

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.*

January 2025

Pastor Mark Liscom

With God, There Are No Outsiders

This year, our readings will focus on the Gospel of Luke. The following is the introduction to the Gospel of Luke written by Eugene Peterson in his bible translation, “The Message.”

“Most of us, most of the time, feel left out – misfits. We don’t belong. Others seem to be so confident, so sure of themselves, “insiders” who know the ropes, old hand in a club from which we are excluded.

One of the ways we have of responding to this is to form our own club, or join one that will have us. Here is at least one place where we are “in” and the other “out.” The clubs range from informal to formal in gatherings that are variously political, social, cultural, and economic. But the one thing they have in common is the principle of exclusion. Identity or worth is achieved by excluding all but the chosen. The terrible price we pay for keeping all those others out so we can savor the sweetness of being insiders is a reduction of reality, a shrinkage of life.

Nowhere is this price more terrible than when it is paid in the cause of religion. But religion has a long history of doing just that, of reducing the huge mysteries of God to the respectability of club rules, of shrinking the vast human community to a “membership.” **But with God there are no outsiders.**

Luke is a most vigorous champion of the outsider. An outsider himself, the only Gentile in an all-Jewish cast of New Testament writers, he shows how Jesus includes those who typically were treated as outsiders by the religious establishment of the day. He will not countenance religion as a club.”

Pastor Mark

P.S. Can you imagine what this means for our world, and the massive resistance to this message?



Have you heard? We have our own YouTube channel! You don't have to worry about missing worship or a service, because the videos are now on YouTube.

You can search for St. Paul Lutheran Diller on YouTube, or go directly to the website: www.youtube.com/@St.PaulLutheranChurchDille-n4p

Keep up with church events on our website or Facebook page.

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



Sponsors

Our January Newscaster sponsors are:

Jim and Jeanette Bures

In Honor of Our Family

and

Guilford Wiemers

In support of the Newscaster

We thank you for your sponsorship and support.

*Please note that the sign-up sheet for 2025 sponsorships is up and **SPONSORS ARE NEEDED**. There are sponsorships available for **ALL months**. Reminder: Due to major increases in postage, sponsorships are now \$40/sponsor, two sponsors per issue.*

Please consider sponsoring a Newscaster to continue providing this communication tool to the members of the congregation.



Sunday, January 26, 2025 has been set for the date of St. Paul Lutheran Church's annual meeting.

The meeting will convene following the worship hour. Please come and help choose the leaders and goals of the congregation.

Committee reports will be due by **Sunday, January 19th** in order to be prepared and published in the annual committee reports.

Please place your reports in the Newscaster's church mailbox or email Kendra at kweers10@gmail.com.

Also, all accounts need to be turned in to the Audit Committee as soon as possible for the report to the congregation.

Your TIMELY cooperation will be greatly appreciated!!



St. Paul Lutheran Church Council Minutes for December 18, 2024

Council members present were Allen Roelfs, Doug Schmidt, Scott Pretzer, Pastor Mark, Jeanette Bures and Brian Weers. Gary Bergmeier was absent. God sightings were shared. Allen called the meeting to order. The minutes of the November meeting were read. Allen made the motion to approve the minutes as read and Jeanette seconded. The minutes were approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Allen reported that the report is up to the 14th, so last Sunday's giving is not in. Portico is paid. We're a little behind on the Benevolence goal, so hopefully we meet that. New budget discussed in New Business. Brian moved to accept the report as presented and Scott seconded. Motion passed.

MEMORIAL TREASURER'S REPORT

The balance in the account is currently \$13,102.12. The report was approved.

PASTOR'S REPORT

4 worship services, 1 Thanksgiving service, 3 Confirmation classes, 2 pre-marital sessions, 1 funeral, 3 home communions, 2 Text Studies, 1 Cluster meeting.

