



St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran

Church • School • Preschool

1010 Adams Ave., North Fond du Lac, WI 54937

Office: 920-922-1080

A member of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (www.wels.net)

Pastor Michael Kampman: 920-238-5777

Pastor Elijah Ehlert: 920-809-7237

www.stpaulslutherannfdl.com

WLA Principal David Schroeder: 920-921-4930

WELS Christian Family Counseling: 800-282-0561

WELS Ministry of Christian Giving: 920-740-5899

Principal Aaron Hartwig, 7-8

Joel Mathwig, 5-6 & AD

Kristin Kampman, 3-4

Kristi Utsch, 1-2

Dawn Hinn, Kindergarten

Megan Schoenbach, Preschool

Worship Schedule This Week:

Saturday at 6:30 PM and Sunday at 7:45 AM & 10:15 AM

Online services, materials and so much more can be found at

www.stpaulslutherannfdl.com or follow us www.facebook.com/stpaulsnfdl

January 20 & 21	Epiphany 3	Hymns
Order of Service:	The Service Setting Two page 172	901 Psalm 62 743
Sermon:	Mark 1:14-20	748:3
Called to Action		695 & 661 581:1-2

Welcome to St. Paul's!

- **Parents, please feel free to use the child training room** to calm or feed small children. It's located across from the restrooms and is equipped with sound and light controls as well as one-way shades in the smaller section past the room divider.
- **A t-coil hearing loop system** is active for those with hearing aids. Headsets are also available. Ushers can help if you have questions.
- **Large print copies** of our service are available in the entryway.
- **Restrooms** with changing stations are to the right as you exit church.
- **Offerings** are gathered during worship. *As the offering plates are brought forward, please stand and sing 748:3.*

Ushers this (20 & 21) teams are 8 (C. Williams), 9 (J. White), & 10 (T. Schwefel). Greeters are C. Kitchen, V. White, & K. Sebestyen. Next week (27 & 28) teams will be 11 (D. Babler), 1 (D. Schumacher), & 2 (L. Ziemer). Greeters will be D. White, Kovalaskes & Kampmans. Our organist is Trevor Kuphal. Thank you all for your service to our Savior and St. Paul's.

God's Word This Week:

Epiphany 3

FROM THE RIVER TO THE MOUNTAIN: THE KINDNESS OF HIS CALLING

We try to hide our faults and failures from others. We want people to see us at our best. Perhaps we assume that if people knew what we were really like, they would want nothing to do with us. There's no hiding anything from God. He is all-seeing and all-knowing. Christ Jesus has witnessed our very worst, even the sins that only occurred in our heads. The psalmist says, "You perceive my thoughts from afar. You are familiar with all my ways" (139:2,3). Yet even though Jesus knows all our faults and failures, he badly wants something to do with us. So, he calls us to follow him. He wants us to be with him, secure in his love of forgiveness. Here is this week's epiphany: Jesus shows kindness when he calls us to discipleship. More, he shows kindness by giving us the ability to answer that call, so that we might always be near him and his blessing.

January 20 - 28, 2024

1/20	Sat.	6:30 PM	WORSHIP with Baptism & Lord's Supper [#8]
1/21	Sun.	7:45 AM	WORSHIP with Lord's Supper [#9]
		9:00 AM	Adult Bible Class & Sunday School
		10:15 AM	WORSHIP with Baptism & Lord's Supper [#10]
1/22	Mon.	6:15 AM	Public School Catechism Class No Choir or Chimes Practice (stay tuned)
1/23	Tues.	3:30 PM	SPLS Readers Theater
		4:30 PM	SPLS Basketball at St. Stephen's Horicon (C-Girls 4:30pm, C-Boys 5:15pm, B-Boys 6:00pm)
1/24	Wed.	8:45 AM	Adult Bible Class (This We Believe)
1/25	Thur.	7:00 PM	Open Gym
1/26	Fri.	8:35 AM	Chapel (Mr. Aaron Hartwig)
		6:00 PM	Girls A-Team Basketball at Redeemer vs. St. Peter's, FdL
12/27	Sat.	3:00 PM	Girls A-Team Basketball (with Redeemer) vs. Christ Alone, Princeton
		6:30 PM	WORSHIP [#11]
12/28	Sun.	7:45 AM	WORSHIP with Baptism [#1]
		9:00 AM	Adult Bible Class & Sunday School
		10:15 AM	WORSHIP [Grades 1-4 sing] (#2)

