

*Called by Christ to Serve*  
*St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church & Lighthouse Preschool*  
*Aberdeen, SD* *December 2021*

## Calling, Serving, and Unity: How Compartmentalization Impacts the Lives of the Saints at St. Paul's

A good place for us to start in considering the future direction of St. Paul's is to begin with St. Paul himself and his letter to the Ephesians. One of the main themes of this letter is unity, and we see this theme very explicitly in the following words from Ephesians 4:1-7;11-16:

<sup>1</sup>"I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the *calling* to which you have been *called*, <sup>2</sup>with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, <sup>3</sup>eager to maintain *the unity* of the Spirit in the bond of peace. <sup>4</sup>There is *one body* and *one Spirit*—just as you were called to the *one hope* that belongs to your *call*— <sup>5</sup>one Lord, *one faith*, *one baptism*, <sup>6</sup>*one God* and *Father of all*, who is over all and through all and in all. <sup>7</sup>But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. [...]

<sup>11</sup>And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, <sup>12</sup>to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, <sup>13</sup>until we all attain to *the unity of the faith* and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, <sup>14</sup>so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. <sup>15</sup>Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, <sup>16</sup>from whom the *whole body*, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes *the body grow* so that it builds itself up in love."

I highlighted and italicized the many places St. Paul focuses on how we are first *called* but then how we are called *not* into some individualistic or self-interested endeavor but into the body of Christ, into the unity of our faith and Baptism.

Psychologists have a term they use to describe how modern people deal with the lack of unity they have in their life. The term is called compartmentalization, and what compartmentalization allows a person to do is isolate and detach the different areas of their life that contradict or conflict with one another. So, for example, the person who curses like a sailor during the week at work and then talks like an angel on Sunday has most likely compartmentalized their work identity from their church identity. In the same way, the person who confesses their dependence on Christ in their personal prayers or devotion, yet never lets the light of Christ shine when they're around their friends or family most likely has employed some form of compartmentalization.

Compartmentalization becomes important for us at St. Paul's because it is a tool of the devil, the world, and our sinful flesh to keep God's people from being *unified* in their calling as baptized disciples of Christ. Christ is the head of the Church, the body of Christ, and when the body disconnects their actions from the head, the consequences are noticeable in the body. In our context at St. Paul's, this disconnection takes on two characteristics. First, God's people minimize the radical claim Christ makes on their life when He calls them to faith. This manifests itself when people place other competing sources of their identity on the same level as their baptismal identity (i.e., their identity as a sports fan demands more allegiance and loyalty than their identity as a redeemed sinner or their identity as a worker, entrepreneur, hunter, farmer, a person in good physical shape, etc.). Second, God's people begin to see serving as a burden rather than an opportunity.

These two characteristics that reveal a lack of unity in Christ are related both to the work of Jesus and to one another. When a person can compartmentalize their time, talent, and treasures from Christ, they inevitably see Christ's saving work as less and less important. Put another way, when every area of our life is under the Lordship of Jesus and the Father's authority, we become thoroughly aware of our sin and our need for Jesus. Once that connection between Christ's call from death to life and darkness to light is reengaged, the unity and service follows. Rather than viewing our lives as ones of limited resources for the advancement of our own perseverance, we see everything as gift from God since we have received the greatest gift, the forgiveness, life, and salvation of Christ. Being called by Christ becomes a wonderful privilege instead of a burden, and the day-to-day obligations of our vocations, including those in the church, become opportunities to serve instead of annoyances to be overcome.

Only God's Word through the work of the Holy Spirit can break down the compartmentalization that infects the modern world and the saints at St. Paul's, including myself. Because of this, the more people have contact with God's Word, the healthier and more mature God's people become. God's Word makes claim to the entire person to show the folly of hope outside of Him and then to provide that same hope in abundance through the comprehensive life-giving salvation of Jesus.

In Christ,

Pastor Bobby



## Five Loaves Supper



December 1st at 5:15 pm. Menu: Meatballs, mashed potatoes, corn. January 5th, 2022 Menu: Scalloped potatoes and ham. You may bring a salad or a dessert.

## Prayer Service



A **Prayer Service** is scheduled for Sunday, December 12th at 12:30pm. Prayers will be offered for the St. Paul's Ministry Plan for 2022.

## Advent Services



**Advent Worship Services** will be held on December 1, 8, 15, and 22. Worship times are 12:15pm and 6:15pm. Soup and sandwiches will be served after the 12:15pm service and before the 6:15pm service. (Dec. 1st at 5:15—Five Loaves)

## Joy Sunday



December 12th at 9:30am (One Service Only) **Potluck brunch** following the service. No Sunday School or Bible Study. **No Monday night** service on December 13th.

