



St. Paul's Scope

A Faithful and Welcoming Church

January 2025

Riding the Waves: Navigating Life's Affective Tides

By Pastor Andrew Lovins

The winter months often bring a quietude to our souls, a time of introspection as we grapple with shorter days, colder temperatures, and a yearning for connection. This season invites us to explore the ebb and flow of our moods – the joys, the sorrows, the anxieties, and the silences.

Join me for a five-week journey into the depths of the human spirit. We will delve into the common struggles that shape our experience: the despair of depression, the gripping anxiety of the unknown, the ache of loneliness, the weight of stress, the grief of loss, and the unsettling stillness of boredom.

Through the lens of scripture, we will seek to understand these experiences, not as obstacles to overcome, but as invitations to deeper intimacy with God and with one another. We will discover that even in the darkest of waters, there is a wellspring of hope, healing, and grace.

Starting January 12th, we will explore:

- **Week 1: The Depths of the Soul (Psalm 42:7):** Navigating the valleys of depression, finding solace in God's presence, and cultivating a spirit of resilience.
- **Week 2: The Anxious Sea (Philippians 4:6-7):** Finding peace amidst the storms of anxiety, anchoring our hearts in God's promises.
- **Week 3: The Loneliness Tide (Psalm 27:10):** Overcoming isolation and finding deep connection in the heart of God and the embrace of community.
- **Week 4: Weathering the Storms of Stress (Matthew 11:28-30):** Finding rest and renewal in the midst of life's pressures, discovering the true meaning of Sabbath.
- **Week 5: The Still Waters of Boredom (Ecclesiastes 3:1):** Finding purpose and meaning in the quiet moments, cultivating a spirit of gratitude and wonder.

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The *deadline* for articles to be included in the February 2025 SCOPE is **January 25th**.

Mark your calendar

January 18-19
Frostbite (Youth)

January 26
Annual Congregational Meeting & Potluck

Moving forward in 2025...Please limit pictures submitted to the Scope and try to take group pictures instead of individual. We will be happy to print out pictures and put on the bulletin boards in the South entryway if you prefer.



Attendance for the Month of December				
<u>Date</u>	<u>8:00am</u>	<u>10:15am</u>	<u>Sunday School</u>	<u>Online Viewers</u>
12/1	A 80 / C 0	A 58 / C 9	A 14 / C 26	636
12/8	A 74 / C 4	A 78 / C 15	A 21 / C 29	443
12/15	A 69 / C 1	A 80 / C 15	A 18 / C 39	551
12/22	A 106 / C 4	A 148 / C 10	A 15 / C 31	671
12/24	Christmas Eve	A 142		336
12/29	A 68 / C 5	A 52 / C 52	A 3 / C 7	473

Sunday Volunteer Schedule					
Time	Date	Council Ushers	Greeters	Acolyte	Lector
8:00	January 5	Brian Rippelmeyer	Mary Endsley	Ryleigh Ribes	Scott Weber
		April Nail	Debbie Ross		
	January 12	April Beisiegel	Pat Smoker	Dahlia Payne	Tami Hughes
		Kim Borja	Donna Smoker		
	January 19	Debbie Ross	Stan Niemann	Alise Freebairn	Donna Smoker
		Kathy Lickenbrock	Cheri Emge		
January 26	April Nail	Scott Weber	Eli Amann	Lynn Gibson	
	Brian Rippelmeyer	Julie Weber			
February 2	Kathy Lickenbrock	Marg Rhutasel	Blyss Payne	Jeanie Stumpf	
	April Beisiegel	Larry Rhutasel			
10:15	January 5	David Mitchell	Jim Kaiser	Emily Kuhn	Donna Asbridge
		Lee Hartmann	Lori Kaiser		
	January 12	Amy Walton	Betty Weber	Logan Smith	Vicki Channer
		Lauren Borger	Sharon Klann		
	January 19	Chad Lindauer	Jim Jacobs	Dean Shaw	Amy Walton
		David Mitchell	Char Jacobs		
	January 26	Lauren Borger	Karen Neff	Anthony Amann	Julie Rickert
		Lee Hartmann	Gloria Niebruegge		
	February 2	Chad Lindauer	Tom Heiken	Anthony Amann	Teresa Huston
		Amy Walton	Robin Heiken		

If you are scheduled to serve, please remember that we are counting on you!
 If you cannot attend, switch with another volunteer and let the office know. Thank you!