2024 Offering Envelopes Available Across from the Mailboxes

Annual Voter's Meeting Recap

At our Annual Voters Meeting last Sunday, we went over the membership changes that had occurred over the year here at St. Paul's. In 2023, we lost 29 members. 13 because they went home to be with Jesus, 9 transferred to other WELS Churches, 7 were released from membership. We gained 45 members: 26 transferred in from other churches, 9 births, 4 adult confirmations, and 6 through profession of faith. That means our membership went up in 2023 from 876 to 892. Of course, this is a blessing from our Lord to see numerical growth, but we are happy simply to serve in the kingdom regardless of what the statistics might say.

Our *Elders* have been faithfully contacting members either by phone or by mail whom we haven't seen in a while. Our *Board of Christian Education* has been working on shoring things up after Covid and our faculty has been working hard on everything from core subjects and learning to student mental health. Our *Board of Properties* has been busy with various improvements in and out of the building.

The big-ticket item at our January meeting was the year's budget. We worked hard to mitigate the growing costs of just about everything. We moved from insurance plan 2, which we have used for years, to plan 4 (a high deductible plan) to save what may be as much as \$40,000 in insurance costs (Actually more! If we had done nothing our costs were going up 11%). We lowered our synodical pledge for the year by \$9,000 to \$39,482 so that we were in line with 10% giving across our commitments to Synod and WLA which went up 2% after three years of keeping things the same to \$57,402. The result was a modest increase of about 2% from last year's budget. The new budget is \$820,617. We consider this a win given that costs are rising rapidly all around us. We also will be sending out a letter to the congregation to encourage regular attendance and stewardship in the days to come.

Unfortunately, when we refinanced the church loan, those costs went from 3% to 7% (\$156,884). Our 3-year commitment pledges end in 2024 which means another commitment will occur as this year winds down.

We ask the Lord of the Church to be with and bless us as we move forward this year. May we always hold Him and His Word close even as we hold it out to our congregation, community, and world. What a blessing to be able to work together in this task.

New Adult Bible Class: This We Believe

Our world is full of many voices telling us what to believe. It can be confusing, frustrating, and faith-destroying. What does God really say? How can I be certain? Adult Bible Classes will seek to find firm ground as we answer that question. We will be using *This We Believe* a booklet that is put out by our synod (WELS) seeking to explain the teachings of God's Holy Word. It is a basic overview of the truths given by God and offers Scriptural passages that explain why we do what we do. You can find it electronically at www.stpaulslutherannfdl.com/thiswebelieve. Hard copies will also be available each week within the class materials.

Check those Mailboxes

Offering Statements for 2023 are in your mailboxes. If you have any questions, please contact Amy Surian in the office. *2024 Ushering and Greeting Schedules* should also be in ushers' and greeters' mailboxes. Ushering teams were filled in with new board members and our male 2024 confirmands. Also in mailboxes are the January *calendar and newsletter*.

2023 Annual Report

It's January 2024! So that means it is time to compile reports for the annual report of the year that has passed. Boards, groups, and committees are asked to have any reports they wish to submit in to Pastor Kampman by the End of January so that we can compile and print the Annual Report for distribution in February.

WELS Singles Group Information

All single members of the WELS and ELS are invited to the 2024 WELS Singles Retreat at Camp Shiloh in Pittsburg, Texas on April 26-28 for a weekend of fun and fellowship. Register by April 8, 2024, at wels-els-singles.com/2024-texas-retreat.

A Milwaukee gathering has also been set for January 27, 2024, at 1 pm at the National Bobblehead Museum and Hall of Fame. Join other WELS singles and see a truly one-of-a-kind museum! Cost of admission is \$5. RSVP to Rachel Fritz (rachelfritz@yahoo.com) by Monday, January 22. www.bobbleheadhall/visit.

