DECEMBER
2026

ST. PAUL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Creates and Shares God's Love and Compassion

A Stephen Ministry Congregation

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2026 Theme:
Be Our Vision Lord

Monthly Ministry Highlight
Outside Agencies that Use our Building



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St. Paul Lutheran Church

St. Paul Epistle

Volume 26, Issue 12

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Special points of interest:

- **"In truth, the Small Catechism was never intended to be used to test someone's faith or prove their merit."**
- **"It was a handbook for Christian living."**
- **"I write about this because of a concern I have. It pertains to the 8th commandment, "You shall not bear false witness."**
- **"...we're creating a different kind of community here than in the world around us. A community where we value each other and encourage each other—a foretaste of the Kingdom to come."**



Love your Neighbor as Yourself

For those of a certain age who grew up in Lutheran congregations, memorizing Luther's Small Catechism was a part of confirmation and growing up. I don't know what the practice at St. Paul was 30 or 40 years ago, but in some congregations, confirmation students would even get quizzed on it, having to stand before the church council or the whole congregation. I've heard stories from folks who remember standing in front of the whole congregation, knees shaking, while someone, anyone, shot off a question: "What is Luther's explanation of the first article of the Creed" and hopefully they could recite the answer.



In truth, the Small Catechism was never intended to be used to test someone's faith or prove their merit. Nor was it meant to be some sort of induction rite into the church. According to Timothy Wengert, Luther wrote it as a small practical guide for parents to learn and teach their kids the faith. It was a handbook for Christian living. In this way, it is still particularly valuable and if it's been more than a year since you've picked it up, it's worth reading again. There are copies at the church or you can read it online at https://catechism.augsburgfortress.org.

I write about this because of a concern I have. It pertains to the 8th commandment, "You shall not bear false witness." Luther's explanation to the 8th commandment is

We are to fear and love God, so that we do not tell lies about our neighbors, betray or slander them, or destroy their reputations. Instead we are to come to their defense, speak well of them, and interpret everything they do in the best possible light.

In my opinion, this might be the hardest of all the Commandments to keep . . . and the most important one (or at least the second most important). I believe it cuts to the heart of what it means to "love your neighbor as yourself" (Matthew 22:39) and even more, "love your enemies" (Luke 6:27, 35 - important enough that Jesus says it twice). But, my goodness, it's hard to do. I spend a lot of time driving on the freeway and every time another driver cuts me off, I think some very uncharitable things. But then I remind myself of the 8th and force myself to

Love Your Neighbor as Yourself *cont.*

think, "Perhaps they have kids they're rushing home to see after a stressful day" and I pray they make it home safely.

In my short time, I've come to learn that St. Paul is an awesome congregation, doing a lot of amazing things. From Adventure Club with the kids to the annual Bazaar (to name only two), you have wonderful and dedicated people that give from their heart and soul. I also have heard an increasing amount of complaining and criticizing others. It's not everyone, but it does affect everyone. This kind of talk has a way of damaging and destroying awesome congregations. And it has an impact on us all, wounding the soul of both the speaker and the listener.

I used to be part of a clergy group that every time someone started criticizing someone else or gossiping, someone in the group would say "remember the 8th." It was a quick check on what was being said. To this day, I still say it to myself some time, "remember the 8th, Bryan."

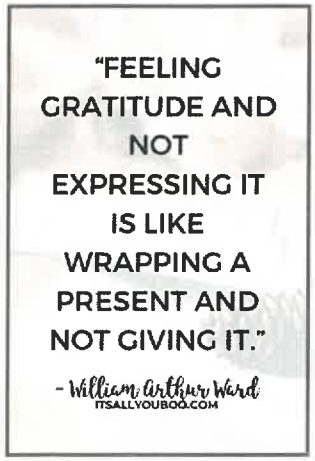
I want to encourage you to "remember the 8th." If someone begins griping or gossiping to you about someone else, maybe say "remember the 8th." Or at least, say it to yourself and allow it to guide how you respond. And if someone says it to you, receive it for what it is: a reminder that we're creating a different kind of community here than in the world around us. A community where we value each other and encourage each other — a foretaste of the Kingdom to come.

Grace & Peace,
Pastor Bryan

Christmas Memorial

If you would like to donate funds to go toward enhancing decorations for the sanctuary at Christmas as a memorial to loved ones or in honor of someone, forms are available for you to fill out in the Narthex and in the church office. The names of the memorials will be included in the Christmas Eve bulletins. The deadline to take names and donations is December 15.





