

St. Paul's Lutheran Church



Church Newsletter
November 2026

312 W 3RD
Ogallala, NE 69153
308-284-2944
contact@stpaulsogallala.org

Dearly Beloved-

As we enter November and, therefore, the “Holidays”, it is prudent to slow down in the rush of activities, and to ponder what it is that we are celebrating- indeed, what we are **THANKFUL** for, and to **WHOM** we direct our thanksgiving. To aid us in our contemplation, let's use what is variously titled *“The General Thanksgiving”*:

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we, Your unworthy servants, give You humble and hearty thanks for all the goodness and loving-kindness that You bestow on us. We praise You for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life. But above all, we bless You for Your boundless love in the redemption of the world by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. We implore You to give us a right understanding of all Your mercies that our hearts may ever be deeply thankful and that we may show forth Your praise with both our lips and our lives. Direct our lives in ways of holiness and righteousness all our days that we may enjoy the testimony of a good conscience and the hope of Your favor, be sustained and comforted in every time of trouble, and finally be received into Your everlasting kingdom; through Christ Jesus, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

It is good to give thanks to the Lord for the blessings of this life- what we would call ***First Article Gifts***: *“He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them. He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all I have. He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life.”*

We are especially in tune with these gifts of Creation during this latter part of the year: Harvest Time; Turkey and Taters; Trees and Lights and Gifts.

But for the Christian, as good and wonderful and necessary as these things may be, we always and ever focus our thanksgiving to the Father for the greatest blessings He has bestowed on us: **“the redemption of the world by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.”** Let's break these down.

- 1) Redemption by Christ: The greatest Gift that the Father has given you in **NOT ONLY** His Only-Begotten Son, but that His Son Jesus shed His Precious Blood, and died for you. Indeed, Christ has redeemed and reconciled the world to God, this redemption and reconciliation being received and appropriated by Faith.
- 2) The Means of Grace: In the Old Testament, the LORD GOD made sure His People knew where He could be found, and where Forgiveness was bestowed- at the Tabernacle/Temple, and in the Levitical Sacrifices.

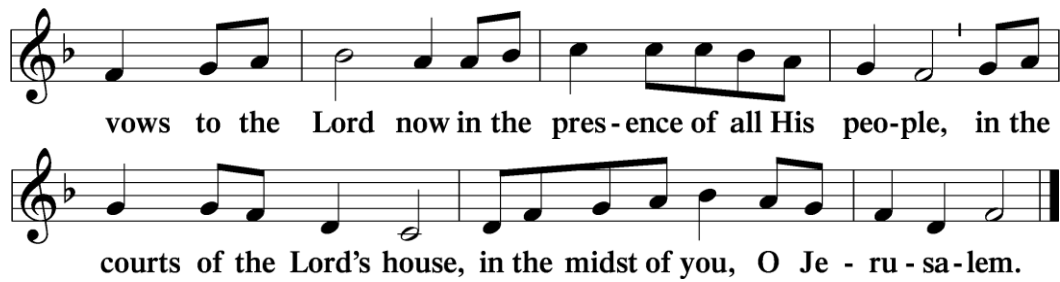
And since God does not change, He likewise gives full assurance to the Christian of where He **exclusively and definitively is at work**: The Scriptures and the Sacraments.

“Through the Word and Sacraments, as through instruments, the Holy Spirit is given [John 20:22]. He works faith, when and where it pleases God [John 3:8], in those who hear the good news that God justifies those who believe that they are received into grace for Christ’s sake. This happens not through our own merits, but for Christ’s sake.” (Augsburg Confession, Article V)

- 3) The Hope of Glory: When the Bible speaks about “Hope”, it isn’t referring to some wishy-washing, subjective desire concerning the future. Rather, Hope is grounded in God’s Promises. If Faith clings to the Fulfilled Promises in Christ (the Incarnation, Death, and Resurrection), Hope resolutely looks forwards that that which has not yet been Fulfilled, but for which we have received the downpayment. And what is this? **“The Resurrection of the Body, and the Life Everlasting”**. Even as we are comforted by the forgiveness that Jesus has won for us on the Cross, we are strengthened to face each day, knowing Christ will return, and He will make all things new.