VICE CHAIR REPORT

No report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Christian Education – no report

Memorial – no report

Property – since CrossWalk is on break, the double room could be painted now, Allen will get paint, a time will be set to prep room. May have Christmas music playing on Pastor's Bluetooth speaker on Christmas Eve to greet people as they come in.

Communication & Outreach – no report

Family Night – N/A

Food Stand – N/A

Music & Worship – Christmas program has had 3 practices so should be ok there.

OLD BUSINESS

Christmas Eve Service – we will try to be more prepared for candle lighting and offering. We have candy for kids, Allen, Stacy and Aubrey are taking care of it. Pastor Mark will be gone January 16th and will return on January 20th or 21st for his Dad's 100th Birthday, so Annual Meeting will be a week later than usual. Will do in-house (no fill-in pastor) service for Sunday, January 19th.

NEW BUSINESS

Reviewed budget. Church Mutual (Church insurance) got more expensive, so will look into other options if options do exist so we have an answer for the congregation. Discussed Pastor's salary. Brian moved to present the budget as it is now at the Annual Meeting, seconded by Doug. Motion passed. Meeting will be announced an extra time because it is a week later.

The next council meeting was set for January 22nd at 7pm and committees to meet at 6:30pm. Scott moved to adjourn the meeting and Jeanette seconded. The meeting was adjourned and closed with the Lord's Prayer.

- Brian Weers, Council Secretary

TREASURER'S REPORT			
As of 12/14/2024			
<u>Current Balances</u>		<u>Operating Expenses</u>	
General Fund	\$12,856.71	Available Cash	\$12,856.71
Benevolence	\$ 1,516.30	Remaining Bills	
Designations	\$ 3,720.20	Portico	1,856.19 (bill pending)
Total	\$18,093.21	Remaining Bal.	\$11,000.52
<u>Offering Summary</u>			
	October	November	December
Current	\$ 11,362.80	\$ 7,705.20	\$ 7,093.49
Benevolence	\$ 943.20	\$ 427.05	\$ 146.05
Designated Funds	\$ 215.00	\$ 90.00	\$ 2,350.00
Totals	\$ 12,521.00	\$ 8,222.25	\$ 9,589.54
			(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 December 9, 2024 at 1:30pm. Our Bible Study was led by Irene Gibson, December lesson.

In God's garden, what the trees teach us about Advent. Fig trees have a great deal to teach us about what it means to watch, wait and prepare.

Our study texts were from Matthew 21:18-22; Mark 11:12-25; Mark 13:24-37; Luke 13:1-9; Luke 21:25-36; John 1:43-51.

We opened with prayer and Hymn, "The Advent Of Our God", verses 1 & 2. We closed with prayer and Hymn, "Come Thou Long Expected Jesus" and The Lord's Prayer.

Norma called our meeting to order. Minutes were read and approved. Five (5) members answered roll call with two (2) guests. Our offering was \$52.00.

Old Business: ThankOffering service on November 24th. December 1st is Hanging Of The Greens service.

New Business: No Work Day in December.

After Grace, Linda Behrends served refreshments. January Hostess will be Ardith Barber.

Next Eunice Circle Meeting will be January 13, 2025 at 1:30pm, November/December Book. Norma Banahan will lead Bible Study.

~ Irene Gibson, Recorder

The family of Larry Germer would like to thank everyone for the love, kindness, and support we have received after Larry's passing.

Our church family, friends, and community have helped make this sad time much easier to face. Your thoughtfulness has been greatly appreciated.

Blessings to all of you as we begin this new year.

~ Sondra Germer and Family



We pray for our members dealing with illness, injury and loss

We are pleased to report that **Sondra Germer** is recovering well from a recent surgery. We pray she gains strength and confident steps each day.

Our prayers are with **Marcy Barber**. She is at home recovering from a recent illness.

Our prayers of sympathy go out to **Marla Weichel** and her family. Marla's sister, Belva Thompson of Beatrice passed away on December 18. We hope that caring thoughts and words help to bring you comfort.

