

THE TOWER TALK

St. Paul Lutheran Church

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**January
2024**

Thank you to everyone who helped make our Christmas services so special. Whether you helped decorate, set up the outside nativity, prepared communion, served as welcome team, reader, or acolyte, you played a very important role. Thank you to everyone who helped with music and offered special music. You are appreciated!

Prayer List Update:

With the new year, it's always good to review and update our published prayer list. If someone has previously been on the list, and you'd still like prayers for them, please fill out a prayer card found in the pews. You can also send an email to Pastor Emily or Jonelle. We'll make sure they're added.



Quilting

Quilting will be on Tuesday, January 23rd from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Everyone is welcome to join us.

Adult Bible Study in January

Join Pastor Emily for Bible study in January. We're using a study called "Old and New." Using the book of Genesis, we'll look at some possibly familiar stories and seek to gain different insights. Join us at 9:15 a.m.

Come to one session or all of them.

The schedule is as follows:

January 7: Leaving Eden-Genesis 3

January 14: The Breath of God-Genesis 4:1-16

January 21: The Water of Life-Genesis 6-9

January 28: Trusting God's Provision-Genesis 12:1-9

February 4: See and Be Seen-Genesis 16, 21:8-21

February 11: Jacob's Blessing-Genesis 32:22-32

February 18: No Class

February 25: Dreams for Healing-Genesis 37 and 45

STEWARDSHIP FOCUS:

LUTHERAN SERVICES IN IOWA

Our Mission: Lutheran Services in Iowa responds to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service.

"Knowing Jesus, Telling about Jesus, Loving as Jesus Loves"



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from Bethany Lutheran Health Services! The Home and the Heights are busy decorating the halls and spaces. Many Christmas craft projects like making Gingerbread houses and ornaments with the residents bring joy. Churches and community groups have been in to provide musical performances for the residents at both buildings. Michael and Angel are out purchasing Christmas presents for each of our residents and community members. The General Store will be held on December 14th and 15th in the Chapel at the Home. Michael and Angel are preparing the annual Christmas Parties and the Dietary staff will cook and serve a delicious Holiday Meal. Cece is planning Christmas Eve Services at the Heights and Home.

Wishing you a beautiful celebration
of Christ's birthday.

Cece Mickells, Spiritual Advisor

Wedded Band News!

Wedded band met on November 26th and elected new officers. Patty Walter is President, Peg Sornson is now Vice President, Doug Wehring remains Treasurer and Helga Calkins is Secretary. The next meeting will be February 25th at 6:00 p.m., and the program is TBD.



Spaghetti Dinner

Wedded Band will be serving their annual Spaghetti Dinner on Sunday, January 28, 2024! We will start serving immediately after the 10:30 a.m. service, and take-out meals will be available! Please add this to your calendar and plan to attend.

December Church Council Minutes

St. Paul Lutheran Church council met on Monday, December 11th, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. All members, except Kristi, were present.

Pastor Emily opened the meeting with a reading and reflection from our devotional, 'Ordinary Blessings.'

President Tracy called the meeting to order.

Consent items were shared. Financials were shared by Dave and reviewed by the council. Council reviewed our monthly giving to local missions. Discussion was held around honoring the amount originally dedicated to organizations. Because funds are available, an additional \$500 will be given in December to each of the monthly organizations, and an additional \$600 will go to New Visions. Carrie made a motion to approve this and Amber seconded. The motion carried.

In 2024, monthly giving will total \$1,000 to the specified organization and New Visions monthly giving will total \$250. Tracy made a motion to approve this and Amber seconded. The motion carried.

Pastor Emily updated the council on her recent work this month at St. Paul. Adventfest was a huge success with over 80 members participating. A new Bible study will start in the new year discussing stories of the Old Testament. Pastor is also preparing to meet with the congregation for vision planning.

Amber made a motion to approve consent items and Kevin seconded. The motion carried.

Adrienne shared an update from the remodeling project committee. Meetings are underway and planning has begun. Council greatly appreciates the hard work this committee is dedicating to the upkeep of our church.

The annual meeting will be Sunday, March 17th between services. Please plan on attending.

