



From the *Pastor's* desk



From the Desk of Pastor Meyer

On the 12th Day of Christmas, My True Love Gave to Me...The Feast of Epiphany!!!

"On the twelfth day of Christmas, my true love gave to me..." You've heard the song and you may be one of the few who can get through all twelve stanzas in the right order without cheat notes. There are gold rings, leaping lords and dancing ladies and something about ducks and swans and milking cows, too. I can't keep it all straight. It's for the birds, I think. Come to think about it, it seems the whole song is for the birds – ducks, swans, calling birds, and a partridge stuck in a pear tree that won't go away, no matter how many times we sing about him.

There's an old myth that floats around every year that this silly song is supposedly a teaching tool, an extended analogy, to explain the Bible. The partridge in the pear tree is supposed to represent Jesus, the two turtle doves are the Old and New Testament, and so on. Nope – not true. There's a fancy name for this. It's called *eisegesis*. Eisegesis is where we read into something what isn't meant to be there. It's the opposite of *exegesis*, where we read out of the text. Exegesis lets the text speak for itself; eisegesis lets us read into it what we want to read into it. People do this all the time. For example, eisegesis says "Mary Had a Little Lamb" is about Mary giving birth to Jesus. Nope. Exegesis tells us that it's a nursery rhyme about a girl and her lamb. It only becomes an analogy for the Virgin Birth if we read that back into it.

For a song like the Twelve Days of Christmas, seeing it as an extended analogy for the Bible isn't a bad thing, necessarily – it just isn't what it was meant to be. If you use it as a witnessing tool, or a way to tell a story to your grandkids, or the kid next door, go ahead. Have a little fun with it. However, be careful

...Continued on page 5

JANUARY NEWSLETTER

Inside this issue:

LWML News	2, 8, 14
Membership Changes	8
Anniversaries/Birthdays	7
Elder Assignments/Bulletin Boards	3
Financial News	4
Sunday School	5
Calendar	13
Annual Church Elections	9
Worship Duties	12

Special points of interest:

- *Special Activity Groups on page 11*
- *Voters' Meeting on page 10*
- *Consecration Sunday on page 14*
- *Agrifest on page 8*
- *Ladies Bible Study on page 10*
- *Free Dental Care on page 6*
- *Movie Night on page 9*
- *Sanctuary Clean on page 9*

**The special Com-
memorative post-
age stamps you
have been sending
in will go towards
missions so keep
them coming!!**



CIRCLE MEETINGS

Tuesday, January 6th — 7:00 PM Community Service Circle
2018 Lantern Lane

Hostess: Kathy Wuerflein
Devotions: Veta Wheeler
Topic: Lorie Legere
Project: Donation to the YWCA

Wednesday, January 7th — 12:30 PM — Visiting Circle
Room #108

Wednesday, January 7th — 1:00 PM — Service Circle
Basement

Hostess: Betty Herth
Topic: Christine Hollrah

Monday, January 12th — 6:00 PM Chancel Circle

**The next general meeting will be held January 26th in the church
basement at 6:00 PM with refreshments and fellowship.
Meeting and Bible study will begin at 6:30 PM. Please join us!**

CELL PHONES, INK CARTRIDGES, COMMEMORATIVE STAMPS

LWML thanks you for helping us recycle these items. Currently, we only take HP and Canon ink cartridges. (You could put your cartridge in plastic baggie if it is leaking). The commemorative stamps go towards missions, so keep them coming too!



Chancel Circle welcomes donations of living flowers and plants for the worship services. Let the church office (580) 234-6646 know the date you would like to provide them. Also, include the instructions after they are used for worship.



JANUARY IS MITE MONTH

January is "Mite Month"! Anyone may donate to this worldwide mission project at anytime. God's word is spread in many ways!



THANK YOU!

I want to give a big thank you to all who donated to the November and December LWML bake sales and those who purchased the goodies. This makes it possible for us to give our gifts to numerous organizations and missions. Have a very blessed New Year.

