

*Voice of the Saints*  
*St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church & Lighthouse Preschool*  
*Aberdeen, SD* *December 2020*

Advent 2020  
Jesse Tree—Promises and Fulfillment in Christ

**“There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse,  
and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit” (Isaiah 11:1).**

It is Advent—a time to reflect, pray, and worship the Christ who came, who comes, and who will come again. Imagine the world some two thousand years ago in the weeks before the birth of the Babe of Bethlehem. People were busy doing whatever it was that defined their lives at that moment. For some, it was struggling against hunger, fear, and desperation. For others, it was enjoying their wealth and ease. For yet others, it was simply dealing with the pressures of their lives. But for all, the weeks we call “Advent” were just days and nights lived in darkness. And indeed, it is a dark world. God had created the world to live in union with Him. He had breathed life into the father of our race, Adam, a creature of dust. He had formed Eve from the side of Adam and had joined the two together and to Himself. How bright the world must have been as Eden lived in harmony with the Creator.

But darkness came. Those created and loved by God rebelled against Him, bringing a darkness that permeated all creation. Death had entered through sin, and as the children of Adam filled the world, they took with them the darkness of that dreadful day in Eden when sin and death entered the world. It was a world of darkness cut off from the source of all light, the Creator.

Yet a light was breaking into the world. A young girl carried in her virgin womb a Son. This daughter of Eve was about to give birth to the One who would be the light of the world. This infant would reverse forever the horror of humanity’s fall into sin and death and darkness. This was the miracle of miracles: our human sister Mary became, by the power of the Holy Spirit, the mother of God, the bearer of the Savior of the world. No human eye could perceive it that night. All that could be seen was a child. Yet this child would forever destroy the darkness, for He brought life into death, and His light was to be the light of the world. Every force of Satan would seek to put that light out. Herod would attempt to destroy Him by killing every male infant. Scribes and Pharisees would seek to silence Him as He spoke words of life. Failing to silence Him, they would seek to kill Him. Some thirty-three years after the first Christmas, the Babe of Bethlehem would be nailed to a cross. But this is what He had come to do.

The Advent story, including the culminating Christmas story, is about a baby who had been born to die—yet not just to die but to be placed in the utter darkness of a tomb and on Easter morning to burst forth from the tomb. When the child of Mary rose from the grave, the light that began at Bethlehem shone so brightly that no one can put it out.

This Advent, we gather in the name of Jesus and consider His great story anew. The Jesse Tree is filled with symbols telling the story of Jesus from creation to His second coming. The story of the Bible, Old and New Testaments alike, is the story of Jesus. He is the *Seed* of Jesse’s tree. He is the *Root* of Jesse’s tree. He is the *Life* of Jesse’s tree. And He is the *First fruit* of Jesse’s tree. As the Church will sing with the angels on Christmas Day, “To God on high be glory and peace to all the earth” (LSB 383).

—Daniel Gard, Author of *Jesse Tree* Advent series

## December Events:

*Unto Us  
a Child is Born*



**Advent Worship Services:** December 2, 2020 12:15 pm (Mask only) & 6:15 pm  
December 9, 2020 12:15 pm (Mask only) & 6:15 pm  
December 16, 2020 12:15 pm (Mask only) & 6:15 pm

**Children's Christmas Program:** December 20, 2020 9:30 am—Sanctuary (Mask)

**Christmas Eve Services:** December 24, 2020 3:00 pm—Mask Only  
4:30 pm (Overflow in Fellowship Hall)  
6:30 pm (Overflow in Fellowship Hall)

**Christmas Day Worship Service:** December 25, 2020 9:30 am with Holy Communion  
(Mask) 10:45 am with Holy Communion

**No Confirmation classes:** December 23 & 30, 2020.

**No Sunday School:** December 29, 2020 and January 3, 2021.

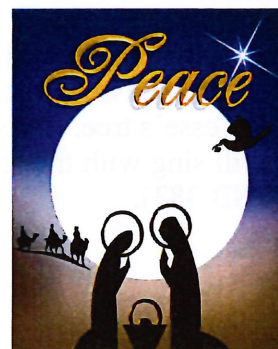
### DECEMBER USHERS:

EARLY:

Rod Kono, Head Usher  
Larry Jung  
Tom Agnitsch

LATE:

Jon Gilbert, Head Usher  
Ethan Gilbert



**Church Council Meeting  
St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church  
November 16, 2020**

The opening prayer was led by President Larry Jung.

