NOVEMBER 2026

THE TOWER TALK

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

12 Park St, Box O,
Treynor, Iowa 51575
Tel: 888-487-3880

All Saints Sunday

We will celebrate All Saints Day on Sunday, November 1. Please note that the names of those who have died from this congregation will be read during worship services.

Holiday Worship

Sunday, November 22nd - Services of Thanksgiving at both services

Sunday, November 29th - One service at 9:30 a.m.

Thursday, December 24th - Christmas Eve Services at 4:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.

Sunday, December 27th - One service at 9:30 a.m.

Giving online?

Did you know it is easy to set up your giving online? There are many options! Scan the QR code below to get setup.

Give Online

Church Council

Jess Pote - President
Jane Goos - Vice President
Derek Floerchinger - Treasurer
Mallory White - Secretary
Chris Radford
Adrienne Karr
Kevin Pingel

The Chili Cookoff is back!!

Sunday, November 22nd, plan to attend our services of Thanksgiving at both services and stay for lunch!

We will have an adult category and a youth (12th grade & younger) category with prizes for the winners in both. Prizes awarded for Best Chili and Best Name & Presentation. If making chili isn't your thing, then we hope you will come & enjoy all the entries and competition. It's always a lot of fun! We will also have chicken noodle soup for those family members who don't like chili as well as cornbread and dessert bars. Instead of a free will offering, we are asking you to bring any of the following items to help make meals in a bag for CB Fridges: bring any of the individual items listed or bring all 4 items for the whole meal kit:
Tuna Casserole meal kit: box of mac and cheese, can of chunk tuna, can of cream of mushroom soup, can of peas
Chicken Alfredo meal kit: box of rotini pasta, jar of alfredo sauce, can of chicken breast, 2 tsp. italian seasoning

CB Fridges

What is CB Fridges? Community Fridges are new for our community with one located at Timothy Lutheran Church on West Broadway in CB with more locations opening in the future. It's an anonymous source of perishable food with 24/7 access at a host location. Anyone can drop off food they might have, but won't use, and would otherwise go into a landfill. Did you know that Americans throw away nearly 60 tons of food every year amounting to 30-40% of the ENTIRE food supply going to waste? And 43% of that food comes right from our household kitchens. The tragedy is we could feed all the homeless and food insecure in our nation with this rate of food disposal. These fridges are filling a gap where the typical food pantry has limited hours and limited access to perishable food. Nancy Ruffcorn from Timothy Lutheran Church in CB will be here on Sunday, Nov. 22nd to share more about CB Fridges.

Cookie Baking

Want to help bake cookies at church on Sat., Dec. 5th for New Visions Christmas Giveaway? This year New Visions would like to give a dozen homemade cookies or treats to every family that attends their Christmas Giveaway. Let Denise Wilson know if you would like to be a part of this special project - all ages are welcome!

Website

We have a new website coming! It was time to have a new landing place for people searching for a church home on the internet. We wanted it to reflect our 5 values: Youth and Young Adult Ministry, Service, Cross+Generational Ministry, Discipleship, and Inclusivity. Countless hours of time and thought have gone into making it reflect our church. It will launch this month!

Confirmation

Congratulations to our confirmation students who affirmed their faith on October 25th. May God bless them as they continue their journey of faith!

Emerson Marie Caruso
Casen James Clemsen
Ava Nicole Miller
Cydney Alayna Radford
Makenna Marie Sengmany
Mathes Dean Vorthmann

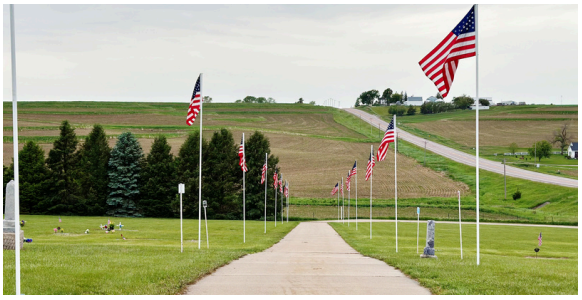
New Member Meeting

Are you interested in officially joining St. Paul Lutheran? Do you wonder what that means? Would you like to learn more about what it means to be a part of a church that is part of the larger denomination called the ELCA or Evangelical Lutheran Church in America? Join Pastor Emily on Sunday, November 1 at 9:15 a.m. for a New Member class. We'll meet for half an hour.