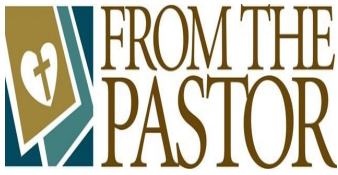
The January council meeting will be Thursday, January 11th at 6:00 p.m.

Kevin shared a brief scholarship update. The team is meeting soon and will provide more information in January.

Council would like to extend their vision planning from November to the congregation. We invite you to attend one session to participate in creating a vision for the future. The meetings will be: January 31st at 7:00 p.m., February 4th after church with a light lunch, and February 8th at 7:00 p.m. Watch for more information to come. With all business complete, Carrie made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Kevin seconded. The motion passed.

The council closed with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Amber Schaaf, secretary



Pastor's January Tower Talk Article

One of my favorite Bible passages comes from Jeremiah 31:31-34 which says, "The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another or say to each other, "Know the Lord," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord, for I will forgive their iniquity and remember their sin no more." I like this passage because it reminds me that God is continually working to draw us to God's self. God is about the business of renewing the promise made long ago with God's people.

In the book of Genesis, God chose to make Abraham the father of many generations. These people would be God's people. As we might remember, God's people constantly turn away, go their own ways, and then cry out for help. God knows what happens with the people and renews the covenant. It may not look like the old one, but it's still a promise to love, and care for, these wayward people. When God sent Jesus, it was yet, another way to renew the promises to work in our lives. God is close enough to assess the situation and act in new ways so that all might know God's love.

As we begin a new year, many people take time to evaluate their lives. How did last year go? What needs to change this year? Some people make goals? Others decide to let some things go. It can be a beneficial process for some people that helps to guide them in the future.

It's also important for congregations to do this work. In November, the council met for an afternoon retreat during which we spent time talking about what church looks like now, what dreams we have, values that are important, and needs we see in the community. We had great discussions and felt challenged to pay attention to how God might be calling St. Paul now.

In this new year, the council wants to invite you into a process of discernment. We want to open up the discussion the council began and include the congregation. As we do this work, we pray that values, ideas, and a sense of mission for the future might arise. We don't plan to have a 5-year plan laid out by January, but we hope to listen, pray, and wonder together.

Would you make plans to join the council at one of the following sessions? We will meet for an hour.

January 31: 7:00 p.m. Meet in the sanctuary. This would be a great session for those with confirmation- aged youth to attend. Bring kids at church and come upstairs.

February 4: 11:30 a.m. Stick around after church. We'll have a light lunch and conversations.

February 8: 7:00 p.m. Meet at Silo's for informal conversation and beverages of your choice. You buy the beverage.

Your input and ideas are greatly desired and valuable as we look to the future and seek to serve God's people for years to come.



Sunday School
9:15 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.

Preschoolers 3 years old through 5th grade meet upstairs in the church building.

6th - 8th grade students meet in the conference room across from the church office.

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

Junior Lutherans and
WOW - Wednesday,
January 17th:

Junior Lutherans is for 2nd through 4th grade students, and WOW (Walk one Way), is for 5th and 6th grade students. We hope you will come for some fun learning about God with Bible stories and games!

Thank you for your
Christmas donations

We delivered 49 gift items and 3 gift cards to New Visions for their Christmas giveaway to teens in southwest Iowa. Thank you for blessing others!

Pizza Night for
Young Adults

We invite our college students, and those in the workforce, to come to the youth center on

Wednesday, January 3rd at 7:00 p.m. to hang out together, catch up, and have some pizza! Please RSVP to Denise at (402)680-8172 by Tuesday, January 2nd.

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. All high school youth are welcome to come from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Wednesday, January 3rd: *No Cell Group - Happy New Year!!*

Wednesday, January 10th: 7:00 p.m. gather in the youth center (meal provided by Dreyer family)

Wednesday, January 17th: 7:00 p.m. gather in the youth center

Wednesday, January 24th: 7:00 p.m. gather in the youth center (special project night - pizza provided)

Wednesday, January 31st: 7:00 p.m. gather in the youth center (meal provided by Karr family)

High School Youth
Mark your Calendars!