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*



*In Our
Thoughts
and Prayers*

Christmas Poinsettias

The list below is of those that donated live Poinsettias for display at church, and we thank you for your donation.



Given by Brian, Kendra, Brianna and Joely Weers in Loving Memory of Imogene Cummins

Given by Irene Gibson in Loving Memory of Karl Bunting

Given by Irene Gibson in Loving Memory of Eleanora Bunting

Given by Dean and Beth Roelfs in Honor of God's Love

Given by Brian, Kendra, Brianna and Joely Weers in Loving Memory of Angie Weers

Given by Amy Breeden, Naomi and Jeff Harlan, Rick and Annette Garton and Family
In Loving Memory of Judy and Virgil Garton

Given by Charles and Ardith Barber in Honor of Our Family



Merry Christmas

SING
UNTO THE LORD!



Our volunteer choir gave a musical offering of a beautiful Anthem during the offering at the December 8th Worship service.

Thank you to those that come and share their music gifts. It truly makes our worship special.



On Wednesday, Dec. 4th, fourteen members of the St. Paul confirmation class spent an evening at Gardenside Care Center in Fairbury playing BINGO with residents. Students drew and called numbers, as well as helping residents fill out cards, and even joining in the fun themselves.

Lots of candy was enjoyed and smiles shared. Thanks to everyone who sponsored and participated in the event!



Thank you

Betty wishes to thank all the wonderful carolers that came out to sing those old time Christmas carols for her. My heart was filled with joy to hear them.

Ervin thanks St. Paul's for the prayers and cards.

We Love Our Church!

~ The Hennerbergs



HANGING OF THE GREENS

St. Paul Lutheran had a “Hanging of the Greens” worship service to begin Advent on Sunday, December 1.

The program was modified from one originally written by a Pastor and used with permission of Good Shepherd Lutheran and Zion State Line Lutheran Church that gave the background of all the greens that are used at Christmas and during Advent. The program and worship service was led by the Youth, and many traditional carols were sung that associated with the greens that were featured.

The readings were done by several Youth and Pastor Mark. The first reading by Brennan Schultis was about how Christmas is celebrated in America. The second reading, also by Brennan, was about the different colors and meanings of the paraments we use for worship. while Cale Clifford and Myleigh Weers presented the Advent banner and placed it at the front of the church while the congregation sang, “Soon And Very Soon.” Pastor read about how the performing arts, specifically music, help express Christian doctrine and life. The hymns “Joy To the World” and “Silent Night” were then sung by the congregation.



Our Youth who did the readings

Xavier Zabokrtsky lit the advent candle while Cale and Xavier read about the Advent candles and wreath and their meanings. The congregation sang “This Little Light of Mine.” Scripture was then read by Xavier. A verse from the Hymn, “Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus” was sung. Myleigh then did a reading and the Hymn, “Go Tell It On The Mountain” was sung.

Youth members Cale Clifford, Brennan Schultis, Myleigh Weers, Xavier Zabokrtsky and Confirmation student Griffin Zabokrtsky hung the greens while the congregation sang “Deck The Halls”. Myleigh then did a reading about evergreens because they do not die; through all the seasons they remain ever-green.

Myleigh did a reading about the Christmas Tree in Scripture from 1 Thessalonians. The youth placed ornaments on the tree and then the lights were lit as the congregation sang “O Christmas Tree.”

Cale and Xavier then did readings about the meaning of Christmas tree ornaments, lights and the star. Brennan Schultis then lit the Tree and did a reading about the Wisemen. Pastor Mark then read the Gospel lesson and delivered the message. The offering was received.

The Hanging of the Greens service was a beautiful and meaningful way to begin the Advent season.





Christmas Caroling



Christmas Caroling and Soup Supper Fellowship was held on Sunday, December 8 at 4pm with nice weather.

A few Youth joined the congregation in caroling. We went as one large group starting out of town and went to homes in the Diller and Steele City areas and many places in-between.



We then stayed in the same group in town, and we saw several more congregation members, receiving many goodies along the way.

