

# St. Paul Newscaster



Published monthly in the interest of  
St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Diller, Nebraska

**Our Mission**

*To open our hearts and doors to share God's promise by transforming lives  
through our commitment and discipleship to Jesus Christ.*

**September 2023**  
*Pastor Mark Liscom*

## Finding God on Vacation

Sometimes being on vacation can separate me from God. It's like what makes sense in the world I am familiar with doesn't make any sense at all, when I find myself in another situation. I suppose there are many ways that this can happen. Maybe you have experienced this on Sunday morning in a small way. Sometimes what made sense on Sunday morning, doesn't make sense anymore on Sunday afternoon.

It can be disconcerting, or even disorienting. But in spite of the difficulty, I think that this is a good thing. It needs to be viewed positively if God seems to sort of disappear on vacation, or outside of the familiar. Because the truth is, I think, that that God will show up differently, and be experienced differently in different places.

It's too easy to begin to associate God with "my way of life". A familiar way of doing a church service, or hymns, or people. When that happens, when we go on vacation or find ourselves in the unfamiliar, it seems God has disappeared because the familiar has disappeared.

Here's the teaching. When you find yourself outside of the familiar, and feel disoriented, God may be actually **SHOWING UP**. But what you already know is blocking the vision. It's something to think about.

We live in a world that can be very disorienting, and unfamiliar. It's easy to complain about it. But that's how God shows up and reveals himself. And what it means in this: God is really showing up these days!

*Pastor Mark*

**Editor: Kendra K. Weers**

Typist: Kendra K. Weers    Calendar: Kendra K. Weers

Assembly: Kendra K. Weers

**Newscaster Reporters**

Church Council – Brian Weers    Treasurer’s Report – Allen Roelfs

WELCA – Peggy Hemphill    Eunice Circle – Irene Gibson

Work Day – Carolyn Schultis

Christian Education and VBS – Elizabeth Roelfs, Sheri Schultis,  
Kristen Hennerberg and Kristen Heidemann,

Youth News – Joely Weers, Myleigh Weers and Brennan Schultis

Worship Committee – Council    Mutual Ministry Committee – Council

Birthdays & Anniversaries – Jane Pretzer    Personals – Elizabeth Roelfs

WELCA Coffee List – Elizabeth Roelfs    Acolyte List – Pastor Mark Liscom

Worship Assistants & Greeters Lists – Sherry Henrichs



*Those sponsoring the September Newscaster are*

**Jim and Jeanette Bures**  
**In Honor of Our 55th Anniversary**  
*and*  
**Steve and Peg Hemphill**

*Congratulations on your milestone anniversary! Thank You all for sponsoring this Newscaster!*

*All sponsorships for 2023 have been fulfilled. Thank You!!*

*There is a 2024 sponsorship sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the back of the Narthex.*

*To Family and Friends,*

We hope this message finds you well. We have an upcoming celebration that calls for something truly special. Dad is turning

**~90 years old on September 14, 2023~**

As you can imagine, reaching this milestone is an achievement worth celebrating and we would like to make his day unforgettable. We're asking everyone to spread the word and send cards with messages, fond memories, and well wishes.

Feel free to include pictures or anything else that might bring a smile to his face.

Please send your cards to:

**Norm Balderson**  
**c/o Heritage Care Center**  
**909 17<sup>th</sup> Street, Room 212**  
**Fairbury, NE 68352**

Your participation in this celebration would mean the world to dad, and us! Thank you in advance for helping make his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday a remarkable and heartwarming celebration!

*Kathy, Mike, and Randy*

# St. Paul Lutheran Church Council Minutes for August 16, 2023

Council members present were Pastor Mark, Diane Wellsandt, Jeanette Bures, Peg Hemphill, Gary Bergmeier, Brian Weers and Allen Roelfs. God sightings were shared by the council. Pastor Mark offered a prayer. Minutes were read and Peg moved to approve the minutes and seconded by Diane. Minutes approved.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

Portico bill is paid, Vacation Bible School bills have been paid, Benevolence giving has slowed down. Brian moved to accept the report and Jeanette seconded, motion passed.

## MEMORIAL TREASURER'S REPORT

Jeanette reported that there was \$3.60 interest received for a total account balance of \$20,771.34 after receiving a memorial. Front doors may arrive in October. Allen moved to accept the report and Peg seconded. The report was approved.

