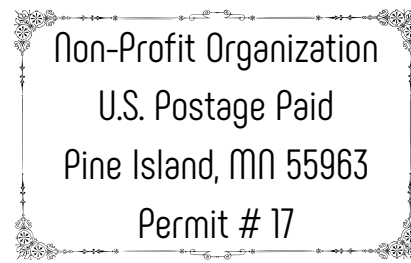


Saint Paul Lutheran Church

PO Box 357

Pine Island, MN 55963-0357

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Advent Fest Success

Advent Festival 2024 was a wonderful success this year. Many were in attendance, and it was so wonderful to see everyone working together with smiles on their faces! We would like to send a big THANK YOU to Fred Knudsvig who individually made each of the wooden trees, as well as to Emily O'Brien and Vicki Morey for taking on the task of making the ornaments. Also, to those that came and helped set up. Without all of you, this couldn't have been possible!



A Word From Your Pastor



Christmas 2024 is past and the celebration of Epiphany is almost here. We prepare for Christmas for weeks and celebrate it for a few days. Epiphany preparations are almost entirely in the church, and we celebrate it up to Ash Wednesday.

Christmas contains some of the most exciting parts of Christian life. The long-awaited Savior finally shows up, angels deliver messages, and parents are relieved their baby is born safe since the birth did not go according to plan.

Epiphany is marked by a star and the arrival of the unexpected—late visitors. Epiphany is the call to stop celebrating and get to work. With the arrival of the foreign visitors, the news that God came to live as one of us and forgive our sins became Good News for the whole world, not just God's chosen people.

The excitement of Christmas worship and the gatherings of family and friends is delightful, and we look forward to it yearly, but it takes too much energy to live that way for long. The mini celebration of Epiphany leads us into the comfortable and daily schedule so needed in life.

It is in the daily schedule that we lead our best discipleship lives. We volunteer at the Food Shelf, drive friends to medical appointments, fulfill our giving commitments for missions dear to Christians, read our Bible and pray. The season of Epiphany is when Christians make plans for the rest of the year and get started on those actions. While the daily schedule can be dependable it is also where we face some of life's most challenging days. The discipleship patterns we develop during Epiphany can hold us up amid the challenges each life contains and strengthen us to hold up others in their days of grief and need. The Good News of salvation, Jesus death and resurrection we share during Epiphany, is just exactly the kind of JOY we all need occasionally.

May your daily schedule, filled with discipleship living, bring you closer to Jesus love and bring you JOY when you need it most.

Shalom Pastor Marie

January Newsletter 2025

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

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



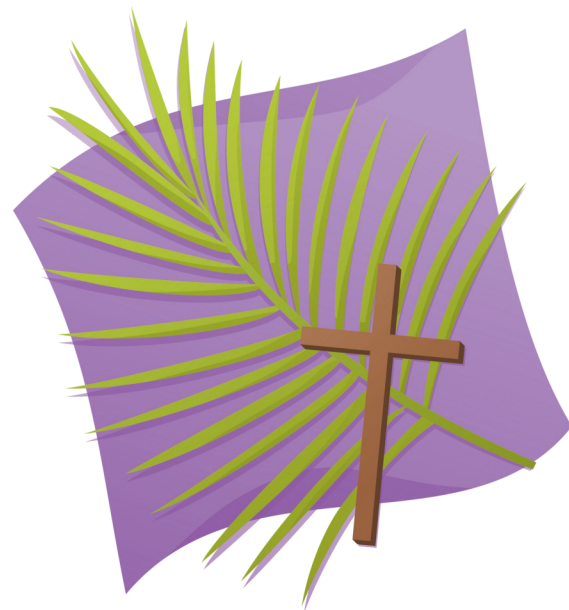
February

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



March

Ash Wednesday.....March 5
 Lenten Supper.....March 5 @ 5:45 pm
 Ash Wednesday Lenten Service.....March 5 @ 6:45pm
 New Member Orientation.....March 9 @ 10:15am
 Lenten Supper.....March 12 @ 5:45 pm
 Lenten Service.....March 12 @ 6:45pm
 Confirmation Mentor Night Option 1.....March 12
 Lenten Supper.....March 12 @ 5:45 pm
 Lenten Service.....March 12 @ 6:45pm
 New Member Sunday.....March 16
 Lenten Supper.....March 19 @ 5:45 pm
 Lenten Service.....March 19 @ 6:45pm
 No Sunday School.....March 23
 Lenten Supper.....March 26 @ 5:45 pm
 Lenten Service.....March 26 @ 6:45pm
 Confirmation Mentor Night Option 2.....March 26
 No Sunday School.....March 30



Feed My Starving Children

Students from Saint Paul Lutheran Church in Pine Island opted to spend their 'early-out' from school on December 11th helping others not so fortunate. They journeyed to Feed My Starving Children in Eagan, MN and volunteered to pack food for needy kids around the world.

The group joined other volunteers in the warehouse at Feed My Starving Children to hand pack a nutritional blend of rice, soy, dried vegetables, and vitamins into individual serving bags. The meals were bagged, sealed, boxed, and crated to be shipped to Eswatini, Africa where Feed My Starving Children's partners will distribute them to needy children who may get nothing to eat except this food on a given day.