WinterJam is coming to Council Bluffs ***Thursday night, February 1st!*** This is an awesome concert and worship time to go and see lots of great Christian artists for only \$15 cash at the door! More details to come on riding and/or meeting there.

Sunday School

Sunday, December 31st: *No Sunday School - Happy New Year!*

Sunday, January 7th, 14th, 21st & 28th; 9:15 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.:
Preschool through 5th grade gather in the upstairs classrooms

6th - 8th grade gather in the downstairs room across the hall from the church office. If you can help teach, please sign up on the downstairs bulletin board.

Confirmation Schedule

Wednesday, January 3rd: No Confirmation - Happy New Year!

Wednesday, January 10th: 6:15 p.m. meal; 6:45 p.m. learning event: students can be picked up at 8:00 p.m. (meal provided by Braylyn's family)

Wednesday, January 17th: 6:15 p.m. meal; 6:45 p.m. learning event: students can be picked up at 8:00 p.m. (meal provided by Grace's family)

Wednesday, January 24th: 6:15 p.m. meal; 6:45 p.m. learning event: students can be picked up at 8:00 p.m. (meal provided by Addison C's family)

Wednesday, January 31st: 6:15 p.m. meal; 6:45 p.m. learning event: students can be picked up at 8:00 p.m. (meal provided by Addi P's family)



Jack Vorthmann	January 2
Joslyn Chambers	January 3
Jimmy Rector	January 3
Emerson Caruso	January 4
Terry Clausen	January 4
Evan Smith	January 4
Kiera Vorthmann	January 4
Kristi Kenny	January 5
Brayden Dyke	January 5
Ashtyn Miller	January 6
Marsha Andersen	January 7
Helga Calkins	January 7
Tracy Gillespie	January 7
Vickie Floerchinger	January 8

Aaron Vorthmann	January 12
John Sealock	January 19
Dennis White	January 19
Berni Bichel	January 20
Denise Keay	January 23
Klairissa Garrison	January 23
Rowan Melby	January 25
Corey Wasenius	January 26
Bobby Meier, Jr	January 26
Susan Caruso	January 28
Livia Schroeder	January 29
Henry Rath	January 31

Winter Weather Issues

If winter weather is ever an issue for Sunday worship, this information will be announced on local TV stations, KMA, and St. Paul's Facebook page. 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!

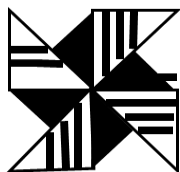


The staff appreciates all the gifts and goodies we've received over the last few weeks. It's a gift to serve this congregation.

Do you have a 4th grade student?

If so, plan to meet with Pastor Emily, Denise, Lynell, and Katie on Sunday, January 21st following the 10:30 a.m. service for a communion milestone class. Students and parents are asked to attend. We'll celebrate the milestone in church on February 4th. If your child didn't attend the 4th grade class previously, and would like to, please talk with Pastor Emily.

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN PRESCHOOL



The PINWHEEL January 2024

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

DECEMBER ACTIVITIES: The emphasis in December was the nativity story. The classrooms had various interest areas to remind them about the birth of Christ. Nativity puzzles, art, dress up clothes, characters, toys, books, dolls and hay in the sensory table were among the many resources pointing to Jesus' birth. The students used their fine motor skills cutting and coloring Christmas ornaments.

The "ABC's of Christmas" was how the children shared the story and the celebration of Jesus' birth at their Christmas Program. It was a joyous occasion!

Not only was there a focus on Christmas in the classroom, the students also learned about different celebrations in other cultures.

For our service project, the students collected toys for the children at Open Door Mission. Candace Gregory visited the students to teach them about homelessness. The students were taught about the gift of giving to others.

Kindernature visited to teach the students about senses.

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: Winter Weather/Arctic Animals

Bible Verse: Be strong in the Lord. Eph. 6:10

Bible Truth: Jesus grew strong in the Lord. God helps us be brave because He is always watching over us.