## Lighthouse Preschool Program



The **Lighthouse Preschool Christmas Program** will be held on Monday, December 13th at 6:15 pm.

## Sunday School Christmas Program



The **Sunday School Christmas Program** will be held on Sunday, December 19th at 9:45am in the Sanctuary. You are invited to attend. Hot chocolate will be provided after the program in the fellowship hall.

## Christmas Eve



**Christmas Eve worship services** will be held on December 24, 2021 with service times at 3:30pm and 5:00 pm.

## Christmas Day



**Christmas Day worship service** will be held On December 25, 2021 at 9:30 am.

## Sunday, December 26



**Sunday Worship:** December 26th at 9:30am (One Service) No Sunday School. **No Monday night** service on December 27th.

**St. Paul's Lutheran Church  
Church Council Meeting Minutes  
November 15th, 2021 at 7:00pm**

President Larry Jung opened the meeting with a prayer.

Reviewed the Minutes of October 18th, 2021 Meeting. Tom Agnitsch made a motion to approve the minutes. Paul Swanston seconded. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report was reviewed. Preschool had good numbers. They were a net positive for the month of October. In total, the church was \$18,000 net for October. Deb Pederson motioned to approve the report. Steve Jacobson made a second motion. Motion carried.

Nate Bode went over the meeting the Board of Elders held.

**Pastor's Report:**

-Mission Speaker will be here on December 5th, 2021. December 12th will be Joy Sunday and December 19th will plan to have Sunday School Program. Pastor Smith also mentioned the District Convention on December 6-7, 2021.

**Old Business:**

-On November 20th, 2021 at 3:00 there will be a meeting for the newly elected Elders, Council Members and School Board Members. Will go over ideas for the Ministry Plan for the upcoming year. Schedule meetings for the year. Put together a Budget for the congregation to approve at the next Voter's Meeting. Go over Mega Outcome and Outcome Policies.

**New Business:**

-Have a list of Council Members to recommend to the Voter's to vote for Officers of the Board.  
-Nate Bode made a motion to correct error in the Pension Retirement (5.4320) for \$4,062.89 for staff employees for last three years. Tom Agnitsch made a second motion. Motion carried.

Prayed for Pastors, Michael and Ray. Prayed for the members of St. Paul's and prayed for those who are sick.

Nate Bode motioned to adjourn the meeting. Paul Swanston seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Next Meeting Date: December 20th, 2021 at 7:00pm.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Members Present: Paul Swanston, Steve Jacobson, Jerry Streckfuss, Larry Jung, Jason Oberfoell, Deb Pederson, Nate Bode, Taylor Beutler, Tom Agnitsch and Pastor Smith.

Submitted by:

**Jason Oberfoell**

**DECEMBER USHERS:**

**EARLY:**

Need Head Usher  
Tom Agnitsch  
Myron Voegelé

**LATE:**

Jon Gilbert, Head Usher  
Need ushers.

**Newsletter Update:**

Due to the rising cost of paper, shortages of paper, cost of postage, and costs of copying, the newsletter will be published online.

Go to: [stpaulsaberdeen.org](http://stpaulsaberdeen.org) Select - News - and Church Newsletter.

For those who do not have access to a computer, copies of the newsletter will be made available. Contact the church office.

**November 11, 2021**

**LWML Meeting**

**THEME:** CAREGIVING

Present: 15 members 1 visitor

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order by President Betty Ochsner.

**OPENING DEVOTION:** Powerless to the Powered Up-Roberta Adolphsen

**BIBLE STUDY:** Psalm 121-Pastor Smith

The League Pledge was said in unison by the group. Free will offering was taken.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** A motion was made by Betty S. and seconded by Diana to approve the October minutes. Motion carried. The treasurer's report was approved and placed on file for audit.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Help is needed for the Ham and Meatball Dinner on the 14<sup>th</sup>. Sign up sheets will be placed in the Vestibule and passed around at the Sunday morning Bible Study.
2. We will be serving Advent Lunches on December 1, 8, 15 and 22<sup>nd</sup>. (Soup and Sandwich). Please let Betty know when you can provide bars/cookies for the lunch.

**CIRCLE REPORTS:**

Good Cheer: Cards sent: 6-birthday, 1- Thinking of you. Diane Agnitsch is sending cards to men and women who are members of St. Paul's or family of St. Paul's members presently serving in the military.

Publicity: Completed the Newsletter. Served 1 funeral.