Nate Bode suggested that the October meeting minutes be amended to state that there was approval to send a letter recommending Deb Pederson be on the Board of Directors for the Rural Gospel Initiative. A motion to amend was made by Jon Mesmer with a second from Paul Swanston.

There were no questions about the Treasurers Report. A motion to approve the report was made by Jason Oberfoell and a second by Nate Bode.

The Church report was reviewed and Nate Bode brought up some concerns about the shortage for ushering and sign-ins for Sunday morning church service. Jason Oberfoell suggested that we make this a duty of the ushers to eliminate any confusion of who should be performing these duties.

**Old Business-**The vacancy of Vice President of the church council was extended to Steve Jacobson. Steve accepted the position. A motion was made to approve filling the position by Nate Bode with a second by Jon Mesmer. A discussion was had in regards to the next steps of our new structure and governance. Two volunteers are needed to make changes to the constitution once the district sends their feedback and there will be a special voters meeting on December 6<sup>th</sup> between services to complete the voting on the new structure and governance. Pastor Bobby reported that he is also seeking help with the DCE preparations. Specifically with finding suitable housing.

**New Business-** There is a new volunteer for driving the van for preschool. This driver will need to be added to the insurance which will increase the insurance by \$325. Nate Bode made a motion to approve adding the new driver to the insurance. A second was made by Taylor Beutler. A question was raised as to whether there are background checks and drug tests done for new church personnel. A motion was made by Taylor to have background checks and drug tests done on all new employees for the church and preschool. A second was made by Nate Bode.

**Memorials and Gifts** – Darlys Bolduan - \$20.00 / Phyllis Haselhorst - \$10.00

Motion to approve memorials and gifts was made by Nate Bode with a second by Jason Oberfoell.

Next Council meeting is scheduled for December 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 pm.

Attendance: Larry Jung, Nate Bode, Jerry Streckfuss, Steve Jacobson, Paul Swanston, Jon Mesmer, Jason Oberfoell, Tom Agnitsch, Dustin Klapperich, Taylor Beutler, Deb Droog (by phone)



# This is My Body

## A HIGHER THINGS YOUTH RETREAT

January 1-2, 2021

Faith Lutheran Church in Pierre, SD

Cost is \$40.00 per person — Registration forms are on the Youth Bulletin Board.

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### APPLYING BIBLE PRINCIPLES

Throughout recorded history, people have witnessed the demonstration of God's power and glory in unmistakable ways. The creation of the world was nothing but God's imagination at work. The preservation of Noah and his family was God's doing and God's alone. The setting of the rainbow in the sky was a visible sign of God's promise never to destroy the earth by water again. The deliverance of the children of Israel by parting the waters of the Red Sea was God's doing.

Think about it: We could have been given a world system in which everything was done by God personally. Obviously, that's not the case. Most of the time, God chooses human instruments to meet needs. And sometimes, God does so without us even being aware of the extent of our involvement.

William Burton and his wife were missionaries in Africa. While there, she became very ill and often expressed her longing for an orange. But the nearest orange trees were in an orchard which was a 21 day jungle trek distance from their station. One day as William was leaving their humble hut to preach to the natives, Mrs. Burton began to ask God to provide some oranges. When he returned, by this wife's bedside was a full basket of oranges.

Here's how that happened: The owner of the orchard and his men had been picking half-ripe oranges, and he was impressed by the Lord to send some over to the Burtons. By the time the African worker made the long journey, the now-ripe oranges were ready to be enjoyed. They were being delivered as Mrs. Burton was praying for them and as Mr. Burton was preaching the Gospel.

That evening, those two missionaries rejoiced as they recalled God's promise from Isaiah 65:24, "Before they call I will answer; while they are still speaking I will hear."

Could God somehow have picked up that basket of oranges and delivered them personally to his missionary couple? No doubt, God could have done that. Instead, God used the efforts of a choice Christian servant, a man who happened to own an orchard who was sensitive to doing what God wanted him to do.

Why not ask God to show you some way that you might minister in Christ's name to someone in need? As you do so, remember the words of Jesus: "...whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me" (Matt. 25:40).

