

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear friends,

As we enter into a new year, things can seem cold and dreary in January and February. But during this time, we also join in the season of Epiphany in which we celebrate the light; the light of the star that led the Magi to Jesus and how Jesus is the light of this world.

This year, our theme for Epiphany will be "Created Anew" and we will explore how we are created by God and what it means to be light for others in a time when it can seem so dark. Here is the list of dates and titles for our sermon series:

01/07 – God Created, Now What?
01/14 - The Extraordinary in the Ordinary
01/21 – Creativity in Connectivity
01/28 – Being the Epiphany
02/04 – Never Ending Creativity
02/11 – Descending to Share the Story

**"I AM THE LIGHT
OF THE WORLD."**

WHOEVER FOLLOWS ME WILL NEVER
WALK IN DARKNESS,
BUT WILL HAVE THE LIGHT OF LIFE."
JOHN 8:12



We hope you can join us during this time as we celebrate the ways that God connects with us and connects us to each other.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Branden

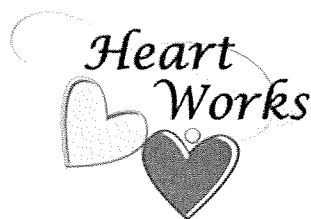


February 11, 2024

In celebration of St. Paul's generous support of the Stewardship Appeal Program for 2024, the Stewardship Committee will be hosting a church dinner on February 11th. More info and a sign up sheet will be posted in the Narthex area in January!