Don't forget to join the group on Facebook where they host video chats: www.facebook.com/groups/wels.els.singles.

Baptisms

We welcomed little *Madalyn Jo Hau* to the family of believers in the waters of Holy Baptism. Madalyn was born to Brice and Dakota January 4. What a blessing to have been part of such a joyous event.

This Sunday at our 10:15 am service we get to rejoice again with Bryan & Jessica Bruss as they bring *Josiah Paul Bruss* to the font that these cleansing waters would deliver from sin, death, and hell even as they connect Josiah to the forgiveness, life and salvation which Christ won for him and us all.

The Lord's Supper in worship.

Today we have the privilege of receiving Christ's true body and blood in, with, and under the bread and wine of Holy Communion. In this sacrament, the Holy Spirit seals to us the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation for the strengthening of our faith. Scriptures teach that as we commune together, we are publicly testifying to a complete unity of faith based on a confession of all of God's Word. We respectfully request that all of those who are not members of the WELS or our sister ELS please speak with one of our pastors before communing with us. Thank you.

Preschool Information Night

Mrs. Schoenbach will be having a Preschool Information Night on Thursday, February 1st, beginning at 6:00 pm. It will give next year's preschool parents an opportunity to meet the principal and preschool teacher, and a chance to see our classroom, meet other teachers/staff, and hear about our curriculum. All families who will be attending preschool next year are encouraged to attend!

Save The Date! - St. Paul's Night at the Wisconsin Herd

On Friday, March 1st at 7:00pm join friends, family, and staff of St. Paul's Lutheran for a fun night out with the Wisconsin Herd! St. Paul's students will be invited to participate in the Jockey High Five Tunnel! Find out more or reserve seats at fevogm.com/StPaulFDL.

Upcoming Events at WLA. Mark Your Calendars!

February

16 Virtual Learning Day

19 No School

28 Blood Drive

March

7-10 Spring Play

12 ACT for Juniors (no hot lunch)

12 Virtual Learning Frosh, Soph, Sr

14-23 Washington DC Trip

18-21 Spring Break

29-1 Easter Break

School & Sunday School Mission Offering

The weekly School & Sunday School mission offerings collected the first semester are being given to the Military Services Committee (MSC). They came to \$1075.05. Second-semester offerings will be going to Martin Luther College, our synod's training school for called workers.

Stewardship Moment

In an age when most people lived a hand-to-mouth existence, God commanded His Old Testament believers to offer 10% as an exercise of faith (Leviticus 27:30). In our age, Americans live in the most affluent country in the history of the world! Could we, just maybe, be in a prime position to give more than a tithe? We are free from the law of the tithe. Could Jesus' grace therefore inspire us to out-give what was once required by law? **You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion** (2 Cor. 9:11). (10 for 10 Stewardship Emphasis: WELS Stewardship)

Offerings

We offer a variety of options to support the work of the Gospel:

- Place your gift in the offering baskets here at church in worship.
- Send your gift to St. Paul's at 1010 Adams Ave., NFDL, 54937.
- Place your gift in the birdhouse post near the office entrance.
- Scan the QR Code to go to our giving site or visit www.stpaulslutherannfdl.com/offerings.
- Use Automatic withdrawal from checking.
Sign-up sheets are available on our website or across from the office. Contact the office to set it up.
- Use "Vanco Mobile" found in your phone's app store. Search for "North Fond du Lac, WI" and choose St. Paul's. The Church account is for offerings. The School Account is for tuition.



Last Week's Offerings

God's people presented the following gifts: Current - \$12,969.08; Missions - \$666.50; Improvement - \$145; Mortgage - \$1,608; Initial Offering Envelopes - \$130; Preschool Tuition - \$1,415.50; Extended Care - \$318.75; WLA Tuition Assistance - \$20; St. Paul's Student Aid - \$50 (Electronic funds included in these gifts - \$2,063.02; all offerings totaled \$17,322.83; Weekly Budgeted Target \$19,672.75). 241 people attended weekend services (220: 48, 56, & 116 [livestream - 42]).