... VOLUNTEER SCHEDULES ...

Acolyte Schedule		
Date	8:00 a.m.	10:15 a.m.
December 29	Tara Beisiegel	Audrey Lawson
January 5	Ryleigh Ribes	Emily Kuhn
January 12	Dahlia Payne	Logan Smith
January 19	Alise Freebairn	Dean Shaw
January 26	Eli Amann	Anthony Amann
February 2	Blyss Payne	Anthony Amann
February 9	Logan Smith	Anthony Amann
February 16	Tara Beisiegel	Blyss Payne
February 23	Tenley Heppermann	Dean Shaw
March 2	Owen Inselmann	Dahlia Payne
March 9	Tenley Heppermann	Emily Kuhn
March 16	Owen Inselmann	Audrey Lawson
March 23	Camden Junge	Alise Freebairn
March 30	Blyss Payne	Alise Freebairn
April 6	Camden Junge	Dean Shaw
April 13	Owen Inselmann	Blyss Payne
April 20	Camden Junge	Emily Kuhn
April 27	Owen Inselmann	Audrey Lawson
May 4	Camden Junge	Dean Shaw
May 11	Alise Freebairn	Audrey Lawson
May 18	Camden Junge	Emily Kuhn
May 25	Tara Beisiegel	Ryleigh Ribes
June 1	Tara Beisiegel	Ryleigh Ribes
June 8 Confirmation	Tenley Heppermann	Owen Inselmann

Communion Set-up/Clean-up			
Date	Set-Up	After 8:00 am	After 10:15am
Jan 5	Jim & Char Jacobs	Debbie Ross	Karen Neff
Feb 2	Debbie Ross	Lisa & Jill	Lauren Borger

BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS
are done between church services in the parlor.

January 12	Jeanie Stumpf
February 9	Phyllis Ellerbusch

Benevolence Offering

The Benevolence offerings that you mark on your envelopes each month are Second Mile offerings for special mission projects.

Our December offering for Hoyleton Children's Home was \$395.

January benevolence offerings will be for

The Emmaus Home

Thank You!

Notes of Appreciation

Dear St. Paul's UCC,

Thank you very much for thinking of the residents at Freeburg Care Center and sending them each a Christmas card. They love to receive mail and cards.

With thanks,
Freeburg Care Center

Dear St. Paul's,

As we reflect on the past year, we continue to be grateful for your ongoing partnership in our ministry with Athletes in Action. Thank you so much for your generous giving!

We pray that God will continue to bless the ministry of St. Paul's as you faithfully serve him.

- Aaron & Katie Neff



... Ways to Donate & Love Your Neighbors ...

JANUARY
FOOD PANTRY

Dish Soap
Deodorant Noodle Mix
Shampoo Potato Mix
Rice Mix



Medical Lending Closet

St. Paul's accepts and loans out clean, gently used medical equipment. If you have clean medical equipment in good working condition (walkers, wheelchairs, rollators, canes, etc.) that you are no longer using, please consider donating it to St. Paul's for this loaner program. If you or a loved one are in need of some type of medical equipment, contact the church office to check on availability.

