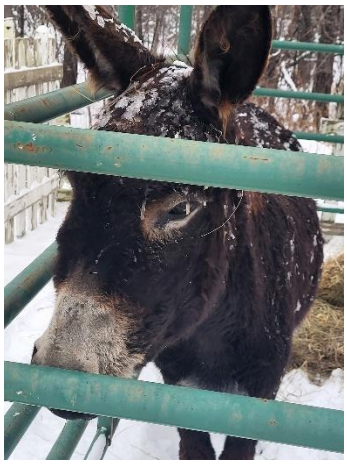
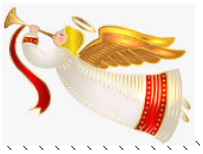
St. Paul Lutheran Church
DECEMBER 2025

Thank you to the Maser Family and to everyone for another magical Live Nativity at St. Paul Lutheran!!

the World
George F. Handel.
Rev. Joseph Mohr.
Christmas Carol.



Holiday Schedule



Advent Services on Wednesday's

Dec. 3rd, 10th, 17th
Light Meal at 5:30pm
Worship at 6:30pm
Pastor Walter will be leading us in worship

Children's Christmas Program

Kids will be walking in and singing "Away in a Manger" on December 14th during Worship Service

Christmas Eve

Candlelight Worship at 4:30 pm

Christmas Day

Worship at 9am

Upcoming Events & News

Advent begins on Wednesday Dec. 3rd. Please join us on Wed's through Dec 17th for Soup & Sandwich at 5:30pm followed by Worship Service at 6:30pm. There is a sign up sheet on the fellowship door if you can bring in a soup, sandwiches or a dessert.

Christmas Caroling – Look for an update in the next bulletin!

Orange Envelopes: The Orange Envelopes is a special offering collected each year. Our choices this year is for the general fund, missions, and the kids. For the kids, I mean, getting new books, materials for Sunday School was one idea. The orange envelopes are in a basket on the usher's table. You can place them in the offering plate or mail them back to the church. The last day to hand those in is Dec. 28th. *Thank you everyone for what you do for this congregation.*

The **Wednesday Bible Study** is on pause for the holidays, will let everyone know when it will start up again.

Welcome Griffin Dale Maser to our church family, son of Jacob and Sam Maser was baptized on Nov. 16th.

We have one more baptism on December 7th, Hattie James Lilienthal, daughter to Jedidiah and Kristy Lilienthal.

We extended a call to Pastor Baldwin and he has returned our call, and he has decided he is still needed where he is at now. So, prayers to our call committee as they begin the search again to find our next pastor.

There will be **NO Board of Fellowship** Meeting in December.

If anyone would like to **send our homebound members a holiday card,** see Jennifer to get the list. Thanks.

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

God blessed us with a beautiful light show in November.

Enjoy the photos of the Aurora!

Birthdays & Anniversaries

December

1st: Eddie Odendahl
2nd; Aaron and Tracy Peterson
3rd: Jeff Rogneby
4th: Sue Davis
9th: Warren Bottleson
10th: Charlotte Rabe
12th: Emmanuel Somnuk
14th: Bill Morgan
15th: Levi Hickle
16th: Vern Volk
John Maser
19th: Brooke Tracy
20th: Zander Klar
Trent Rabe
Jennifer Kubesh
22nd: Connie Odendahl
24th: Melody Hopkins
Jacob Maser
25th: Baby Jesus
28th: Greg Odendahl
31st: Barb Morgan

If we missed anyone, please let Jennifer know!

Flower Chart:

Dec. 7th: Wendy Kottke
……....in loving memory of Beth

Dec. 14th: Jenny Schroeder
……..in loving memory of Dutch

Dec. 21st: Chuck Borchard
……in loving memory of loved ones.

Dec. 28th: Happy Holidays!

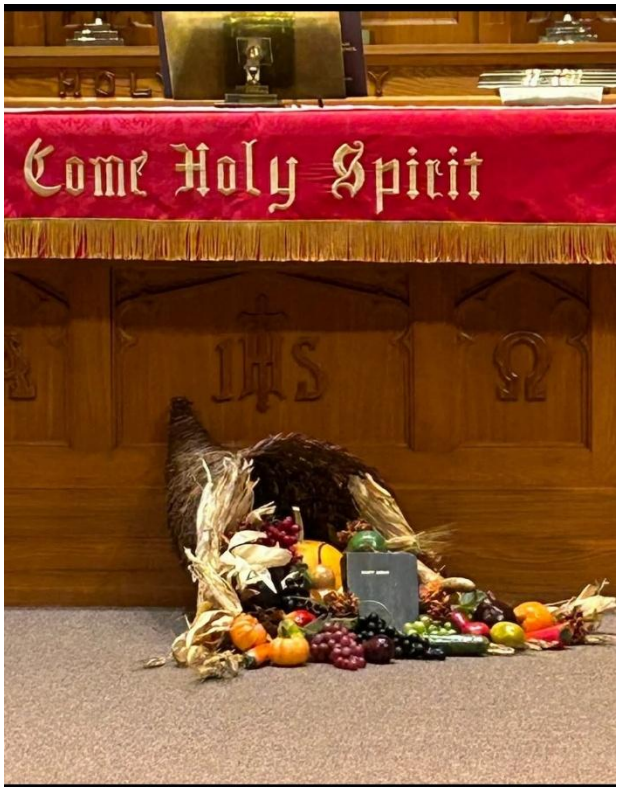
Ushers Schedule:

