

**ST. PAUL LUTHERAN
CHURCH AND SCHOOL**

701 Washington Street Grafton, WI 53024
262-377-4659
splgraffton.org
info@splgraffton.org
facebook.com/SPLChurchGrafton
facebook.com/SPLGrafton

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 Prah
Pastor Emeritus: John Suelflow
Pastor Emeritus: Kenton Wendorf
Principal: Michael Yurk
Director of Music: Valerie Bremer
DCE: Tracy Krueger

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



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 22, 2024



AS WE GATHER...The Advent season of preparing for the promised Savior to be born as one of us soon reaches its climax. Though in our homes and lives we may be wondering if we have done all we have needed to get ready for our own celebrations, we give thanks that at the center of our coming Christmas observations the Lord has prepared all we need. In this last Sunday of Advent and in the days ahead of anticipated Christmas joy, may we find peace in the preparations done freely for us out of grace, mercy, and perfect love centered on the Savior we soon welcome, who was born for us and all the world.

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 “Jesus Came, the Heaven’s Adoring”

LSB 353

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; Genesis 3:16; Psalm 36:5–9*

Pastor: We light the fourth 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 fourth Advent candle has been known as the angel candle and the candle of love. As our Advent season soon ends, we await the angelic message of the good news of a Savior. We have come to know the love of the one true God this season and always as we have prepared to celebrate His birth. We know God’s promises come to fruition in Jesus, who later made known His Father’s love in His being born into this world; in His life, ministry, teaching, preaching, healing; and ultimately in His dying and rising. “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.”

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

Pastor: Guided by the light of love, we respond with the psalmist: “Your steadfast love, O LORD, extends to the heavens, Your faithfulness to the clouds.

People: Your righteousness is like the mountains of God; Your judgments are like the great deep; man and beast You save, O LORD.

Pastor: How precious is Your steadfast love, O God! The children of mankind take refuge in the shadow of Your wings.

People: They feast on the abundance of Your house, and You give them drink from the river of Your delights.

Pastor: For with You is the fountain of life;

People: in Your light do we see light.”

THE GREAT O ANTIPHONS

Pastor: O King of the nations, the ruler they long for, the cornerstone uniting all people:

People: Come and save us all, whom You formed out of clay.

The four Advent candles are lit as the congregation sings:

HYMN “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

LSB 357, St. 1, 7

CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION *Hebrews 10:22; Psalm 32:5; 80:7; 124:8*

Pastor: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness. Our help is in the name of the Lord,

People: who made heaven and earth.

Pastor: I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

People: and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Pastor: Almighty God, our maker and redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean.

People: Restore us, O God of hosts; let Your face shine, that we may be saved!

Pastor: We have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed.

People: Restore us, O God of hosts; let Your face shine, that we may be saved!

Pastor: Wherefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

People: Restore us, O God of hosts; let Your face shine, that we may be saved! O most merciful God, who has given Your only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You and of Your will and true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Pastor: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only Son to be born in our flesh, to die for us, and for His sake forgives us all our sins.

People: Restore us, O God of hosts; let Your face shine, that we may be saved!

Pastor: As a called and ordained servant of the Word and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and the Holy Spirit. To those who believe on His name He gives the power to become the children of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. Those that believe and are baptized shall be saved. Grant this, Lord, to us all.

People: Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

HYMN "My Soul Rejoices"

LSB 933

SALUTATION and PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray. Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

MUSICAL REFLECTION (5pm) "Advent Alleluia," Mixed Choir

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Micah 5:2–5a The coming King born in Bethlehem. (Holy Bible p. 989)*

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL *Zechariah 9:9; Psalm 118:26, alt.*

Pastor: Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion.

People: Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem.

Pastor: Behold, your king is coming to you;

People: righteous and having salvation.

Pastor: Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

People: From the house of the Lord we bless You.

EPISTLE *Hebrews 10:5–10 Jesus comes to do God's will. (Holy Bible p. 1282)*

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA VERSE *Matthew 1:23a*

Pastor: Alleluia. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,

People: and they shall call His name Immanuel. Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL *Luke 1:39–45 Mary visits Elizabeth. (Holy Bible p. 1088)*

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the first 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 "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

LSB 361, St. 1,3,4

SERMON "From the Least...the Greatest!" by Pastor Maschke based on Micah 5:2-4.

APOSTLES' CREED (see screens or back cover of LSB)

OFFERTORY HYMN "What Shall I Render to the Lord"

LSB 159

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH (see screens)

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

CLOSING SENTENCES John 1:5, 9

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

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

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 "Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord"

LSB 352

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series C, Quarter 1. Copyright © 2024 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP SERVICE–9:30am

PRE-SERVICE "He Shall Reign Forevermore"

APOSTLES' CREED (see screens)

WELCOME (Offerings may be placed in collection box near the exits. We Care Cards collected during opening song.)