# Lighthouse Preschool News

Teaching God's children about their Creator, Savior, and Friend while preparing them for a lifetime of wonder, learning, and service.

**December 2020**

## What is a child? Human

Not only are children created by God. They are created human. While there are many similarities between all created things, human beings are distinct. And in this season of Christmas, when we talk about the Lord of the Universe coming to us in human form, it is a great reminder about what it means to be human.

### Not animals:

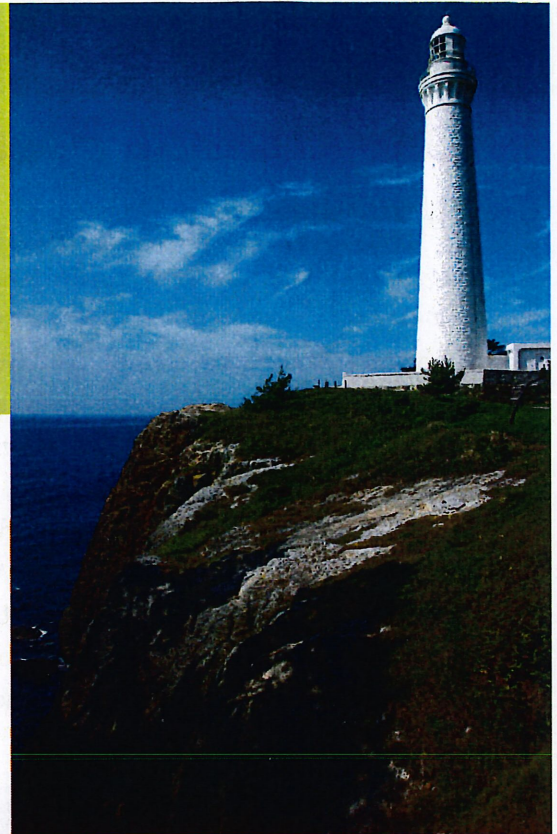
God created the beasts of the field, air and water with his word but human beings he formed out of the dust of the ground and blew the breath of life into them. People are different than animals. Yet, sometimes we treat pets better than we do children. Sometimes we treat children as animals. I will never forget a teacher friend of mine who was taught in school to use a dog clicker to train her class for English lessons. We might also hear where this is confused because while we offer animals euthanasia, the church does not condone it for sick children or elderly people. Children are human beings, which are complex creatures with many stages of development. So are you. Don't let anyone tell you that you are the sum of your experiences or contrarily, that you are all decided by your biology.

### Man and Woman:

Just as God created human beings as man and woman, he creates children a certain gender. This is not a mistake, nor is it a good idea to tinker with what God has created. We also show a disservice to this reality when we don't appreciate the differences between genders or when we identify our whole identity with what gender we are or what sex we are attracted to. Our gender and our children's gender is a part of who we are, but it isn't everything!

### Image of God:

Scripture says humans were made in the Image of God. So does God look like us? Well, no....We resemble Him! As we look at humans now, we must realize that while we were made in the likeness of God, that likeness has been tarnished by sin so we can't very well say that because we feel certain things, think certain ways, or look a certain way that God does too. What we can do is look at Jesus who is the only perfect human and purely defines what God's image is. Thanks be to God that He restores that image and when God looks on Christ as He covers us, He sees a perfect image just as he created it in the beginning.



## Upcoming Dates:

**December 15- 6:30  
Christmas Program**

**December 23-January  
3 Christmas Break**



## Lighthouse Preschool News (Continued)

Will live for eternity:

C.S. Lewis is known for stating the fact we sometimes forget as we care for those around us...every individual will live forever. The children in your care are worth every ounce of energy!

"There are no ordinary people. You have never talked to a mere mortal. Nations, cultures, arts, civilizations - these are mortal, and their life is to ours as the life of a gnat. But it is immortals whom we joke with, work with, marry, snub and exploit - immortal horrors or everlasting splendors. This does not mean that we are to be perpetually solemn. We must play. But our merriment must be of that kind (and it is, in fact, the merriest kind) which exists between people who have, from the outset, taken each other seriously - no flippancy, no superiority, no presumption."