Steve Marudas and
Robbie Robinson

Acolyte Schedule:

Wed. Dec. 3rd: Abe
Sun. Dec. 7th: Croix
Wed. Dec. 10th:
Sun. Dec. 14th: Liam
Wed. Dec. 17th:
Sun. Dec. 21st: Levi
Christmas Eve:
Christmas Day:
Sun. Dec. 28th: Henry

Prayers:
Lois Kruse, Mary Jarvis, Florence Benoit, Janice Ladd, Mona Klar, Carolyn Olander



St. Paul Lutheran
Church Council Meeting
11-4-2025

Attendance: John, Tracy, Star, Rod, Jennifer, Bill, Greg, Carol, David, Matt, Toby, Jeff

1. Call to order. 7 pm
2. Open with Prayer by Elder-Rod
3. Agenda minutes/Additions
4. Approve Minutes from previous Council Meeting. John 1st David 2nd
5. Treasurer's Report Checking 161,613.89,
Savings 27,912.65,Youth Group and Fellowship 8140.26,
Memorials 6,689.47,Roof Funds 3,634.11,
Total Expense 67,900.07, Net Income 43,563.54. Toby 1st Carol 2nd.
6. Pastor Report N/A
7. Elders Report, PA system is still not quite loud enough, John making adjustments
8. Trustee Report
9. Other Committee Reports, BOF, discussing Live Nativity, Concert, sing-a-long. $250 Thrivent Card will use for advertising. Setting out a free will offering for food shelf, Volunteers for baking, Jayne will be at church Friday at 1:00 PM to decorate. German Fest went well will continue in future with pie auction and slient auction.
10. Old business. N/A
11. New Business
    A. Snow Removal Contract Elliott's each time 150.00 salting per time is 152.50.
    B. Communion cards update. Going well, adding a spreadsheet to track
    C. Interior Repairs Bill getting the estimates
    D. Dual Parish call document mailed to Pastor Baldwin10-30-35
    E. Membership List updated Shepherd Staff is being updated with changes
    F. Memorial Tree long term member recognition donate $500.00 armored
    G. Thanksgiving Eve services Wednesday 6:30 PM, checking with organist to be sure time wors well for her.
    H. Advent meal 6 PM Service at 7PM
    I. Sunday School Karissa and Grace unsure about a Christmas Program. With only 3 preschool children
12. Other Business N/A
13. Adjourn meeting David 1st, Jeff 2nd.
14. Close with Lord's Prayer.

Submitted by Carol Robinson

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
LCMS Stewardship Ministry – lcms.org/stewardship
Newsletter Article – December 2024

Repenting of "Yours" and "Mine"

Retailers have had their Christmas displays up since before Reformation Sunday. The kids have made their list and checked it twice, or three times or more. It won't be long before the tree will start shedding its needles, the stockings emptied, the gifts unwrapped, toys broken, and the too small or out of style clothes returned. Before we know it, the annual celebration of Christmas will be over.

But for the children of God, we know that the gift of Christmas doesn't ever end. Week in and week out, the Lord continues to shower His gifts on us. Every time the Lord gathers us to His house, and we are led to kneel at His table, the gift of forgiveness is repeatedly granted to us. It is nothing we deserve. It comes to us freely!

The fourth stanza of the stewardship hymn, "Forgive Us Lord for Shallow Thankfulness" (LSB 788) highlights both this gift and our response.

Teach us, O Lord, true thankfulness divine, that gives as Christ gave, never counting cost

To learn thankfulness is necessary. The parents of young children are well-versed in the fact that they must teach their children thankfulness. It does not come naturally. The spiritual genetics inherited from our parents allow us to think that the world revolves around us. When we receive something, there is an inward desire to think that we in some way deserve it.

But there is no way that we deserve anything we get from our Lord. We need that ongoing lesson from God Himself. Thankfulness toward God is worked in us by the Holy Spirit. God's Word works this thanksgiving in us. We need this weekly reminder that Jesus didn't consider "equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself" for us, to the point of death on a cross (Phil. 2:6). He didn't bat an eye. He paid the price! Our life of stewardship is one of daily and weekly thanksgiving inspired by the Lord Himself.