PRAYERS / LORD'S PRAYER

WORD OF GOD Luke 1:39–45 (Holy Bible p.1088)

INVOCATION

SERMON "From the Least...the Greatest!" by Pastor Maschke based on Micah 5:2-4.

OPENING SONG "Adore;" "Light Of The World"

BLESSING

CONFESSION and WORD OF FORGIVENESS

CLOSING SONG "Glory in The Highest"

SONG OF PRAISE "Winter Snow"

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE by Tracy Krueger, DCE

WORD OF GOD Micah 5:2–5a (Holy Bible p. 989)

ANTHEM "Silent Night (Emmanuel)"

PASTOR WENDORF'S WEEKLY DEVOTION

A BABY!

Let's go see the Baby. Luke 2:15

When you hear the news of the birth of the child, the first thing most people want to do is to see the baby. When the Shepherds went to see the baby, they were excited as well. They heard the news, but then wanted to see for themselves. When you think of Jesus at this time of year, what picture comes to mind? It probably is the picture of a child in a manger. Wonderful! Is that the only picture you have? In John's book of revelation we have another picture: "One like the son of man, clothed with a long robe...hairs of his head were white like white wool...his eyes were like flames of fire..." (Rev. 1:13) Both pictures are important. One reminds us of Jesus humble birth, and the other of His majesty. Both pictures fill us with wonder and amazement. May we come before Him today with thankfulness and praise and with a desire in our hearts to serve and obey Him. A baby is born, awesome news!

*You are welcome to contact Pastor Wendorf to share your thoughts regarding his weekly devotions:
pastor.wendorf@splgrifton.org*



**SUNDAY MORNING
RELIGIOUS ED HOUR**
9:30am–Family Life Center

December 22 & 29: No Class

THURSDAY MORNING MENS BIBLE CLASS

Topic: Hebrews
Led by: Bob Kasten
Day/Time: Thursdays, 6:30am
Location: Front Conference Room
Christmas Break No Class: 12/26 & 1/2

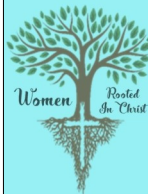


SUNDAY SCHOOL

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.

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

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

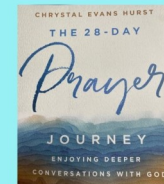


Rooted Women

Winter Bible Study

**Mondays
at 6:30PM**

**1/20, 2/3, 2/17,
3/3, 3/17, 4/5**



**Join us for our
Winter Bible
study on Prayer
by Chrystal Evans
Hurst**

Get your book & study guide in the office
or contact Tracy Krueger

Please join Rooted Women as we dive into a 5 session study on prayer beginning **January 20**. We'll be using the study **The 28 Day Prayer Journey** by Chrystal Evans Hurst. Together we'll explore the 4 postures of prayer: Thanksgiving & Praise, Repentance, Asking, & Yielding. Hope you can join us as we join in a prayer journey to increase and change our conversations with God. Books/Workbooks available in the office or contact Tracy Krueger tracy.krueger@splgraffton.org

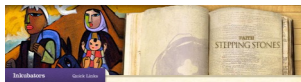
MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH



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!

FAITH STEPPING STONES



Faith Stepping Stones is faith based parenting education from cradle to high school graduation

through eight short-courses, which pull parents into the role of primary faith mentors for their own children every night through blessing, prayer, scripture, Highs & Lows, and faith dialogue (FAITH 5).

Stone 1: Raising a Healthy Baby

This is a class where parents of infants and/or pregnant parents will learn about the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of infants. Parents will also be taught to give their children a nightly blessing. This class will begin on **Wednesday, January 8 at 6PM in the Youth Room and run through Wednesday, January 22**. Check out the link to sign up tinyurl.com/FaithStone1

Stone 2: Raising a Healthy Preschooler

You are invited to join us for Stone 2: Raising a Healthy Preschooler. In this class there will be three sessions on physical, emotional and spiritual needs of preschoolers. Parents are also taught how to do a nightly blessing and prayer as a family faith practice. This class will meet in the Youth Room and run **Wednesday, February 5, 12, and 19 from 6-7:15pm**. Check out the link to sign up tinyurl.com/FaithStones2

Questions contact Tracy at:
tracy.krueger@splgraffton.org

**CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR'S
OFFICES CLOSED**

Christmas

Tuesday, December 24
Wednesday, December 25

New Year's

Tuesday, December 31
Wednesday, January 1, 2025

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

MONDAY NIGHT SERVICE HIATUS

The Board of Elders, working with the Pastors and Music Ministry Staff, have decided to pause Monday night services during Advent and Christmas, similar to last year. Monday night services will not be held through December and **will resume on January 6**.

Thank you for your understanding!