### REMINDERS:

Please pray for the continued health of our preschoolers and families. We have been very blessed that we have not needed to shut down, nor have any of our students' families experienced hospitalizations or death. Please know that we pray for all those at St. Paul's as well!



The Preschoolers made goody bags for shut-ins of St. Paul's Lutheran.

**St. Paul's Lutheran Church - Aberdeen SD**  
**Treasurer's Report as of October 2020 for General Fund**

Account #	Account Name	Annual Budget	Period Activity	YTD Balance	Previous YTD
<b>INCOME</b>					
4.1010	General Offerings	524,398	36,710	395,148	421,243
4.1015	Electronic Giving Offset	300	40	404	228
4.1020	St. Paul's Leola/SMP	12,000	0	9,000	1,500
4.1200	Sunday School Offerings	500	107	361	413
4.1250	Coffee/Soup & Sandwich Receipt	4,000	235	2,057	3,008
4.1400	Miscellaneous Income/Giving	5,000	0	48,698	6,625
4.1500	Stewardship Giving	0	0	0	0
	<b>Total Member Giving &amp; Income</b>	<b>\$546,198</b>	<b>\$37,094</b>	<b>\$455,670</b>	<b>\$433,018</b>
4.1510	Pre School Tuition	37,500	3,150	23,207	26,379
4.1520	Pre-School Giving	10,000	315	18,342	9,942
	<b>Total Pre-School Tuition &amp; Member Giving</b>	<b>\$47,500</b>	<b>\$3,465</b>	<b>\$41,550</b>	<b>\$36,322</b>
	<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$593,698</b>	<b>\$40,559</b>	<b>\$497,220</b>	<b>\$469,341</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>					
5.1000	Lutheran Witness	2,750	0	(230)	(206)
5.1100	Portal Of Prayer	1,250	0	583	875
5.1200	Personalized Mission Support	5,000	0	3,750	2,500
5.1210	Together In Missions (TIM)	1,000	0	0	0
5.1300	Main Street Living	2,000	0	1,500	1,000
5.1400	SD District Support and Missions	50,000	4,166	41,666	39,186
5.1450	Advertising	1,000	0	300	414
5.1500	Mission Festival/Evangelism	500	0	0	0
5.1550	Postage	2,000	110	925	1,055
5.1600	Fellowship Events	6,500	275	3,054	4,677
5.1650	Five Loaves Fellowship Supper	2,000	0	862	1,000
5.1700	Worship/Communion Supplies	2,500	245	3,003	3,191
5.1800	Baptismal Supplies	250	0	231	98
5.1900	Offering Envelopes	700	596	596	598
5.1950	Evangelism Miscellaneous	2,000	0	102	660
5.1951	Mercy Fund	3,600	0	2,400	3,000
	<b>BOARD OF EVANGELISM</b>	<b>\$83,050</b>	<b>\$5,394</b>	<b>\$58,745</b>	<b>\$58,051</b>
5.2010	Property Maintenance/Upkeep	22,000	1,799	18,764	17,924
5.2040	Church Utilities	22,500	1,666	14,086	19,631
5.2050	Church Insurance	11,000	0	9,934	8,768
5.2060	Office Miscellaneous	1,000	30	463	63
5.2061	Electronic Giving Fees	1,000	77	542	773
5.2062	Bank Service Charges	250	17	107	189
5.2090	Church Snow Removal	12,000	0	3,613	12,758
5.2400	Van Upkeep and Repair	1,000	45	221	447
5.2500	Office Supplies	3,000	88	1,499	1,272
5.2550	Office Equip.Maint/Support	5,700	514	3,259	4,247
5.2600	New Office Equipment	11,000	2,175	10,285	8,951
5.2620	Capital Improvements	5,000	730	4,999	4,166
	<b>BOARD OF TRUSTEES</b>	<b>\$95,450</b>	<b>\$7,146</b>	<b>\$67,777</b>	<b>\$79,195</b>
5.3010	Miscellaneous Elder Expenses	1,000	96	96	0
	<b>BOARD OF ELDERS</b>	<b>\$1,000</b>	<b>\$96</b>	<b>\$96</b>	<b>\$0</b>
5.4010	Senior Pastor-Salary	52,894	4,407	37,578	33,620
5.4011	Asst Pastor-Salary	39,977	0	21,112	30,858
5.4030	Senior Pastor-Car Allowances	1,500	125	1,422	1,213
5.4031	Asst Pastor-Car Allowance	200	0	132	0

