

St. Paul Newscaster



Published monthly in the interest of
St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church
Diller, Nebraska

Our Mission

*To open our hearts and doors to share God's promise by transforming lives
through our commitment and discipleship to Jesus Christ.*

December 2024
Pastor Mark Liscom

Advent

The other day I was at Wal Mart getting a few groceries. And normally, check out is pretty quick, but on this particular day and time I guess everyone wanted to check out at the same time. So there was a line. I did what I usually do, and looked around for a faster check out but it was not to be.

So, I had to wait. Meh.

But something happened while I was waiting. I struck up a conversation with a guy from Beatrice. And we had a nice conversation. It was totally unexpected. Normally when I go to Wal Mart I don't talk to anyone except to say, "excuse me". But because I had to wait I got to meet someone I had never met before. It was something new.

In our busy, instant gratification world, we don't like to wait. The whole purpose of life it seems is to make waiting obsolete. Even waiting at a stop light can sort of frustrate us. Waiting it seems has no purpose, it is a waste of time. Hurry, hurry, rush, rush.

But the season of Advent says otherwise. Waiting has a purpose. To open us up to something new, something we haven't known before, understood, or realized. And this is how God comes to us.

The Christmas Season can be so predictable and preprogrammed, so locked in tradition that we can miss the message. We all are waiting for many things, longing for the world to be something other than what it is. But Advent says this: While you are waiting, you just might discover something new. Something that you were waiting for all along, but never realized.

So...Happy Advent! Oh, and Merry Christmas!

Pastor Mark

Editor, Typist, Calendar and Assembly of the Newscaster:

Kendra K. Weers

Newscaster Reporters

Church Council – Brian Weers Treasurer’s Report – Allen Roelfs
WELCA – Peggy Hemphill Eunice Circle – Irene Gibson
Work Day – Carolyn Schultis
Christian Education and VBS – Elizabeth Roelfs, Sheri Schultis
and Kristen Hennerberg
Youth News – Joely Weers, Myleigh Weers and Brennan Schultis
Worship Committee – Council Mutual Ministry Committee – Council
Birthdays & Anniversaries – Jane Pretzer Personals – Elizabeth Roelfs
WELCA Coffee List – Elizabeth Roelfs Acolyte List – Pastor Mark Liscom
Worship Assistants & Greeters Lists – Sherry Henrichs



Sponsoring the December Newscaster

Irene Gibson

**in Loving Memory of Karl and Elenora Bunting
for their December 22nd Anniversary
and
The Hemphill Family**

Thank You for sponsoring this Newscaster in Memory of your Loved Ones and for supporting this publication.

Sponsors for 2024 have been fulfilled, we thank you!

*There is a yellow sign-up sheet on the announcements bulletin board in the back of the Narthex for 2025, and **there are currently NO sponsors for January and February issues.***

Please consider sponsoring this important communication tool for our congregation.

Sunday, December 1

Hanging of the Greens Service by Youth

Sunday, December 8

Caroling for the Congregation and Youth

4:30pm

Tuesday, December 24

Community Christmas Eve Service
Children’s Christmas Eve Program
and Candlelight Service 7pm



**Christmas
Worship
Schedule**



Christmas Poinsettias

*If you would like to bring a poinsettia to decorate the church for Christmas Eve Services, there is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex on the back table for whoever wishes to bring one. They will **not** be purchased through the church.*

If you plan on bringing one to the church and would like to be included in the bulletin insert, please provide your information on the sheet. Poinsettias can be picked up after Christmas Eve services.

St. Paul Lutheran Church Council Minutes for November 20, 2024

Council members present were Gary Bergmeier, Doug Schmidt, Allen Roelfs, Pastor Mark, Scott Pretzer, Brian Weers and Jeanette Bures. God sightings were shared. Pastor Mark opened with a prayer. The minutes of the October meeting were read. Allen made the motion to approve the minutes as read and Gary seconded. The minutes were approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Bills are paid, Mission Share is on track, new fire extinguishers have been paid for. Gary moved to accept the report and Jeanette seconded. Motion passed.