FREE FAMILY
NERF
BLASTER BATTLE
JANUARY 19TH
11:15 AM

PIZZA LUNCH PROVIDED
IN FELLOWSHIP HALL AT 11:15
GAMES TO FOLLOW

BLASTERS, DARTS, AND
SAFETY GLASSES PROVIDED



yoga classes
FRIDAYS AT 9AM
CHURCH BASEMENT
COST: \$5/CLASS





 **Church Mice**

I would like to thank everyone who helped with the mice this year. Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a Healthy New Year. Looking forward to working together again in 2025.
Char

**HOSPITALIZED
OR NEEDING
MEDICAL CARE
LAST MONTH**

Tom Gauch
Lydia and Baby Lindauer
Charles Ross



 **NEED AN EASIER WAY TO GIVE?**

Simply text "GIVE" to (618) 552-9327 or scan this QR code!

Building & Grounds

1. Glass for the broken window above the Ministry Center doors will be delivered this week and installed by Freeburg Glass.
2. Two cracked joists were discovered under the sanctuary church entrance which caused squeaking. The joists have been repaired.
3. Food & Clothing Bank has approved funding the parking lot sealing in the spring of 2025. B&G has taken steps to prevent parking on the grass on pantry days.
4. Snow removal contract with Short Cuts for 2025 will be renewed.
5. Ceiling lights in the entrance to the church are not working and will be replaced with new LED light fixtures.
6. Replaced florescent light bulbs in both bathrooms in the office.
7. Cardboard boxes and other junk removed from church basement.
8. Stacked miscellaneous supplies in the Center basement on blocks and shelves. Limited storage area.
9. Reviewed list of possible projects for the end of year:
 - Replace breezeway flooring.
 - Replace parsonage driveway, Estimate \$5500
 - Install radon system in Parsonage, Estimate \$1500

There will be a potluck on
Sunday, January 26th,
following the annual meeting.

Ham will be provided, please
bring a side dish and/or dessert
to share.



...Ministries ...



I'd like to thank the 22 people who joined us on December 14 for the fourth annual Christmas caroling event. We brought joy to those we visited and shared holiday spirit in each other's company! It's so inspiring and exciting to see the energy of the kids eagerly singing Christmas carols to the shut-ins and even singing on the bus as we drove to each house. What a joy! Also, thanks to Sandi Haege for providing refreshments after we finished caroling. It capped off a very fun and old-fashioned Christmas event. We hope to continue this tradition of Christmas caroling again next year.

I also want to thank the Chancel Choir for their time, talent, commitment, and uplifting and emotional gift of song when we presented the Christmas cantata, "Come Worship the King", at the 8AM and 10:15AM services on December 22.

The choir sounded fantastic and I want to thank the extended members who joined us as well. Actually, several of those members plan to continue to keep singing with the choir for which I'm thrilled. Also, a special big thank you to Dean Shaw who was our narrator. Thank you all for being part of this Christmas gift!

I hope everybody had a blessed and Merry Christmas and look forward to choir and more Christmas caroling in 2025.

Thanks again!

Have a safe and happy New Year!

Andy Channer
Music Director



...Ministries ...

Freeburg Terrace Christmas Party at Dairy Queen

On Wednesday, December 11, we met the Freeburg Terrace residents at Dairy Queen for their Christmas Party. All of your generous donations made for 16 happy faces! They were treated to a lunch and ice cream and each were given a Christmas card full of gift cards. These gifts gave them a chance to get out of their home and enjoy shopping at Dollar Tree, eating lunch at McDonald's, Subway, a Domino's pizza part and another visit to Dairy Queen. We even sent them home with Dilly bars. Fun was had by everyone!