## PASTOR'S REPORT

4 worship services, 1 wedding rehearsal, 2 pre-marital meetings, 3 communions, 1 Cluster meeting, 1 VBS meeting, 1 women's Bible study, 1 technology meeting, a lot of time on new Confirmation curriculum.

## VICE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

No concerns/problems. Had a meeting with Pastor Mark.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

*Food Stand* – Did not meet.

*Property* – Will be calling Wrightsman Plumbing about furnace, Allen will stop in and investigate.

*Christian Education* – met with Ellis church about this year's VBS and reviewed what took place. VBS for next year will probably be at Camp Jefferson again. CrossWalk begins September 13<sup>th</sup>, looks like things are ready to go.

*Communication & Outreach* – Did not meet.

*Music & Worship* – Did not meet.

## OLD BUSINESS

- ~ Pastor will be on Vacation August 17-31
- ~ Supply Pastor is lined up, will be Curtis Melcher to do the 2 worship services
- ~ St. Paul's is in the loop with Otto Schultz about the Living Resources Program

## NEW BUSINESS

- ~ Ellis United Methodist Church has asked if Pastor Mark would do funerals at their church. Pastor stated that he would be glad to, but it's not as simple as it sounds. What if someone is terminal, etc., and would need visitation or other pastoral care? We are in full communion with the Methodist church, so there would be no official conflict. They may want or need to compensate St. Paul Lutheran for pastoral care received; Pastor Mark does not want to be compensated directly. Any arrangement would need to be clarified similar to what we have done before with American Lutheran Church in Fairbury.
- ~ Allen talked about the health insurance plan – we have the Gold Plus plan in effect now, will need to sign up again in October.
- ~ Diane will be gone August 18<sup>th</sup> through 24<sup>th</sup>, Peg will pick up church mail from the Post Office; Kendra K will be early on Sunday, the 20<sup>th</sup> to help with supply pastor.
- ~ Active remote workshop meeting will be September 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 in Wilber for the Homestead Cluster

The next council meeting was set for Wednesday, September 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm and committees to meet at 6:30pm. Jeanette moved to adjourn the meeting and Allen seconded. The meeting was adjourned and closed with the Lord's Prayer.

~ Brian Weers, Council Secretary

## TREASURER'S REPORT

As of 8/15/2023

### Current Balances

General Fund	\$13,191.74
Benevolence	\$ 559.20
<u>Designations</u>	<u>\$19,210.62</u>
Total	\$32,961.56

### Operating Expenses

Available Cash	\$13,191.74
Remaining Bills	
<u>Portico</u>	<u>\$ 1,851.21</u>
Remaining Bal	\$11,340.53



due mid-September

### Offering Summary

	June	July	August
Current	\$ 7,099.60	\$ 14,051.20	\$ 2,251.60
Benevolence	\$ 528.65	\$ 242.80	\$ 316.40
Designated Funds	<u>\$ 26.00</u>	<u>\$ 28.00</u>	<u>\$ 66.00</u>
Totals	\$ 7,654.25	\$ 14,322.00	\$ 2,643.00

(partial month)

**We need to receive \$9,754.00 in CURRENT each month in order to meet our budget for 2023.**

# Study the Bible with us



## August Eunice Circle

Eunice Circle met on August 14, 2023 at 1:30pm. The Bible study was led by Irene Gibson. *Salvation now: A world wanting wellness. God's life-giving actions interject into our present. God desires not our tears, but our joy.*

Our study texts were from: John 8:34-47, John 11:1-48, John 15:9-12. Our focus verse: "I have said these things to you so that my Joy may be in you, and your Joy may be complete." John 15:11.

We opened with prayer and Hymn, "Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds". We closed with prayer and Hymn, "My Sould Magnifies the Lord."

Norma called our meeting to order. Minutes were read and approved. Five (5) members answered Roll Call. Our Offering was \$43.00. Pastor was present and helped with Bible Study.

Old Business: Our thanks to Ardith and Charles Barber for getting our Bible study from computer – we were able to have our Bible study. Marla donated printing paper. WELCA Unit meeting on August 13<sup>th</sup> after church service. School Kit supplies purchased. Work Day July 25<sup>th</sup>.

New Business: Work Days on August 22<sup>nd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>.

After Grace, Ardith Barber served refreshments. September hostess – Marla Weichel.

Next Eunice Circle meeting will be September 11, 2023 at 1:30pm, September/October book. Norma Banahan will lead the Bible study.