Our Daily Bread

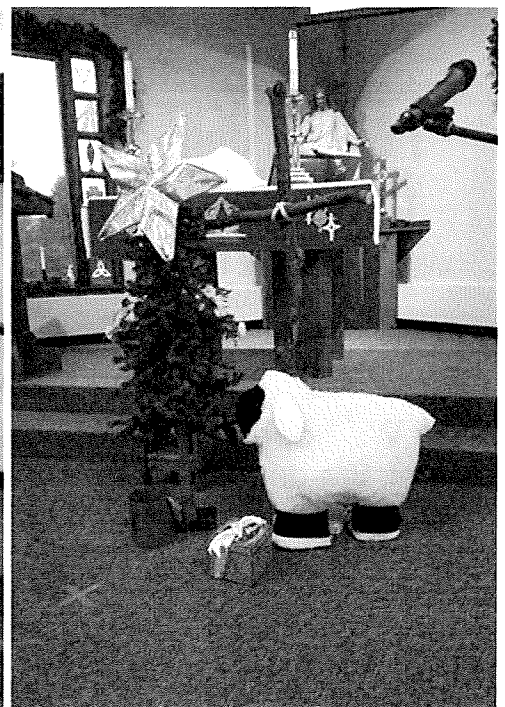
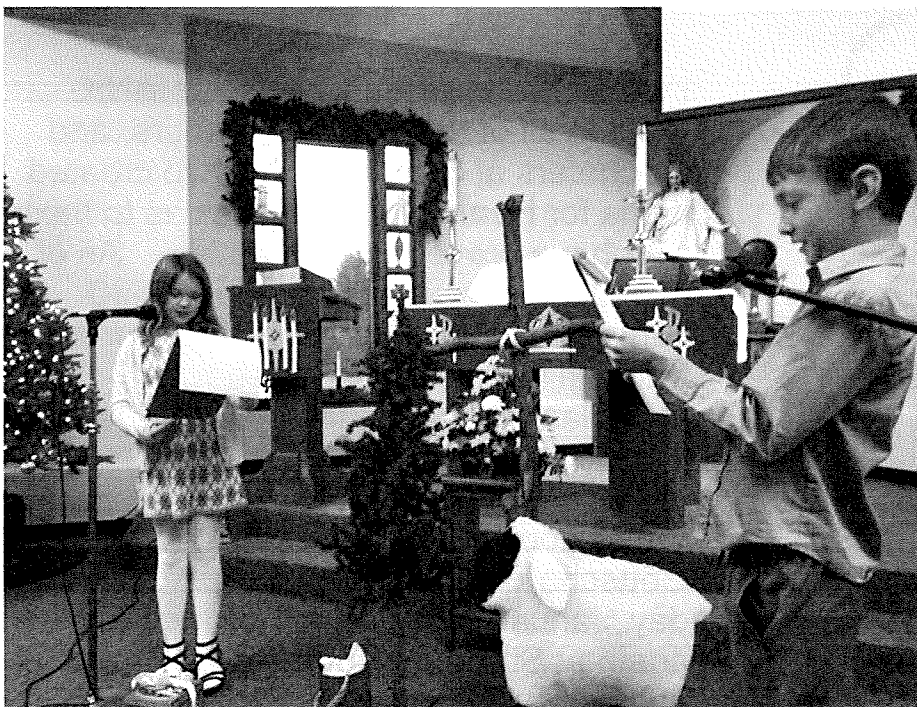
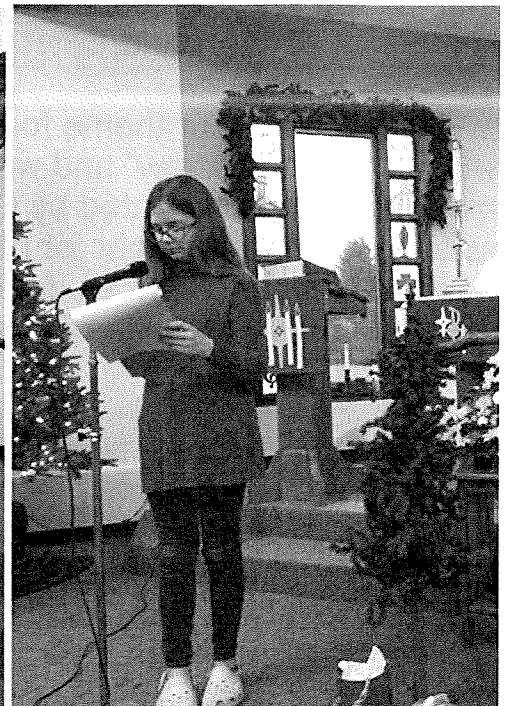
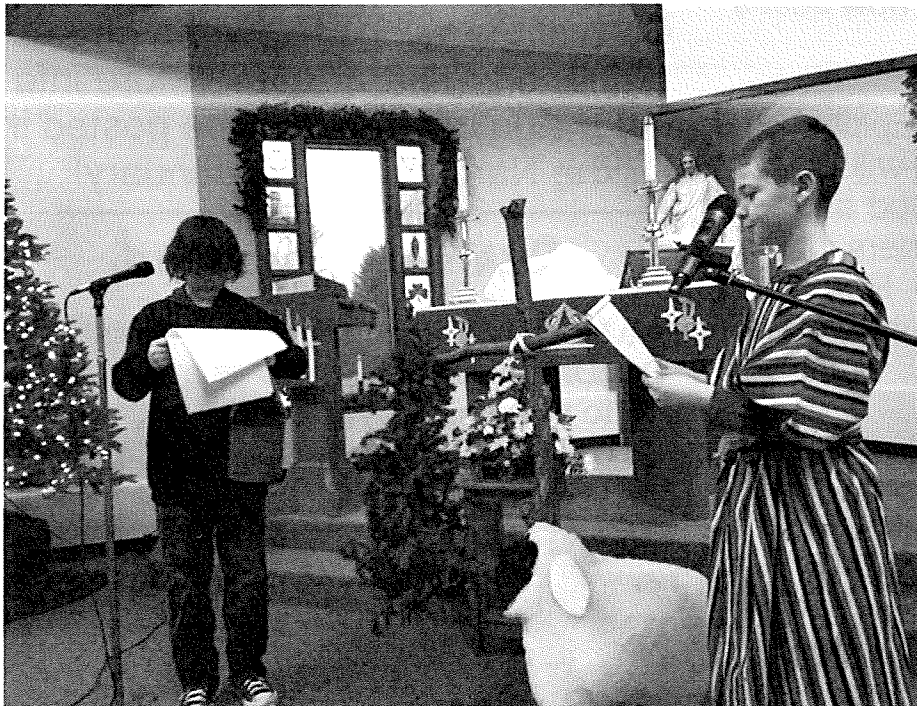
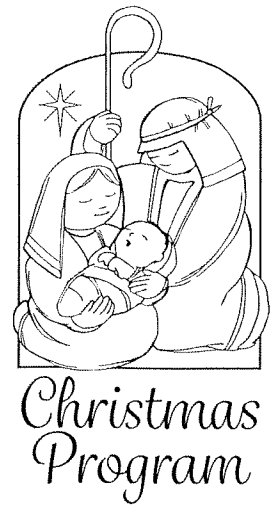
The December/January/February edition of "Our Daily Bread Devotion" is available for you to pick up. They are in the church office hallway. Please feel free to stop by and pick up a copy.