Joyce Nolte, LWML Treasurer

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH



This page will be dedicated for our members who have their own business and would like to put the word out about it. If you are in the need of any type of service please check out this page first to see if there is a member that can provide the service to you. Let's join together to help support each other!

Jenny Smithson—Broker Associate

Lippard Reality

1102 W, Broadway Ave. Enid, OK, 73703

Cell: 580-747-6225

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Stephanie Herbst DDS

Dennis Morehart DDS

2411 Heritage Trail #4

Enid, Oklahoma 73703

(580) 237-2213

"Give us a call if you are looking for a dental home!"



Elder assignments for this year are as follows:

Gene Hollrah
Jonathan Becker
Rick Lunday
Don Nobis
Ron Young
Paul Dunbar
Gene Breitenkamp

580-234-9586
817-939-5190
580-603-0814
580-747-2267
580-747-1356
580-233-6063
580-541-9323

Adasiak—Clark
Cole—Fisher
Fleischmann—Hoeltzel
Holland—Lieswald
Light—Nolte
Otipoby—Smithson
Snowden—Zoch

Please contact your elder if there is anything he could do to help serve you.



Financial Professional Bob Morgenthaler is the Thrivent representative for Enid. He is available for questions or concerns you have on your insurance and investments products. Bob has been with Thrivent for 21 years. The office is located at 201 N Grand Ave, on the Northeast corner of Randolph and Grand. The office is Suite #510. Please call ahead to schedule appointments at 918-406-7029. You may also email at :

bob.morgenthaler@thrivent.com.

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FINANCIAL REPORT AS OF November 30th

Offering Goal for 25-26:	\$524,000
Offering to Date:	\$191,826
Income + Offering Goal 25-26:	\$775,800
Income to Date:	\$551,971
Expense Budget for 25-26:	\$1,279,743
Year to Date—Expenses:	\$547,170
Net Income to Date:	\$4,801



We live-stream all services during the month of January using the link:

<https://stpaulsenid.com/church-media/#LIVESTREAM>

LUTHERAN CHURCH EXTENSION FUND

Interest Rates for January are now out. Call "Dial-a-Rate" at 1-800-THE LCEF

2026 Offering Envelopes

The 2026 offering envelopes are ready for you to pick-up in the narthex. If you would like a box and don't see one with your name, please contact the office! We have plenty.



Continued from the Pastor's Desk. . .

with the practice of reading into things what isn't intended. This is especially true with the Bible. We want to be careful when reading the Bible, though, letting the Bible, God's Word, speak what the Spirit inspired. It's God's Word. We don't get to add to it. Even St. John warned about that in his final book, Revelation 22: 18-22, just as Moses did in the beginning of the Bible, Deuteronomy 4:2.

While we don't want to read *into* the Twelve Days of Christmas what isn't there, we do want to recall that there really are twelve days of Christmas. Where the secular, commercial world leads us to believe the Twelve Days of Christmas are December 12-24, the days preceding Christmas, marked with sales, mad-house shopping, and even more maddened shoppers, this is a relatively new idea of marketing. The traditional, Christian understanding of the Twelve Days of Christmas is that the Church holds the festival of Christmas for twelve full days, from December 25 through January 6.

Within these twelve days are several other, special days. On December 26, the Church remembers St. Stephen, the first Christian martyr; on December 27, we remember St. John, the Apostle and Evangelist. On December 28, we solemnly remember the children who were slaughtered by King Herod in his evil plot to murder the Christ Child. The first of January is feast of the Circumcision and Naming of Jesus which took place on the 8th day of His infant life. The season of Christmas finally comes to its conclusion on January 6 with the celebration of Epiphany.