~ Irene Gibson, Recorder

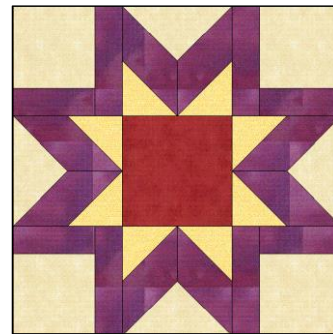
## Mission Work Day

The quilters continue to meet every 4th and 5th Tuesdays of each month, except December.

We start at 9:00 and quilt as long as prepared fabrics are available or until coffee at 3:30.

Please come and join us. We will meet September 26<sup>th</sup>.

WRAP THE WORLD IN LOVE



It is with deep sadness that we announce the death of Elissa Davis, daughter of David and Lisa (DeBoer) Schotte and granddaughter of the late Judy DeBoer. Elissa passed away unexpectedly on August 17. Elissa was baptized into the Lutheran Faith on April 13, 1986 at St. Paul's in Diller. Survivors include her husband James and 5 children, her parents and brother, along with many family members and friends. We hold them all in prayer at this difficult time of loss.



ELCA Disaster Response is raising funds for the people of Hawai'i who are affected by the strong wind-driven fires that are destroying homes, businesses, lines of communication, and entire communities.

Info sheets are available at the church with instructions on how to mail your donation.

If you prefer to give online, please go to [elca.org/disaster](http://elca.org/disaster), and create a giving account through the ELCA.



The impromptu choir sang a traditional Hymn from the OSB during our August 13<sup>th</sup> Worship service.

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

# St. Paul's Women of the ELCA

Unit Meeting  
August 13, 2023

A Unit Meeting of the Women of the ELCA was held following the church service on Sunday, August 13, 2023 with 16 women members present.

We opened with the reading of the Purpose Statement of the Women of the ELCA in unison.

*“As a community of women created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society, and the world.”*

The meeting was led by President, Ardith Barber.

Minutes of the April unit meeting were read by Secretary, Peggy Hemphill. They were approved on a motion of Kendra K. Weers and seconded by Marcy Barber.

Diane Wellsandt gave the Treasurer's report. The balance on hand is \$4,486.05 which had grown since the last meeting due to several funeral luncheon donations and WELCA's share of the proceeds from the Diller Picnic Food Stand. Several bills were submitted: Irene Gibson for school kit supplies in the amount of \$267.91 and Peggy Hemphill in the amount of \$27 for expenses for the Spring Salad Supper. A motion was made and seconded to approve the Treasurer's report and the motion carried.

A short inspiration on God's blessings of providing us with bountiful gardens and a poem entitled "A Song for Merry Harvest" by Eliza Cook was given by Peggy Hemphill.

Committee reports were given: **Work Group** – Jane Pretzer reported that they have served six funeral luncheons this year. Cindy Lottman and Diane Wellsandt have been added to the list of Work Group Leaders. We thank them for their willingness to serve. Thank You's were read from the Franklin Damrow family and the Russell Schultis family. **Monthly Card Project** volunteers for the next several months are: August – Peggy Hemphill; September – Carolyn Schultis; October – Linda Behrends; November – Kendra K. Weers; December – Sherry Henrichs. **Work Day** – Carolyn reported that the group is small and they would love to have more ladies join them. They meet on the 4th and 5<sup>th</sup> Tuesday's of each month. **Baby Care Kits** – Marcy Barber explained that they have quite a few supplies but are in need of approximately 100 bars of soap which Jeanette Bures and Peggy Hemphill volunteered to provide. **School Kits** - Irene Gibson reported that all supplies were purchased this year in order to get the requested items needed to fill the backpacks. Donations will be accepted to help with this project. **College Students** – Sheri Schultis has reached out to all of the college students. **Eunice Circle** – meets on the second Monday of each month. **Kitchen** – there are quite a few bowls in the kitchen that need to be picked up.

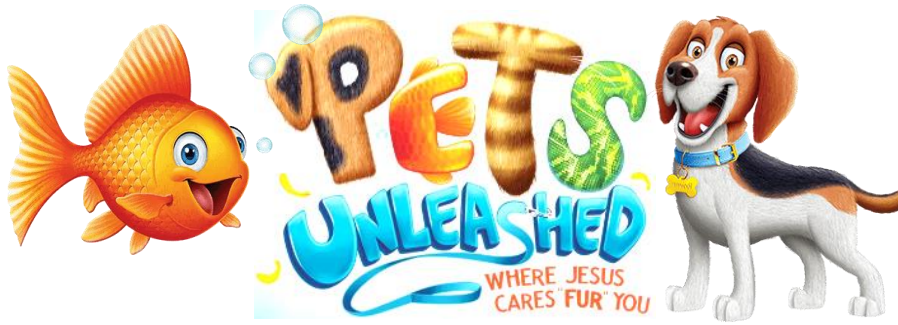
Old Business items reviewed were the Spring Salad Supper, recognition of the High School and College graduates and Vacation Bible School.