MEMORIAL TREASURER'S REPORT

No change in the account balance. Sunday went well with the dedication. Current balance is \$11,680.12.

PASTOR'S REPORT

4 worship services, 1 funeral, 3 Confirmation classes, 1 Confirmation trip to MOSAIC, 1 Youth meeting, 1 Christian Education meeting, 3 text studies, 2 home communions, 1 hospital call.

VICE-CHAIR REPORT

Trunk-or-Treat went well, Gary welcomed the Wind farm people who participated in the Trunk-or-Treat to attend church if they want to, and lights in the sanctuary windows looks good.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Christian Education – met on October 24th. Did a Thanksgiving Thanks project, did Advent calendars and sent flyers home with CrossWalk kids on Wednesday. Youth meeting and outing was on October 17th.

Property – Sanctuary window lights are on a timer. Doug fixed a basement window at the Parsonage. Scott brought a little rock for parking lot spots. Furnaces were serviced. New fire extinguishers are in place. May look at entryway mailboxes to get some for younger people. Leak in the chair and table room could be sealed.

Communication & Outreach – Met in October about Listening Post – get a group that would be interested in the program and need feedback on how to present the program. Pastor would like to eventually see everyone be involved somehow. Probably would need about an hour per session, the committee will try it at a meeting.

Memorial – N/A

Family Night – Christmas Caroling is planned for December 8th, meeting at the church at 4:30.

Music & Worship – Went over the Christmas program, have an overview of what will occur. Practices are planned for December 4 and 11 from 5-6pm and on December 18 4-5pm as per handout.

Food Stand – N/A

OLD BUSINESS

- Hanging of the Greens is scheduled for December 1 service.
- First Communion is not nailed down yet because the whole group needs to be there, and it has been difficult to do this. It may not occur until February.
- Pastor Mark is not going to help with services at American Lutheran. He called the Synod to discuss the issue, and decided not to get into it. May still do a service at Daykin if asked.

NEW BUSINESS

- Budget discussion took place.
- Allen and Stacy are willing to do treats for the children at Christmas Eve Service.
- On January 17th, Pastor's dad is 100! He would like to go to Seattle for his birthday, so Annual Meeting will take place on January 26th.

The next council meeting was set for December 18th at 7pm and committees to meet at 6:30pm. Brian moved to adjourn the meeting and Scott seconded. The meeting was adjourned and closed with the Lord's Prayer.

- Brian Weers, Council Secretary

TREASURER'S REPORT

As of 11/17/2024



Current Balances

General Fund	\$ 8,551.41
Benevolence	\$ 1,307.20
Designations	\$ 3,192.80
<u>Total</u>	<u>\$13,051.41</u>

Operating Expenses

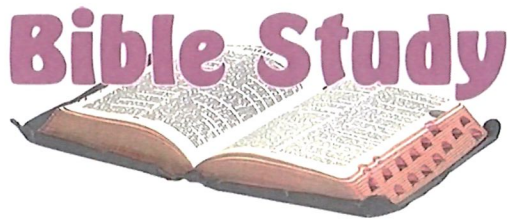
Available Cash	\$ 8,551.41
Remaining Bills	none
<u>Remaining Bal</u>	<u>\$ 8,551.41</u>

Offering Summary

	September	October	November
Current	\$ 7,897.40	\$ 11,362.80	\$ 4,398.00
Benevolence	\$ 309.60	\$ 943.20	\$ 364.00
Designated Funds	\$ 25.00	\$ 215.00	\$ 0.00
<u>Totals</u>	<u>\$ 8,232.00</u>	<u>\$ 12,521.00</u>	<u>\$ 4,762.00</u> (partial month)

We need to receive \$10,325.39 in CURRENT each month in order to meet our budget for 2024.