Epiphany is when the Christian church celebrates the arrival of the wise men to the child, Jesus, and give homage to the newborn King. I say "wise men" – depending on the translation or the song, you might know them as wise men, Magi, sages or even kings. I've been known to call them the Weisenheimers, just to give them a Germanic flair. Usually, they are described as astrologers, but the term used in the Greek New Testament implies an interest in dreams, stars, and perhaps even magic. They were from the East, presumably the area of Babylon, the region where the Israelites had been taken into captivity 700 years earlier. Traditionally, the story says there were three men, taken from the three gifts they proffered: gold, frankincense and myrrh. Gold, you know: a very expensive, precious metal, useful for the buying and selling of goods. You're probably less familiar with the other two gifts. Frankincense is a tree resin that can be either dried into granules for burning or infused into an oil. Myrrh is a spice, either dry or added to oils to be used for both perfume and for anointing. Gifts from kings; gifts fit for a king. They are gifts for a baby that foreshadow the King's sacrifice three decades later.

We're not there, yet. We have a ways to go. Lent will be here before you know it (February 18 this year!). Until then, we celebrate Christmas and we celebrate Epiphany. And, we're not done, yet! While the world around us tosses the gift wrappings to the curb, boxes up the tree and decorations and stores them in the attic, and hides the Nativity scenes in the hall closet, the Church continues the celebration of the birth of Jesus, the Christ, the Son of God and the Son of Mary. These twelve days are much more than just a silly song that provides a financial "Christmas index" to the economy. They allow us time to rejoice and reflect with Mary, who treasured up all of the events of Christ's birth and pondered them in her heart.

So, continue playing your Christmas music. Rock "The Twelve Days of Christmas" and try to get the lyrics straight, then laugh when you get the prime, even, and odd days mixed up. I'll keep Vince Gerabaldi's "Linus and Lucy" and Handel's *Messiah* (especially the "For Unto Us" chorus) on repeat. Keep your tree and decorations up a few more days. Let the lights burn in the front yard. Continue saying, "Merry Christmas!" a few more days, and share Christmas joy and peace, words of hope and promise, acts of kindness and compassion with those around you. Let them see Christ in you and, through you, to them. And, if asked, tell them, "It's still Christmas!" Then smile and keep on rejoicing that Christ has come for you.—Pastor Meyer

A Continued Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



FREE DENTAL CARE!



February 6 & 7, 2026

Stride Bank Center
301 S Independence Ave
Enid, OK 73701

Doors open at 5:30am each day.

The Oklahoma Mission of Mercy (OkMOM) is a free, two-day dental clinic event that provides donated dental care to people of all ages who are uninsured, underinsured, or otherwise don't have access to dental care. The clinic covers a range of basic and critical dental treatments including cleanings, extractions, fillings, and some partials and root canals.

Event Details

- All ages may be treated. Children under 18 must be accompanied by a legal guardian.
- **No ID required.**
- No appointments. **Patients will be seen on a first-come, first-served basis.**
- No financial eligibility criteria or insurance required.
- BE READY TO WAIT. Expect to spend most or all of your day with us, up to 10 hrs. Please bring any needed medications, diapers, bottles, food, water and snacks.

PATIENTS RECEIVING TREATMENT MUST MEET THESE REQUIREMENTS:

- Blood pressure levels under 180/100
- Blood sugar levels under 300
- No fever/illness at the time of the event

VETERANS

may pre-register on site
Thursday, Feb. 5
at 3:00pm



More information available at okmom.org



OkMOM is organized by the Oklahoma Dental Association and the Oklahoma Dental Foundation with help from the State of Oklahoma and other generous sponsors. Questions? Email us at okmom@okda.org



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS



- 25 - Hudson Deterding
Jerry Lichtenberg
Carlee Newcomb
- 29 - Lacie Heitfeld
Nicole Locklin
Rev. Jonathan Meyer
- 31 - Beth Reed

- 1 - Grant Biggers
Koe Campbell
Jo Newberg
- 6 - Andrew Hartfiel
Toni Meacham
- 8 - Robbie Goodwin
Thea Patocka
Alycia Robinson
- 9 - Logan Breitenkamp
- 10 - Darla Albright
- 12 - Cody Ingels
- 13 - Marcella Schroeder
- 14 - Paul Dunbar
Rev. Kenneth Wade
- 16 - Allexus Childs
- 17 - Kimber Jung
Quinn LaBrue
James Patocka
- 21 - Rhonda Crowl
- 22 - Bill White
- 23 - Cathy Breitenkamp
- 24 - Anita Chance