New Business: Biannual Convention and Gathering will be held at Camp Carol Joy Holling October 6 through the 8<sup>th</sup>. It was voted to send a \$50 offering to the gathering. We were reminded that an important focus of the Nebraska Women of the ELCA is to combat Human Trafficking. One half of our offering goes to the Nebraska WELCA. A reminder that our Thank Offering Service will be held November 19 with Beth Roelfs in charge.

Offering for the day was \$88 and school kit donations were received in the amount of \$100. The next meeting will be held following the church service on Sunday, November 5, 2023.

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Peggy Hemphill



**ST. PAUL AND ELLIS UNITED METHODIST CHURCHES  
HOST COMMUNITY "PETS UNLEASHED!" VBS  
AT CAMP JEFFERSON**

**JESUS CARES "FUR" US! VBS a Success**

Lots of Laughter and Learning filled Camp Jefferson on August 3rd as 35 children came together from Diller, Odell, Beatrice and Pickrell, as well as many varied congregations to experience Jesus love.

Two learning themes were highlighted during the day. The first was the Sermon on the Mount. Ann Engelman brought the teachings of Jesus to life for the campers. The second theme was the Maundy Thursday thru Easter Sunday story of Jesus death and resurrection. The lesson was held in a dark space and students learned how we dim or build God's light with our actions today. Beth Roelfs led this session.

Although the day started with rain, Tyler Wolken led games that enforced the learning themes. Nobody minded getting wet while learning.

Sheri and Jadyn Schultis brought joyful music to everyone. They shared songs that inspired praise and movement. One of the selections included signing the words. What a beautiful gift. Tyler has posted a facebook video of it. Check it out.

Jill Zabokrtsky spearheaded the craft experience. Following the PET theme of the camp, campers each created their own PET ROCK and amazing fire flies. Such unique pets, each with their own story. We hope they continue to serve as a reminder of a great connection to Jesus' Love.

Pastor Mark played the role of Gordie Retriever in the openings and evening programs. Helping everyone learn about Jesus love for us through his antics as an expert with pets.

The Caring Project for the camp is a collection of items to be donated to the Humane Society in Beatrice. Refer to the article about this project for needed items. We will continue the collection through September 13 and will then deliver them.

Everyone enjoyed the opportunity to swim and play for a couple hours. Thanks to Susan Lawton for supervising the free time activities. Joyce Carpenter served as camp nurse and Stacy Roelfs handled the program registration.

The evening celebration filled the hall with friends and family who came for food, fellowship and a chance to share Jesus Love For Us.

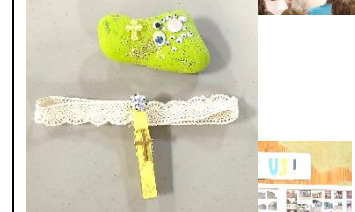
The collaboration between the Ellis United Methodist Church and St. Paul was great.

The UMC members provided the noon meal and St. Paul's the evening cookout. Everyone donated to snacks and Classic Dairy provided the evening ice cream. YUM.

Many volunteers made this possible, the organizational team from both churches, the adult and youth helpers, those who fixed all the food. Our sincere thanks to you all!!

We appreciate the financial support from each congregation and the grant from the Diller Community Foundation that was used to help fund the event.

This was truly a discipleship where God was present in the hearts of many.



*Photos contributed by Tyler Wolken, Joely Weers and Kendra K Weers.*



On this page are pictures from the program and meal. Thanks again to everyone involved with VBS and the photo contributors!



## 2023-2024 St. Paul CrossWalk

**CrossWalk** will include Bible stories, snack time, game time, sharing highs and lows in prayer, and music.

**Who is invited:** Preschool - 5th grade students. Those in 6th grade are encouraged to attend as helpers.

**When:** Wednesdays from 3:30-5:00 p.m. when Diller-Odell schools are in session.

First session is Wednesday, September 13.

Last session is April 24, 2024.

