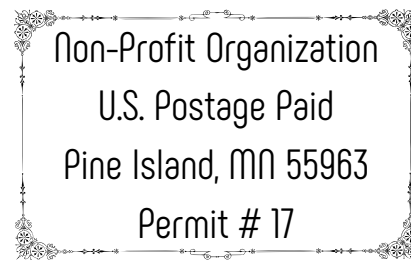


Saint Paul Lutheran Church

PO Box 357
Pine Island, MN 55963-0357

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Christmas and Advent Schedule

December 1st
Advent Worship 9am
Advent Fest

December 4th
Advent Worship 6:30pm

December 8th
Advent Worship 9am

December 11th
Advent Worship 6:30pm

December 15th
Advent Worship 9am
Children's Program

December 18th
Advent Worship 6:30pm

December 19th
Daylight Christmas Eve Service 11am

December 24th
Christmas Eve Service 3pm
Christmas Eve Service 5pm
Christmas Eve Service 10pm

This is the seventh time you will read a newsletter article, where I suggest you put out a nativity for Advent and Christmas and think about leaving it up all year long. You may be tired of reading this suggestion, but remember, I am not the only one who repeats themselves when the subject is important. How many times have you heard one of the following

A Word From Your Pastor



- Did you put your homework in the backpack?
- Did you pack the umbrella?
- Did you pick up the kids from practice?
- Did you remember your mother's b-day?
- Did you take out the turkey to defrost?

I repeat my suggestion that you put out a nativity year after year, so you can remind yourself and announce to the world, that you believe, first and most importantly, that Christmas is about worshipping God.

The God who chooses us to be God's people and made a covenant with us to always love us.

The God who reminded us through the words of prophets and manna in the desert that we are God's beloved children.

The God who loved us enough to send a savior to live with us and then die for us, so our sins could be forgiven, and we could, like at creation, be right with God.

The shepherds who visited Jesus in the manger, also repeated themselves and Thank God they did. It is because of their voices repeating the marvelous message, they heard from the angels, that we know the Savior arrived, just as God promised he would.

As the angel choir withdrew into heaven, the shepherds talked it over. "Let's get over to Bethlehem as fast as we can and see for ourselves what God has revealed to us." They left, running, and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger. Seeing was believing. They told everyone they met what the angels had said about this child. All who heard the shepherds were impressed. Luke 2:15-18

Shalom Pastor Marie AK Anderson



December Newsletter 2024

Our Mission

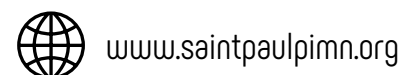
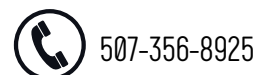
*"Guided by God's love, we are called to welcome, love, and work for God's people
.....here, there, and every where."*

Saint Paul Lutheran Church
214 3rd ST SW
Pine Island, MN 55963-9307

Saint Paul Staff
Rev. Marie AK Anderson
marieannka@aol.com

Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 9am to 3pm

Worship Schedule: 9am Sunday: In- Person, YouTube, and Facebook



Important Dates

December

- Advent Fest.....December 1
- Children's Christmas Program.....December 15
- Daylight Christmas Eve Service.....December 19 @ 11AM
- Church Office Closing Early.....December 24
- Christmas Eve Service.....December 24 @ 3PM
- Christmas Eve Service.....December 24 @ 5PM
- Christmas Eve Service.....December 24 @ 10PM
- Church Office Closed.....December 25
- Church Office Closed.....December 26
- No Sunday School.....December 29



January

- Church Office Closed.....January 1
- Anniversary of Baptism.....January 5
- Confirmation Mentor Night.....January 15
- Adult Ed Speaker: Pastor Deborah.....January 19
- Annual Meeting.....January 26



February

- First Communion Class.....February 2 @ 10:15AM
- First Communion.....February 16
- Confirmation Mentor Night.....February 26



News and Announcements

Saint Paul's Gift Giving Tree

The cooperation of area churches and Pine Island Schools to collect gifts for families in need last year was a resounding success. Forty-seven families and 119 children within our school district benefited from the outpouring of generosity and love. This year's Holiday Giving event begins November 17th and ends December 8th.

Saint Paul Lutheran Church will again be donating boys and girls clothing (tops and bottoms). Participation details will be posted at church. Families in need will be invited to visit school in early December to select items their children need.

If you have questions, please contact Sandy Schroeder at 507-356-4946 or Karen Doll at 507-273-7623. Thank you for helping children in our community!