Anniversaries this Month

- 14 - Terry & Lorie
Herth
- 18 - Cecil & Terri
Durheim

- 22 - James & Kathy
Wuerflein

- 25 - Hayden & Logan
Durheim
Hunter & Elise
Southerland

- 26 - James & Marilyn
Hoeltzel



Please make the following updates
in your church directories:



Richard Simpson
(580) 554-7012

Marilyn Simpson
(580) 554-6512

Pat Lemke
2803 NW Ave., Apt. #4111
Norman, OK 73069

Laverna Selix
Brookdale Assisted Living
4613 W. Willow Rd.
Enid, OK 73703



If you haven't given the Church Office your E-Mail address yet call or send it to: office@stpaulsenid.com. We send out prayer requests, hospital news and reminders of special events.

If you have a son or daughter in college, please call the office and let us know their new address. Thank you!



Sunday School classes offered at 10:15 AM each Sunday.

Age 3 to grade 12 meet in all-purpose room.

Adult Class meets in church basement.



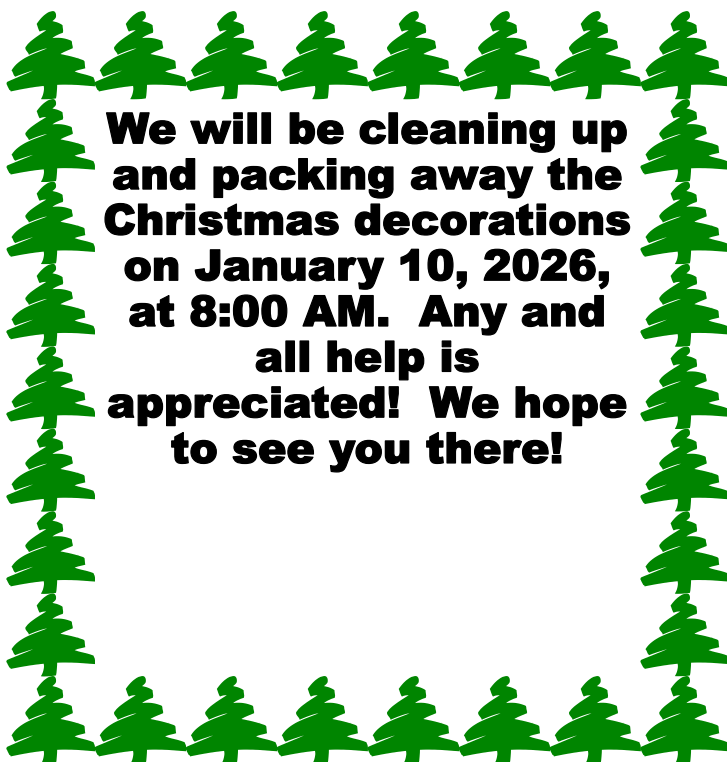
**LWML is hosting a
diaper driving dur-
ing the month of
January!**

AgriFest

We will need volunteers to work on Friday, January 9th from 9:00-11:00 AM (2) and from 1:00-2:30 PM (four). Please contact the office if you would like to help!



Church Election Time Fast Approaching: As we near the end of the church year, it is once again time for us to reflect back on the past year and to look ahead to coming opportunities. In Mark 10:45 we hear Jesus speaking: “⁴⁵For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” (Mark 10:45 ESV) You are invited to take time and see where you, in the Spirit of Jesus Christ, might be able to serve St. Paul’s congregation and the surrounding community. The following offices will be up for election this year: Chairman-elect, Treasurer, Head Elder, two members at large, School Board Chairman & Properties Chairman. The responsibilities for each office may be found in the church constitution. Of course, if you are currently in a position, and have not already served two terms, you are eligible to run again. May God bless you and lead you as you consider where you may serve.