The Family Night Committee members served soup and carolers provided potluck and finger foods for all to enjoy. Many delicious foods and soups were enjoyed by the large group that came caroling and spread Christmas Cheer.



Please consider joining us next year for a wonderful time of service and fellowship.





THE ABC'S OF CHRISTMAS

Children's Christmas Eve Program

Twenty-five young and enthusiastic cast members brought the Christmas message to a large crowd of guests at the Christmas Eve service. Their program was entitled "The ABC's of Christmas" They shared the story of the nativity by proceeding through the alphabet. Children displayed their letter and it's meaning was shared. Some letter stories were read by a narrator and some were read by the children. Anytime the word "angel" was mentioned, the cast responded by shouting "Hallelujah!" At the mention of "Shepherds," the players shouted "Let's Go So". And, when the cast heard the words "The Wise Men" they pointed up and said "Look, a star!". Each letter's message was enhanced by the projection of an image.

The congregation enjoyed singing a number of Christmas carols that helped to build the story. The performers also shared Away In A Manger with actions. The program included scripture readings from the books of Luke and Matthew and the candles of the advent wreath were illuminated as the corresponding messages of joy, hope, love and peace were presented.

The program was presented by: Victoria Nutsch, Ava Block, Lillian Bergmeier, Elesyn Sasse, Remingtyn Sasse, Timmy Benson, Kashtyn Sasse, Boston Robbins, Alex Roelfs, Lilly Smith, Livia Stein, Paden Nutsch, Kasen Sasse, Knox Sasse, Wyatt Smith, Emilia Mahrts, Tynleigh Sasse, Addison Stein, Mason Barnts, Lakeyn Sasse, RiLynn Sasse, Jocelyn Nippert, Turner Nippert, Lucy Dorn and Aubrey Roelfs. Thanks also to Lily Ebeling, Gary Bergmeier and Josiah Barnts for helping during practices.

The Worship and Music Committee organized the performance. Members include: Ardie Barber, Jeanette Bures, Peg Hemphill, Pastor Mark Liscom and Brian Weers. Beth Roelfs also assisted.



Below are pictures from the Candlelight Service, which followed the Children's Christmas Program. Special music from several members of the church made the service very special. Joely Weers played "It Came Upon A Midnight Clear" on her violin accompanied by Peg Hemphill, and the "Ooh Choir" members with Brian Weers, Joely Weers, Gary Bergmeier and Florian Mahrts, accompanied by Pastor Mark, sang the Mannheim Steamroller version of "Silent Night" as candles were being lit. Once all candles were lit, the congregation sang "Silent Night". A special thank you to Peg Hemphill for accompanying and being organist for the service. Pastor Mark gave a thoughtful message of Christmas before the Candlelight Service. If you would like to watch the service, please see the church's YouTube channel, www.youtube.com/@St.PaulLutheranChurchDille-n4p.

Merry Christmas!



Only two CrossWalk sessions were held in December. The lessons were Joseph-God Tells Joseph to Go With Jesus to Egypt (God Wants Us To Be Safe) and John: Jesus is coming, and John the Baptist Prepares the Way. (God Came To Be With Us) The kids helped with the grocery and coat drives by sorting, counting and boxing all the donated items for delivery. CrossWalk classes will resume on January 8 when they will pick up their studies of the Ministry of Jesus.



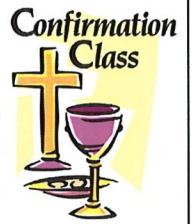
CrossWalk

During the break, renovations and improvements were made to some of the CrossWalk areas. A heartfelt thank you to Allen Roelfs, Doug Schmidt and Brian Weers for the gift of your time and talents to the children.



Youth will have a meeting/activity some time in January, please check the website, bulletin or Facebook page for updates.

Confirmation will begin on Wednesday, January 8th at 7pm and will also have class on January 15th and 29th - No class on January 22nd. Families should have received an information letter with upcoming class schedule and Lenten services. Please check the church calendar for updates.