Church Council Members

Jessica O'Neil - President (*Education*)
Andrea Dutcher - Vice-President (*Personnel*)
Donna Kensa - Secretary (*Property*)
Scott Brooks (*Outreach*)
Cathy Kieliszewski (*Worship*)
Danielle McDonald (*Small Group Ministry - Women & Treasurer*)
Scott Parkham (*Property*)
Gary Spragg
Dawn Yakes (*Stewardship*)

Their area of responsibility is in parentheses.

Church Council monthly reports are available in the office.



Advent & Christmas Schedule

WEEKEND WORSHIP SERVICES

Saturday Traditional
5:30 p.m.
Sunday Liturgical
9:00 a.m.
Contemporary
10:30 a.m.

MID-WEEK ADVENT LUNCH AND WORSHIP SERVICES

Wednesdays in Advent, December 2nd, 9th, 16th and 22nd. (***Please note the last luncheon and service is on a Tuesday!***) A small luncheon, 12:00 p.m., followed by worship at 12:30 p.m.

BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITY

During Advent, Jared Bicker



will be holding a Book Study on prayer. So, join us on Wednesdays at 1:00 p.m. on December 2nd, 9th, 16th, and 22nd. (Please note that the last class is on a Tuesday.)



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

December 24th
3:00 p.m. & 5:30 p.m.



CHRISTMAS DAY

December 25th
9:00 a.m.



UNITY HYMN SING SERVICE

December 27th
9:00 a.m.
(No other services this weekend.)



Christmas Decorating

Come join the celebration. We will be decorating the Sanctuary and Multi-Purpose Rooms for the Advent and Christmas Season on Monday, December 7th beginning at 2:00 p.m. Please come and join us! You may contact Donna Kensa, 989-464-5385, if you can help or have any questions.



Christmas Caroling



The Adventure Club will meet on Sunday December 20th from 5:30-7:30 p.m. to go caroling. We will meet at the church and carpool to designated places. Bring your spirit of adventure and hope as you explore and share your faith through fun, exploration, and song



within this intergenerational educational experience. The Adventure Club welcomes everyone from 1-125 years old.

Adam's Advice Hub

St. Paul is making a change to the way we communicate with the installation of a new Ooma phone system! This new system uses a technology called VoIP, which stands for *Voice over Internet Protocol*. Simply put, instead of relying on traditional telephone lines, VoIP uses an internet connection to make and receive phone calls.



So, what does this mean for St. Paul? One of the biggest advantages is greater flexibility and easier communication. The new system allows us to assign individual phone extensions to staff members, making it easier for callers to reach the specific person they need. Rather than having to go through several steps or leave a message with someone else, callers can be directed to the appropriate staff member through their extension.

Another helpful feature is the ability to answer church phone calls without actually being in the office. With Ooma's mobile capabilities, staff can stay connected and receive calls while away from their desk or working from another location. This means being away from the church office doesn't necessarily mean being unavailable by phone.



The system also offers helpful tools such as call transfers, individual voicemail options, and flexible call routing. These features give us more ways to manage incoming calls and help make sure people can connect with the right person.

We are still working through the customization details and learning how to make the system work best for St. Paul. As we continue setting things up, we look forward to taking advantage of the new possibilities this technology provides.

Our goal is simple: to make communication easier, keep us connected, and better serve our congregation and community!

Miss Cheesy's Corner

Can you believe it's already December? And thankfully, we're still enjoying a snow-free start to the season!

Just a reminder that the church office will be closed the week after Christmas.



As Advent begins, I've been thinking about the traditions that make Christmas special for my family. One of our favorite traditions is celebrating Christmas Day with a birthday cake for Jesus and singing "Happy Birthday." We began this tradition when our daughters were young as a reminder that Christ is at the center of Christmas.

We also enjoy making ornaments and other keepsakes each year, many of which are saved in our daughters' hope chests. Baking is another cherished tradition. We make cookies that both my husband and I enjoyed as children, helping us pass along family memories from one generation to the next.



What are some of your favorite Christmas traditions? I'd love to hear from you!



Jackie's Jump Start

"And she will have a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins"- Matthew 1:21. I am so very thankful for Jesus, and the salvation he offers to all of us!

