

CHRIST'S CALLING CARD

JANUARY & FEBRUARY 2026

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

Last year I was given a Christmas Carol Service by a friend. In December this year, I was part of a Nursing Home Service where we used this program. The layout was the reading of the Biblical accounts of Jesus' birth and after each section of scripture a corresponding Christmas Carol was sung. It was a great combination. The very last heading read "The Glorious Return" with Joy to the World being the corresponding hymn.

"Joy to the World" was written as a poem by the English hymn writer Isaac Watts in 1719, inspired by Psalm 98, and it was originally about Christ's triumphant Second Coming, not His birth. A century later, Lowell Mason adapted it to music, creating the beloved Christmas carol we know today, it became the iconic carol celebrating His birth and His future return,

Let's look at some of the contrasts shared in scripture regarding Jesus' first coming and His return.

When Jesus returns he will come gloriously: "We wait for this blessed hope: the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ" (Titus 2:13).

Where once Jesus came in the humility of a baby in a manger, he will return in majesty and glory as King of kings and Lord of lords (Rev. 19:16). As the Risen Lord, Jesus has already entered into the glory of his heavenly

**WORSHIP NOTES FOR
January/February**

The following are the Scripture readings we will be sharing in worship during the months of January and February 2026.

Second Sunday of Christmas

January 4

Jeremiah 31:7-14; Psalm 147:12-20
Ephesians 1:3-14; John 1:10-18

Baptism of Our Lord

January 11

Isaiah 42:1-9; Psalm 29
Acts 10:34-43; Matthew 3:13-17

Second Sunday after Epiphany

January 18

Isaiah 49:1-7; Psalm 40:1-11
1 Corinthians 1:1-9; John 1:29-42

Third Sunday after Epiphany

January 25

Isaiah 9:1-4; 27: Psalm 1, 4-9
1 Corinthians 1:10-18; Matthew 4:12-23

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

February 1

Micah 6:1-8; Psalm 15
1 Corinthians 1:18-31; Matthew 5:1-12

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

February 8

Isaiah 58:1-9a; Psalm 112:1-9
1 Corinthians 2:1-12; Matthew 5:13-20

Transfiguration of Our Lord

February 15

Exodus 24:12-18; Psalm 2
2 Peter 1:16-21; Matthew 17:1-9

Ash Wednesday

February 18

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17; Psalm 51:1-17;
2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10;
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

First Sunday in Lent

February 22

Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7; Psalm 32;
Romans 5:12-19; Matthew 4:1-11

THOSE SERVING IN JANUARY

ALTAR:

Nalani & Greg Bever

READERS:

4th Barb Ornes

11th Arlis Ballwahn

18th Alaina Holthaus

25th Amber Sebranek

THOSE SERVING IN FEBRUARY

ALTAR:

Barb & John Ornes

READERS:

1st Miranda Arndt

8th Karen Arzt

15th Dakotah Adams

22nd Lori Arndt

Father (Heb. 2:9; 1 Pet. 1:21; Rev. 5:12). When he returns this exalted status will be made known to all (cf. 2 Thess. 1:6-10).

Herein lies the great mystery of the gospel. God's Messiah did not first come into this world as a powerful, conquering hero, at least, not as we conceive of such things. Even in his earthly life he was a king, but he chose to reign not from a royal throne but from a cross. He assumed the role of a suffering servant, as described by the prophet Isaiah (Isa. 53:2-3). What a mighty God we serve!

Friends, I just can't help noting how quickly 2025 went and here we are at the beginning of 2026. My prayer for all of you reading this letter is that your Christian walk deepens throughout this New Year.

In His Service,

Karen

BOWLING PARTY

We will go bowling at Hustler on February 1 from Noon – 3:00 pm.

Mark your calendar!!

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

In accordance with the Constitution, the Annual Meeting of St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church will be held on Sunday, January 25, 2026 immediately following the morning worship service.

ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

We will be celebrating two milestones of our church on November 15, 2026.

The current building was dedicated in November, 1926. (100)

The members who later incorporated St. Paul's first began meeting in November, 1875. (151)

We will be sending out "Save the Date" postcards in late January or early February. You can imagine the task of locating addresses for those who had any connection to St. Paul's. While a number of addresses have already been located, we could still use some help in locating those we still need. Contact Lori Brueggen (608) 435-6647 if you are willing to help.

WHERE DID LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF QUILTS GO IN 2025??

Over 800,000 quilts and kits were distributed in fifteen countries. In 2025 this included the United States. Almost 115,000 quilts were sent to states impacted by hurricanes, floods and wildfires (California, Texas, North Carolina and across the south and Midwest). The quilts donated by St. Paul's make a big difference to people in crisis.

We continue to make quilts. There is plenty of material available, but we could use some help with finishing the quilts. We have set dates for quilting on Thursday, January 15 and 29 and February 12 and 26 at 9:00 am in the church basement. Anyone young or old, male or female can be of help. If you can hold a needle, you can tie a quilt. If there is a desire for another day or time to get involved, please contact Arlis (435-6046) or Louise (435-6435).

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

January

- S 4th Sunday School 9:00 am
Worship, 10:15 am
- S 11th Sunday School, 9:00 am
Worship, 10:15 am
Church Council, 11:30 am
- Th 15th Quilting, 9:00 am
- S 18th Sunday School, 9:00 am
Worship/Children Sing
Noisy Offering, 10:15 am
Birthday/Anniversary Fellowship
- S 25th Sunday School, 9:00 am
Worship, 10:15 am
Annual Meeting Following Worship
- Th 29th Quilting, 9:00 am

February

- S 1st Sunday School, 9:00 am
Worship, 10:15 am
Bowling Noon – 3:00 pm
- Sa 7th Blood Drive, 7:00 am – 11:30 am
- S 8th Sunday School, 9:00 am
Worship, 10:15 am
Church Council, 11:30 am (tentative)
Super Bowl
- Th 12th Quilting, 9:00 am
- S 14th Valentine's Day
- S 15th Sunday School, 9:00 am
Worship/Children Sing
Noisy Offering 10:15 am
Birthday/Anniversary Fellowship
- S 22nd Sunday School, 9:00 am
Worship, 10:15 am
- Th 26th Quilting, 9:00 am

Birthdays and Anniversaries

January

- 4th Rachel Conner
- 5th Jennifer Gruen
- 6th Spencer Arndt
- 8th Addison Arndt, Lori Arndt
- 14th Vanessa Anderson
- 15th Sarah Erdman
- 17th Kari Radke
- 19th Ann Bever, Kevin Buchholz
- 21st Kelly Buchholz
- 22nd Kurt Radke
- 23rd Anna Radke
- 24th Thadyn Conner
- 27th Barb & John Ornes
- 29th Ayawyn Conner

February

- 5th Stacy Brandau
- 11th Dawn Birkholz
- 12th Anita Steinke, Wayne Schindler
- 14th Scott Niedfeldt
- 21st Lana Ross
- 22nd Tyler Brandau
- 24th Karen Arzt, Jerry Von Haden