**St. Paul's Lutheran Church - Aberdeen SD**  
**Treasurer's Report as of October 2020 for General Fund**

Account #	Account Name	Annual Budget	Period Activity	YTD Balance	Previous YTD
5.4050	Senior Pastor-Housing Allowance	23,000	2,916	29,166	27,866
5.4051	Asst Pastor-Housing Allowance	23,000	0	12,000	19,985
5.4080	Senior Pastor Continuing Ed.	500	0	500	0
5.4081	Asst Pastor Continuing Ed.	500	0	0	0
5.4090	SMP Expenses	12,000	3,376	12,600	1,600
5.4120	Babysitting Services	2,000	0	468	663
5.4200	Secretary- Salary	32,540	2,711	27,116	26,233
5.4205	Secretary - Substitutes	600	0	0	0
5.4220	Custodial-Salary	21,333	1,229	12,801	20,609
5.4250	Organists-Salary	4,800	0	785	1,525
5.4260	Pastoral Support	1,200	699	2,324	0
5.4300	Payroll Taxes	4,675	301	3,412	3,695
5.4310	Health Insurance Benefits	70,714	5,915	60,232	56,104
5.4320	Retirement	17,250	2,473	10,692	13,126
5.4330	Life/Dis Insurance	5,000	0	2,046	3,460
5.4350	Lighthouse Preschool Tuition Benefit	6,000	0	2,000	0
5.4500	Conventions/Conferences - Pastors	3,000	0	102	2,792
	<b>BOARD OF PERSONNEL</b>	<b>\$334,433</b>	<b>\$24,157</b>	<b>\$237,525</b>	<b>\$246,753</b>
5.5000	Sunday School	2,000	197	673	1,104
5.5100	Vacation Bible School	2,000	0	900	853
5.5200	Confirmation	1,100	60	1,621	1,175
5.5250	Adult Christian Education	500	0	(776)	390
5.5300	Youth Ministry	500	0	271	402
5.5320	Camp Mineboji	500	0	0	0
5.5500	Library Media Resources	300	0	0	248
5.5600	Retreats and Workshop	150	0	0	0
	<b>BOARD OF EDUCATION/YOUTH</b>	<b>\$7,050</b>	<b>\$258</b>	<b>\$2,689</b>	<b>\$4,175</b>
5.6100	Pre-School Director Salary	21,462	1,041	15,241	18,154
5.6110	Pre-School Teacher(s)	23,230	2,358	20,934	11,645
5.6120	Pre-School Assistants	9,000	1,407	8,662	13,173
5.6210	Pre-School Payroll Taxes	4,110	367	3,330	3,287
5.6220	Pre-School Retirement	3,575	305	4,285	4,446
5.6222	Pre-School Life/Disability Insurance	1,118	79	851	932
5.6310	Conventions/Conferences - Pre-School	1,500	0	767	225
5.6410	Pre-School Insurance	720	0	1,471	700
5.6420	Pre-School Snow Removal	950	0	200	700
5.6430	Pre-school Maintenance	1,950	372	1,839	2,356
5.6440	Pre-school Utilities	2,300	184	1,735	2,273
5.6510	Pre-School Ed. Materials	1,000	353	1,025	776
5.6520	Pre-School Supplies	1,200	238	679	1,322
5.6530	Pre-School Advertising	600	0	481	0
	<b>LIGHTHOUSE PRESCHOOL</b>	<b>\$72,715</b>	<b>\$6,709</b>	<b>\$61,506</b>	<b>\$59,993</b>
	<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$593,698</b>	<b>\$43,762</b>	<b>\$428,340</b>	<b>\$448,168</b>
	<b>Difference</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>(\$3,202)</b>	<b>\$68,880</b>	<b>\$21,172</b>

**St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church (LCMS)**  
**& Lighthouse Preschool**  
 Rev. Samuel Bobby (605) 415-5578



**December**

Every Sunday  
 Divine Service @ 8am  
 Bible Study @ 9:15  
 Divine Service @ 10:45