One of the many things I am thinking about, in the church office in December, are volunteers to help with the Christmas Eve services. So, that jumpstart is my jump start this month! We are looking for an assisting minister, lector, acolyte, and ushers at both of the Christmas Eve services, which will be held on Thursday, December 24th at 3:00 and 5:30 p.m. If you are coming to one of these services and would like to serve in any of these ways, please sign up on the sheet in the Narthex on the bulletin board, call the church office, or shoot me a quick email at jackie@stpaul.org.

I hope you all have a blessed Christmas enjoying family, friends, and celebrating Jesus, the hope of the world!!!





Inclement Weather Policy

Just a reminder with the winter season coming up: The Church Council decided that the building will be closed whenever Alpena Public Schools have closed because of inclement weather. Therefore, any St. Paul committee meetings, church activities, choir practice, etc. or the events or activities of community groups who regularly use the building will automatically be canceled. This does not include funerals. If emergency services are recommending "stay off the roads," any church service scheduled for that day will be canceled. This includes mid-week Advent, Lenten, Saturday and Sunday worship. Listen to your local radio/television station or look on Facebook for cancellation of services at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Alpena, Michigan.



Church Office

Please note: The church office will close on Christmas Eve and remain closed until January 4th.



Memorial Donations

Thank you to the following people for their donation in memory of:

Carolynne Wegmeyer
Dell Pimm

Janet Stafford
Carol Basney

Below is a picture of David McNeil's Eagle Scout plaque, which his family donated to Scouting America.



Advent-Preparation



Advent is here! Advent includes the four weeks before Christmas and is a time to prepare for the celebration of Jesus' birth and prepare for his return. This year the season of Advent begins on November 29th. A tradition in many households is to do Advent devotions or an Advent calendar. Set aside some time each day (maybe at meal time) to read a devotion and draw yourself into the spirituality of this season.

ELCA World Hunger has both a devotion and calendar that can be downloaded at ELCA.org. Search for "Advent Resources". Or use this link: https://www.elca.org/how-we-serve/relief-and-development/elca-world-hunger/wh-advent

New Year's Resolution

Thinking ahead to the new year... now is an excellent time to join a new group at St. Paul Lutheran Church. Below is a list of our ongoing programs and ministries:

Children's Church -Sunday 10:30 a.m

Adventure Club - Third Sunday of month, ages1-105

Soul Sisters - Women's group for those 45-70

Forget-Me-Nots - Women's group for those 70 and older meets the first Tuesday of every month

Breakfast Belles - Women's Breakfast Group, meets every Wednesday 7:30 a.m. at JJ's Restaurant

3M Breakfast -Men's Breakfast every Thursday at 7:00 a.m. at JJ's

Band of Brothers - Young Men's Group, ages 18-45

Choir Practice - Every Wednesday at 4:30 p.m.

Prayer Shawl- first Thursday of every month at 10:30

Dinner on a Doorknob - Fourth Tuesday of every month

Gratitude Luncheses- Second Tuesday of every month

Scouting America-Tuesdays 6:30 p.m.

Cub Scouts - Tuesday at 5:30 p.m.

Girl Scouts - Mondays at 6:00 p.m.

Open Line Dance - Thursdays at 1:00

Chair Yoga - Thursdays at 3:15 p.m.

Empowerment Through Accountability (E.T.A.) - Mondays at 5:30 p.m.

AARP Tax Preparations Location - February - March



"God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him."
1 John 4:9





Christmas Bazaar

Thank You! Thank You! For Another Fantastic Christmas Bazaar!!

- To the very talented decorators of the dining room and the entrance way.
- To the thrifty people who shopped and cooked our delicious luncheon.
- To all the giving members of the congregation and non-members that donated the wonderful home-made items, crafts, yummy canned and baked goods.
- To the awesome servers and hostess who did such a great job to make our guests feel totally welcomed.
- To all the men, women and children who worked that day upstairs and downstairs to serve.
- To the people who made the tickets, sold the tickets and put out all of the advertising.
- To the energetic crafters who canned and the hard working crew of the sauerkraut makers.
- To the greeters at the door who smiled and went above and beyond to welcome our guests.
- To the friendly gentlemen who carried out purchases that day.
- To all our very devoted members, neighbors and friends who came to shop, have lunch with us and support our church.
- To all the people who donated the one-of-a-kind items for our very successful Chinese raffle.
- To the AMBITIOUS group who came at the end to help put everything back to normal.
- To the 125+ members who helped support the 2026 Annual Christmas Bazaar – God Bless.