That knows no barrier of "yours" and "mine," assured that only what's withheld is lost.

Because Jesus gave us everything and more, there can be no ownership. The child at Christmas is quick to claim that the newly gifted toy is "mine!" But as Psalm 24:1 asserts, "The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein." There isn't anything in creation that is ours. When we cling to and claim ownership of anything in creation, we are losing out on the continual gifts with which the Lord desires to shower upon us. Closed hands cannot receive anything new. We cling to the old and dead and miss the new thing that the Lord desires to do in and for us.

We are led to repent of the "yours" and "mine" and remove the lie that we have any ownership. In this we have the promise that God will continue to give to us. Not just at Christmas, but every Sunday at the altar in the Lord's house.

Creation Moments

Proclaiming Evidence for Truth

THIS WEEK'S CREATION MOMENT

The Christmas Star

"When they heard the king, they departed; and behold, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was." - Matthew 2:9

Around Christmastime, it is common to hear some authority trying to explain the star that the wise men followed to find the infant Jesus. It is commonly explained as a comet, or the conjunction of two or more planets or stars. The question is, are these and similar theories possible?

About all you need to evaluate these theories are a Bible and a map of the Holy Land. Matthew 2:1 tells us that the wise men came from east of the Holy Land. Verses 2 and 9 further tell us that these men had seen the star indicating His birth in the eastern sky. They had not followed the star to Jerusalem, as often depicted in Christmas cards. When they arrived in Jerusalem, we learn from Matthew 2:9 that the star they had seen in the eastern sky moved to lead them to the Christ Child.

By this time, Mary, Joseph, and the Child may have returned to Nazareth, or they may still have been in Bethlehem. No matter which was the case, the movement of the star was now from the eastern sky to either the northern or the southern sky. That is very un-starlike. In fact, the movement of the star was even more un-starlike in that it directed them to a specific house! No comet, conjunction, or other natural object of the night sky will do that.

These wise men were accustomed to the sights of the night sky. They could easily identify the unusual. This star was clearly created by God to announce the birth of the Savior to the world He came to save!

Image: NGC 6302, the butterfly nebula in deep space, NASA, J. Kastner (RIT), PD, Wikimedia Commons.

Scan the QR code after service to watch a related video!

CREATION MOMENTS, INC.

P.O. Box 839 • Foley, MN 56329 • 800-422-4253

CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION

Church Email: st.paulhinckley@yahoo.com

Church Phone: (320) 384-6267

Website: www.stpaulhinckleymn.org

Like us on Facebook! *https://www.facebook.com/SPLCHINCKLEY*

*Check **Facebook** or **church website** for any updates on schedules for Worship Service and other events.*

Vacancy Pastor	**Church Secretary**	**Church Newsletter**	**Organists**
Pastor Walter Lehenbauer	Jennifer Kubesh	Jennifer Kubesh Cydelle Klande	Sue Hickle Connie Odendahl

Church Council

Meets 1st Tuesday each month at 7pm

Chairman: John Frank
Vice Chair: Matt Maser
Elders: Rod Lawin
David Berquist
Toby Hickle
Trustees: Jeff Rogneby
Bill Morgan
Greg Kroschel
Secretary: Carol Robinson
Fin. Sec.: Star Lawin
Treasurer: Tracy Peterson

Stewardship
Nov 1 to Nov 29, 2025

General Fund	$6,412
OE Sunday School	$100
OE Missions	$100
Altar Flowers	$130
Missions	$5
OE Youth	$100
OE General	$1,030
TOTAL	**$7,877**

Sunday School: Karissa Ausmus
Grace Peterson
Board of Fellowship: Jayne Maser
Youth Group: TBD
Fellowship: Jayne Maser and
Jennifer Kubesh

In case of an emergency, please contact Elder Rod Lawin at 320-372-0109

Ushers:
Steve Marudas and
Robbie Robinson

DECEMBER 2025

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
	1	2 7pm Council Mtg	3 ***Advent*** 5:30pm Supper 6:30pm Worship	4	5	6
7 9am Worship 10am Fellowship 10am Sunday School 10am Confirmation	8	9	10 ***Advent*** 5:30pm Supper 6:30pm Worship	11	12	13
14 9am Worship w/ Communion *Children's Christmas Sing a long* 10am Fellowship	15	16	17 ***Advent*** 5:30pm Supper 6:30pm Worship	18	19	20
21 9am Worship 10am Fellowship	22	23	24 **4:30 pm Christmas Eve Service (candlelight)**	25 **9am Christmas Day Service**	26	27
28 9am Worship w/ Communion 10am Fellowship	29	30	31 New Years Eve			

St. Paul Lutheran Church

PO Box 99
Hinckley, MN 55037

Newsletter
December 2025

For God so Loved the World