Donations Wanted

Be on the lookout for a box by the church office. We will fill it with items to help people survive the cold winter months ahead. Please bring new or gently used mittens, gloves, socks, coats, scarves or hats anytime through February.

We will also have a basket in the entryway collecting holiday wish list gifts for people in need throughout the Council Bluffs area. Consider donating and helping to make the holiday season a little brighter. Donate by Dec. 5.



St. Paul Cemetery

Flowers and other appropriate decorations are allowed from November 1st until March 1st. Last year an addendum was also added to the rules and regulations of the cemetery:

1. The placement of ashes without a proper container is not allowed.
2. The ash urn needs to be a recoverable type.
3. A vault for the urn is not needed.
4. To dig the grave only our assigned Cemetery grave digger can be used.

Celebrations and Prayers

Advent

Advent will be here soon. Would you or your family be willing to read a passage, and light a candle on the Advent wreath?

Let Pastor Emily or Janine in the office know.

2026 Poinsettia

If you are interested in purchasing a poinsettia in honor or in memory of a loved one, please contact the church office. There will be envelopes in the office and the entry way of the church. These can be placed in the offering plates at worship by December 12th.

Mark your calendars for another opportunity to try something new and get together outside of the church to have discussion. It is a great time!

November 17, 2026 6:30 p.m. Silos

November Mission:
Okoboji Bible Camp

Our November mission recipient is the Ingham Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camp. This camp has been around for almost 100 years, and is dedicated to passing on historic Christian faith and practices to strengthen in youth, families, and churches the wonderful good news of Christ.

The Ingham Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camps' mission is simple: "To know Jesus Christ and make Christ known to all!" There are many events taking place at the camps year round. Check out their website for more information. www.okoboji.org

The Power of Prayer

Prayers:
Prayers: Ed Whitehill, Brenda Riley, Don Simms, Gene Young, Robert Meier II, Dylan Dreyer, Taiya Vorthmann, Teresa Plumb, Cheryl Bain, Zack and Lexi Meiner, Liv Gordon, Ed Calkins, Sharon Herzberg, Nixon Quick, Kristin Richardson, Cyndi Guyer, Marla Bentley, Shawna Hedegaard, Lane Rector, Audrey Gayer, Max Schweer, and Curtis Holste

For the Grieving: The family of Sharon Herzberg

We Pray for You!
Contact: church office at 888-487-3880 or lutheranchurchspl@gmail.com

PRAYER LIST OR PRAYER CHAIN?

Let Janine know if you want to be notified of new prayer requests on the app! Join us in prayer.

Get Connected and join us!

Maintenance

The Maintenance team will meet one week later this month. Join us Thursday, November 12th from 8:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.

Come learn, help and have some fun!

Quilting

Quilting will meet on Tuesday, November 17th from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.

Everyone is welcome.

Wedded Band

On November 22, Wedded Band will meet for a soup supper and election of officers. Patty Walter and Peg Sornson are stepping down this year and we will need volunteers to fill the President and Vice President positions. We also plan to play BINGO or another game. Bring a white elephant for a prize.

BETHANY LUTHERAN HEALTH SERVICE

Memorial Service

Please join us as we remember and honor our beloved residents and tenants who have passed in the past year.

Date & Time:
November 4th, 1:30 p.m.

Location:
Bethany Lutheran Home Chapel
7 Elliott Street, Council Bluffs, IA

If you are able to attend, please RSVP by calling our receptionist at 712-328-9500 with an approximate number of attendees.

We are grateful that you entrusted your loved one to our care, and we grieve their loss alongside you.

BETHANY
Lutheran Health Services

Preschool

ButterBraid orders go until November 6th. Enjoy a treat over the holidays. They will arrive November 18th. Yum!

Treynor Bloodmobile

The Treynor Bloodmobile will be December 3rd from 11:30-5:30 at the Community Center..

Please go online at redcrossblood.org to schedule an appointment or call Jan Young 402-676-9935.

