DECEMBER 2026

THE TOWER TALK

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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



Preparing the Way
A Herstory of Hope

2026 Advent

Week One: Tamar
Theme: Justice, Resilience, and Doing What Is Right

Week Two: Rahab
Theme: Courage, Boldness, and Faith in Action

Week Three: Ruth
Theme: Love, Loyalty, and Faithful Presence

Week Four: Bathsheba
Theme: Survival, Grief, Wisdom, and God's Power to Bring Life from Death

Week Five: Mary
Theme: Bold Obedience, Justice, and Incarnation

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



Adventfest

We hope to see you at Adventfest! On December 2nd at 6:15 p.m. kick off this holiday season. Please bring a dish to share for the potluck. This year, to assist with our theme, we are asking you to bring a traditional food for your family. This can be a heritage item such as kringla for those who are Norwegian or it could be something that a special family member always made. If you have one, bring a picture of that person. As we eat, we will share stories of the dishes and people. Join together to eat, decorate, worship, and prepare for the Advent season.



Christmas Worship

Join us in celebrating Christ's birth. We will worship at 4:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. on Christmas Eve. There will not be a service on Christmas Day. We will have one service on December 27th at 9:30 a.m.

Our kids will lead worship on Sunday, December 13th at 10:30 a.m. Come and hear the children share the story of Jesus' birth!



The Treynor Bloodmobile will be December 3rd from 11:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

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

It is at the Community Center and St. Paul will provide sandwiches and treats.

Winter Weather ❄

If winter weather is ever an issue for Sunday worship, this information will be announced on St. Paul's Facebook page, text messages and email. If you are not subscribed to receive email, contact the church office. If the weather is questionable, please check these resources before leaving home!

Thank you to all who help with snow and ice removal for big & small weather issues! They are always looking for extra help, so any youth or adults who can ever help, it would be greatly appreciated!

Celebrations and Prayers







December Mission:

Lydia House

Our Mission: Lydia's House works in faith to end domestic violence by being a place of healing and a voice of hope for abused women and their children.

Poinsettias

If you are interested in purchasing a poinsettia in honor or in memory of a loved one, please contact the church office. There are envelopes in the office and the entry way of the church. These can be placed in the offering plates at worship by December 12th. The cost is $10.

Sensory Station

Have you seen our new sensory station? It's located on the bookshelf in the acolyte room. This space offers items to assist people in worship. You'll find various fidgets, headphones, writing pads, etc. These items are part of our focus on making worship a welcoming space to everyone.



The Power of Prayer

Prayers:
Prayers: Ed Whitehill, Brenda Riley, Don Simms, Gene Young, Robert Meier II, Taiya Vorthmann, Teresa Plumb, Cheryl Bain, Zack and Lexi Meiner, Liv Gordon, Ed Calkins, Nixon Quick, Kristin Richardson, Cyndi Guyer, Marla Bentley, Shawna Hedegaard, Lane Rector, Audrey Gayer, Max Schweer, and Curtis Holste, Ken Andersen, Auston Schmidt, Bruce Bentley, Vicki Goos, Natasha Andersen and new baby girl, Kennedy

Grieving: the family of Lois Chambers

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

PRAYER LIST OR PRAYER CHAIN?

The prayer chain is activated when a situation arises in which immediate prayer support is requested. A request made to the prayer chain is kept confidential. Individuals may be on both the prayer chain and the prayer list if desired.

Get Connected and join us!



Maintenance

The Maintenance team will meet on Thursday, December 3rd from 8:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall.

Come learn, help and have some fun!



Quilting

Quilting will meet on Tuesday, December 15th from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall.