*If school is cancelled due to weather, CrossWalk will be cancelled as well.*

**Where:** St. Paul Lutheran Church in Diller  
Those coming from the elementary school will be walked to the church as a group by an adult.  
*We can also pick up from Daycare.*

**Theme:** *Digging Into The Bible* takes kids on a whirlwind journey from Genesis to Revelation. Kids experience a relationship with God through the eyes of ordinary Bible people. Through this children's ministry curriculum, kids will discover that they're a lot like people God has always loved and worked through.

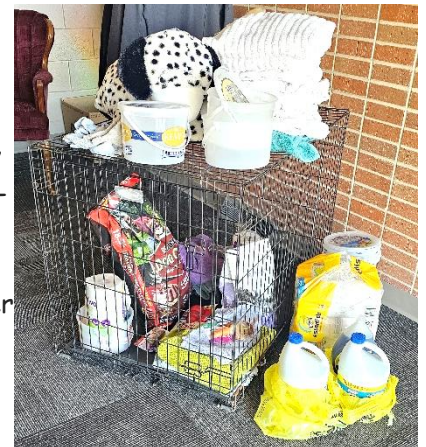
Please follow the **St. Paul's Lutheran Church Diller Nebraska** Facebook page for any announcements.  
For any additional questions or concerns, please email [broelfs73@gmail.com](mailto:broelfs73@gmail.com)

## VBS 2023 PETS UNLEASHED: WHERE GOD CARES "FUR" YOU!

LET'S HELP CARE 'FUR' THE PETS! Each year, our program aims to support a caring project in our community. In line with this year's Pets theme, we will be supporting the Beatrice Humane Society. EVERYONE is invited to help in the effort by donating items from the needs list or making a monetary gift. The drive will launch at VBS on Aug. 3 and continue through the month of August. Items can be placed in the Kennel located in the front hall of the church. Cash donations should be placed in an envelope and marked for Humane Society. Make checks out to St. Paul but in the memo line note 'For Humane Society'. Students from St. Paul's and the Ellis Methodist Church will be delivering all the donations in mid-September.

### Suggested Items:

Blankets, towels, washrags, sheets, pillowcases, Black sharpies/pens, Empty Tidy Cat buckets (35-pound size), Empty gallon-size ice cream buckets, Bleach, Paper towels, Laundry soap, Dawn dish soap. **A detailed wishlist can be found on the Beatrice Humane Society's website.**



Please place donated items in the kennel located in the entry of the church. Items will be collected through Wednesday, September 13, then will be taken to the Humane Society

### Confirmation Class



Confirmation begins on September 6 with Confirmation Sunday on May 7, 2024, and we have a great group. Parent nights will be the first Wednesday of the month, and we will have a "Church Day" every month.

**First communion will take place on November 5.** Please see the website for more information.

Just Married!

CONGRATULATIONS to Jesse Scheele and Katlyn Bundenbender as they celebrate their marriage on August 5th at St. Paul. Their parents are William and Tammy Bundenbender of Franklin, KS and Tim and Jill Scheele. We share in your JOY and ask God's blessing on their life together.

Nathan and Laura Thompson of Falls City are elated to announce the birth of their beautiful daughter Elnora Lilly, born August 15. This little bundle of joy is welcomed by grandparents, Scott and Linda Beran as well as great grandparents, Melvin and Bets Beran. Congratulations to you all as you experience the blessing of this new life.



### Joys & Concerns

We are happy to share that **David Henrichs** is recovering well following his knee replacement surgery on August 3. We hope he has many pain-free steps in his future and are thankful for the skilled hands that make this possible.

**Mike Balderson** is facing health challenges that require ongoing treatments. We hold him and Rhonda in our hearts and prayers.

*Please remember in your prayers all of our members and extended church family who are not able to be with us, those that are in assisted living and care centers and those who may be in need of God's comfort, healing and peace:*

***Eldean Banahan, Robert Weers, Norris Gold, Toni Landenberger, Tyler Wolken, Betty Hennerberg and Norman Balderson.***



# HAPPY ANNIVERSARY



## September Wedding Anniversaries

September 1, 1967

☞ Mr. & Mrs. Jim & Jeanette Bures

September 5, 2010

☞ Mr. & Mrs. Scott & Linda Beran

September 23, 1962

☞ Mr. & Mrs. Ervin & Betty Hennerberg

September 25, 2004

☞ Mr. & Mrs. Shawn & Jill Zabokrtsky



## September Birthdays



- 1 Gail Engelman
- 1 Cassandra Lottman
- 5 Riley Sasse
- 6 Cathy Lyons
- 7 Jamie Schultis
- 8 Tim Scheele
- 10 Guilford Wiemers
- 10 Andrew Graves
- 11 Shawn Lottman
- 11 Aubrey Roelfs