Esther Kindt ♥

1. King Size Quilt - donated by Esther Kindt - won by Theresa Bryant
2. Angel Figurine - donated by Mollie Skiba - won by Sherry McDonald
3. Painted Cardinal Window - donated by SOME CPAs - won by Kathy Cathers
4. Painted Snowman Window—donated by SOME CPAs—won by Pam MacArthur
5. Hardanger Embroidery - made by Linda Kittle and donated by Barb Szczesniak - won by Mary Graham
6. Christmas Tree Skirt - made by Sue Robb- won by Teresa Dubie
7. Afghan - donated by Joanne Huggler - won by Kathy Smith
8. Christmas Afghan – made by Gayle Zbytowski - won by Esther Kindt
9. Adirondach Chairs and table - made by Gordon Zbytowski - won by Maureen Brown
10. Bird House - made by Sam Krey - won by Marie Kowalski
11. Small Dog Basket - donated by Carla Steinke - won by Kyla Avery
12. Quilted Hot Pads - made by Sue Keyes - won by Teresa Dubie
13. Spa Basket - donated by Carla Steinke—won by Kyla Avery
14. Fall Basket - donated by Carla Steinke - won by Amy Sharp
15. Coffee/Tea Basket- donated by Carla Steinke—won by Melodee Marceau
16. Garden Basket - donated by Carla Steinke- won by Nadine Valentine
17. Cat Lovers Basket - donated by Carla Steinke - won by Renee Wood
18. Bean Bag Toss & Ladder Ball Games - donated by Sandra Christopherson - won by Jane Kakawski
19. Christmas Wreath-made by Debbie McNeil-won by Mary Kuhl
20. $200 Walmart Gift Card - donated by Joanne Huggler - won by Marie Kowalski
21. Wooden Planter Box - made by Bob Laity - won by Jeff Dameworth
22. Yogurt Maker - donated by Cheri Fletcher - won by Kevin Stephan
23. Sonic Hedgehog Basket - donated by Carla Steinke - won by Rebecca Kieliszewski
24. Dog Lovers Package - donated by SOME CPAs - won by Hannah LaHaie
25. U of M Backpack Package - donated by Carla Steinke - won by Jared Bicker
26. $100 JJ's Gift Certificate - donated by Donna Kensa- won by Dennis Dziesinski
27. China Doll - donated by Cheri Fletcher -won by Diana Sobeck
28. $50 Walmart Gift Card - donated by Nancy Smithem, in memory of Geraldine Wyman - won by Patti Martinez
29. Family Game Night Basket - donated by Carla Steinke—won by Patti Martinez
30. Taco Night Basket - donated by June Sylvester — won by Arline Kolakowski
31. Baby Basket - donated by Patty Kamyszek- won by Arline Kolakowski
32. Christmas Basket —donated by Carla Steinke—won by Val Urban
33. Kids Table & Chairs—made by Bob Arthur won by Barb Smith
34. Christmas Cooking Basket — donated by Carla Steinke—won by Marty Cantleberry
35. Girl Basket—donated by Carla Steinke—won by Kate Cramer
36. Michigan/Alpena Baskets
37. — donated by St. Paul Girl Scouts — won by Barb Crittenden

The wrap-up meeting will be held on Monday, December 7th at 5:30 p.m.

Happy Birthday/Anniversary!



Anniversaries







Engage Your Enthusiasm

E.Y.E. (Engage Your Enthusiasm) ministry - Everyone has a vision for the ministry at St. Paul. I hope you will share the events of the church through your eyes via a picture. Please appoint an E.Y.E. representative for each event so nothing will be missed and your event will be promoted on our various digital sites (Facebook, Twitter, etc).

Altar Flower Distribution



We are looking for someone who would be willing to stop in the church Monday mornings and see if there are any altar flowers left from the weekend, and if there is to arrange those in a vase and take them to a shut- in to brighten their day. Sandra Christopherson has been doing this for years, but is wanting to pass that on to someone else now. Thank you Sandra for your joyful service. Please call the church office if you are wanting to serve in this special way and brighten up someone's day!



Harvest Dinner Thank You

Harvest dinner 2026 was once again a huge success. The generosity of the St. Paul congregations was overwhelming. From those who donated food items needed for the dinner, to all the wonderful pies/desserts that were made.