Eunice Circle Women's Bible Study



Eunice Circle met on November 11, 2024 at 1:30pm, October Lesson. Irene Gibson led our Bible study, "Receiving grace: A study of Ephesians – God's power works in us."

Our study texts were from: Ephesians 3:1-31 and 4:1-16. Focus verse – "(God's) power at work within us: able to accomplish abundantly for more than all we can ask or imagine." (Ephesians 3:20)

We opened with prayer and Hymn, "Will You Come and Follow Me" (vs. 1, 4 and 5). We closed with prayer and verses 3 and 4 from opening Hymn and The Lord's Prayer.

Irene called our meeting to order. Minutes were read and approved. Six (6) members answered roll call and one (1) guest was present. Our offering was \$41.00.

Old Business: Baby care kits were organized and boxed. School kits to be bagged on Wednesday, October 16th by Faith Formation children. ThankOffering service in November. Work Days October 22nd and 29th.

New Business: December 1st church service is Hanging of the Greens. ThankOffering service November 24th. Work Day November 26th until noon.

After Grace, Marla Weichel served refreshments. December Hostess will be Linda Behrends.

Next Eunice Circle meeting will be Dec. 9th at 1:30pm, Nov/Dec book. Irene Gibson will lead the Bible Study.

~ Irene Gibson, Recorder

In Our Thoughts and Prayers

Our prayers are with Norma Banahan, Mike and Kevin as they mourn the death of their loved one Eldean. Eldean passed away on Thanksgiving Day. He was a long-time member of the faith family of St. Paul's. Our hearts hold you in caring.



We continue to hold **Jonathan Schmidt** in our prayers as he continues to recover. He is staying with Ron and Jill Schmidt. His healing is progressing, and he has regular therapy. He is able to put weight on his leg and is able to be out and about some. He recently spent several days traveling to the farm and to visit family in the Norfolk area.

Please remember in your prayers all of our members and extended church family who are not able to be with us, those that are in assisted living and care centers and those who may be in need of God's comfort, healing and peace:

Robert Weers, Norris Gold, Tyler Wolken, Mike Balderson, Norman Balderson, Jonathan Schmidt and Ervin Hennerberg

Women of the ELCA

Unit Meeting

November 10, 2024

A Unit Meeting of the Women of the ELCA was held following the church service on Sunday, November 10, 2024 with 12 members present.

An inspiration prepared by Beth Roelfs was read by Ardith Barber entitled "When You Thought I Wasn't Looking."

We opened with reading the Purpose Statement of the Women of the ELCA in unison.

The meeting was led by President, Ardith Barber.

Minutes of the August 25, 2024, unit meeting were read by Secretary, Peggy Hemphill, and were approved as read.

The Treasurer's report was presented by Treasurer, Diane Wellsandt. She reported a balance on hand of \$2,710.62. The Treasurer's report was approved. Jane Pretzer moved to send \$250 to Lutheran World Relief for shipping of the quilts, baby care kits and school kits. Motion was seconded by Jeanette Bures and motion carried. It was noted that some of these items will stay in the United States this year as the need is greater here than in past years. All of these items were delivered to Omaha this past week by Kendra K. Weers. Thank you Kendra!

Correspondence – There was no correspondence.

Committee reports were given: **Work Group** – Jane reported that one funeral luncheon was served. It was noted that the Ellis United Methodist women also provided salads and cookies for the luncheon. Jane also shared how nice it was that the kitchen was so clean and organized and thanked Jeanette Bures for her efforts in keeping the kitchen in order. **Monthly Card Project** volunteers for the next several months are: November – Kendra K. Weers; December – Sherry Henrichs; January 2025 – Beth Roelfs; and February 2025 – Jill Bergmeier. **Work Day** – Jane reported that 26 quilts had been made this past year. They have been boxed and sent to Lutheran World Relief. Work Day meets on the 4th and 5th Tuesdays of each month from 9 a.m. until noon and any help would be greatly appreciated. **Baby Care Kits** – Kits were boxed and sent to LWR. **School Kits** – These have also been boxed and sent to LWR. **College Students** – looking for volunteer to continue this project. **Eunice Circle** – meets on the second Monday of each month. **Kitchen** – Jeanette Bures is stepping down as being in charge of kitchen supplies, etc. Diane Wellsandt generously volunteered to take over this position. Thank you Jeanette for all of your hard work in keeping the kitchen stocked and looking nice!