Altar Guild: No report

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

A thank you card was obtained by the Carol Nelson family.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. A motion was made by Jan and seconded by Vicki that the LWML Christmas potluck (Brunch) date be changed to December 12<sup>th</sup> (Joy Sunday) at 10:30. There will only be one service that day with no Bible Study or Sunday School. We can serve the left-over sausage and kraut.
2. There was discussion on Christmas gifts for the St. Paul's staff. Gloria made a motion, seconded by Sally on the gift values. Motion carried.
3. With the addition of duties to Cindy's job description, we will no longer be able to ask her to assist with LWML duties i.e., making copies, assisting with announcements for bulletin boards etc.
4. It was decided by the group to have the Book store open on Thursday mornings from 9-12 when we are quilting.

The meeting was closed with Prayer. Meeting was adjourned by Betty O.

The next meeting will be January 13 2022 at 11:30am with Publicity Circle serving.



# 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 2021**

## Blessings Abound at the Lighthouse Preschool!

Though many preschools in town have had low numbers this year, the Lighthouse Preschool is more full than we have been in a long time. We praise God for the privilege of sharing the Good News with so many children.

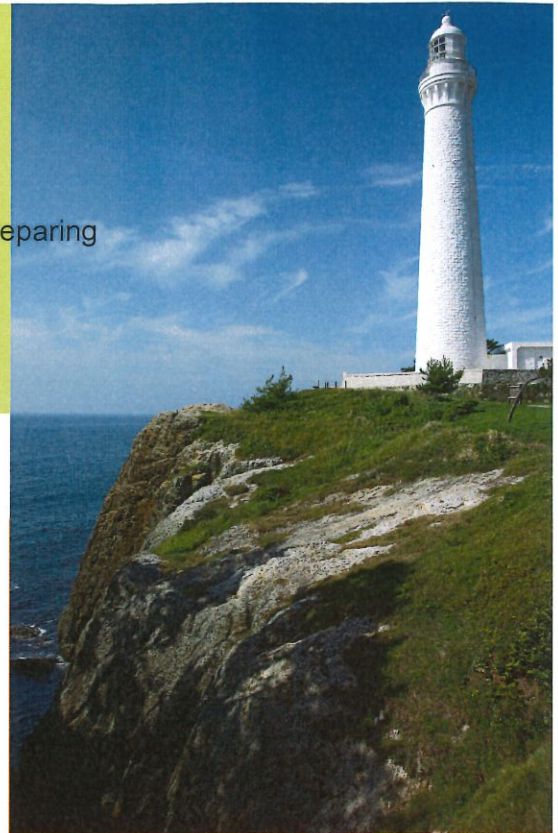
(29 families and 32 children to be exact!)

Please consider helping continue the ministry here by helping to bake and buy cookies at our Cookie Sale Fundraiser on December 15<sup>th</sup> at the Advent Meals.

Please also consider helping us by shopping [Smile.Amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com) so that a portion of your purchase goes back to the preschool.

Also, please note for yourself or for a family that you know, that registration for the 2022-2023 school year will be open in January.

Please also pray that as we tell these little ones about how the Lord of the Universe came into creation as a baby, they would know that they are dearly loved children of the Heavenly Father!



## Upcoming Dates:

**December 13<sup>th</sup> -**

**6:15pm**

**Christmas Program**

**December 15<sup>th</sup> -**

**Cookie Sale Fund raiser  
during Advent Meals**

**December 22-Jan 3**

**Christmas Break!**

## Reminders:

**Save Those  
Grocery Receipts**





# Holiday Cookie SALE

Monday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm  
Wednesday, December 15<sup>th</sup>  
at 1:00 pm and 5:15 pm



Let Us Help You With Your  
Holiday Baking!

\$5.00 per box!

Consider donating your favorite

holiday treats to the sale.

Please have your donations in the church library  
by noon on Monday, December 13<sup>th</sup>.

*Thank you for helping us make  
this event successful!*

ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT  
THE LIGHTHOUSE PRESCHOOL



# Holiday Cookie SALE

Monday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm  
Wednesday, December 15<sup>th</sup>  
at 1:00 pm and 5:15 pm



Let Us Help You With Your  
Holiday Baking!

\$5.00 per box!

Consider donating your favorite

holiday treats to the sale.

Please have your donations in the church library  
by noon on Monday, December 13<sup>th</sup>.