SCHOOL NEWS FROM MR. YURK



1. Congratulations to our A Boys for taking 2nd place and A Girls for taking 3rd place at the Living Word Tip-off Tournament last weekend.
2. Enrollment for the 2025-26 school year is right around the corner. Registration for new families will open on January 15. Those interested in the Wisconsin Parental Choice Program, enrollment will open up February 1.
3. A special Pre K & K Information Night is scheduled for Thursday, January 9 at 6pm.

EVERY GENERATION FAITHFUL TOGETHER UPDATE

Our ministry expansion project continues to make great progress. In the last month, the committees reported the following:

Building Committee:

- All new utility connections have been completed in Washington St.
- Landscape restoration has been completed east of the gym and out to Washington St.
- Steel structure erection has been completed.

During the next 30 days

- Second floor slab will be poured with provisions for the weather.
- Exterior wall framing will progress throughout the month.
- Window framing and blocking will also progress with wall framing.



Finance Committee:

- Cumulatively to date, St. Paul has paid nearly \$1.3 million toward the construction of the new building to its architect and general contractor.
- Over \$1.3 million in promissory notes have been issued by St. Paul to date. For those that remain interested, we are continuing to issue promissory notes. Please reach out to the Finance Office to learn more.
- Lutheran Church Extension Fund is finalizing their review of St. Paul loan application in December.
- At the end of November, St. Paul had over \$1.9 million of funds on hand to satisfy construction costs for the next several months. Current projections suggest we may need to begin borrowing from an external lender beginning in February 2025.
- Please reach out to Jason Hasenstein (jason.hasenstein@splgrafton.org) with any questions or if you would like a more in depth review of the new building related finances.

*Please continue to visit the Every Generation Faithful Together website for more information.
splgrafton.org/faithfultogether*

ARE YOU A CAREGIVER?



Many Caregivers hesitate to admit that this is their new role. Who is a Caregiver? Simply put, it is any person caring for another person. It may be your spouse, parent, or other loved one who is incapacitated. Most often it is a loved one suffering from dementia, cancer, Parkinson's or another debilitating disease. Maybe you are helping someone with a severe injury or recovering from a complicated surgery. Talking with someone who is in a similar situation can help you cope with this new role you have taken on. The Caregiver Connection will help! A caring group who have walked or are walking your road are available to assist you. You are invited to join us on the 1st Monday of each month at 6:30pm in the Conference Room at the Providence Place.

If you would like more information, you can contact Jenny at 262-377-9900.

WELCOME CENTER UPDATE

Many of you may be aware or may have seen the display board in the Welcome Area showing the new and exciting design plans for a cozy and inviting space. The team focused on this project is happy to announce that new furniture and lighting is scheduled to be installed in the very near future. A special thank you to Vince Micah, Tracy Schmidt, Dave Koopman, Diana Eggold, the Board of Parish Properties, and David Liss for their skills and time on this project.

Thank You!

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!*

Music: Ms. Valerie Bremer / Greg Batiansila
Leader: Rev. Luke Anderson

Altar Guild: Kathy Lubner & Sharon Hawkins
Sermon: Rev. Timothy Maschke

SERVICE	ELDERS	HEAD USHERS
Sat., 5pm	Rick Wellman	Joanne Wolf
Sun., 8am	Gary Hilgendorf	Bob Utech
Sun., 9:30am	Stu Natale	Todd Willman
Sun., 11am	Jim Schroeder	Mark Papcke

PRAYER REQUESTS

Strength and Healing: *Pamela Anschuetz; Drew Bartell* (son of Mona Bartell); *Steve Beidenbender; Cheryl Boesch; Jean Dorman* (niece of Norma Prah); *Stephanie Elseroad* (niece of Sue & Vince Micha); *Cindy Hilgendorf* (sister of Gail Goetter); *Eugene Kannenberg* (grandfather of Owen & Annalise Kannenberg); *Tom Kiener* (brother of Larry Kiener); *Carol Klug* (daughter of Evelyn Klug); *Sue Mercier; Dale Poisson; Russ Prah* (brother 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)

Birth: *Anastasia Charlotte Eggold*, born December 8, 2024 to Jason and Natalie Eggold. (grandparents Brad & Diana Eggold.)

Hospitalized: *Lee Oetzel*

GIFTS

A Gift has been given to the glory of God in praise & thanksgiving for our Music Ministry program from *Dorothy Monson*.

A Gift has been given to the glory of God to Every Generation Faithful Together Ministry Expansion Fund in memory of *Michael Sukowski* by Darlene Sukowski.

CHURCH RECORDS

Funeral: *Thomas M. Miller*, born June 16, 1963, went to be with Jesus on December 6, 2024. A Christian funeral was held for him at St. Paul Lutheran Church on Tuesday, December 17.



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.

MERRY
Christmas



ST. PAUL CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE



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



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



2025 Registration Begins January 15th

Enrollment Information



Focused on Excellence † Centered on Christ

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



**AUTHENTIC
RELATIONSHIPS**