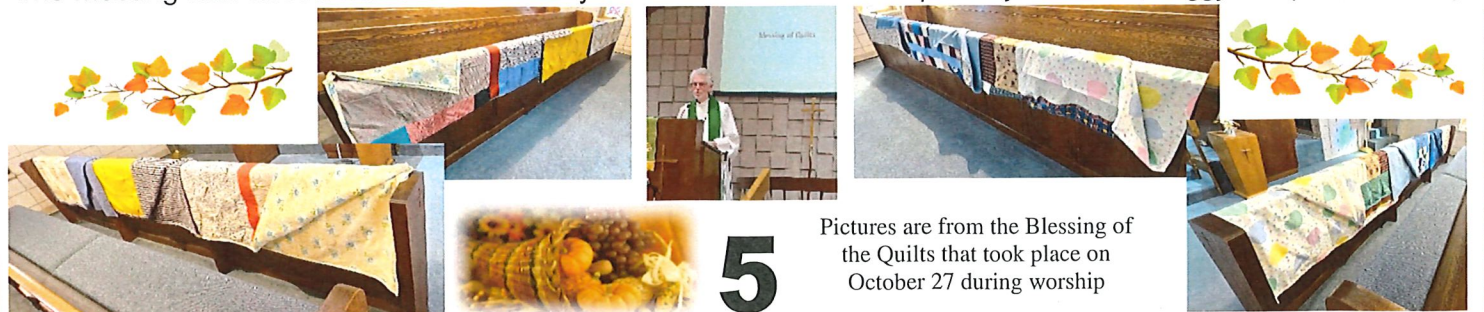
Old Business: Sherry Henrichs volunteered following our August Unit Meeting to be in charge of the Food Drive this fall. Ardith thanked the ladies who made cookies for the Cross Walk kickoff in September. Information about the "Dana Village" was discussed. We don't believe the person promoting this project has been contacted to speak to us regarding the project. We will table this project until after the first of the year.

New Business: Donations for food items and Coat Drive will be accepted until the first Sunday in December. The Thank Offering Service is set for November 24 with Beth Roelfs in charge. The Women of the ELCA Winter Retreat will be held at St. Paul Lutheran in Grand Island in January. See Ardith if you would like details. Seeing that no one volunteered to serve as new officers, we will continue with the same: President, Ardith Barber; Secretary, Peggy Hemphill; and Treasurer, Diane Wellsandt. Volunteering to make cookies for Sunday, December 1, 2024, which is the Hanging of the Greens, was Judy Landenberger, Linda Behrends, Radene Beran and Bets Beran. Kendra K. Weers shared that a Quilt of Valor ceremony will be held on Monday, November 11, 2024, at the Heritage Care Center in Fairbury at which time Norman Balderson will be presented with a quilt if anyone would like to attend.

Offering for the day was \$95. The date of our next meeting will be set when the Executive Committee meets.

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

~Respectfully submitted, Peggy Hemphill, Secretary



Pictures are from the Blessing of the Quilts that took place on October 27 during worship



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

Global Service



Items for the Ingathering (dropoff) of the quilts, school kits, baby care kits and personal care kits were taken to Omaha at Magnum Trucking on November 6. THANK YOU to all the ladies that put together the many quilts and various kits to care for the American and Global people in need.



St. Paul's Congregation held a Memorial Dedication Service during the November 17th Worship Service. Many family members of those memorialized attended Worship and enjoyed a time of fellowship and remembrance following services. We give thanks to God today for all their lives and for the love of God that is stronger and more enduring than death.

