



# Parish Newsletter

**"If we can just communicate,  
Together we'll walk thru Heaven's Gate"**



ST. WENDELIN'S - LUXEMBURG, MN \* December 28, 2025 - 671st Edition

## What's in the Newsletter???

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Page	1: Index
Page	1: Market Place
Page	2: Finance Committee Minutes
Page	3: Preschool News
Page	3: Kindergarten News
Page	3: 1st & 2nd Grades News
Page	3: 5th & 6th Grade News
Page	4: 1st & 2nd Grade News
Page	5: January Church Cleaning Group 1
Page	5: 3rd & 4th Grade News
Page	6: Ads

### LET GOD LEAD

If you believe that God has a unique plan  
For your life and loves you unconditionally,  
You will abandon yourself to him in  
Trust, knowing that in the end "all will  
go well" for you.

### BE A VESSEL OF LOVE

God is looking for people he can use as  
A vessel to reach out to love other people.  
Will you be one?

### TRUST IN PRAYER

Prayer is the answer to every problem in life.  
It puts us in tune with divine wisdom,  
Which knows how to adjust everything perfectly.

### NEXT NEWSLETTER

January 25, 2026

**DEADLINE for News:**

Monday January 19, 2026

**If you can get your items in earlier,  
it would appreciated.**

Get your articles to Sheila Albers  
7876 Ahles Road St. Cloud, MN  
Phone 320-251-7116

Or e-mail: [alberssheila@gmail.com](mailto:alberssheila@gmail.com)

### MARKETPLACE

What do Santa and the Marketplace have in common? They both come around once a year but prepare all year. Thank you to our fabulous bakers, canners, sewers, crafters, woodworkers, and basket makers. You truly make the marketplace a success!

**Mary and Marla**

### THANK YOU

Thank you to St. Wendelin School Children for a job well done on the Christmas play on December 16th. They all did a fantastic job and it was so awesome to see so many family and friends attend. We are very thankful and blessed for our GREAT school!



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# FINANCE COUNCIL MINUTES

Thursday, Nov 20, 2025

## Unapproved Minutes

St. Wendelin's Finance Council met on Thursday, November 20, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. in the St. Wendelin's library.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Jeanne Lommel, Todd Hurrel, Kelly Knier, and Trustee Erin Lommel

**ABSENT (Excused):** Lisa Lichte, Lisa Gertken, and Trustee Joe Watrin

**GUESTS:** Mike Ritzer and Keith Koltes

The meeting was opened with a prayer led by Kelly.

### REVIEW OF AGENDA:

The agenda was reviewed. A motion to approve it as written was made by Todd, seconded by Kelly, and carried unanimously.

### REVIEW OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:

The minutes from the September 25, 2025, meeting were reviewed. A motion to approve was made by Todd, seconded by Jeanne, and carried unanimously.

### FINANCIAL REPORTS:

The council reviewed the financial reports. The church is doing well financially. There were sufficient funds in the checkbook, so another CD was purchased in early November to increase interest earnings. The CDs are staggered to come due at different times to ensure sufficient liquidity. A motion to approve the reports was made by Todd, seconded by Kelly, and carried unanimously.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

**Cemetery:** Mike updated the council on the cemetery. Four more plots were sold since the last report, but there are enough plots remaining for roughly 5–10 years of sales. The pricing of the plots will be reviewed next year, as the current price is significantly below that of other cemeteries. A columbarium was discussed, including possible future locations.

**MAINTENANCE:** Keith presented updates on maintenance projects. The roof was inspected for possible hail damage from summer storms, but nothing major was found. It will be checked again in the spring to confirm the condition.

**LONG RANGE PLAN:** The plan was briefly reviewed. Painting and flooring projects remain on hold pending decisions from the diocese.

**ENDOWMENTS:** The endowment funds are performing very well. A total of \$6,625 was disbursed as tuition scholarships for St. Wendelin's families for the 2025–26 school year.