A special thank you to our hostess Kathy Burton who kept things organized in the dining room. To Shirley and Don Kowalski who took tickets at the door. We cannot forget the servers and Lori Dziesinski for getting the volunteers who kept the dining room flowing smoothly. The dishwashers and cleanup crew were awesome once again. To Esther Kindt who oversaw the donations of the pies and her helpers who made sure everyone received a piece of pie.

After expenses the Harvest Dinner made a profit of $4200.00. This will be placed in the general fund, and we are asking for trust to donate $800.00 to Toys for Kids in Alpena.

Andrea Dutcher and I cannot express our thanks to all who had a part in the Harvest Dinner.

Donna Kensa



December Service Activity

The December Service Activity is Sanborn Elementary School.

Items needed: Chapstick, non perishable snacks - like single serve beef sticks and crackers, mini or travel size, lotions, hair brushes, boys jogging pants – gray or black sizes 6, 8, 10, 12, 14,

Crayola colored pencils, dry erase color marker sets, reusable water bottles, heavy duty gloves or mittens - larger children sizes made for winter weather (not thin ones), winter scarves in child sizes.



Please leave items on the altar. Thanks you. for your generosity.



Feeding Kids Ministry

We are joining the Feeding Kids Ministry of Resurrection Lutheran Church in supporting the kids in Alpena Community by doing a BIG CEREAL BOX DRIVE! The goal is to have 300 boxes by December 13th. You may drop off your cereal boxes in the labeled box in the Sanctuary by the altar. Thank you for your generosity.



Newsletter

We will have an early deadline for the January Newsletter, due to the holiday. If you would like something in the January newsletter, please have it sent into the church office at jackie@stpaul.org by December 10th. Thank you.

Life Line Screening

Life Line Screening will be offering preventive health screenings on Wednesday, December 9, 2026.

The preventive screenings provided check for stroke risk, abdominal aortic aneurysms, and osteoporosis. St. Paul Lutheran Church is pleased to make these important screenings available by hosting Life Line Screening, the nation's leading provider of preventive health screenings.

Screenings are fast, painless and affordable. Three key tests check for blocked carotid arteries, an irregular heart rhythm called atrial fibrillation, and high blood pressure, which are the three leading risk factors for stroke. Strokes are the third leading cause of death in the U.S., yet, with preventive strategies, 80% of strokes can be prevented.

Other tests check for abdominal aortic aneurysms and hardening of the arteries in the legs. Many events also offer blood tests, including cholesterol, glucose and c-reactive protein screenings. Special pricing for $129.

For more information regarding the screenings or to schedule an appointment, call 1-800-324-9458 or go to https://www.llsa.social/hsba or text the word circle to 216-279-1607. Pre-registration is required.



Kid's Korner

The children had fun on Sunday decorating Thanksgiving bags for Dinner on a door knob. Lots of laughter while sharing their creativity with each other.



"I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made."
Psalm 139:14

Children's Church

During the Contemporary, 10:30 service we have Children's Church. Parents and children are invited to the 10:30 service and after a prayer and a song, the children will go with the Children's Church leaders for Children's Church. This learning opportunity is a time of celebration and fun while allowing parents to worship. The children will meet for about 40 minutes and then return to the Service for the final song. Please pray for this ministry and support this outreach effort with your time and effort and by sharing it with your friends and family.

Breakfast

Scouting America Troop 92 invites you to a Breakfast Fundraiser at St. Paul Lutheran Church on Sunday, December 20, 2026 from 8:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m. Free Will Offering. All you can eat plus take-out option!







Small Group - Women

The Breakfast Belles meet each week at JJ's. All women are invited to join us at JJ's, on Wednesdays at 7:30 a.m.



"The Forget Me Nots" (Women 70 and older) meet on the first Tuesday of the month. So, for December, they will meet December 1st at noon at the 19th Hole Restaurant. Please call Ann at 989-590-2055 to let her know that you will be attending. If you would like to contribute a children's book for the Christmas baskets the Salvation Army are assembling, please bring it with you. We hope you can join us.



"The Soul Sisters" (Women 50-70) will gather at Twin Acres/19th Hole for dinner on December 2nd at 6:00 p.m. Please RSVP to Patti by November 30th to attend, at 989-335-0336. In January, will will run a Book Club through April. More details coming.