I would like to extend a huge THANK YOU to all of the knitters, loomers, and crocheters at St. Paul who have created items for Heart Works, as well as to those who have prayed for our ministry. As of mid-December, we have shared 500 items to give love, support, and warmth to those in need... 12 prayer shawls, 3 Baptism blankies, 370 hats and scarves, and 115 pocket prayer squares. In December, we enjoyed meeting at Blue Water Lodge, with Judy Halamka and Bill Gottschalk, hosting our group. On Tuesday, January 2nd, we will be meeting again at St. Paul. Come join us from 10 until noon in the Activity Room.

“Building Christmas”

On Sunday, December 17th, our Sunday School children and teachers treated us to a special message about the important symbols of Christmas and their meaning: the **Tree** (the one that was made into a cross as Jesus was sent to save us by dying on the cross. **Snow** (like sheep) – God covers our sin and blankets us with His righteousness. **Gifts** – God’s greatest gift sending His son Jesus. The **Star** that lights us the world and guides us all. Thank you Sunday School Children!





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The generosity of this congregation is always amazing whether it is giving to support the ministry and operation, or the donations for special causes. The 2023 budget of expense exceeded the anticipated income by \$17,635. As the end of the year approached, the general giving narrowed the gap. Thank you for your consistent support.

As we prepare to enter the new year, you have again shown generosity in the Stewardship Intent Responses for 2024. By mid December, 33 cards have been returned, showing the following:

Sustaining Ministry Excellence \$106,054

GWIP Outreach \$ 15,500

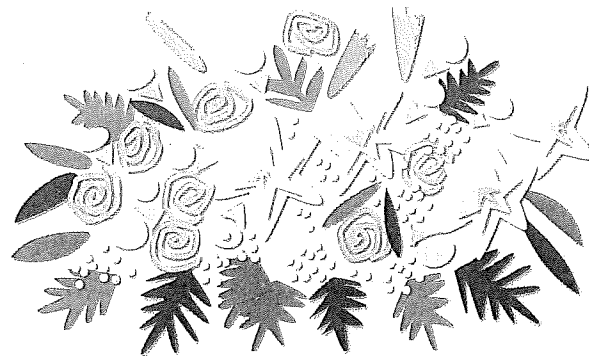
Electronic Sign Replacement \$ 7,740

With the match \$23,220

The strength of your response gives the Council confidence in implementing the budget that was adopted at the November Voters' Meeting.

If you have not responded but would still like to return your intent card, please send it to the office. If you have misplaced the form, the office staff can make you a copy.

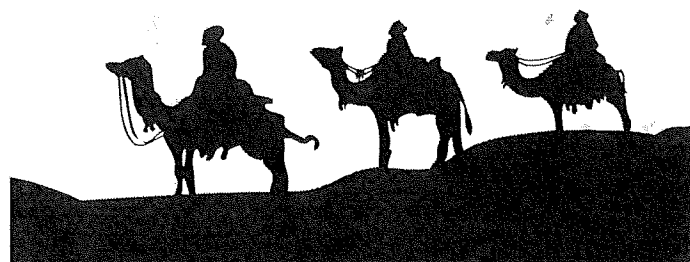
As the mission statement directs, we
GATHER (to worship & support one another)
GROW (in our relationship to God)
(receive His) GRACE,
then GO (where we are sent).