- 12 Shawn Zabokrtsky
- 12 Clayton Spilker
- 12 Draedyn Sasse
- 14 Norman Balderson
- 14 Ryan Nippert
- 14 Reid Rallis
- 16 Charles Barber
- 16 Cheryl Denner
- 17 B.J. Stein
- 17 Shannon Stein

- 18 Robbyn Roelfs
- 19 Kelsay Schlichtman
- 20 Hollie Crawford
- 21 Angie Clifford
- 23 Christopher Schmidt
- 24 Skylar Pretzer
- 26 Kevin Sasse
- 26 Matthew Nippert
- 30 Kristen Hennerberg



**VOLUNTEERS:** If you are unable to serve on the Sunday(s) you are assigned, PLEASE arrange with someone else to fill in and notify others in the assigned Sunday of the change. Thank You!



**September 3 Sunday Worship Service  
With Holy Communion**

*Worship Assistant, Sherry Henrichs  
Greeter, Jim Bures  
Coffee Service – Kristen Hennerberg*

**September 10 Sunday Worship Service**

*Worship Assistant,  
Greeter, Dennis Nippert  
Coffee Service – Jill Bergmeier, Julie Schmidt*



**September 17 Sunday Worship Service**

*Worship Assistant – David Henrichs  
Greeter – Dean Pretzer  
Coffee Service – Sheri Schultis, Toni Landenberger*

**September 24 Sunday Worship Service**

*Worship Assistant – Jamie Schultis  
Greeter – Charles Barber  
Coffee Service – BethLee Beran, Linda Beran*



**October 1 Sunday Worship Service  
With Holy Communion**

*Worship Assistant – Jamie Schultis  
Greeter – Gary Bergmeier  
Coffee Service – Kendra Weers, Kalli Roelfs*





# September 2023



[www.stpauldiller.com](http://www.stpauldiller.com)

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Facebook – St. Paul’s Lutheran Church Diller Nebraska

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> <p>Please check the weekly bulletin at the church or the website for the most current updates to the calendar/schedule</p> </div>						
<p><i>Red Hymnal</i> <b>3</b>  <b>Worship Service</b>                      Holy Communion                      9:30 AM</p>	<p><b>4</b>    <i>Labor Day</i></p>	<p><b>5</b></p>	<p><b>6</b>                      Confirmation                      Parents' Night                      7:00pm</p>	<p><b>7</b></p>	<p><b>1</b></p>	<p><b>2</b></p>
<p><i>Blue Hymnal</i> <b>10</b>  <b>Worship Service</b>                      9:30 AM                        HAPPY  <i>Grandparents</i>                      DAY</p>	<p><b>11</b>    <i>Patriot Day</i>                      Eunice                      Circle                      1:30pm</p>	<p><b>12</b></p>	<p><b>13</b>  <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin-bottom: 5px;">                         CROSS WALK                          Christian Ed                          4:00pm                     </div>                     Confirmation                      Service Project                      7:00pm</p>	<p><b>14</b></p>	<p><b>15</b></p>	<p><b>16</b></p>
<p><i>Red Hymnal</i> <b>17</b>  <b>Worship Service</b>                      9:30 AM</p>	<p><b>18</b></p>	<p><b>19</b></p>	<p><b>20</b>  <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin-bottom: 5px;">                         CROSS WALK                          Christian Ed                          4:00pm                     </div>                     Committees                      and Council                      Meetings                      6:30/7:30pm</p>	<p><b>21</b>  <i>Newscaster                      items due</i></p>	<p><b>22</b></p>	<p><b>23</b>                        HAPPY                      FALL</p>
<p><i>Blue Hymnal</i> <b>24</b>  <b>Worship Service</b>                      9:30 AM  <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin-top: 10px;">                         Confirmation                          Church Day                     </div></p>	<p><b>25</b></p>	<p><b>26</b>  <b>Work                      Day</b>                      All Day</p>	<p><b>27</b>  <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin-bottom: 5px;">                         CROSS WALK                          Christian Ed                          4:00pm                     </div>                     Confirmation                      7:00pm</p>	<p><b>28</b></p>	<p><b>29</b></p>	<p><b>30</b></p>



St. Paul Lutheran Church  
 PO Box 37  
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