Small Group - Men



The Men of St. Paul and friends are still meeting at JJ's at 7:00 a.m. This has been a great time of discussion and celebration of God at work in the church. Come and be part of this gospel expression.

Band of Brothers is currently meeting quarterly. This is for men who are 18-45.We are looking to connect and strengthen the faith of young men through activities and studies that will be a beacon of hope.



BoB (Band of Brothers) will meet soon. Please watch your bulletin and Facebook for details.

Small Group - Singles

(Singles At St. Paul) meet the first Thursday of every month. In November, they will meet on December 3rd at 5:30 p.m. at the 19th Hole. If you have any questions contact Sue Robb at 989-590-7611. We hope you join us.



Fellowship



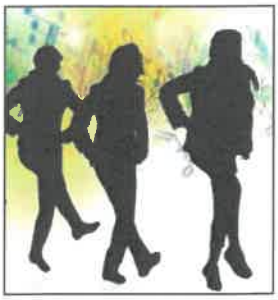
The Fellowship for the Saturday Night 5:30 service meets at 4:30 for drinks and baked goods until 5:20. The Fellowship for the 9:00 Service and the 10:30 service will occur in-between the service time. Come and share your life with the people with whom you worship. This ministry is a



celebration and I ask that you help by leading a fellowship time.

Monthly Highlight - Outside Agencies

The December Ministry Highlights are from a few of the outside agencies that use our building. Enjoy their articles below.



Alpena Line Dancers

The Alpena Line Dancers dance here at St Paul on Thursdays from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. We do this for exercise and camaraderie. Anyone is welcome to join us to learn the dances or just move freely. No judging in this group! It's fun and great exercise!

Sara LaCross

Country Chicks

The Country Chicks are a group of twelve ladies that go to the care homes, and PACE once a month to dance and interact with the people there. The smiles on their faces make what we do so very rewarding.

Barb Parfitt



Girl Scouts

The Girl Scouts have been very busy. This fall we celebrated two of our Scouts who earned the Silver Award. A reception was held for them this fall.

Our troops also participated in Fall Harvest Day for the Museum by hosting Spratt Church. We are looking forward to wrapping presents for the Vietnam Vets and caroling in the nursing homes. Thank you St. Paul Church for hosting us!!



Yoga

Taylor and I are so grateful to be part of the St. Paul community and to share wellness and self-care through our yoga practice.

Join us every Thursday at 3:00 p.m. for Chair Yoga. Our classes typically have 8 to 12 participants and focus on improving flexibility, building bone density, strengthening the pelvic floor, and enhancing mobility and balance. All classes are donation-based so everyone can attend, and we end each session with a quiet, reflective meditation.

We are also excited to announce a new Yoga Recovery Class launching in January, specifically designed for anyone recovering from addiction. Stay tuned for more details!



Namaste,
Bev

"Let no one despise your youth, but set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity."
1 Timothy 4:12



DECEMBER SERVICE SCHEDULE

Date & Service	Assisting Ministers	Lectors	Ushers	Fellowship Volunteer	Children's Church
DECEMBER 5 & 6					
5:30 p.m.			Dennis and Sherry McDonald	Sue Robb	***Children's Church:*** Karen Wekwert, Sue Robb, Amy DeRosia
9:00 a.m.	Shirley Jones	Shirley Jones	Joanne Huggler, Barb Szczesniak, Dennis Dziesinski, Richard Miller	Janice Boboltz	
10:30 a.m.			Karen Wekwert		
DECEMBER 12 & 13					
5:30 p.m.	Iris Arthur	Iris Arthur	Patti Byce & Maryanne Kucharek	Joan Smolinski	***Children's Church:*** Joanne Huggler, Rita Chase, Cathy Kieliszewski
9:00 a.m.	Barb Szczesniak	Barb Szczesniak	Paul Kieliszewski, Roy Wekwert, Owen Werth, Ryan Panknin	Joanne Huggler, Rita Chase	
10:30 a.m.			Janet Freeman		
DECEMBER 19 & 20					
5:30 p.m.	Dawn Yakes	Dawn Yakes	Bruce Anschuetz, Jimmy Nensewitz	Anita Laub	***Children's Church:*** Kathy Burton, Jesse & Jessica O'Neil
9:00 a.m.	Scott Parkham	Danielle McDonald	Jesse and Jessica O'Neil, Cathy Kieliszewski, Kathy Burton	Carla Steinke	
10:30 a.m.			Carla Steinke		
DECEMBER 26 & 27					
5:30 p.m.	No Service – Carols Unity Service – 9:00 a.m. only				
9:00 a.m.	Shirley Jones	Cathy Kieliszewski	Richard Miller, Jeff Ciupka, Ryan Panknin, Tim Moggie	Janice Boboltz	
10:30 a.m.	No Service – Carols Unity Service – 9:00 a.m. only				

We are looking for Assisting Ministers and Lectors, Acolytes and Ushers for our worship services.