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
		1 <b>2 Chron</b> 16:1-17:19 <b>Luke</b> 9:1-9 7am Personnel Mtg	2 <b>2 Chr</b> 18:1-34/ <b>Luke</b> 9:10-20 6am Men's Bible Study 12:15 Advent Service-Mask 5:00pm Women's Bible St 6:15 pm Advent Service 6:45 Bell Practice 7:00pm Confirmation	3 <b>2 Chron</b> 19:1-11 <b>Luke</b> 9:21-36 9am Quilting 6:30 pm Board of Ed	4 <b>2 Chron</b> 20:1-23 <b>Luke</b> 9:37-50	5 <b>2 Chron</b> 20:24-37 <b>Luke</b> 9:51-10:12
6 <b>2 Chron</b> 21:1-20 <b>Luke</b> 10:13-24 9:30 Voter's Meeting (continued) 5-7pm Circuit Youth at St. Paul's	7 <b>2 Chron</b> 22:1-12 <b>Luke</b> 10:25-37 6:15pm Worship 7:00pm Elder Mtg	8 <b>2 Chron</b> 23:1-21 <b>Luke</b> 10:38-11:13	9 <b>2Chr</b> 24:1-19/ <b>Luke</b> 11:14-26 6am Men's Bible Study 12:15 Advent Service-Mask 5:00pm Women's Bible St 6:15 pm Advent Service 6:45 Bell Practice 7:00pm Confirmation	10 <b>2 Chron</b> 24:20-27 <b>Luke</b> 11:27-36 9am Quilting	11 <b>2 Chron</b> 25:1-13 <b>Luke</b> 11:37-54	12 <b>2 Chron</b> 25:14-28 <b>Luke</b> 12:1-12
13 <b>2 Chron</b> 26:1-15 <b>Luke</b> 12:13-34	14 <b>2 Chron</b> 26:16-23 <b>Luke</b> 12:35-47 6:15pm Worship	15 <b>2 Chron</b> 27:1-28:4 <b>Luke</b> 12:48-13:5	16 <b>2Chr</b> 28:5-21/ <b>Luke</b> 13:6-17 6am Men's Bible Study 12:15 Advent Service-Mask 5:00pm Women's Bible St 6:15 pm Advent Service 6:45 Bell Practice 7:00pm Confirmation	17 <b>Chron</b> 28:22-29:2 <b>Luke</b> 13:18-30 9am Quilting 7pm RGI	18 <b>2 Chron</b> 29:3-19 <b>Luke</b> 13:1-14:11	19 <b>2 Chron</b> 29:20-36 <b>Luke</b> 14:12-35
20 <b>2 Chron</b> 30:1-27 <b>Luke</b> 15:1-10 9:30am Children's Christmas Program	21 <b>2 Chron</b> 31:1-21 <b>Luke</b> 15:11-32 6:15pm Worship 7:00 pm Church Council Meeting	22 <b>2 Chron</b> 32:1-19 <b>Luke</b> 16:1-13	23 <b>2 Chron</b> 32:20-33 <b>Luke</b> 16:14-31 6am Men's Bible Study 12:15 Worship Service-Mask	24 <b>2 Chron</b> 33:1-9 <b>Luke</b> 17:1-19 Christmas Eve Worship: 3:00 pm (Mask Only) 4:30 & 6:30pm	25 <b>2Chron</b> 33:10-34:7 <b>Luke</b> 17:20-37 Christmas Day Worship-Communion 9:30 am & 10:45 am (Mask)	26 <b>2 Chron</b> 34:8-33 <b>Luke</b> 18:1-14
27 <b>2 Chron</b> 35:1-19 <b>Luke</b> 18:15-30 No Sunday School	28 <b>2 Chron</b> 35:20-27 <b>Luke</b> 18:31-43 6:15pm Worship	29 <b>2 Chron</b> 36:1-23 <b>Luke</b> 19:1-10	30 <b>Nah</b> 1: <b>Luke</b> 19:11-27 6am Men's Bible Study 12:15 Worship Service-Mask	31 <b>Nah</b> 2 <b>Luke</b> 19:28-44		

St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church (LCMS)  
& Lighthouse Preschool  
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Preschool (605) 725-1855

*Non-Profit  
Organization  
Aberdeen, SD  
57401  
Permit #414*

# December



Merry Christmas  
From the staff of  
St. Paul's Lutheran Church