

SHARING GOOD NEWS

ST PAUL'S UCC DELANO MN

Volume 3 Issue 1

January 2026

JANUARY CALENDAR

01/01 Happy New Year!!!

01/04 Communion

01/18 Council Meeting

01/19 Martin Luther King Day

FELLOWSHIP HOSTS

01/04 Lucht

01/11 Open

01/18 Stewart

01/25 Hagerty

BIRTHDAYS

01/05 Lani Brown-Worley

01/11 Pastor Kent Meyer

01/19 Kevin Handt

01/23 Isaac Czech

01/23 Dave Rieder

ST PAUL'S WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

On Sunday, December 14, 2025, three new members were officially inducted into our congregation. Cliff and Joyce Specht and Penny Bailey.



CONGREGATION HOSTS CHRISTMAS PARTY

Shortly after the service on Sunday, December 14 many members of the congregation hosted a lunch and Christmas party with some families who needed a reason to smile in this difficult environment.

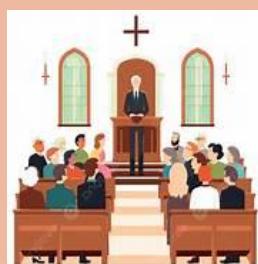
New members Cliff and Joyce donned Santa and Mrs. Claus costumes and handed out gifts purchased by members specifically for the anticipated guests.

Christmas carols were sung while children worked on crafts at a special crafts table, making paper chains and Christmas cards. Some even made cards to give to Santa and Mrs. Claus!

The celebration was marvelous. Sponsors of the families took pictures of each child with the Clauses and then family groups. All the children went home with two gifts each, a box of food and gift cards for their families. (See pages 4 and 5).

ATTENTION:

The Church Council is preparing for the Annual Meeting in February. See Page 3





Message from Pastor Kent.

“Behold, I make all things new!

--Revelation 21:5

New Years is traditionally a time to start one's life anew. The coming of a new year is a symbol of new beginnings and new opportunities. Some of us make resolutions for various things we think we should be doing but didn't in the last year: exercise, diet, put money away, volunteer, and so on. We may or may not keep them, but the hope is there!

God willing, our congregation will have a new beginning in the next few months: a new settled pastor. The committee has been interviewing prospective pastors and has some good possibilities. We hope to hear soon if any of these candidates will feel called to minister here.

Here are some “New Year’s resolutions” I would recommend to the people of St. Paul’s:

1. **Stay involved.** I’ve been impressed with how many people are actively involved in the work of the congregation. If you are actively involved, keep it up! If you haven’t been, now is a good time to start.
2. **Be open to new ideas.** A new pastor will bring her/his own style of doing things, new ideas for worship and projects. Just because it is “different” from what you’re used to doesn’t make it a bad idea. Consider the possibilities!
3. **Be open to new gifts.** Along with new ideas and a new style of doing things, a new pastor will have different gifts. This pastor may be quite good at doing something you’ve never thought of before. Again, consider the possibilities!
4. **Remember to keep the pastor ‘in the loop’.** People in St. Paul’s are used to taking the initiative on projects or activities. With half-time pastors, you’ve made a virtue out of a necessity. Your new pastor will want to be involved and know what’s going on and who does what. Be intentional about getting the new pastor involved and informed.
5. **Prepare a welcoming office space.** Pastors like to make spaces their own. A clean and clear office is an important way to welcome your new pastor. I’ve talked with council about the need to clear Pastor Bridget’s old books out (as far as I know, she is not interested in them) and wall hangings. Some things the church may want to keep. You may want to have a book sale with proceeds going to a special project. But definitely make a welcoming space for the pastor to come.
6. **Be as welcoming and cooperative as you have been with me!** I’ve been having a wonderful time working with you. I’ve really appreciated how you welcomed me and expressed appreciation with my efforts. Be sure to let your new pastor know he/she is appreciated!

For much of this, all I really have to say is, “Keep up the good work!” But be ready for what God will be making ‘new’ here at St. Paul’s.

God’s Peace, Pastor Kent

**Saint Paul's Annual Congregation Meeting, Sunday, February 15
(Immediately following the worship service)**

All are Invited to stay in the sanctuary for our meeting to recap the year 2025. Only members can vote, but all congregants are encouraged to attend. After the financial report has been presented, members will vote on the 2026 budget proposal.

Of particular importance, the terms of three members of our council have concluded. We will be accepting nominations for their replacement right up to the day of the annual meeting. Any member wishing to be a part of the council may apply and the vote will take place immediately to fill the open positions. Contact Mike Hagerty or any council member before the meeting if you would like to have your name submitted.

Please mark your calendar and plan to attend if possible. The meeting usually takes 30 to 45 minutes and fellowship will follow.



GOOD NEWS FROM THE SEARCH COMMITTEE

Dear Congregation,

As members of the Search Committee, we want to express our appreciation for the trust you have placed in us. During the last few weeks, we have concluded our prayer-filled search process and have reached a unanimous decision. We are pleased to recommend to you our candidate for the position of $\frac{1}{2}$ time settled pastor, to be considered by the congregation at a regularly called congregational meeting on Sunday, Feb 1, 2026.

Members of the Search Committee have met with the Church Council to finalize the Call Agreement for our candidate and to set the date for our congregational meeting. The Search Committee will have a letter of introduction of the candidate for the congregation the week prior to the meeting. On Sunday, Feb. 1, the candidate will meet us, lead our worship, and offer a sermon. The congregational meeting following worship will give members an opportunity to ask questions for the Search Committee and Church Council and to vote on the call to our new pastor.

We have been grateful during the search process for the excellent leadership of Rev. Meyer.

We are blessed with a wonderful church family, and we ask for God's continuing guidance as we discern our ministry and our future.

The Search Committee

Deanna, Judy, Laura, Mike, Shala, and Shelly

Delano Helping Hands Food Shelf

St. Paul's is volunteering to help the Delano Food Shelf for the month of January. We have a sign up sheet by the church office if you would like to volunteer your time. We are in need of more people to help on Thursday, January 22 for the 4:30 to 7:30 shift and Thursday, January 29 for the 1:00- 4:30 shift. If you have any questions, please reach out to Joyce Specht. Your time will be appreciated!

P&L Statement for 12/1 through 12/31/2025

Income/Tithes: \$6,496

Expenses

Staffing	3,871
Building and Grounds	951
Office Expenses	409
Worship Expenses	470
Computer Support	38
Outside Services	175
Utilities & Phone	933

Total Expenses: \$6,847

Net Income/Loss: (\$ 351)

Thank You Letter from Patti Pokorney from Buffalo

Thank you for being instruments of God's abundant and extravagant love at the Christmas party on December 14th. You all filled the lives of so many with safety, dignity, bounty, goodness, joy, laughter, beauty and awe. The greetings at the door, the delicious meal and ice cream to boot, presents, song, arts and crafts, space and time to gather and share, photos with Santa and Mrs. Clause, boxes of food and more as parting gift, well wishes and your prayers for protection.

You gave us a miracle. Thank you for loving your neighbors. It was so wonderful to attend to attend today's festivities.

Pictures from the Christmas Party held December 14th For Our Neighbors in Need



Santa is fascinating



Families look on as children receive gifts

Christmas Party Sunday, December 14, 2025 Pics



Deb Meyer leads volunteers in prayer



Assembly work



Deanna



Decorating is a tall order



Finishing touches



Lani



Hall is ready



Holms join the Clauses



Cliff and Mike



Chris and Larry



Lani, Vicki, Shelley



Shala and Ron



Cards by children



SHARING GOOD NEWS

Contact Us

Church Phone: (763) 972-6689

Pastor Cell Phone: (507) 458-0757

Pastor Kent Meyer Office Hours

Tuesday 11:00 am – 6:30 pm

Email: Delanoucc@gmail.com

Website: www.delanoucc.org

ST PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

201 Buffalo Street

P O Box 187

Delano MN 55328