If you are interested in serving at either service, please contact the church office at (989) 356-1658.

Altar Care for the month of December – Laurie Stafford, Patti Byce, and Ginger Bohlen.



Community Outreach

...Building Bridges of Hope



Cayden Wekwert recently received a care package through St. Paul's Taste From Home Ministry! These packages are a special way to remind our military members that they are remembered, appreciated, and loved by their church family back home.



Our Children's Church kids had a wonderful time on Sunday creating Thanksgiving crafts during our 10:30 AM Contemporary Worship Service! There's always something special about learning, creating, sharing laughs, and growing in faith together.



Rachael recently received a care package through St. Paul's Taste From Home Ministry! These packages are a special way to remind our military members that they are remembered, appreciated, and loved by their church family back home.



St. Paul Lutheran Church's Trust and Endowment committee recently made a donation to Art in the Loft's "Ready, Set, Create" and "Food as Fuel" programs. These educational programs provide Alpena County 4th grade students hands-on learning in cooking and art.



A big thank-you to Jim and Dennis of St. Paul's Property Committee for replacing a malfunctioning paper towel dispenser with a new one!



The Newsletter Ministry gathered Friday morning to prepare this month's newsletters! Thank you to everyone who volunteers their time to help keep our St. Paul family informed and connected.



A big thank-you to Dick, Jimmy, and Dennis for spending time out at the St. Paul picnic grounds blowing leaves and helping get everything ready for the winter season!





The Forget-Me-Nots enjoyed a wonderful luncheon at JJ's on Tuesday, November 3! It was a great time filled with delicious food, good conversation, and fellowship. Thank you to everyone who joined us!



The 3M Men in Motion for Ministry gathered at JJ's this week for breakfast, fellowship, and discussion about this week's message from Matthew 25:14–30 and Jesus' Parable of the Talents.



The Gratitude Lunches Ministry is a wonderful way to show appreciation for local businesses and the people who help make our community a great place to live and work. *(Above)* In November, they dropped off lunch for Omega Electric.



A special thank-you to Jim and Dennis for helping deliver our new TV! We appreciate their time, hard work, and willingness to lend a hand as we continue making improvements to our church facilities.









We are so grateful to everyone who came out, shopped, enjoyed the festivities, and supported St. Paul's Christmas Bazaar. Your enthusiasm helped make this year's event such a special day!

The Breakfast Belles gathered for another wonderful morning of friendship, conversation, and fellowship! These Wednesday morning get-togethers are a great opportunity to enjoy time together, share some laughs, and strengthen friendships.















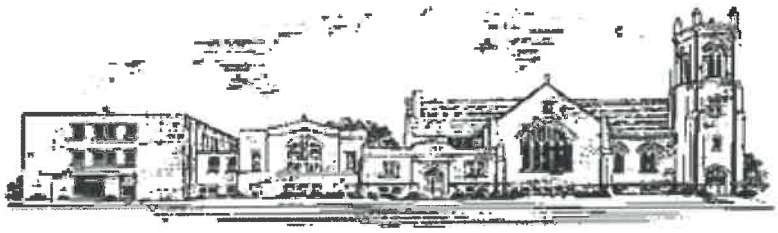




ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH
727 S. SECOND AVENUE
ALPENA, MICHIGAN 49707

RETURN ADDRESS REQUESTED

DECEMBER



ST. PAUL EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH

727 S. SECOND AVE.
ALPENA, MICHIGAN
(OFFICE) (989) 356-1658

SATURDAY EVENING TRADITIONAL WORSHIP AT 5:30 p.m.
SUNDAY LITURGICAL WORSHIP AT 9:00 a.m.
SUNDAY CONTEMPORARY SERVICE AT 10:30 a.m.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: MONDAY - FRIDAY ◊ 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
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