What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all His ben-e-fits to
me? I will of - fer the sac-ri-fice of thanks-giv - ing and will
call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-
va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my



As

Christians, we live in the tension of Now-But-Not-Yet. And so it is, all our thanksgivings also exist in that tension. We are grateful for what we have, all the while knowing that it is temporary and transitory; yet, at the same time, it is through these things that will fade away, that God communicates to us that which will endure forever.

In the hustle and bustle of the days and weeks to come, remind yourself to slow down, and to be grateful for all the gifts which the Lord dispenses, and pray that your whole life may be so shaped, formed, and directed by the One Thing Needful.

- Pastor



(Sant'Apollinare Nuovo, Ravenna, Italy)

NOVEMBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Worship Service 8:30am Adult Bible Study, Sunday School, Teen Bible Study 9:30am	2	3 Tie the Knot 1pm	4 NO SCHOOL STAFF TRAINING Confirmation 5:30 pm Vespers Service 7:00 PM	5 Women's Bible Study 9:00 am	6 EARLY DISMISSAL 1:30	7
8 Communion Service 8:30am Adult Bible Study, Sunday School, Teen Bible Study 9:30am	9 Ladies Circle 12:00 pm	10	11 Confirmation 5:30 pm Vespers Service 7:00 PM	12 Women's Bible Study 9:00 am	13 EARLY DISMISSAL 1:30	14
15 Worship Service 8:30am Adult Bible Study, Sunday School, Teen Bible Study 9:30am Students Singing in Church	16 BOARD MEETINGS	17 Tie the Knot 1pm	18 Confirmation 5:30 pm Vespers Service 7:00 PM	19 Women's Bible Study 9:00 am	20 EARLY DISMISSAL 1:30	21
22 Communion Service 8:30am Adult Bible Study, Sunday School, Teen Bible Study 9:30am	23	24	25 Thanksgiving Eve Service 7:00 pm No Confirmation	26 	27	28
29 Worship Service 8:30am Adult Bible Study, Sunday School, Teen Bible Study 9:30am NOISY CAN SUNDAY	30					



NO SCHOOL





The Bulletin Board

We will be decorating for Christmas on Sunday, November 29th after our church service. Please plan to stay and help. Many hands make light work.

Board Meetings

- ✓ School Board-TBD
- ✓ Council- Nov. 16th
- ✓ Elders- Nov. 16th
- ✓ Trustees- Nov. 16th

Thanksgiving Eve
Service Wednesday
November 25th
7:00 pm

Reminder that you can designate your Thrivent Choice Dollars to St. Paul's Lutheran Church or St. Paul's Lutheran School before Dec. 31st.

Advent Fellowship Meals & Worship
Join us on Wednesday, December 2nd, 9th, and 16th for Advent fellowship and worship. Soup supper begins at 5:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall.
Our Service of Vespers will follow at 7:00 pm in the church.
Soup will be provided. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share.

2027 Radio Broadcast Sponsorship

Madie will soon begin scheduling radio broadcast dates for 2027. If you have traditionally sponsored a broadcast on a specific date and would like to reserve that same date for 2027, please contact the church office. Thank you for your continued support of the radio broadcast!