**Action Item:** Todd will review the reports to calculate the amount available for disbursement in each of the three funds before the January meeting.

**ALL THINGS NEW:** The three proposals being submitted to the diocese were briefly reviewed. St. Wendelin's is proposed as the secondary church in all three scenarios, but this does not guarantee that any of the proposals will be accepted.

### NEW BUSINESS:

Mike inquired about joining the Finance Council as a committee member. The council encouraged this idea, noting the need for a few new members. An official vote will be held at the next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m. with a closing prayer led by Todd.

### NEXT MEETING:

Thursday, January 29, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: **Kelly Knier**



# SCHOOL NEWS

## PRESCHOOL NEWS

During the month of December, we attend weekly Advent prayer services as a whole school. During this time we light the corresponding candles on the Advent wreath, then we take time to pray, discuss, and reflect. We also got together with the older kids to make an Advent craft.

We have enjoyed being able to go outside and play in the fresh snow.

This month we had a few students master their letter sounds and move onto spelling out 3 letter words using our Waseca program.

The preschoolers have started working on more challenging puzzles during those really cold days.

**Mrs. Haselkamp**

## KINDERGARTEN NEWS

Our days have been filled with lots of Advent activities! Each week in Advent we have a theme that helps prepare our hearts to celebrate the greatest gift of all, Jesus!! In addition to things we do and discuss in our classroom, we have a weekly Advent prayer service with the whole school. I think our students are so blessed that their education includes this emphasis on the true meaning of Christmas.

We have also been practicing our Christmas program songs and it's such a delight to hear them ask me if they can practice!

Last week we learned about the saint Juan Diego, and it's always a joy to share the miraculous miracles and help students get excited about the lives of the saints.

Once again, my students participated in the "Keep Christ in Christmas" poster making event sponsored by the Knights of Columbus. It's always fun to see what they draw!

**Mrs. Matchinsky**

## 1<sup>ST</sup> & 2<sup>ND</sup> GRADE NEWS

In December our academic routine remained the same. However, our religion routine was altered to celebrate Advent! The students begin each day by lighting our advent wreath (taping up a paper flame). Then we listen to a series called "Mary on the Mantel". A voice actress plays Mary to tell the students about a new thing each day such as the corporal works of mercy. Each episode ends with a prayer and a challenge for the day. We have also added another series about the Jessie Tree. Voice actors play Mary, Joseph, and a little boy named Ezra as they journey to Bethlehem. After we listen to Mary and Joseph tell the Old Testament story, a student adds the corresponding ornament to our Jesse Tree. The students have enjoyed all the Advent and Christmas activities, but they are looking forward to a nice long break!

**Luci Mehr**

## 5<sup>TH</sup> & 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE NEWS

Throughout this Advent season, 5/6 have been creating a Jesse tree in our classroom and learning the story of Jesus' lineage. We've also explored the Immaculate Conception and the meaning behind the Our Lady of Guadalupe Tilma.

In science, students have been exploring the layers of the Earth and how plate tectonics move.

Finally, students are writing their own Christmas stories, and making a book of it to read to the Kindergarten class!

Many students acted in the Christmas program and did a phenomenal job. We are blessed to have so many talented students. Merry Christmas!

**Jessica Bauer**

# SCHOOL NEWS

## 1<sup>ST</sup> & 2<sup>ND</sup> GRADE NEWS

The first and second graders in Mrs. Rebstock's class talked about their favorite Christmas traditions. We wanted to share them with you all! Included is a picture from the Christmas program where we dressed up as "rockstar" angels.

**Amelia B:** "I love when we decorate the tree and put the angel on top!"

**Duke B:** "I like to travel to Red Lake and go walleye fishing with my family. I also like to **watch The Grinch!**"

**Case E:** "We usually do these advent books, I believe we throw a big party the day before Christmas. Last year we did it in the house and this year we are doing it in the shed."