*Thank you for helping us make  
this event successful!*

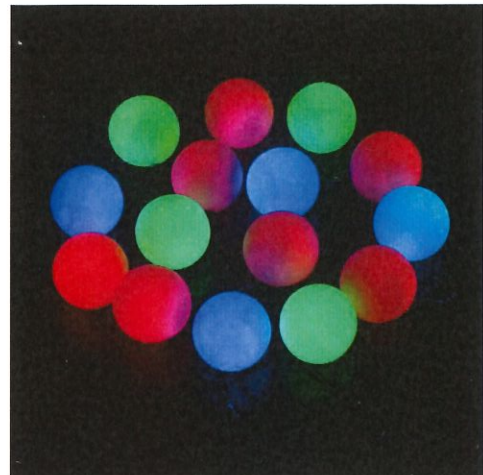
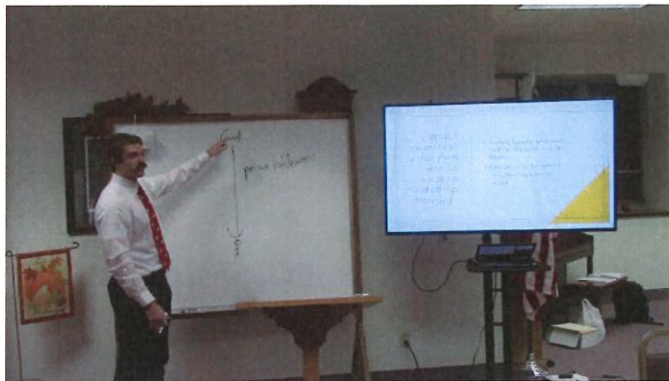
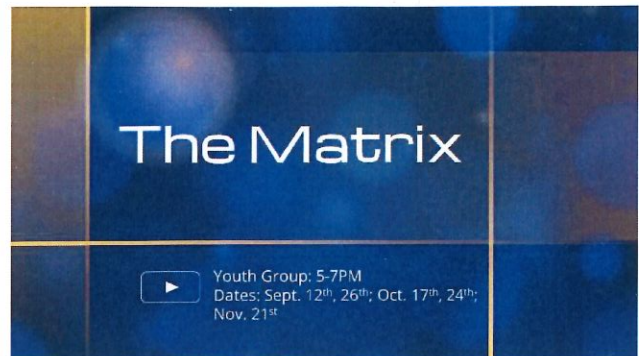
ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT  
THE LIGHTHOUSE PRESCHOOL





## Check It Out!

Here are some of the things that we've been up to! The men's retreat was a great experience (picture below). Thank you to all the men that joined us! During Circuit Youth (picture bottom-right), we learned how we can have joy in dark places because of what Jesus has done for us. And St. Paul's youth enjoyed the thrilling conclusion to The Matrix Bible Study.



---

## Events and Information

- Devotional Challenge Book Bible Study: We will only meet once in December on the 14<sup>th</sup>. Class is canceled on December 7<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, and 28<sup>th</sup>. We will resume class on January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022.
- Christmas Hymn Sing on Sunday, December 19<sup>th</sup> in between services!
  - Our Sunday School children have been practicing their Christmas carols and they are looking forward to singing for you!
  - During the hymn sing we will hear the Christmas narrative as told in the Gospel of Luke and there will be the opportunity for the whole congregation to sing together.
- Youth Lock-In in January: TBA
  - Keep your eyes peeled for upcoming information!



# St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church (LCMS)





## & Lighthouse Preschool

Rev. Samuel Bobby (605) 415-5578

Rev. Jacob Smith (586) 556-6077



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

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
5 12pm Voters Mtg	6 6:15 Worship	7	1 6am Men's Bible Study 10:45am 1 Sam. Bible Study 12:15 Advent Worship 5:15pm Women's Bible St 5:15 Five Loaves Supper 6:15pm Advent Worship 6:45pm Confirmation 6:45 Vocal / 7:30 Bell	2 9:00am Good Cheer Circle mtg.	3	4
12 9:30 am Joy Sunday 10:45 Potluck Brunch No Sunday School 5-7pm Circuit Youth @ Our Savior	13 6:15pm Lighthouse Preschool Program  No. ght Service	14 7:00pm Devotional Challenge Bible St.	15 6am Men's Bible Study 10:45am 1Sam Bible St 12:15 Advent Worship 5:15pm Women's Bible St 6:15pm Advent Worship 6:45pm Confirmation 6:45 Vocal / 7:30 Bell	16 9am Quilting 7:00pm Rural Gospel Initiative	17	18
19 9:45am Children's Christmas Program 	20 6:15 Worship 7:00pm Church Council meeting	21	22 6am Men's Bible Study 10am Bible Study 12:15pm Advent Worship 6:15pm Advent Worship 6:30pm Confirmation	23	24 3:30 & 5:00 Christmas Eve Services 	25 9:30 am Christmas Day Service 
26 9:30am Worship No Sunday School	27 No Monday Night Service	28	29	30 9am Quilting	31	