Praying the Scriptures for *Thanksgiving*

Praying the Scriptures at MercylsNew.com

- 
- 
1. 1 Thess. 5:18 May we learn to be thankful in all things for this is Your will for us.
 2. 1 Chron. 16:34 Thank You for Your enduring love.
 3. Psalm 7:17 Lord, thank You for Jesus' righteousness.
 4. Matt. 26:26 Thank You for the Body of Christ.
 5. Matt. 26:27 Thank You for the blood of Christ.
 6. Ezra 3:11 Lord, we praise You for Your goodness.
 7. Psalm 9:1 Lord, thank You for Your wonderful deeds.
 8. Rom. 7:25 God, we praise You for the deliverance You give us.
 9. 1 Cor. 1:4 We thank You for grace.
 10. Psalm 100:4 We enter Your presence with praise and thanksgiving.
 11. Dan. 6:10 Teach us to give thanks all day long as Daniel did.
 12. Eph. 1:16 We thank You for our brothers and sisters in Christ, the Body of Christ.
 13. Psalm 106:47 We praise Your Holy Name.
 14. Rev. 4:9 We worship the One who sits on the throne.
 15. Thess. 1:3 Thank You for a growing faith.
 16. Lam. 3:22-24 Thank You for new mercies every morning.
 17. 1 Cor. 15:57 Thank You that we have victory in Jesus.
 18. Col. 3:15 Thank You that in Christ we have peace.
 19. Heb. 12:28 We praise You because Your kingdom cannot be shaken.
 20. Psalm 118:21 Thank You for hearing and answering my prayers.
 21. Phil. 4:16 Help us to always pray with thanksgiving.
 22. Psalm 119:62 We give You thanks at all hours of the day and night.
 23. James 1:5 We thank You for the wisdom You so graciously give.
 24. Col. 1:12 Because of Your Son we have an inheritance, we are blessed.
 25. Psalm 50:14 We bring You a sacrificial offering of thanksgiving.
 26. Isaiah 51:3 Thank You for the comfort we find in Christ alone.
 27. Joel 2:25 Thank You that in Christ we can have true restoration.
 28. Psalm 95:2 We praise You with music and song.
 29. Rev. 11:17 We worship the One who is, who was and who always will be.
 30. 2 Cor. 9:15 Thank You for this indescribable gift.

We Thank You, Lord!

LCMS Stewardship Ministry
Newsletter article – November 2026

Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart!
Originally Published November 2023



Our Father in heaven has claimed us as His own. By the shedding of His Son's blood, by His death for our

sins and His resurrection for our justification, God the Father has received us back into His family. By water combined with His Word, promise and name, the Holy Spirit has taken up residence in us. We belong to Father, Son and Holy Spirit. He is in us, and we are in Him. And being in Him, all things are ours. In Him, we are richly and abundantly blessed.

Our true treasure and wealth is that we belong to the most Holy Trinity and everything that is His belongs also to us: righteousness, peace, eternal life. Even our temporal treasures are gifts from His fatherly, divine goodness and mercy.

We receive our treasures from Him, and thus, as good stewards of His varied grace, we manage them in such a way that they may be returned to Him. We bring them to Him, hallowed through prayers of thanksgiving and God's Holy Word, as a sacrifice. Thus all our possessions, as gifts from God, are also sacrifices to Him, from which we eat to nourish our bodies and share with our family, neighbors and fellow Christians, with the poor and even our enemies, as holy things given by our holy God. His temporal gifts are blessings to and for us, and bring blessing upon us even as they are pressed into His service for His kingdom and the souls that receive them.

Thus we place all that we have into God's hands. He never fails to remember us and pours out the fullness of His promises upon us. We give thanks for all that He has done, is doing and will continue to do. We give thanks by not taking for ourselves, but giving to all even as our heavenly Father has given to us.

As we prepare for Thanksgiving celebrations, may we all give thanks continually for all that we are and all that we have because of God's providential care. And may we be all the more diligent in bringing everything that we have received from God to Him, so that He may bless it and employ it for the good of all — even for us. For to the one who has, more will be given, and he will have an abundance.



The Teen Youth Group and St. Paul's Lutheran School students are selling See's Candies, sales will end December 1st. Contact one of the youth in our congregation or school to place an order. If you have any questions you can speak to Rick Bradley.



St. Paul's has had an eventful year celebrating its 100th anniversary.

Thanks to all of you who helped in some way big or small to make our celebrations such a success.

Many of you told me how you enjoyed having a guest preacher and a potluck brunch where you had time to visit with other members and guests.

We could have another opportunity to have a guest preacher and brunch. Please bug the Elders to plan a Mission Festival service this Spring. A phone call to Mission Central telling them we want to have a MF and to let us know when a missionary will be in western Nebraska. I have had the good fortune to attend events where a missionary explains his work, how it is for his family to live in a foreign country, and witness to native people who have little or no knowledge of Jesus. Hearing what it is like to be a missionary may spark the interest in one of our teens to become a missionary for the LCMS.

Our congregation is in great need of a historian. I would suggest a couple or even an entire family take on the responsibilities. Our committee boxed up all the information we had put together, and it now sits in the church basement stage. I think it would be great if some kind of display case were built and placed under the church balcony stairs. The display could be changed every few months thereby letting our members view the artifacts and even get a laugh when they see a picture of an older member of their family. Interested in becoming our church historian? Please contact Rick Bradley at 308-464-0207

A Look Back at October at St. Paul's Lutheran School

October was a busy and exciting month at St. Paul's Lutheran School! From special visitors and family celebrations to classroom activities, our students enjoyed a wonderful month of learning and fellowship.