Our Griffin volleyball team had a great year of competition and won the District final, competing at the state tournament on November 7. Church members on the team were Myleigh Weers and Josie Hennerberg.

The Griffin football team moved to 6-man this year and had a great season. They made it to the second round of State playoffs, where they hosted the #1 team. Congratulations to all players for doing so well! Church members on the varsity team were Xavier Zabokrtsky (All-District second team offense), Peyton Denner, Cale Clifford and Drake Day.



Directed by Garrett Easley, the Junior-Senior High School bands and choir performed at their Christmas concert on December 19 and the Elementary choirs and bands performed on December 12. Wonderful music and art shows put everyone in the Christmas mood.

Church Youth members in the music programs are Brennan Schultis, Joely Weers, Myleigh Weers, Peyton Denner, Cale Clifford, Drake Day, Xavier Zabokrtsky and Ryan Hicok.

**Secondary
Christmas Program
December 19**



**Elementary
Christmas Program
December 12**



Above, Senior High Choir; at Left, Senior High Band; below, Junior High Band



At left and below, Elementary vocal groups and Bands



CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!

Several members of our church family have reached educational milestones and we want to congratulate them. We share our prayers for success and joy in their future.

Skylar Pretzer graduated from the University of Nebraska – Omaha with a Bachelors degree in Kinesiology with honors on December 20th.

Brianna Weers received her Associate of Applied Science Degree in Surgical Technology. Commencement for Southeast Community College – Lincoln College of Health Sciences was December 17. She will be working as a certified surgical technologist at Lincoln Surgical Hospital.

Esdon Weers graduated from Southeast Community College – Beatrice campus with a degree in Agricultural Sciences focusing on Diversified Agriculture Production. He is pursuing a career in livestock transportation and crop production.

Neleigh Weers graduated on December 20 from the Bryan College of Health Sciences with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree with honors. She will be working at Bryan West Hospital in the ICU.

Please check the graduation board in the spring with all our high school and college graduates. Congratulations to all!



ST. PAUL LUTHERAN'S NATIVITY SCENE

The Church's Nativity Scene set was started when Cleo Perkins' husband Clarence Henrichs passed away. Over the years, additional characters were added to remember other family members at their death, folks like Carl Henrichs, Martha DeBoer, Emily Roelfs, Stan Roelfs, and Faye, Edwin and Donnie Schmidt as well as others. It is a joyful gift to share the birth of Jesus in their honor.



Diller again did a wonderful job decorating Veterans Park, the Old Bank and the entire Village for the Holidays. Thank you to all who contributed to this warm and welcoming display.

Fall Clothing Drive Brings Large Donation to People's City Mission



In early December, the Fall clothing drive delivered nine large boxes of coats, jackets, hats, gloves, scarves, socks, boots and accessories to the People's City Mission in Lincoln. The thank you they sent is at the right.

After the CrossWalk kids counted and boxed the items, totals received from our generous donors were: Coats, 19; Jackets/Sweaters, 34; Hats, 31; Pairs of Gloves, 21; Scarves, 19; Pairs of Boots (GREATLY appreciated), 3; Pairs of Socks, 44; and Accessories (includes sweatpants, sweatshirts and sleep pants); 31.

A special **Thank You** goes out to the hand-made donations of hats and scarves! Your efforts are noticed and appreciated! Again, THANK YOU to all donors.



PEOPLE'S CITY MISSION | EST. 1907

Thank you for your kindness towards the homeless and impoverished.

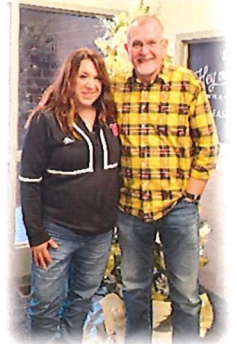
As a partner of the Mission, we want you to know that you are being specifically prayed for this week.

You are a blessing to this community!