Semi-Annual Meeting

St. Paul Lutheran Church semi- annual meeting was held on Sunday, October 18, at 9:15am. There was a quorum for the meeting to be held so Pastor opened the meeting with a prayer. President Jess called the meeting to order.

President Jess made a motion to voice vote in place of a paper ballot to elect the nominating committee. Katie Schnepel motioned to approve voice vote and Patty Walter seconded. The motion carried.

Mallory read the secretary's report from the annual meeting minutes that was held on March 22, 2026. LaJean Wehring motioned to approve the annual meeting minutes and Patty Walter seconded. The motion carried.

Jess presented the nominating committee (5 members needed).
Jess Pote
Adrienne Karr
Zach Elliott
Chris Radford
Stephanie Melby

The voice vote to approve the nominating committee was approved. Marsha Andersen made a motion to approve the nominating committee and Lynell Vorthman seconded. The motion carried.

Derek presented the treasurer's report. Ken Andersen motioned to approve the treasurer report and Kevin Kinney seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Derek also presented the 2027 proposed budget. Derek stated there have been an increase in costs including both church insurance as well as health insurance. We have seen an increase in daily costs as well. The council has proposed a pay raise for all employees in appreciation for the work that they do to keep the church running smoothly. We are looking to try to reduce some spending into the budget but nothing is solidified yet. Roger Andersen motioned to approve the 2027 proposed budget and Frank Maguire second the motion. The motion carried.

Carrie Radford presented the preschool report. She stated that the preschool budget for 2026-2027 has not been created. There have also been some posting discrepancies that need to be resolved with Luken CPA. Carrie gave an update on the preschool. They are currently serving 24 families, including 4 families that utilize before and after school care from the Treynor School District. They currently have 8 staff members. They have increased the rate on preschool tuition to help offset the operating costs. The Tailgate Fundraiser, Butter Braid Fundraiser, Optimist Can Kennel and donations throughout the year provide additional income. Carol Deitcher motioned to approve the 2027 preschool budget/report and Randy Rath second the motion. The motion carried.

Derek gave an update on the front doors. Austin Rath has started on the front doors. The materials were ordered last week and we should start seeing some changes.

With all business complete, we closed the semi-annual meeting with the Lord's Prayer. Kevin Kinney made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Ed Calkins seconded. The motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Mallory White, Secretary

October Church Council Minutes

St. Paul Lutheran Church council met on Monday, October 12, at 6:30pm. All members were present. President Jess called the meeting to order. Pastor opened the meeting with a devotion from Matthew 22.

Consent items were shared. Financials were reviewed. Pastor shared her September report with the council. Pastor shared her report that fall ministries are in full swing. The church has been busy with confirmation, the Tanzania Auction, and the annual bonfire. Pastor will be attending the Bishop's Fall Theological Conference in Okoboji October 18th and 19th.

On October 25th, we will confirm 6 students. Those students are: Emerson Caruso, Casen Clemsen, Ava Miller, Cydney Radford, Makenna Sengmany, and Mathes Vorthmann. The council made a motion to approve the confirmands. Jane made the motion to approve the 2026 confirmands and Derek seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Pastor shared that she will be gone for the November 29th service. Derek motioned to approve the consent items and Kevin seconded. The motion carried.

New Business items were shared.

The council will be covering the welcome team for the Thanksgiving services on November 22nd. Pastor has been working with Melissa at the Synod to start creating a Vision Team.

Unfinished business items were shared.

The council discussed the finalizing of the budget that will be presented at the semi annual meeting. Janine and Pastor are going to look into the printer lease to see if there are more cost effective options. The council discussed the parsonage updates. Chris will continue to get quotes for the repairs that need to be done. Jane and Adrienne have been working with Lynell to update the tellers sheet and get things reorganized. This is still a work in progress. The council is brainstorming different ways to donate for our Year-End Giving. One organization that was mentioned was HopeNet Ministries which helps people that have recently been released from jail obtain items needed to get back on their feet. The council will continue to brainstorm different organizations for the Year-End giving.

Semi Annual Meeting October 18th at 9:15am.

The next meeting will be held on November 16th at 6:30pm.