Adult Education Speaker January 19th

On January 19th, after worship, Pastor Deborah will be sharing her life growing up in Tanzania and now being a pastor in MN at St John's in Kasson.

Youth Event Serving at FMSC on December 11th

Serve & Make a Difference! Saint Paul Lutheran Church is calling all youth to join in a meaningful service opportunity at Feed My Starving Children on **Monday, December 11.** This is a chance to make a real impact while sharing fellowship with friends.

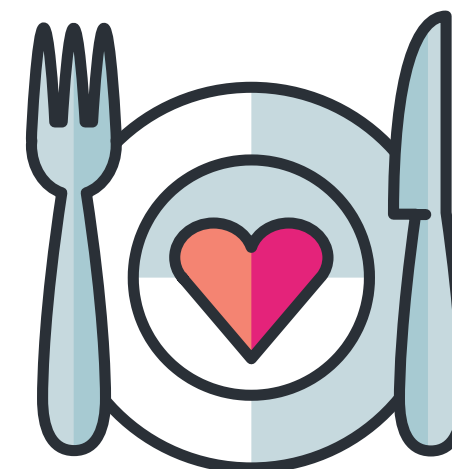
Participants will meet at the church at **1 PM** and travel together to the service location. The volunteer session runs from **2:30 to 4:00 PM**, where youth will help pack nutritious meals for children in need around the world. Afterward, everyone will share a light meal before we return.

Friends are welcome to join, but permission slips are required for all participants. Don't miss this rewarding opportunity to serve others and make a global difference.

How to Join:

Text 507-271-2016 to RSVP and get your permission slip today! Let's come together to make an impact and show the power of giving.

Spread the word and invite your friends. We can't wait to see you there!



News and Announcements

Faith Formation

Advent Fest

We hope to see you all on December 1st in the Fellowship Hall after worship for our annual Intergenerational Advent Festival! Bring your whole family and your friends! This event is for EVERYONE!



Final Scrip Order of 2024

The final scrip order of 2024 is due no later than December 8th. All orders received by this day will be back to the church by December 16th. Scrip is a great way to get gift cards for gifts for your family and friends for Christmas, or even to use to purchase gifts, groceries, or travel this holiday season all while a percentage goes back to Saint Paul! If you have any questions, please reach out to Dawn Weber or the church office. Scrip card order forms can be found on the information table in the Fellowship Hall, or you can order online at www.glscrip.com

Annual Holiday Cookie Walk Fundraiser

Get ready to sweeten your holiday season while supporting a great cause! Saint Paul Lutheran Church's Youth Ministries is hosting their highly anticipated **Annual Holiday Cookie Walk** on **Saturday, December 14th**, from **9 AM to 12 PM**, and **Sunday, December 15th**, from **10 AM to 12 PM**.

This festive event is the perfect opportunity to stock up on a variety of delicious holiday cookies while giving back to our youth programs. Along with cookies, attendees can also enjoy freshly baked cinnamon rolls and warm hot chocolate, making it a delightful experience for the whole family!

All proceeds from the Cookie Walk will go directly toward supporting future youth activities, helping to fund trips, service projects, and other enriching opportunities.

Youth Involvement:

Youth members of the church are encouraged to participate by helping with cookie sales during the event. Not only is this a chance to give back, but it also counts toward confirmation hours—a win-win!

Congregational Involvement:

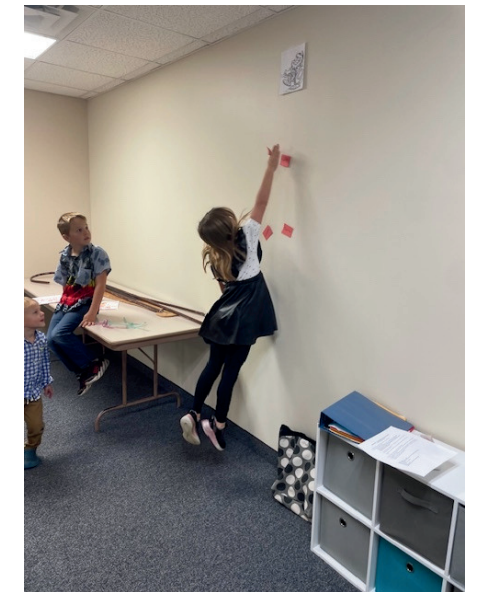
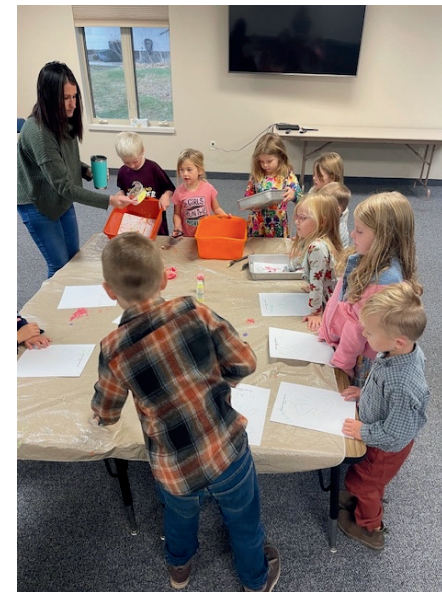
We need bakers! Love to bake but more sugar than you can eat? We will need cookies or holiday treat donations for this fundraiser and hope we can get some of the talented bakers we know we have in our congregation to help us out! Sign up at the church!