Altar Flowers

We are now signing up to **sponsor Altar Flowers for 2024**. Sign-up sheets are currently posted in the Narthex. Please consider signing up to sponsor Altar Flowers in honor/memory of a loved one. Cost is \$25 per Sunday sponsored.

the
WISE *still*
SEEK HIM





Jacques Merkau, Council President
Jim Fortushniak -President Elect
Marcia Conard, Council Secretary
Julie Lusk, Treasurer
Kathy Strauss, Financial Secretary
Susan Koglin, Asst. Financial Secretary
Vacant-Financial Rep
Leanne Fortushniak, Evangelism Rep
Leann Smith, Parish Ed Rep
Vacant-Properties Rep
Diane Welsh, Stewardship Rep
Ann Preimesberger, Worship



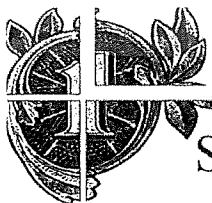
Planning a Fund Raiser?

Present the idea to the Council for approval. Request the fund raiser form and a manila envelope in which to collect money during the event. Store the money envelope in the safe. At the end of the event, count the donations. Give the financial secretaries the envelope so it can be reported as income. Checks are issued every two weeks. Let the treasurer know. the amount of the check, contact person's name and the address for mailing.

EPIPHANY PARTY

SATURDAY, JANUARY 6, 2024

Marilyn and Ron's house



Quarterly
Giving
Statements

The 3rd Quarter contribution statements have been emailed/mailed. If you did not receive yours or would like a hard copy, please email or call the office and let us know if you would like it mailed or placed in your box.

Come one, Come all!
to celebrate the arrival of the Magi to worship
the baby Jesus! Also known as Three Kings
Day and Twelfth Night, be prepared for feast-
ing, fellowship, and fun!

Gather at 5:30

Kroger Community Rewards Program

From **August 1, 2023 to October 31, 2023**, St. Paul Lutheran Church has received \$67.90 from 29 families' rewards on purchases at Kroger. To use the rewards program, you can register online at krogercommunityrewards.com. All **current participants** in the Kroger Community Rewards Program **do not** need to re-enroll this year to earn funds for St. Paul. The rewards program runs from May 2023 to May 2024. Our NPO number is RK460. **Registration is online only.**

Newsletter: The newsletter deadline for the February Ray is Wednesday, January 17th, 2024. Articles may be submitted via e-mail (stpaulww@comcast.net), on a flash drive or in writing.



While all are not able to be face to face in worship in our Sanctuary, there are still opportunities to gather to hear God's Word, to pray, to sing and to be encouraged. Please join us at 11 AM on our Facebook page for our livestream service.



Prayer List



Prayer requests are welcomed and can be made on our Facebook page, by emailing the church office at stpaulww@comcast.net or with our connection cards. To keep the list current, please make your request each week you wish to have your loved one's name included in the prayers.

Monday, Wednesday & Friday 9:30-1:30
Tuesday & Thursday 9:30- 11:30



Sunday Services

1st service begins at 8 AM

2nd service begins at 11 AM

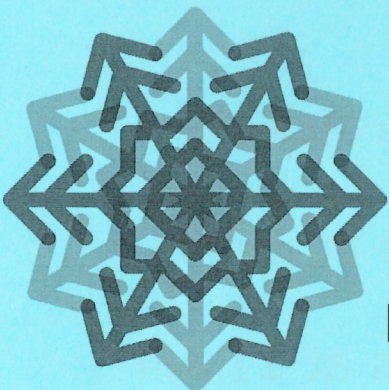
ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH
3790 WEST WATER ST
PORT HURON, MI 48060
(810) 982-9853

Sunday Worship 8 and 11 AM
Livestream at 11 AM on Facebook,
our YouTube channel
or watch from the link on our website
stpaulww@comcast.net
Pastor Branden Hunt
stpaulpastorelca@gmail.com

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PORT HURON, MI 48060

The Ray

Gather, Grace, Grow, Go



JANUARY

2024