Memorials from Betty Damrow, Virginia Lottman, Virgil and Judy Garton, Marjorie Keefover, Melvin Weers and Jeanette Banahan were used for the new entryway doors, framing and handicap access. This is a huge improvement and update to the church, improving building efficiency and access. Included in these memorials is the painting of church window frames and doors and updating of sanctuary window covers.



Women of the ELCA Thank Offering Service and Community Thanksgiving Service

As the Thanksgiving Season arrived, the women of the church gathered to reflect on the large and small gifts they have received throughout the past year. As the year progresses, each participant is encouraged to have a Thank Offering Box close at hand to place a few coins of appreciation for the everyday occurrences/items they are grateful for. On November 24 the women brought their offerings forward and joined in a responsive reflection that celebrated the women who came before us, those serving as God's disciples today and those who will follow us. All were encouraged to live their lives with an "Attitude of Gratitude". The program was led by Beth Roelfs and Kendra K. Weers.

Thank Offering donation boxes are available on the table in the back of the church near the bulletins.



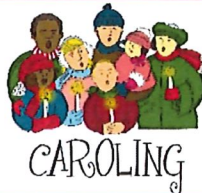
On November 27, St. Paul Lutheran held a community Thanksgiving Service. Pastor Mark had a wonderful message about what gratitude is, starting with a story about the Confirmation class and a recent power outage at school, how people experience limits and coming to the end of your power, which reveals our gratitude. Gratitude is born as we come up against our limitations, and how being able to limit ourselves is the source of gratitude – the limits of our power; the limits of our control; the limits of what we are capable of. Even though conventional wisdom teaches us that we are to be thankful for what we have and our blessings, gratitude comes from limiting yourself and understanding your limitations. Pastor Mark reminded us that God limited himself on the 7th day of the Creation, a time to rest and be thankful for our connection to God, to be grateful for our limitations. Despite this being the opposite ideology in today's secular world, our happiness does not come from what we have, but from being good with our limits; not needing the most of "stuff", which will never be enough. God limited himself in the Creation, and when he came to be with us in the form of a human, immigrant, helpless baby. Thank you, God, for limiting yourself to be with us and teaching us to embrace our limitations.



Fall Coat and Food Drives

The food and coat drives will be coming to an end the first week of December, where the items will be distributed to several places that are in need.

If you would like to donate and be a part of these giving projects, please get your donations in as soon as possible.



St. Paul Christmas Caroling will take place on Sunday, December 8, meeting at the church at 4:30. After caroling, we will return to the church for soup and snacks. Soup will be provided by the Family Night Committee. Please bring a snack to share with fellow carolers. Please join us!



The Youth Group met on Monday, November 18, where a delicious meal was provided by Stacy and Allen Roelfs. After the meal, seven youth members participated in an interactive discussion about recognizing "triggers" and broken relationships. How do we live in right relationship? These topics were addressed by some scripture reading and reflection.

Congratulations to the Diller-Odell Play Production (One Act) team, who placed 4th Overall at the Conference Competition held on Tuesday, November 20th at Johnson-Brock High School. District competition takes place on December 3rd. Congratulations to member Joely Weers for receiving an Outstanding Performance Award and Superior Rating for her acting. Besides Joely in the cast, there were several youth in the crew.

Crew members for "Burglars, Bunglers and Neighborhood Thieves" from our church are Myleigh Weers, Peyton Denner, Madeline Parde, Morgan Steensness and Scarlett Steensness. We are proud of your great performances!



Youth activities



Our high school participated in the Pioneer Conference Vocal Clinic on November 12 at Sterling high school with ten other schools. Four schools performed individually before the entire group performed five distinctly different types of songs from different genres. As pictured above, it was a very large group that came together in one day to give an amazing concert.

Joely Weers from our church participated in the clinic.