With all business complete, Kevin made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Adrienne seconded. The motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Mallory White, secretary

youth

Sunday School

9:15 a.m.-10:15 a.m.
Preschoolers 3 years old - 5th grade meet upstairs in the church building.

Middle School youth are encouraged to help at Sunday School, contact Denise if you have questions.

High school youth are invited to join the Adult Faith Formation gatherings in the Fellowship hall.

There will be no Sunday School on Nov. 29th. Happy Thanksgiving!

Chili Cook-Off on Sunday November 22nd

We need youth to join in the fun competition and some to help set up and serve. Please contact Denise if you can be a part of this fun event!
(more details on front page)

Children led Christmas Worship

We are beginning to practice songs and readings during the SS hour for our **Christmas worship on Dec. 13th** at the 10:30 a.m. service.

If any children/youth would like to sing a solo, sing with a small group, or play an instrument, please contact Denise. We hope your children can be a part of this very special service where they share the story of Jesus' birth!

Okoboji Recharge Weekend - Middle School

Reminder to parents that recharge weekend is November 13-15th. We have students attending and there may be more room at camp, contact Denise if your child is interested. They will enjoy new and old friends, games, awesome worship, great food, free time and more! Friends outside of confirmation are also able to attend.

Junior Lutherans will gather on November 18th

Junior Lutherans is for 2nd thru 6th grade students. Come for some fun games/crafts and Bible learning along with snacks on the 3rd Wednesday of the month in the Youth Center from 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. We hope to see you there!

New Visions Christmas Giveaway on Dec. 12th

Come & serve at New Visions Christmas Giveaway on Saturday, Dec. 12th from 10:30am - 12:30pm. Sign up to face paint (simple choices will be given) with Denise or sign up to help carry and load items to family vehicles. Sign ups are filling up fast, so contact Denise right away to get signed up.

SPY Cell Group on Wednesday Nights

Cell Group is our weekly gathering of high school students for a meal, games, bible discussions, and special projects/activities. We gather in the youth center most nights, and all high school youth are welcome to come from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Wednesday, November 4th: Meal- Clemsen family
Wednesday, November 11th: Meal- Dreyer family
Wednesday, November 18th: Friendsgiving Charcuterie meal, we'll ask that all families help provide a little something - Denise will email in November with more details.
Wednesday, November 25th: No Cell Group- Happy Thanksgiving

Confirmation Schedule

Learning Nights: 6:15 p.m. meal; 6:45 p.m. learning event
Students can be picked up at 8:00 p.m.

Wednesday, November 4th: Meal- Willow's family
Wednesday, November 11th: Meal- Miranda's family
Wednesday, November 18th: Meal- Aubrey's family
Wednesday, November 25th: No Confirmation- Happy Thanksgiving

November

2026

Mission: Okoboji Bible Camp

1 All Saints Sunday 8:00 a.m. Worship 9:00 a.m. Fellowship 9:15 a.m. SS 10:30 a.m. Worship	2	3	4 Confirmation 6:15p.m. Cell Group 7-8:30 p.m.	5 Synod Training 8:00 a.m. 5:00 p.m.	6	7
8 All Saints Sunday 8:00 a.m. Worship 9:00 a.m. Fellowship 9:15 a.m. SS 10:30 a.m. Worship	9	10	11 Confirmation 6:15p.m. Cell Group 7-8:30 p.m.	12 Maintenance 8:30 a.m.	13 MS kids leave for Okoboji Girl Scouts 6-7:30 p.m.	14
15 8:00 a.m. Worship 9:00 a.m. Fellowship 9:15 a.m. SS 10:30 a.m. Worship 11:30 a.m. Council Visioning MS kids back from Okoboji	16 Council 6:30 p.m.	17 Quilters 9:00 a.m. Brewed Theology 6:30 p.m.	18 Jr. Lutherans 5:30 p.m. Confirmation 6:15 p.m. Cell Group 7-8:30 p.m.	19	20	21
22 8:00 a.m. Worship 9:00 a.m. Fellowship 9:15 a.m. SS 10:30 a.m. Worship Chili Cook Off Wedded Band 6:00 p.m.	23	24	25 No Confirmation No Cell Group	26 THANKSGIVING ***Office Closed***	27 ***Office Closed***	28
29 9:00 a.m. Fellowship 9:30 a.m. Worship	30					

"If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free."