We kicked off the month with our annual Scholastic Book Fair, held September 28–October 2. On October 2nd, we welcomed grandparents and special guests for our Grandparents Day celebration! It was a wonderful opportunity for students to spend time with loved ones and share a glimpse of their school day. A special thank-you goes to our PTL for providing a delicious make-your-own sandwich lunch for students and their grandparents. We also thank Bill and Nancy McBride for taking time to read to our students as part of the day's activities.

October 12–15 brought Parent-Teacher Conferences, and we are thrilled to share that we had 100% parent participation! We are grateful for the dedication of our school families and their continued partnership in their children's education.

On Sunday, October 18th, our students had the opportunity to share their gift of music during the worship service at St. Paul's with 11 of our 15 students attending for an amazing 73% participation! It is always a blessing to hear our young people lift their voices in praise to the Lord.

Our classrooms were also busy with fall-themed learning and special activities. Students enjoyed pumpkin investigations, creative art projects, and a visit from the Ogallala Volunteer Fire Department to learn about fire safety. On October 23rd, Marcia Crofutt visited to share a presentation about Woodsy Owl and Smokey Bear, helping students learn about caring for our environment and preventing wildfires. Students also began creating posters inspired by what they learned. Throughout the month, classrooms enjoyed a little extra fall fun as they were secretly "Boo'ed" with special treats and surprises!

We also began our second-quarter chapel offering project, which will benefit the residents of Wel-Life Assisted Living and Indian Hills Manor here in Ogallala. Students and families are collecting personal care items, non-slip socks, and individually packaged snacks to help brighten the days of our local seniors. Through this project, our students have another opportunity to put their faith into action by sharing Christ's love with others.

We wrapped up October with a fun-filled celebration of Red Ribbon Week! Students enjoyed special dress-up days while learning about the importance of making healthy choices and living drug-free. The month concluded on October 30th with our school-wide Halloween party and annual Fall Carnival, bringing together students, families, and members of the community for an evening of fun, laughter, and fellowship!

Looking Ahead to November: We have several exciting events on the calendar! There will be no school on November 4th due to a teacher training day. On November 6th, Darwin Rakowsky will visit to give a special presentation in recognition of Veterans Day. Our students will also sing during the 8:30 a.m. worship service on Sunday, November 15th.

As we reflect on another wonderful month, we thank God for the many blessings He continues to provide our school. We are especially grateful for our dedicated teachers, supportive families, congregation members, and volunteers who make these experiences possible. Thank you for your continued prayers and support as we work together to provide a Christ-centered education for our students!

OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIPS OF NEBRASKA

EDUCATION FREEDOM TAX CREDIT

Beginning January 1, 2027, taxpayers can contribute to qualified Scholarship Granting Organizations (SGOs), such as Opportunity Scholarships of Nebraska (OSN), and potentially receive a federal income tax credit. These contributions support scholarships and eligible educational expenses for students.

\$1,700

Maximum individual credit

\$3,400

Maximum for joint filers*

HOW DOES THE TAX CREDIT WORK?

A tax credit reduces federal income tax owed dollar for dollar, unlike a tax deduction that reduces taxable income. This credit is nonrefundable, and taxpayers do not need to itemize deductions to qualify. *For joint filers to claim up to \$3,400, each spouse must make a contribution, according to the proposed guidance described by OSN.

CAN MY CONTRIBUTION HELP A PARTICULAR SCHOOL?

Yes. OSN allows contributors to designate a portion of their contribution to support students choosing a participating school. OSN partners with more than 130 nonpublic schools across Nebraska. Contributions cannot be designated for a particular child.

WHO CAN RECEIVE A SCHOLARSHIP?

OSN estimates that 95% of Nebraska K-12 students may qualify. Eligibility includes students from households with income no greater than 300% of the area median gross income. More qualified contributions mean more opportunities for tuition scholarships.

LEARN MORE OR PLEDGE YOUR SUPPORT

OSN invites taxpayers to sign up to pledge a tax-credit contribution. Questions? Contact givehope@nebraskaopportunity.org.