Thanks so much for the 9 boxes of much needed clothing. Tell all your friends at church THANK YOU!

Merry Christmas

~ People's City Mission



Happy Birthday

January Birthdays

- 5 Steven Behrends
- 6 Dean Lottman
- 6 Mary Sasse
- 8 Donald Meyer
- 15 Mallory Denner
- 16 Kinley Speth
- 21 Dale Beran

- 21 Douglas Schmidt
- 24 Sondra Germer
- 24 Cody Scheele
- 29 Annette Garton
- 29 Jill Zabokrtsky
- 30 Kim Fugett
- 31 Lisa Gold



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY



January Wedding Anniversaries

January 8, 2011

Mr. & Mrs. Patrick & BriAnne Hemphill

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!

January



January 5 Sunday Worship Service
With Holy Communion
Worship Assistant – Brian Weers
Greeter – Jim Bures
Coffee – Sheri Schultis, Jennifer Warren

January 12 Sunday Worship Service
Epiphany Sunday, Baptism of Our Lord
Worship Assistant – Jamie Schultis
Greeter – Dennis Nippert
Coffee Service – Toni Landenberger,
Stacy Schlichtman

*Baptism
Of our Lord*



January 19 Sunday Worship Service
Annual Reports Due
Worship Assistant – Brian Weers
Greeter – Dean Pretzer
Coffee Service – BethLee Beran, Lina Beran



January 26 Sunday Worship Service
Annual Congregational Meeting
Worship Assistant – Kendra K Weers
Greeter – Charles Barber
Coffee Service – Kendra S Weers, Kalli Roelfs



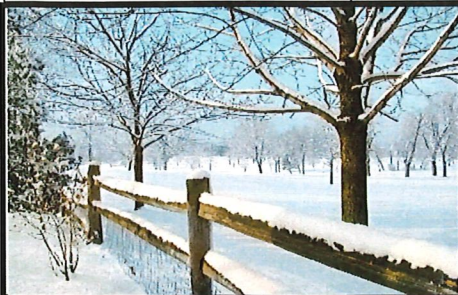
February 2 Sunday Worship Service
With Holy Communion
Worship Assistant – Kendra K Weers
Greeter – Gary Bergmeier
Coffee Service – Kendra K Weers, Deb Nippert

January 2025



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

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;">  <p>Please check the weekly bulletin, Facebook page or website for schedule changes or additions. Some information was not available at press time.</p> </div>			1  NO Confirmation	2	3	4
<i>Red Hymnal</i> 5 Worship Service <i>Holy Communion</i> 9:30 AM	6 <i>Epiphany</i>	7	8 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center;"> CROSS WALK Christian Ed 4:00pm </div> CONFIRMATION 7:00pm	9	10	11
<i>Blue Hymnal</i> 12 Worship Service <i>Epiphany Sunday</i> 9:30 AM <i>Baptism Of our Lord</i> 	13 <i>Eunice Circle</i> 1:30pm	14	15 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center;"> CROSS WALK Christian Ed 4:00pm </div> CONFIRMATION 7:00pm	16	17	18  January 18-25
<i>Red Hymnal</i> 19 Worship Service 9:30 AM <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin-top: 10px;"> ANNUAL REPORTS DUE </div>	20 	21	22 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center;"> CROSS WALK Christian Ed 4:00pm </div> NO Confirmation Committees/ Council Meetings 6:30pm/7pm	23	24	25
	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;"> Pastor Returns </div>			<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;"> Pastor on Vacation through January 21 </div>		
<i>Blue Hymnal</i> 26 Worship Service 9:30 AM <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin-top: 10px;"> ANNUAL MEETING Following Worship </div> NEWSCASTER ITEMS DUE	27	28 <i>Work Day</i> <i>All Day</i>	29 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center;"> CROSS WALK Christian Ed 4:00pm </div> CONFIRMATION 7:00pm	30	31	



St. Paul Lutheran Church
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