On November 12, Myleigh Weers signed her letter of intent to play basketball for the University of Nebraska-Kearney Lopers.

Myleigh has had an incredible high school career in basketball and other sports, and we look forward to her future sports career. Go Lopers!



On October 19-26, Joely Weers participated in the National FFA Band at the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis. She auditioned for this honor in July, and was one of five people from the state of Nebraska to be chosen to participate. They performed multiple times inside and outside the convention with moving performances of popular and traditional music. Congratulations, Joely, for this honor and representing our state!



Joely Weers (pictured above with the Diller-Odell advisor, Tanner Nun) placed 23rd (individually) out of 148 other state-qualified participants in the FFA State Land Judging Contest on October 16 in Norfolk. Congratulations, Joely!



CrossWalk Hears How God Protects Us

The During November, the CrossWalk kids had the chance to hear and experience the stories of Daniel's night in the lion's den and Jonah's 2 day stay in the whale. Both stories highlight God's care for us in the hardest of times.

On November 20th, a Celebration of Thanksgiving was held. Students were asked to consider what they are thankful for and what they are grateful for. They were led to consider how these are different. Teams of 3 were given an everyday item such as a package bow, pencil, tape, ball or glass. They considered how these common items bring meaning to their lives. Following the reflection, each student decorated a fall-colored leaf with things they are grateful for and placed them on the "Thankfulness" tree.

A large banner of Thankfulness was colored by the 2nd through 6th grade students. Each colored their own page and joined all 24 individual images to create one unified message of thanks. The preschool - 1st grade students each made a turkey with tail feathers that listed their source of thankfulness. Some included Mom, Dad, Grandparents, kitties, puppies, my bed, water and food as well as all the deer we will shoot this week. So much to be thankful for.

The children's gifts of gratitude are on display in the CrossWalk room. Please stop by and reflect on their offerings.

Christmas Eve Will Feature "The ABCs of Christmas"

The children will be sharing a short program during the Christmas Eve service called "The ABCs of Christmas". Practices will be held from 5 - 6 after CrossWalk on Dec. 4 and 11. On Dec. 18 a practice will be held from 4 - 5. There will be NO CrossWalk that day. All children from Preschool - High School are welcome to participate. Please contact Beth Roelfs for more information.



On Sunday, November 10, our veterans were honored at worship services with a special prayer and song by the choir. On Veteran's Day, November 11, Norman Balderson was presented a Quilt of Valor for his military service.

Thank You, veterans, for fighting for all people around the world!



Our Choir sang, "Let There Be Peace On Earth" in honor of our veterans on Sunday, November 10



December Birthdays

1	Adam Roelfs	16	Jadyn Schultis
1	Hayley Koch	18	Sarah Crabtree
4	Andrew Liscom	19	Carolyn Schultis
5	Lacey Sasse	21	Kristen Helmerichs
8	Esdon Weers	21	Leightyn Sasse
9	Jeanette Hennerberg	24	Jody Helton
9	Kellan Schlichtman	26	Kelly Gold
10	Jason Wellsandt	26	RiLynn Sasse
11	Jarrod Heidemann	29	BethLee Beran
11	Eden Lottman	29	Allen Roelfs
16	Jan Gold	31	Kendra (Schmidt) Weers
16	Stacy Schlichtman		



December Wedding Anniversaries

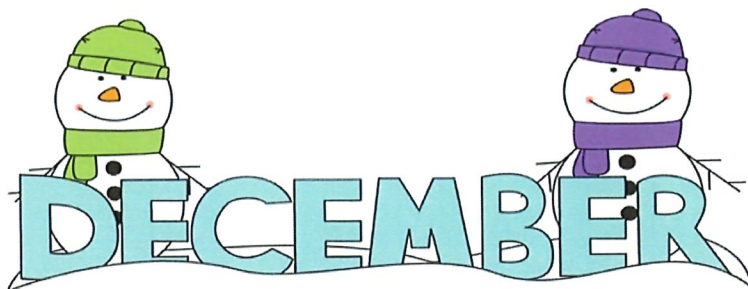
December 8, 1973

☞ Mr. & Mrs. Charles & Ardith Barber

December 30, 2006

☞ Mr. & Mrs. Allen & Stacy Roelfs

VOLUNTEERS: If you are unable to serve on the Sunday(s) you are assigned, PLEASE arrange with someone else to fill in and notify others in the assigned Sunday of the change. Thank You!