Pat Groth and Lee & Jeanne Hartmann



Born in January

01/01 Darci Clossen
 01/02 Jim Kettler
 01/03 Brayden Baldwin
 01/03 Laura Haas
 01/03 Chelsi Lloyd
 01/04 Barbara Barber
 01/04 Jacob Schiefer
 01/05 Gene Kramer
 01/05 Pat Smoker
 01/06 Jordan Kern
 01/06 Joey Kern
 01/06 Dean Kraft
 01/06 Tanya Smith
 01/07 Brenda Lovins
 01/08 JoEllen Boike

01/08 Rickey Stahl
 01/09 Ann Castens
 01/09 Blake Lindauer
 01/10 Samantha Matchett
 01/11 Denis Capone
 01/11 Henry Rohlfing
 01/11 Nich Ruetters
 01/13 Kris Mack
 01/14 Pat Price
 01/16 Aiden Kuhn
 01/17 Helen Obernagel
 01/17 Jamie Savage
 01/18 Tara Brueggemann
 01/19 Lillian Smith
 01/20 Dale Fiedler

01/20 Mitchell Hummert
 01/21 Pete Vogel
 01/21 Alex Walker
 01/22 Luke Walton
 01/23 Nolan Shook
 01/24 Camden Junge
 01/24 David Kaiser
 01/26 Justin Reinneck
 01/28 Alyssa Endsley
 01/28 Kevin Mank
 01/28 Linda Sanders
 01/29 Mackinzie Nail
 01/30 Emma Oldehoeft

Frostbite Fun 2025 Youth Event

If inclement weather causes us to postpone this event, it will be held on February 15th-16th.

January 18th - 19th, 2025

Calling all junior & senior high youth!
 Join us as we learn to live out loud
 and put our faith in action!!!

2 Ways to Participate

Single Day (\$50): Saturday 10 am to 7 pm
 Overnight (\$100): Saturday 10 am to Sunday 11 am

Registration opens on CampWise December 1st.
 Registration closes on January 5th.

Each church is responsible for providing the necessary chaperones for the event.

Questions? Contact Jill Mayer (618) 939-7123

Horseback riding
will be available!

Teeny Tot Chocolate Covered Strawberries

Teeny Tot Preschool is selling chocolate-covered strawberries just in time for Valentine's Day!

We are selling them for \$30 per dozen or \$20 per half dozen.

Please email ericabound1@gmail.com by February 5 if you wish to place an order. Strawberries will be ready for pickup in the church basement on February 12.



Church Calendar - January 2025

Normal Sunday Schedule

8:00 am & 10:15 am Worship

9:05 am Sunday School

Children's Church 10:15 am

First Sunday of the Month—Communion at both services

January

1—Happy New Year! Office Closed

2—Painting 9am

5—Communion Sunday

5—NO CONFIRMATION CLASSES

6—EPIPHANY

6—E&O Meeting 6:15pm

7—Pantry 2pm

10—Yoga Classes Resume 9am

11—The Way Planning Team Meeting 10am

12—BP Checks

12—Food Collection Sunday

14—Women's Guild 12pm

14—Pantry 2pm

14—Food & Clothing Board 7pm

January

16—Painting 9am

16—Pantry 5pm

17—Yoga Class 9am

18—Frostbite

19— Frostbite

20—Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

21—Church Council 7pm

24— Yoga Class 9am

24—F&C Clothing Sale

25—**Scope Deadline**

26—**Annual Congregation Meeting 11:15am, Potluck after**

28—Yoga Class 9am

28—Stephen Ministry 6:30pm

31—Yoga Class 9am

Normal Weekly Schedule

7th & 8th Grade Confirmation: Sunday 9:15 am

Celebrate Recovery: Sunday 7:00 pm (Baltz Parlor)

C.S. Lewis Bible Study: Monday 7:15 pm

Bible Study: Sunday 9:05 am, Tuesday at 7:00 pm (zoom)

Quilting: Tuesday & Thursday at 8:30 am (Ministry Building)

Boy Scouts: Tuesday 7:00 pm (Basement)

Choir Rehearsal: Wednesday at 6:00 pm

The Outlet: Wednesday 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm (Youth Room)

Faith Journey Rehearsal: Wednesday at 7:00 pm

"Reconfirmation": Thursday at 7:00 pm (Ministry Building)



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**Faithful and Welcoming
Church**

Worship Services:

Sunday 8:00 & 10:15 AM
Sunday School 9:05 AM
Children's Church 10:15 AM