During the two-hour warehouse shift, this amazing group of volunteers helped pack 38,880 meals! It's enough food to feed 107 kids every day for one full year. Everyone had a great time and felt rewarded in knowing hungry kids across the ocean would have something healthy and nourishing to eat. More information about this one-of-a-kind volunteer experience can be found at www.fmsc.org.



News and Announcements

Adult Ed Speaker: Pastor Deborah

January 19th Pastor Deborah will be joining us for coffee hour in the Fellowship Hall after worship as our Adult Ed Guest Speaker. Until that time, get to know a little about her by reading her bio:

About Me

Pastor Deborah Lyanga was born and raised in Tanzania and has been ordained with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania (ELCT) since 2005. Eight years ago, she and her family relocated to the United States, making their home in Owatonna. Since then, she has been actively engaged in ministry, visiting various congregations within the Synod to lead worship services and offer presentations. Deborah is married to Pastor Dr. Emmanuel Kaghondi, and together they are blessed with two sons, Mercy (17) and Abner (8). She currently serves as an associate pastor at St. John's Lutheran Church in Kasson.

Weather/Cancelation Policy

Saint Paul Lutheran's policy for worship cancelation (to be made by 3 members of the executive committee):

- The decision will be made by noon for a weekday worship service.
- The decision will be made by 6:00 pm on Saturday for Sunday worship.
- If school and/or activities are canceled due to weather:
 - All evening activities are also canceled, including confirmation
- Call the office to see if the building is open
- Cancelations and building closures will be posted on:
 - Local channel 7 TV station
 - Our Facebook page
 - The 2 Rochester TV stations (KTTC and Fox 47)

Holiday Gifting Event

Many thanks to all those who donated to the Holiday Gifting Event for Pine Island's children. It was successful in caring for 45 families and 95 kids in our school district. We had more donations than our previous year. Kara Cordes, the Pre-School and Community Education Director, does a great job coordinating the four churches, school staff and community involvement to meet the needs of area children. Special thanks to the PI Lions for their monetary donations to purchase items and our church family volunteers: Karen Doll, Vicki Morey, Sharon Koppelman, Sandy Schroeder, Barb Vandewalker and all the amazing Mission Quilters. Your heartfelt generosity impacted many children this Christmas. God bless your thoughtfulness!

Sandy Schroeder



Faith Formation

Sunday School

By now, some of you have enjoyed seeing our Sunday school kids perform their annual Christmas program. Mother nature prevented most of us from making it to church that day - but I hope you had a chance to see our kids through live streaming if you weren't able to make it! It is so much fun to see (some) of the kids' faces light up when I ask who wants to narrate, who wants to be Mary, who wants to be a Shepherd? We usually don't have ample time to rehearse so our program tends to be in a format that does not require line memorization or multiple roles of speaking or actions. We get creative and bring in instruments, costumes & lots of music so all kids have the chance to add to our program. It is so very rewarding to see the kid's faces when they are done with the program - their excitement of being up front and being part of the action! Thank you for having patience & grace with our kids at Saint Paul and allowing them to tell the story of the birth of our Saviour, in their own way! Thank you to all who helped with the program in any way - Garrett, many Sunday school parents, the Christopherson's, Pastor Marie & a few confirmation kids. You are all appreciated!



Confirmation

Confirmation classes will reconvene on January 8th at 6:30pm and continue on every Wednesday until Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lenten Worship Services. The first Mentor Night of the 2025 year will be January 15th.



JANUARY

SUN 29	MON 30	TUE 31	WED Jan 1	THU 2	FRI 3	SAT 4
<p>No Sunday School</p> <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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11am Ministerial Text Study 	<p>Church Office Closed</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11:30am Ministerial Meeting 		
<p>5</p> <p>Anniversary of Baptism</p> <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 Lion's Board Meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8am Mission Quilting 11am Ministerial Text Study 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30pm Confirmation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am Cannon River Conference 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3pm Girl Scouts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am Jerry Mathre Visitation 11am Jerry Mathre Celebration of I
<p>12</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Worship 10am Fellowship 10am Handbell Practice 5:30pm Girl Scouts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:30am Loose Threads Quilting 1pm Chair Volleyball 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8am Mission Quilting 11am Ministerial Text Study 6:30pm Building and Grounds Mee 	<p>Confirmation Mentor Night</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30pm Confirmation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7pm Council Meeting 		
<p>19</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Worship 10am Adult Ed Speaker: Pastor De 10am Fellowship 10am Handbell Practice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:30am Loose Threads Quilting 1pm Chair Volleyball 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8am Mission Quilting 11am Ministerial Text Study 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30pm Confirmation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Cancer Support Group 		
<p>26</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Worship 10am Annual Meeting 10am Fellowship 10am Handbell Practice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:30am Loose Threads Quilting 1pm Chair Volleyball 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8am Mission Quilting 11am Ministerial Text Study 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30pm Confirmation 			<p>Feb 1</p>