**Nina G:** "Decorating the tree, my favorite ornament is a Grinch ornament that sings "Welcome Christmas". And my sister and I get gifts for each other!"

**Eleanor K:** "We make gingerbread houses then we eat lunch and play in the snow!"

**Kilian K:** "My family goes to our Nana's house and we open presents and sing songs together!"

**Clark M:** "Cooking and building a snowman! On Christmas morning my family eats eggs and toast."

**Josie M:** "Every single Christmas, on Dec. 29th my cousins and grandparents go to a water park and we stay there for two days! During the Christmas Eve church service my little sister and I always get to bring up baby Jesus to the Nativity"

**Brynnley P:** "My favorite is singing "Jingle Bells" and making hot chocolate to eat with my homemade gingerbread man cookies."

**Logan S:** "My family travels to a lot of places, I have 4 Christmas' to go to! Usually we watch the Vikings. When I'm at my Grandpa's we go to a house with a bunch of Christmas

lights and when we play music the lights move to the songs."

**Georgi S:** "I like to watch The Grinch and go to my Grandma & Grandpa's for Christmas. I also like going to Red Lake with Duke's family."

**Ella T:** "My two favorites are decorating and baking. I like decorating out in the living room and sometimes in the kitchen. A couple days ago me and mom baked hot chocolate cookies, that was pretty fun!"

**Ayla V:** "I bake carrot cake and pumpkin cake with my mom. I also like to sing Christmas songs like the song called "Last Christmas."

**Shay V:** "Probably decorating my Christmas tree or putting a wreath on my house. And going to my Grandma's house on Christmas Eve. After we are done opening presents we put the wrapping paper on the floor and jump out of it while Grandpa chases us."

**Isaac W:** "Decorating and watching a Christmas movie. My favorite Christmas movie is The Grinch."

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!  
**Mrs. Rebecca Rebstock**



**CHURCH CLEANING  
JANUARY 2026  
GROUP 1  
8:30 A.M.**

**JANUARY 3**

Lenny & Mille Brunn  
Scott & Marlene Eger  
Joe & Jeanne Harren  
Sue Henkel  
Randy & Kay Kortlever  
Ron & Cheryl Kraemer  
Mick & Rose Marsyla

**JANUARY 10**

Phillip & Robin Bautch  
Mark & Lori Buettner  
Kelly & Shannon Heisick  
Ralph & Margaret Kremers  
Michael & Jeanne Lommel  
Derrik & Nicole Orth

**JANUARY 17**

Brenda Dingmann  
Jeanette Greener  
Henry & Pam Hayenga  
Wayne & Sue Hiemenz  
Bruce Koshiol  
Floyd & Bev Lehnen  
Gary & Cynthia Zwilling

**JANUARY 24**

Vic & Ann Eldred  
James & Michele Groinus  
Joe & Sandy Harren  
Tony & Kelly Knier  
Jeff Koshiol  
Richard & Kasha Linn  
Greg & Doreen Mackedanz

**JANUARY 31**

Hannah Ehlinger  
Roger & Terri Jochim  
Lisa Mullen  
Jerry & Sandra Paul  
Alan & Barb Stang  
Joe & Sue Tschida  
Lee & Julie Wenz

**SCHOOL NEWS  
3<sup>RD</sup> & 4<sup>TH</sup> GRADE NEWS**

December was filled with Advent activities and lessons. We learned about St. Lucy, St. Nicholas, St. Juan Diego, and the Feast of the Immaculate Conception.

Students put time and effort into the Knights of Columbus "Keep Christ in Christmas" posters that they designed.

In science we continued learning about the skeleton. The kids worked hard and did a fantastic job on the Christmas program. Their public speaking skills are developing nicely.

In math students continue to amaze me with how much they can learn so quickly from the Montessori Materials.

Thank you for supporting our school. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

**Cassandra Deering**

**LISTEN**

The best part of praying is being still long enough to listen.

**BE DEPENDENT ON HIM**

Faith is counting on him when we do not know what tomorrow holds.

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