December 1 Sunday Worship Service

**With Holy Communion
Hanging of the Greens Service
First Sunday in Advent**

Worship Assistant, Jamie Schultis

Greeter, Jim Bures

Coffee Service – Holli Pretzer, Marla Weichel



**December 8 Sunday Worship Service
Second Sunday in Advent**

Worship Assistant, Diane Wellsandt

Greeter, Dennis Nippert

*Coffee Service – Peg Hemphill,
Shannon Stein*



December 15 Sunday Worship Service

Third Sunday in Advent

Worship Assistant, Gary Bergmeier

Greeter, Dean Pretzer

*Coffee Service – Cheryl Denner,
Kristen Hennerberg*



December 22 Sunday Worship Service

Fourth Sunday in Advent

Worship Assistant, David Henrichs

Greeter, Charles Barber

*Coffee Service – Jill Bergmeier,
Julie Schmidt*



December 24 Christmas Eve Service

Children's Christmas Eve Program

Candlelight Service

Ushers – Church Council



December 29 Sunday Worship Service

Worship Assistant, Sherry Henrichs

Greeter, Gary Bergmeier

Coffee Service – Marlene Wolken, Beth Roelfs

January



January 5 Sunday Worship Service

With Holy Communion

Epiphany Sunday

Worship Assistant, Brian Weers

Greeter, Jim Bures








Coffee Service – Sheri Schultis, Jennifer Warren

December 2024



www.stpauldiller.com

* Facebook – St. Paul’s Lutheran Church Diller Nebraska

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<p><i>Red Hymnal</i> 1 Worship Service <i>Holy Communion 9:30 AM</i> <i>Hanging of the Greens</i></p>   <p><i>Hanging of the Greens</i> First Sunday of Advent</p>	2	3	<p>4</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> CrossWalk 4pm Christmas Program Practice 5pm </div> <p>Confirmation Service Project 7:00pm</p>	5	6	7
<p><i>Blue Hymnal</i> 8 Worship Service 9:30 AM Caroling and Soup Supper 4:30pm</p>  <p>Second Sunday of Advent</p>	9 <i>Eunice Circle</i> 1:30pm	10	<p>11</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> CrossWalk 4pm Christmas Program Practice 5pm </div> <p>Confirmation 7:00pm</p>	12 Elementary Winter Concert 7pm	13	14
<p><i>Red Hymnal</i> 15 Worship Service 9:30 AM</p>  <p>Third Sunday of Advent</p>	16	17	<p>18</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> CrossWalk Christmas Program Practice 4-5pm </div> <p>Committees and Council Meetings 6:30/7pm NO Confirmation</p>	19 Jr-Sr High School Winter Concert 7pm	20	21  First Day of Winter
<p><i>Blue Hymnal</i> 22 Worship Service 9:30 AM</p>  <p>Fourth Sunday of Advent</p>	23	24  Congregational Christmas Eve Service 7:00 pm	<p>25</p>  <p>Merry Christmas</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> NO Cross Walk NO Confirmation </div>	26 Office Closed	27	28 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; color: red;">Newscaster items due</div>
<p><i>Red Hymnal</i> 29 Worship Service 9:30 AM</p>	30	31 	<p>*** CHECK THE WEEKLY BULLETIN, FACEBOOK PAGE OR CHURCH WEBSITE for Calendar updates ***</p> <p>Some events may change and/or were not available at press time</p>			



St. Paul Lutheran Church
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