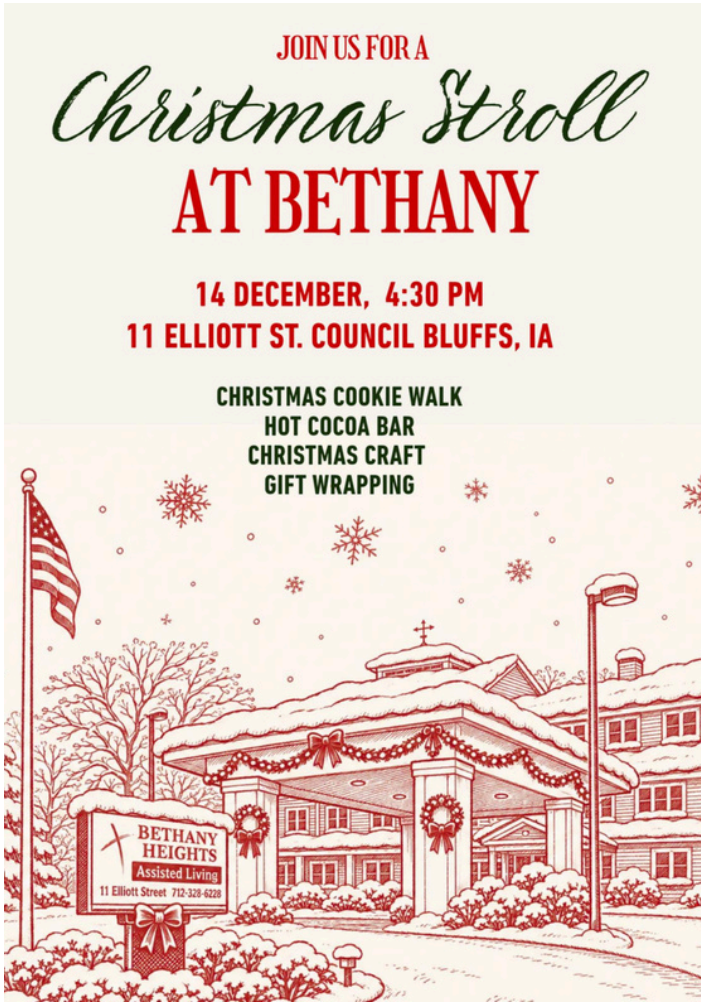
Everyone is welcome to join us.



Wedded Band

Attention Wedded Band!

We will not meet in December. Mark your calendars for the Spaghetti dinner. It will be January 24th!





Hat and Mitten Tree

The hat and mitten Christmas tree will be up soon in the fellowship hall. Please donate new hats and gloves for those in need and place them on or under the tree.

November Church Council Minutes

St. Paul Lutheran Church council met on Monday, November 16th, at 6:30pm. All members were present.

President Jess called the meeting to order. Pastor opened the meeting with a devotion from Matthew 25.

Consent items were shared. Financials were reviewed.The council discussed that there have been enough offerings to cover the new doors. The building and the cherish our church accounts have the funds to cover this project. The general offerings are down significantly compared to the past few years. Pastor shared her November report with the council. Pastor has been prepping for Advent and Lent. She has been working with people at St. Olaf College and various colleagues created a Lenten theme called, The Pace of Love. It has been decided to cancel the chili cook off for November 22nd due to low participation and knowing it is a busy time of year. There are hopes to reschedule it for a later date. Pastor plans to use her last week of vacation during Thanksgiving.

The council also reviewed the Maintenance Team Report. There is such a long list of things that the maintenance team does to keep the church and parsonage up and running. Everyone is beyond thankful for all that is done by their team members. The council then reviewed the companion congregation report. They gave an update with the soup suppers as well as the Tanzanian auction. Chris motioned to approve the consent items and Kevin seconded. The motion carried.

New Business items were shared.
The council discussed options with our current copy machines. The council will look to see if it is best to continue to lease the printers or if it would be better for the church to purchase a used copier due to the leasing costs. Jess will be reaching out to get a meeting date set in early January for the Nominating team.

Unfinished business items were shared.
The council will be putting together a Vision Team to start brainstorming different ideas for the church. It has been brought up that this would be a good time to discuss how we can get more kids to attend Sunday school. Chris will continue to get quotes for the repairs that need to be done. The council looked at one quote but agreed it would still be best to get a few more quotes.

Jane and Adrienne will be meeting with Janine and BJ to go over updates to help streamline the tellers. The council is still waiting to hear back from the synod in regards to St. Paul's Constitution before presenting to the congregation. The council will continue to brainstorm different organizations for the Year-End giving.

Upcoming meeting dates and times:
December 14th 6:30pm
January 21st 6:30pm
February 17th 6:00pm
March 15th 6:30pm
April 4th 9:15am Annual Meeting
April 19th 6:30pm

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

Dec. 6th- Christmas story, craft and practice for Christmas Worship
Dec. 13th- Last practice for Christmas worship led at 10:30 service
Dec. 20 & 27th- No SS- Have a blessed Christmas and break!

Children-led Christmas Worship

We are practicing 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!

Junior Lutherans will gather on December 16th

Junior Lutherans is for 2nd thru 6th grade students. Come for 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!