Bible Stories: Jesus' baptism Matthew 3-17/John 1:32-34; God helps David defeat Goliath 1 Samuel 17:23-52; Peter walks on water toward Jesus Matthew 14:22-36;

Jesus says "Follow Me" Luke 5:1-11/Matthew 4: 18-22

Character Trait: Obedience/Classroom

Rules/Courage/Bravery

Concepts: Healthy body/healthy lifestyle

Fine Motor:

Pouring/Measuring/Sequencing/Scissor

Grip/Making "Snow"

Gross Motor: Freeze Dance/ Skating/

Parachute with snowballs

Color: White

Shape: Rectangle

Numbers: 11, 12

Nursery Rhymes: I'm a Little Snowman/Sing a

Song of Winter/Here We Go Round the

Mulberry Bush/Three Little Kittens

Service Project: Pet food for the Animal Shelter

Resource/ Field Trip: Trip to Treynor Fit

Special Event: Kindernature/Family Fun Night

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: We have three students on scholarship this year. 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). Any amount would be appreciated.

We have a couple of openings for students this school year. Registration for the 2024-2025 school year will open on February 1st. The Preschool is seeking to hire a staff member to open the Preschool for the early morning Extended students.

Preschool Staff—Tiffany Anderson, Rhylee Casey, Judy Cryer, Linda Eitmann, Chloe Ferneau, Alyssa Johnson, Jo Peters, Gabby Pote, Carrie Radford, Christine Sutherland, Stephanie Vogt

Governing Board—Shirley Chambers, Brooke Flathers, Ann Pingel, Pegs Sornson, Paige Temeyer, Annie Vorthmann, Sharon Weis

January 2024

Mission: Lutheran Services in Iowa



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Happy New Year *Office Closed*	2	3 No Confirmation or SPY Cell Group	4 8:30 a.m. Maint. Day 7:00 p.m. AA Upstairs	5	6
7 8:00 a.m. Worship 9:00 a.m. Fellowship 9:15 a.m. Adult Bible Study/Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship 4:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m. Silver Creek 4-H	8 10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting 7:00 p.m. P.E.O.	9	10 6:15 p.m. Confirmation 7:00 p.m. SPY Cell Group	11 6:00 p.m. Council Meeting 7:00 p.m. AA Upstairs	12	13
14 8:00 a.m. Worship 9:00 a.m. Fellowship 9:15 a.m. Adult Bible Study/Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship	15 10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting	16	17 5:30 p.m. JR Lutheran's/WOW 6:15 p.m. Confirmation 7:00 p.m. SPY Cell Group	18 7:00 p.m. AA upstairs	19 10:45 a.m.-11:30 a.m. Preschool F-hall	20
21 8:00 a.m. Worship 9:00 a.m. Fellowship 9:15 a.m. Adult Bible Study/Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship 11:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Communion Milestone 4:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m. Silver Creek 4-H	22 10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting	23 9:00a.m.-12:00 p.m. Quilting	24	25 All Day-Preschool in library, F-hall and classrooms 7:00 p.m. AA upstairs	26	27
28 8:00 a.m. Worship 9:00 a.m. Fellowship 9:15 a.m. Adult Bible Study/Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Wedded Band Spaghetti Dinner	29 10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting	30	31 7:00 p.m. Visioning F-hall			

January 2024

Volunteer Schedule

for Worship Services

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Musicians</u>	<u>Readers</u>	<u>Acolytes</u>	<u>Tellers</u>	<u>Welcome Team</u>
1/7/24	8:00 a.m.	Deb Schmidt	Lynell Vorthmann	Keira Ragland		Shirley Chambers & Patty Walter
1/7/24	10:30 a.m.	Megan Dreyer	None needed	Shelby Vorthmann	Doug & LaJean Wehring	The Pote Family
1/14/24	8:00 a.m.	Ruby Bentley	Roger Vorthmann	Sutton Vorthmann		Doug & LaJean Wehring
1/14/24	10:30 a.m.	Megan Dreyer	None needed	Cora White	Tanya Whitehill & Lynell Vorthmann	Kelby & Jennifer Vorthmann Family
1/21/24	8:00 a.m.	Megan Dreyer	Ken Andersen	Liz Young		Patty Walter & Jessica Pote
1/21/24	10:30 a.m.	Megan Dreyer	None needed	Addi Pedersen	Jacob Young	Gene & Jan Young/BJ & Dylan Dreyer
1/28/24	8:00 a.m.	Ruby Bentley	Sheryl Henderson	Ava Chambers		TBD
1/28/24	10:30 a.m.	Megan Dreyer		Joslyn Chambers	Tanya Whitehill & Stephanie Melby	Kevin & Ann Pingel/Kelby & Jennifer Vorthmann Family



Flowers needed for worship:

Please consider signing up on the flower chart in the church entryway to provide flowers for a Sunday. They can be in honor of a birthday, anniversary or a special occasion. You can take them home after the service. Shirley Chambers has offered to provide the flowers for worship for you for a donation to the preschool. Please contact her if interested.