Celebrations

November Birthdays

Judy Cryer	November 1
George Miller II	November 2
Bayler Blankenship	November 3
Zach Elliott	November 3
Tracy Flathers	November 6
Alissa Hough	November 6
Melanie Keysor	November 6
Bri Schneider	November 6
Thomas Eitmann	November 8
Dalton Miller	November 8
Madison Blankenship	November 10
Sutton Vorthmann	November 10
Carol Miller	November 11
Cody Flathers	November 13
Savannah Andersen	November 16
Samuel Burmeister	November 16
Dennis Deitchler	November 16
Sid Schaaf	November 16
Lulu LaScala	November 17
Adrienne Karr	November 19
Lane Rector	November 20
Randi Schroeder	November 20
Cora White	November 20
Carrie Schweer	November 21
Darrin White	November 22
Billy Sengmany	November 25
Koe Young	November 25

Happy Birthday!

Thank Yous

Thank you so much for the flowers, cards, and gifts as we were recognized in October for the work we do at church. It is a gift to serve with each of you. *Pastor Emily and Denise*

Thank you to everyone who made the tailgates a success this fall. It was great to have so many people attend. What a terrific way to build community in Treynor! The food was wonderful and everyone's help was appreciated.

Thank you to the 8th grade class and parents for serving the Confirmation Banquet. It was a lovely event with wonderful food. Your help in making this milestone important for our youth is appreciated.

Thank you to those who donated and helped with the Preschool Can Kennel!

Thank you to all that helped, prayed or visited me during my two surgeries. Hip surgery and rehab went relatively smoothly but I had some additional problems to get figured out. Things are doing well. You'll never know how much I appreciate all of you. May God bless you all.

Frank Maguire

2026
Volunteer Schedule for Worship Services

Date	Time	Musicians	Reader	Acolyte	Altar Flowers	Tellers	Welcome
11/1/26	8:00 a.m.	Ruby	Patty Walter	Willow	Kirk and Lynell		Patty Walter
11/1/26	***10:30 a.m.***	**Megan**	**Ashlynn Elliott**	**Taiya**		**Bob Schmidt & B.J. Dreyer**	**The Vorthmanns**
11/8/26	8:00 a.m.	Deb	LaJean	Hudson	Glenrose Meier		Chris & Carrie Radford
11/8/26	***10:30 a.m.***	**Megan**		***Aubrey***		**Kay White & Lynell V.**	
11/15/26	8:00 a.m.	Deb	Shirley	Hadley	Chris & Carrie Radford		Shirley
11/15/26	***10:30 a.m.***	**Megan**	**B.J. Dreyer**	***Reed***		**B.J. Dreyer**	**Laura Andersen & Barb VonWeihe**
11/22/26	8:00 a.m.	Megan	Council	Carly			Council
11/22/26	**10:30 a.m.**	**Megan**	**Council**	**Knox**		**Council**	**Council**
11/29/26	**9:30 a.m.**	**Ruby**	**Easton**	**Eli**			

Old Maintenance Group Report

There were 8 people helped with the scheduled work day – Ken and Coretta Andersen, Doug and LaJean Wehring, Patty Walter, Dave Keay, Dennis White, and Roger Andersen.

- Checked the AED and it is OK
- Checked the oxygen tank and it is OK
- Put water in the floor drains
- Preschool - put water in shower drain
- Preschool – checked water softener salt and added salt
- Cleaned the heat pump library squirrel cage fan unit
- Vacuumed the chairs in the conference room
- Cleaned the sanctuary robo vac removing dirt and hair from brushes
- Cleaned carpet spots in the sanctuary carpet
- Cleaned carpet spots in the fellowship hall carpet
- Changed the time on the automatic door locks to the correct time – it was 7 minutes slow

Other tasks performed since the last Tower Talk update includes:

- Been taking the recycle cardboard, paper, and plastic to the recycle center. There seems to be a lot lately which says we are doing a good job of keeping recyclables out of the landfill.
- People are using the new blue recycle waste baskets – Thanks
- Burned the burn ring on a day with the wind from the SW – several times
- Mowed the lawn at least weekly and trimmed
- Preschool – mowed the grass several times
- String trimmed the weeds growing in the concrete cracks
- Took CFL and LED bulbs that were burned out to the recycle center
- Replaced 2 burned out bulbs in the kitchen
- Pulled about 60 seed pods from the weeds growing on the school fence south of the parking lot
- Planted grass seed behind the marque and watered it 3 times per day for 2 weeks. Some is spouting.
- Ken made great looking napkin holder for the kitchen
- Removed WIW antenna east side of church
- Sprayed the weeds in the concrete cracks
- Sprayed for bugs by each of the doors
- Cleaned the burn ring
- Preschool - fixed chirping smoke alarm
- SPY - sprayed for bugs

The OMG (Old Maintenance Group)

Next Workday:

Thursday Nov 12, 2026. at 8:30 a.m.
All are welcome to come and help!

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN PRESCHOOL

The PINWHEEL
November 2026

Our mission is:
Love the children, teach God's wonders and discover the love of learning.

OCTOBER ACTIVITES: The lovely weather provided abundant outdoor time to enjoy God's beautiful creations. Several staff attended the Iowa AEYC Fall Institute early in the month to learn new skills to utilize in the classroom. It was a wonderful month to learn about weather and seasons in the classroom. The students observed types of weather, learned about the seasons and changes that come with them, and animal behaviors. We are thankful to Sam, the firefighter, who visited the classroom to teach about being safe during a fire. The preschoolers made scarecrows to display at the annual Family Fall Festival, at which they were able to select a pumpkin from a variety of pumpkin shapes and colors. The children dressed in costumes, had pumpkin wheelbarrow races, made crafts and played games. We are also grateful to our preschool families for donating food items for the local food pantry at the fall festival. The Council Bluffs Lion's Club performed Kid Sight Vision Screenings for all of the students. It was a month full of wonderful experiences for all!

ACTIVITIES: The Preschool Staff has spent time creating an outline curriculum area as a focus for each month. The November classroom activities include the following:

Theme: On the Go/God Asks Me to Follow Him
Bible Verses: John 14:6 I am the way and the life…/Mark 12:30 Love the Lord with all your heart…/Matthew 7:14 Small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life…/Mark 4:9 Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear.
Bible Themes: I Will Go to Jesus/I Will Follow Jesus/Road Blocks and Bumpy Paths/Go and Share the Message
Character Trait: Generosity
Letters: Uu, Dd, Hh, Gg, Rr, Ww
Shape: Triangle **Color:** Yellow
Numbers: 5, 6
Nursery Rhymes: Row Your Boat/ Wheels on the Bus
Service Project: Food Pantry Donation
Resource/Field Trip: Pottawattamie County Nature Education/Walk to Zion Food Pantry

If anyone has some means of supporting the November themes, subjects or various concepts, please tell one of the Preschool Governing Board or a Preschool Staff member.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE: If you would like to sponsor a child by assisting with preschool tuition for a week, month or school year, please contact the Preschool (712)796-1177.

Preschool Staff—*Tiffany Anderson, Addison Caruso, Judy Cryer, Lila Eitmann , Carrie Radford, Christine Sutherland, Chloe Webster, Laynee Young*

Governing Board—*Jane Andersen, Helga Calkins, Christina Caruso, Shirley Chambers, Summer Herwig, MaKayla Floerchinger, Deb Schmidt*

Preschool Fundraisers

Butter Braids—Order your Butter Braids now through November 6th. Sign up on the bulletin board in the church entry. Braids will arrive before Thanksgiving.
Treynor Optimist Can Kennel—Thanks to all who donated cans and helped sort for our can kennel collection!
Homecoming Tailgate—Thanks for attending and to those that served—a great success!

Our mission at St. Paul Lutheran Preschool is to love the children, teach God's wonders and discover the love of learning.

TOWER TALK

St. Paul Lutheran Church
Box O 12 Park St
Treynor IA 51575

Address Service Requested

Dated Material
November 1, 2026

Thank you for reading!

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP SCHEDULE	NOVEMBER
	8:00 a.m. Sunday Worship 9:00 a.m. Fellowship 9:15 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship