
- **Text-to-Give:** Text the dollar amount you wish to contribute to 855.927.0750 (example: 25 for \$25). You will be sent a registration link. After registering, you will receive a text verification and an emailed receipt. For future giving, text the amount you wish to give, and text "repeat" to make it a recurring donation.
- **Text-to-Give directly to the Every Generation Faithful Together Ministry Expansion Fund:** Text the dollar amount you wish to contribute followed by the letters EGFT, to 855.927.0750. For example, text "25 EGFT" to contribute \$25. You will be sent a registration link. After registering, you will receive a text verification and an emailed receipt. For future giving, text the amount you wish to give, and text "repeat" to make it a recurring donation. Every contribution sent to this number will go directly to the Every Generation Faithful Together fund.

Thank you for supporting St. Paul. If you have questions, contact St. Paul Finance Office at 262- 377-4659.

ST. PAUL COOKIE WALK 2024



The St. Paul Panther Parents would like to **THANK EVERYONE** who put even a morsel of time and effort into the Christmas Cookie Walk!!

We are proud to share that the Cookie Walk was a success!

It was exciting to see a huge line waiting before we opened.

We appreciate the continued support that takes care of our students here at St. Paul!

As you enjoy your holiday treats, we wish you all a loving, joyful, & blessed season!

Sincerely, The Panther Parents & Students of St. Paul

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY!



ADVENT BY CANDLELIGHT 2024