



January

St. Paul News

St. Paul Lutheran Church

Ida Grove, Iowa

712-364-2918

www.stpauliq.org

stpaulidagrove@gmail.com

2025

“The Whole Story” Journey Begins By Pastor Neil Wehmas

One of the most popular New Year’s Resolutions is for one to read the Bible more, or to read the entire Bible in a year. Much like a weight-loss resolution, having others travel the journey with you can help a great deal.

In 2025, the year of our Lord, the entire congregation is invited on a journey of reading the entire Bible through the year. Our worship services and our Bible classes will revolve around the congregation-wide read through. Sunday worship services will focus upon the reading from Saturday or Monday. Sunday morning Bible study, Wednesday Bible Study, and Thursday at Subway will focus upon the reading for the given day.

Here are some tips in helping you through the Whole Story.:

- 1) Use a Bible translation that is accurate and readable. These are my suggestions:
 - a. Most Accurate, but tougher to read: “Legacy Standard Bible”
 - b. Higher Accuracy, and a little easier to read: “English Standard Version”
 - c. Lesser Accuracy, but easier to read: “Living Standard Bible”
 - d. Oldies, but still good translations: “King James Version” or “New King James Version”
- 2) Pray before you read. Something like this prayer from Martin Luther:
 - a. Eternal God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, grant us Your Holy Spirit who writes the preached word into our hearts so that we may receive and believe it, and be gladdened and comforted by it in eternity. Glorify Your Word in our hearts. Make it so bright and warm that we may find pleasure in it, and through Your inspiration think what is right. By Your power fulfill the Word, for the sake of Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. Amen.¹
- 3) Read for at least 15-minutes. Some days there will be up-to three chapters to read. Don’t feel bad if you don’t read it all. Try to read for 15-minutes of the scheduled reading each day. In one-year, you will be surprised how much you will have read.
 - a. Alternative, consider making use of an audio Bible like what is available through the “YouVersion” Bible app.

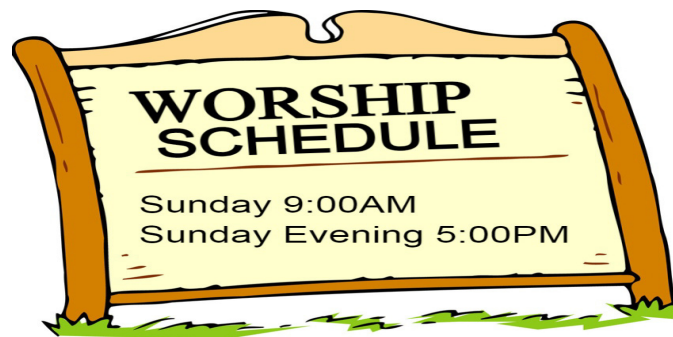
¹ Engelbrecht, Edward A. 2009. [*The Lutheran Study Bible*](#). St. Louis, MO: Concordia Publishing House.

- 4) Questions to ask as you pray (*from Ten Questions to Ask Every Time You Read the Bible by Pastor Andrew Jones*):
 - a. Who or what is the enemy in this passage?
 - b. How is the enemy defeated?
 - c. Whose point of view am I reading?
 - d. Where is the Lord in this passage?
 - e. Where am I in this passage? How did I get here?
 - f. What have I experienced that connects with this passage?
 - g. What am I feeling?
 - h. Where might I have heard this passage before?
- 5) Pray.
 - a. Focus upon a single sentence or thought from the passage and let it mold your prayers. For example (*based off of Mark, Chapter 1*):
 - i. Lord God, heavenly Father. When Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist in the Jordan River you said of Him, "You are my beloved Son, with you I am well pleased." I thank you that on account of Jesus' suffering and death, you have made me your beloved Son, with whom you are well pleased. In Jesus name. Amen.
 - b. Notice in my example, you are speaking God's word back to him, and you are internalizing what has been read.

Blessings to you and all within our congregation as we journey our way through the Whole Story. I pray that it will be a blessing to you. Find ways to involve your children, grandchildren, and others in your reading. Some passages will be difficult to read or to understand. Keep reading and let the fullness of scripture unfold its message for you.

Have a blessed New Year and a Most Blessed 2025.

In Christ,
Pastor Neil Wehmas



STARTING IN JANUARY In order to help with the overall flow and length of the worship service. Starting on January 5th, we will be collecting the offering via the offering boxes in the Narthex. There will be no in-service offering collection. The main wooden offering box will still be available on the Welcome Center, there will be boxes available by each door that enters the Sanctuary.

NEW MEMBER CLASS will be starting **January 12 at 3:30PM**, if you are interested let the church office know 364-2918 or stpaulidagrove@gmail.com This is for any age, if you did not complete 8th grade confirmation class, or even you would just like to attend to have a “refresher” on your Catechism, etc.

JOIN US IN The Whole Story starting in January, as we read the Bible in a year. Suggested Apps below if that is how you like to read the daily readings and included in this newsletter, on the Welcome Center, the month of January daily readings.



WE HOPE YOU GRABBED YOUR FLAT JESUS, but if not please check for some still available in the Narthex.

FLAT JESUS We encourage everyone (all ages) to take a **Flat Jesus** and carry Flat Jesus with you, keep him in your car, or at work, etc.. We also encourage you to share Flat Jesus with someone you know, grand kids, other adults. We also encourage you to have Flat Jesus with you as you read through the Bible this next year, which will begin at our New Year’s 6:00PM Worship Service. Take him with you any time you’re out having lunch, dinner, driving, etc..If you would like to take a picture of him by your Bible, Tablet, computer or at your lunch table, dinner table, or car, etc..Send in your pictures we would love to post them or share them on the screens, with our announcement slides stpaulidagrove@gmail.com



COMMUNITY BASKET DONATIONS for COMMUNITY BASKET DONATIONS for JANUARY: Baking items: flour, cane sugar, brown sugar, baking soda/powder, cake mix, frosting, etc.. Place your donation in the shopping cart in the Narthex or hallway. All items are appreciated as well, as they can always use donations. The Community Basket is open on Thursdays (except 3rd Thursday), from 2:30-5:30PM. ****They can always use toilet paper, laundry soap, shampoo & conditioner, canned vegetables, canned fruits & canned soups. Mobile Food Pantry: Ida Grove Methodist Church, on Thursday, January 16 from 4:30-5:30PM.** If you’re able to help, with filling a box or carrying a box, it would be appreciated, The Ida Grove Methodist Church has also specifically asked if our youth would be able to help as well 3:15PM is when they asked for our volunteers to be there.



Cross Explorations & Catechism Classes

3rd – 5th Grades

Class Time is 4:00-5:00PM

They can walk up after right after school

There will be snack time

If they need to stay til 5:15PM to wait for a sibling,
an adult will be present with them

6th, 7th & 8th Grades

Class Time is 4:00-5:15PM

On Early Out school day's it will be from

1:30-2:30PM 3rd – 5th grades

1:30-2:45PM 6th-8th grades

REMINDER OUR WEATHER CANCELLATION POLICY FOR WEDNESDAY

CLASSES: If school is dismissed early or cancelled it automatically cancels Midweek classes for grades 3rd - 8th grades

Also watch our Facebook page for those announcements as well St. Paul Lutheran Church, Ida Grove, Iowa LCMS



10:15AM-11:15AM

4yr old Preschool – 2nd Grade in Nursery upstairs

3rd & 4th Grade in same classroom as last year on lower level

5th & 6th Grade in same classroom as last year on lower level

7th & 8th Grades are to attend Bible Class in the Fellowship Hall

9th -12th Grades in Youth Room

Christian symbol



NOAH'S ARK — The image of an ark, or boat — often shown with pairs of animals — recalls the story of Noah and the “Great Flood” in Genesis. The floodwaters represent God’s judgment on sin, while the ark reminds us of his gracious power to save and redeem. In this account, Christians see a foreshadowing of our baptism into Christ: “And baptism, which [God’s rescue of Noah and his family] prefigured, now saves you ...” (1 Peter 3:21, NRSV).

JR High and SR High Youth Pancake and Sausage Breakfast



**Youth will serve Pancakes and Sausage
on Sunday, January 12th come and enjoy**

**FREE WILL OFFERING FUNDRAISER FOR YOUTH ACTIVITIES,
YEARLY GATHERINGS AND NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING**



**The HighWay Sr High Youth (9th-12th)
Meets 1st and 3rd Wednesdays at 7PM**



**The MidWay Jr High Youth (6th-8th)
Meets 2nd Wednesday of month 5:15-6:15PM**

HYMN SING SUNDAYS watch for when Hymn Sing Sundays will return

ASK THE PASTOR – LAST SUNDAYS OF THE MONTH "Have questions to ask Pastor Wehmas? He will attempt to answer a few questions as part of the services, during the last Sunday of the month. Submit your questions in the white box in the Narthex." A good way to get a question answered!!



UPDATING INFORMATION: we always ask to update our records with any new addresses, even if its been within 6 months – year, any changes in phone numbers, etc.to make sure we have all correct information of birthdates and anniversaries. Also if you would not like your birthday or anniversary publicized in the weekly bulletin or the monthly newsletter please let the church office know. stpaulidagrove@gmail.com or 712-364-2918

MONTHLY NEWSLETTERS AND CALENDAR are always available to be picked up at the church in the narthex. If you would like to view online our website is www.stpaulig.org
 If you would like it emailed to you please contact the church office, email us or fill out the “update our information form” Copies of the form to update information is available on the Welcome center and can be placed in the wooden offering box

HOSPITALIZATION REMINDER : if you are admitted to any hospital please let us know or have a family member or a friend let Pastor Neil or the church office know, so we know you are there to visit, or would just want prayers from Pastor.

REMINDER OUR WEATHER CANCELLATION POLICY FOR WEDNESDAY CLASSES AFTER SCHOOL: If school is dismissed early or cancelled it automatically cancels Midweek classes for grades 3rd - 8th grades
 Also watch our Facebook page for those announcements as well St. Paul Lutheran Church, Ida Grove, Iowa LCMS



JANUARY Birthdays

- January 1 Kandi Ehrig
Hannah Schmidt
- January 2 Faith Johnson
Kynleigh Rohlk
Stephanie Vohs
- January 3 Heather Sweeden
- January 4 Frank Collins
DeWayne Krayenhagen
Nick West
- January 5 Rylie Kearns
Channing Miesner
Donna Rasmussen
- January 6 Greg Steenbock
- January 7 Janet Brinkman
Wilhelminia Edsen
- January 8 Lorne Miller
- January 9 Shawn Cadwell
Michael Stehr
- January 10 Daniel German
- January 11 Mailia Lansink
Karen Petersen
- January 12 Charlie Miller-West
- January 15 Judy Schimmer
- January 17 Nathan Arbegast
Allyson Iversen
Beth Wolterman
- January 19 Chance Buns
- January 21 Aaron Hoffman
Evelyn Miesner
- January 23 Jon Devitt
- January 25 Mary Bennett
- January 26 Brynn Ernst
- January 27 Marilyn Dose
Keith Hausman
Janelle Moser
- January 28 Creighton Cadwell
Anna Hoffman
Ella Hoffman
- January 29 Karen Frank
Jack Gilbert
Linda Kruse
Sheila Redenius
- January 30 Sophia Buns
- January 31 Arielle Wolterman

JANUARY Anniversaries

- January 5 Wesley & Claudia Swanger
- January 6 James & Judy Lichtenberg
- January 17 Dale & Brenda Schumacher
- January 21 James & Cindy Hausman
- January 24 Dale & Sandy Ullrich
- January 27 Jon & Robyn Devitt
- January 31 Bret & Linda Warnke