**We will be cleaning up
and packing away the
Christmas decorations
on January 10, 2026,
at 8:00 AM. Any and
all help is
appreciated! We hope
to see you there!**



**We would like to welcome you to the
January family movie night!**

**January 25th
5:00 PM in the church basement**

FREE POPCORN ONE AND ALL

VOTERS' MEETING

The regular church voters' meeting will be held on January 18th. Here is the schedule for the day:

9:00 AM Worship

10:15 AM Sunday School

Potluck Luncheon (soups & desserts)

Voters' Meeting

Hope to see you there!



Spring 2026 Ladies Bible Study

Date	Tuesdays 9:30am or 6:30pm
January 13 th	Session 1
January 20 th	Off (church meetings)
January 27 th	2
February 3 rd	3
February 10 th	4
February 17 th	Off (church meetings)
February 24 th	5
March 3 rd	6
March 10 th	7
March 17 th	Off (church meetings)
March 24 th	8



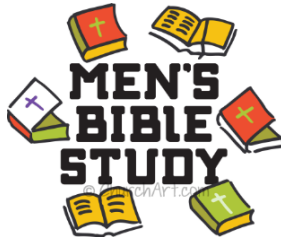
**Dominoes Group meets each 1st & 3rd Monday at 9:45 AM at the home of Gerald & Joyce Nolte.
3005 Forestridge Place**



Senior Adults Ministry Potluck Luncheon will be held on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 11:30 AM. The location for January will be announced at a later time.



The Children's Ministry Team will meet in January. The time, date and location will be announced at a later date.



**Men's Bible Study Breakfast—
Meet at Boomerang at 721 S.
Oakwood Rd.— at 7:00 a.m.
each Friday**



Balance & Strength Exercise meets every Tuesday & Thursday at 11:00 AM in Room #108.



**Pinochle will meet on the first and third Tuesday of each month at 1:00 PM at the home of Gerald & Joyce Nolte.
3005 Forestridge Place**

Consecration Sunday

Our God has blessed us with more gifts and blessings than we know. Now it is time to show Him how much we appreciate them. February 1st will be CONSECRATION SUNDAY. There will be cards available for "each" of our members to "pledge" their TIME and TALENTS. The cards will also request EACH FAMILY to pledge their TREASURES. Only one pledge of treasures per family is requested and is in addition to any pledges to the Capital Campaign. Please take a card home, prayerfully consider your God given gifts and blessings, and return the card to Worship Services on Sunday, February 8th. A list of time & talents will be shared with the church council to be used when projects need to be done around our church and school. For those pledging online, there will be columns designated for time & talents.

Finding Peace



"Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you ..." John 14:27

Save the Date

59th Convention

Lutheran Women in Mission

Oklahoma District LWML

April 17-18, 2026

Hilton Garden Inn, Edmond

Finding peace in today's world can be difficult. Join us as we explore how Jesus helps us find this peace.

Keynote Speaker: LCMS OK District Pres. Rev. David Nehrenz

Bible Study Leader: Michelle Dierks, Author

Hosted by Kingfisher and Panhandle Zones



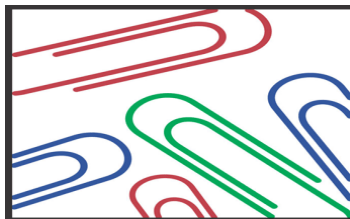
ST PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

1626 E. Broadway Ave.
Enid, OK. 73701

Phone: 580-234-6646
E-mail: office@stpaulsenid.com

The Mission at St. Paul's Lutheran Church is:

*Preach and Teach to ALL,
Comfort and Support those in need!*



FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

OFFICE HOURS

The Church/School Office hours are from 7:30 AM — 3:30 PM. If you call prior to or after these hours, please leave a message. If it is an emergency please contact Pastor Jonathan Meyer, at (281) 785-5396, or your elder (see page 3). Thank you!

Thank You!