Mark your calendars and join us for this wonderful holiday tradition. Come for the cookies, stay for the fellowship, and help support the incredible work of our youth ministry. See you there!



Stewardship & Sunday School

Stewardship & Sunday School – one may wonder how these can be correlated? Although I couldn't fulfill a full term on church council in the Stewardship seat. (I had to finally admit to myself that I had taken on too much) I was able to take the core values of stewardship and work it into our Sunday School program. There is no age requirement when it comes to being a Good Steward! Time & Talent are two key words for stewardship! Time - We have created a few opportunities for our children to spend time being Stewards of God. How can we volunteer within our church? How can we help in our community? We've added a "Children Lead Worship Service in the spring where our Sunday School kids are able to fulfill the roles of lector, usher, server of fellowship and so on. We have implemented opportunities to support our community by spending time at our community food shelf & nursing home. Talent – Our kids have been encouraged to "add" to our Christmas program with their vocal & instrumental talents – which you are soon going to be able to witness December 15th! An almost weekly part of Sunday School Stewardship, is the kids delivering their own offering plate to Pastor Marie during worship. We are teaching our kids generosity through sharing God's gifts! One of our recent Sunday school lessons focused on the story of David & Goliath. Our Sunday school kids may be small, but they are trusting God to accomplish big things!



Confirmation

Confirmation classes will go into hiatus until the New Year as we begin the season of Advent as the students will be attending Wednesday Advent Worship during their regular class time.



December



SUN Dec 1	MON 2	TUE 3	WED 4	THU 5	FRI 6	SAT 7
Advent Fest <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Worship 10am Fellowship 10am Handbell Practice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:30am Loose Threads Quilting 1pm Chair Volleyball 6:30pm Cub Scouts 6:30pm Lion's Board Meeting 6:30pm PIPA Meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8am Mission Quilting 11am Ministerial Text Study 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30pm Advent Worship 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11:30am Ministerial Meeting 		
<p>8</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Worship 10am Fellowship 10am Handbell Practice 	<p>9</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:30am Loose Threads Quilting 1pm Chair Volleyball 	<p>10</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8am Mission Quilting 11am Ministerial Text Study 6:30pm Building and Grounds Meeti 	<p>11</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30pm Advent Worship 	<p>12</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am Cannon River Conference 	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15</p> Children's Christmas Program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Worship 10am Fellowship 10am Handbell Practice 5:30pm Girl Scouts 	<p>16</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:30am Loose Threads Quilting 1pm Chair Volleyball 6:30pm Cub Scouts 	<p>17</p> Newsletter Articles Due by Noon <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8am Mission Quilting 11am Ministerial Text Study 	<p>18</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30pm Advent Worship 	<p>19</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11am Daylight Christmas Eve Servic 7pm Council Meeting 	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Worship 10am Fellowship 10am Handbell Practice 	<p>23</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1pm Chair Volleyball 	<p>24</p> Church Office Closing At Noon <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3pm Christmas Eve Service 5pm Christmas Eve Service 10pm Christmas Eve Service 	<p>25</p> Church Office Closed	<p>26</p> Church Office Closed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Cancer Support Group 	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29</p> No Sunday School <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Worship 10am Fellowship 10am Handbell Practice 	<p>30</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:30am Loose Threads Quilting 1pm Chair Volleyball 	<p>31</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8am Mission Quilting 11am Ministerial Text Study 	<p>Jan 1</p> Church Office Closed	<p>2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11:30am Ministerial Meeting 	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>