Acolyte Reminder:

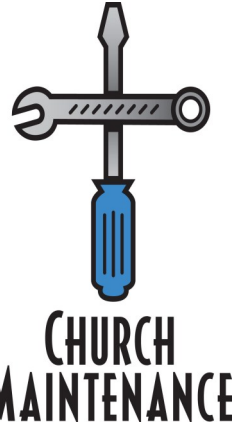
Be sure to check the calendar above for dates and services you are scheduled to acolyte.

If you are unable to acolyte, be sure to find a substitute, and let the church office know of the change.

Thank you!

St Paul Workdays December 7, 2023

There were 7 people who helped with the scheduled work day – LaJean and Doug Wehring, Coretta and Ken Andersen, Mike Sukup, Dennis White, and Roger Andersen.



- † Checked the AED and oxygen tank – both good.
- † Put water in the SPY shower drains.
- † Added 100 pounds of water softener salt to the preschool softener.
- † Mulched most of the leaves with 2 riding mowers.
- † Used the lawn sweep behind the riding mower to pick up 4 big bags (4ftx4ftx4ft) of leaves.
- † Hauled the leaves away and spread them on a picked corn field.
- † Replaced broken parts on the parsonage dish washer – one part still has not arrived.
- † Replaced broken parts on the parsonage refrigerator/freezer to get the ice maker working.
- † Spent several hours trying to fix a leak with the parsonage tub/shower water shutoffs – ordered a part.

We schedule the work day for the first Thursday of every month, so join us **January 4th** for some “fun” and probably homemade cookies and brownies. We often try new recipes also. They are always good.

Other tasks performed since the last Tower Talk update includes:

- † Ken and Coretta have been taking the recycle cardboard 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.
- † Replaced the TV in the overflow. The old one just went black during a service.
- † Used a blower to remove all the leaves from the front bushes and Nativity Scene area.
- † Bagged and removed these leaves a week later.
- † Helped setup the Nativity Scene.
- † Helped get all of the Christmas trees to the correct locations to be set up later.
- † Scooped a little snow one Sunday morning. There was only one service at 9:30 a.m. that morning so we had some extra help from people arriving for the 8:00 a.m. service. That was appreciated.
- † Many people helped rake the leaves inside the preschool fence. They bagged and hauled them away.
- † Travis Caldwell removed 2 bats from the NW classroom. We thought they were inside the classroom but they were on the outside of the screen. They must have gotten to the screen when the window was open.
- † Kirk is working with different contractors concerning church painting and repair work.
- † Added hydraulic oil to the sanctuary door closure to reduce the “slamming.”
- † The maintenance team had their annual Christmas get-together.
- † Trying to get the entry thermostat set to turn the heat off and cool down before the breaker is turned off.
- † Replaced several light bulbs with LEDs in preschool east bathroom.
- † Installed new snow shovel holders outside the south door.
- † Drained the hoses and put them in the shed for the winter.
- † Watered the trees one last time.
- † Moved the picnic table south of the tree for easier snow removal.
- † Disconnected the parsonage hose from the house spigot to keep it from freezing.
- † Worked on a dripping faucet in the parsonage bathtub/shower several times. No luck, going to hire a plumber.

The OMG (Old Maintenance Group)



Next workday:
Thursday, January 4th at 8:30 a.m.
All are welcome to come and help!

TOWER TALK

St Paul Lutheran Church

Box O 12 Park St

Treynor, IA 51575

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

DATED MATERIAL

January 1, 2024

Sunday Morning Worship Schedule

8:00 a.m. Sunday Worship

9:00 a.m. Fellowship

9:15 a.m. Bible Study/Sunday School

10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship