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, December 2nd: AdventFest Potluck Event at 6:15pm in the fellowship hall for the whole family
Wednesday, December 9th: Meal - Nielsen family
Wednesday, December 16th: Meal - Pancakes & Pajamas Christmas fun night
Wednesday, December 23rd & 30th: No Cell Group - Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

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, December 2nd AdventFest Potluck Event at 6:15pm in the fellowship hall for the whole family
Wednesday, December 9th: Meal - Tillie & Harper's family
Wednesday, December 16th: Meal - Reed's family
Wednesday, December 23rd and 3oth : No Cell Group - Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

December

2026

Mission: Lydia House

		1	2 Adventfest 6:15 p.m.	3 Maintenance 8:30 a.m.	4 Girl Scouts	5 F-Hall Reserved 9:00 a.m. Cookie Baking Crew
6 8:00 a.m. Worship 9:00 a.m. Fellowship 9:15 a.m. SS 10:30 a.m. Worship F-Hall Reserved 1:00 p.m. 4-H	7	8	9 Confirmation 6:15p.m. Cell Group 7-8:30 p.m.	10	11 F-Hall Reserved 5:00 p.m.	12 F-Hall Reserved
13 8:00 a.m. Worship 9:00 a.m. Fellowship 9:15 a.m. SS 10:30a.m. Worship/ Kids Lead	14 Council 6:30 p.m.	15 Quilters 9:00 a.m. Preschool Christmas Program 5:00-7:30 p.m.	16 Confirmation 6:15 p.m. Cell Group 7-8:30 p.m. Jr. Lutheran/WOW 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.	17 Preschool-Fellowship 10:45 a.m. Preschool Christmas Program snow date	18 Girl Scouts	19
20 8:00 a.m. Worship 9:00 a.m. Fellowship 10:30 a.m. Worship 4-H	21	22	23 No Confirmation No Cell Group	24 4:30 p.m. Worship 6:30 p.m.. Worship	25 MERRY Christmas ***Office Closed***	26
27 9:30 a.m. Worship	28	29	30 No Confirmation No Cell Group			

"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

December Birthdays

Roger Schmidt	December 1	Emma Flathers	December 11	Kathy Torneten	December 28
Taryn White	December 2	Brantley Anderson	December 11	Shirley Chambers	December 29
Edward Calkins	December 3	Peggy Sukup	December 12	Jennifer Eitmann	December 29
Alisha Rath	December 3	Patty Walter	December 12	Jamison Keysor	December 29
Cohen Wiese	December 3	Lane Eitmann	December 17	Susie Finch	December 29
Brenda Miller	December 3	Molly Sengmany	December 18	Rod Henderson	December 30
Breanne Chambers	December 4	Roger Andersen	December 19	Brad Von Weihe	December 30
Bennett Chambers	December 6	Sydney Burmeister	December 19		
Kent Floerchinger	December 6	Jim Karr	December 19		
Brandon Vorthmann	December 6	Brooke Flathers	December 20		
Bruce Bentley	December 7	Maggie Hough	December 21		
Jeremy Clausen	December 7	Shelly Kinney	December 22		
Lori Huddle	December 7	Summer Herwig	December 22		
Eleanor Temeyer	December 7	Carl Swalwell	December 24		
Levi Young	December 7	Tom Duysen	December 26		
BJ Dreyer	December 10	Justin Andersen	December 27		
Brock Vandevanter	December 10				

Happy Birthday!

Thank You

Thank you for everyone who volunteered to help make the synod boundaries training event held at our church a wonderful success.

Thank you so much for everyone who has taken their time to serve in worship this year. We could not do everything we do without your help.

Thank you to everyone who donated to the New Visions Christmas Give Away! We have had lots of donations this year and full baskets!

Thank you to all who donated meal kit items for CB Fridges. Many people will be blessed by this service in our community.





December

2026
Volunteer Schedule
for Worship Services

Date	Time	Musicians	Reader	Acolyte	Altar Flowers	Tellers	Welcome Team
12/6/26	8:00 a.m.	Megan	Patty	Emmerson	Poinsettia		Patty
12/6/26	***10:30 a.m.***	***Megan***	***Ashlyn Elliott***	***Willow***		***Ron and Jolene Lammert***	***Kristi K.***
12/13/26	8:00 a.m.	Ruby	Shirley	Sophia	Poinsettia		Shirley
12/13/26	**10:30 a.m.**	**Megan**	***Youth***	***Harper***		***Deb Schmidt, B.J. Dreyer***	***Youth***
12/20/26	8:00 a.m.	Deb	LaJean Wehring	Taiya	Poinsettia		Doug and LaJean Wehring
12/20/26	**10:30 a.m.**	**Deb**	***Shelly Kinney***	***Tillie***		***Kay White, Jane Goos***	***Vorthmanns***
12/24/26	4:30 p.m.	Ruby	Berni Bichel	Miranda, Hudson, Carly, Knox	Poinsettia		Jess, Jane Adrienne, Derek, and Kevin and Mallory
12/24/26	***6:30 p.m.***	***Megan***	***Hazel***	***Emmerson***			***The Radfords***
12/27/26	9:30 a.m.	Ruby	Sheryl Henderson	Hadley	Poinsettia	Bob Schmidt, B.J. Dreyer	Jess Pote

4:30 Christmas Eve Helpers

Ann Vorthmann
Roger Vorthmann
Jimmy Rector
Dawn Rector
Katie Schnepel
Jeff Schnepel
Rich Andersen
Jane Andersen

6:30 Christmas Eve Helpers

Tiffany Anderson
Patty Walter
Aubrey

Old Maintenance Group Report

There were 10 people helped with the scheduled work day – Ken and Coretta Andersen, Doug and LaJean Wehring, Mike and Peggy Sukup, Patty Walter, Dave Keay, Dennis White, and Roger Andersen.

- Checked the AED and it is OK but we are looking into a replacement because this is 22 years old
- 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 it is OK
- Preschool – rain barrel put away for the winter
- Preschool – hung the lattice work panels on the fence because they were bending from laying at an angle
- Cleaned the sanctuary robo vac (Bob) removing dirt and hair from brushes. Replaced the corner brushes.
- Checked the exit lights for burned out bulb
- Checked the emergency lights and at least two batteries need to be replaced. Ordered batteries.
- Checked all of the outside A/C unit fins for dirt but they were all clean
- Painted part of the upstairs bathroom door frame
- Dusted window frames in the fellowship area
- Dusted the tables in the fellowship area
- Cleaned the bugs out of the upstairs lights
- Drained the hoses and put them in the shed for the winter
- Put insulating covers over the outside water spigots
- Replaced broke plastic pull rods on two sets of blinds with newly made aluminum ones
- De-limed the coffee maker

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 church and preschool lawn maybe for the last time this year
- Mulched the leaves several time with the ZRT
- Oiled the recirculating pump
- Turned on the air compressor that runs the boiler thermostats
- Ran vinegar through tankless water heater for 45 minutes minimum
- Put the used vinegar in floor drains and sink drains and let sit for some time
- Cleaned the inside of both of the boiler before turning them on for the winter
- Dave Keay purchased a grass chute for the new ZRT mower to pick up leaves but it did not fit
- Reset all the clocks and the door lock timer after DST changed back
- Oiled the church entry furnace fan and changed the filter (didn't need it)
- Replaced a dead battery in the church entry emergency exit light
- Replaced a dead battery in the emergency light between the bathrooms but it made no difference. Unit is bad.

Next Workday:

Thursday, December 3rd at 8:30 a.m.
All are welcome to come and help!

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN PRESCHOOL

The PINWHEEL
December 2026

NOVEMBER ACTIVITES: Being thankful for God's many blessings is what the students learned about this month! The changing season and beautiful weather allowed for lots of outdoor time-- and playing in the leaves! Students took a walking field trip practicing pushing and pulling a wagon to the local food pantry as they delivered the items collected at the Family Fall Festival. The students learned more about giving to others and being thankful for what we have. Mrs. Sutherland met with parents regarding their child's growth at fall conferences Migration and Animal Habitats were the topics for nature education this month. The students enjoying learning about transportation throughout the month with songs, stories and activities. Various activities throughout the month enhanced the focus on generosity. The students are practicing songs and finger plays as they prepare for their upcoming Christmas Program.

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

Theme: Nativity/God Asks Me to Serve Others/Dinoland
Bible Verses: For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. Luke 12:34
Do not store up for yourself treasures on earth…but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven. Matthew 6:19-20
Bible Story: Nativity
Character Trait: Fairness
Concept: Nativity
Color: Purple **Shape**: Oval
Numbers: 7 & 8 **Letters:** Bb, Kk, Xx, Vv, Yy, Jj
Service Project: Celebration Kits for those in need
Resource/ Field Trip: Nature Education- Animals in Winter / Practice in Church Sanctuary
Special Event: Christmas Program

If anyone has some means of supporting the December 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 (796-1177). Any amount would be appreciated.

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*

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

*****THANK YOU*****

Sincere thanks to all of the support for the Preschool! Thanks also to those who ordered and helped sort Butter Braids!

TOWER TALK

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

Address Service Requested

Dated Material
December 1, 2026

Thank you for reading!

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP SCHEDULE	DECEMBER
Christmas Eve 4:30 p.m. Candlelight Service 6:30 p.m. Candlelight Service	8:00 a.m. Sunday Worship 9:00 a.m. Fellowship 9:15 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship