

The Messenger

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH
503 S. STATE STREET
CARO, MICHIGAN 48723

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SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES
AT 8:30 A.M. AND 11:00 A.M.
SUNDAY SCHOOL AND BIBLE
CLASSES AT 9:45 A.M.
WEDNESDAY WORSHIP
SERVICE AT 7:00 P.M.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

STUDY the Word
SEEK the lost
SERVE all people
SHARE our gifts
In JESUS' name.

...St. Paul Lutheran Church

January 2024

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			



The January issue of
The Messenger is sponsored by
Tim & Becki Bates
in celebration of
their 40th Anniversary,
Norma Bates' 94th Birthday, and
Granddaughter Alexandra's Birthday

FACTS & FIGURES

DATE	SERVICE	ATTENDANCE	OFFERING
Thanksgiving Offering			\$1391.00
11/26 & 11/29	Worship Services	56 + 76 + 23 = 155	\$10,335.00
12/3 & 12/6	Worship Services	67 + 91 + 32 = 190	\$6,425.00
12/10 & 12/13	Worship Services	82 + 80 + 45 = 207	\$6,923.00
12/17 & 12/20	Worship Services	69 + 131 + 41 = 241	\$8,585.00
12/24	Worship Services	76	\$4,420.00
12/24	Christmas Eve	251	\$1,826.00
12/25	Christmas	51	\$1,611.00
Needed each week			\$8,642.37

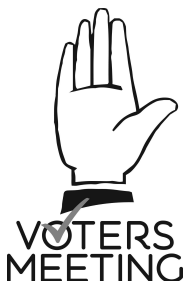
NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The deadline for the February 2024 issue of *The Messenger* is: **Monday, January 22 at 12:00 (noon)**

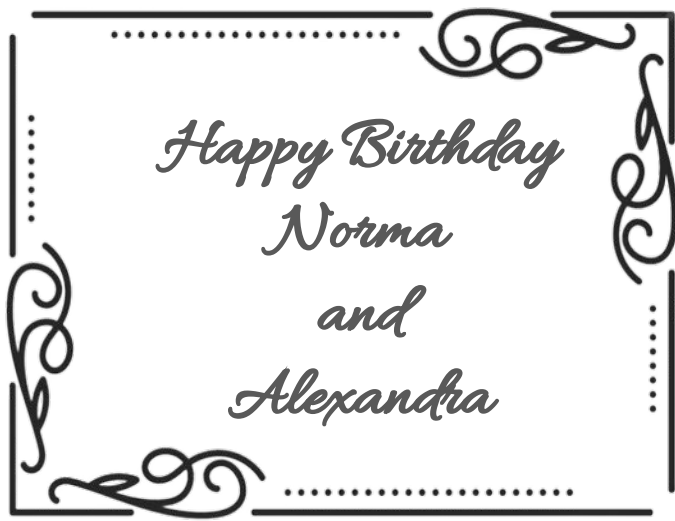
Articles may be emailed to **lynn@stpaulcaro.org** or put in Secretary mailbox

CHILDREN'S BULLETIN DRAWING

The winner for the Children's Bulletin Drawing for November is **Addison Vaughan**. Addison, you can either pick up your prize at the church office M-F, 8:30-4:30, or you can tell myself (Lynn), or Pastor, or one of the Elders on Sunday and they can let you choose a prize from the prize box. The winner for December will be announced in the first Sunday bulletin in January and in the February newsletter.



Our next Voter's Assembly is January 21 at 7:00 PM. Please join us if you are a voter or if you wish to become a voter.



MEMORY VERSE CHALLENGE

Week of January 7, 2024

John 1:14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Week of January 14, 2024

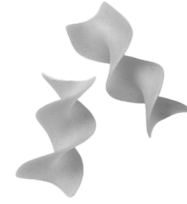
Romans 6:3-4 Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

Week of January 21, 2024

1 Timothy 2:5-6 For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time.

Week of January 28, 2024

Isaiah 30:15 For thus said the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel, "In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and in trust shall be your strength."



NOODLE MAKING: Noodle Making will be on January 22. The Noodle Makers can use donations of eggs and Gold Medal flour. There will be a sign up sheet in the Narthex.

NEWSLETTER SPONSORS FOR 2024

If you would like to sponsor the newsletter for a month, please see or call Lynn in the office at 989-673-4214. The cost is only \$25 per month. The money for the sponsorship will be used for the gifts for the Children's Bulletin Drawing and to supply the youth with the subscription for their quarterly devotion books when our current sponsor is done.

Reflecting the Light

January 6 has a special name: **Epiphany**. The word *epiphany* means to “show forth” or “shine.” On Epiphany we hear the story of the magi. (You can read it in Matthew 2:1-12.) The magi were wise people who studied the skies and saw a bright star shining in the sky. They followed it to find the child that God had sent to be a special leader. Prophets had said this leader would be like a light shining in the darkness, showing people God’s way.

The magi didn’t belong to the same community or country as Jesus did, but they saw the star and believed it was announcing something important. They presented their gifts to Jesus; then they went back to their homeland. That was the start of the light of God’s love spreading out to all people.

The magi brought gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Here are some gifts that we might offer to Christ, by sharing them with others: a firm handshake to a shaky soul, a kind word to a lonely person, a warm smile to the disheartened, a sincere concern for someone troubled, a feeling of compassion for the neglected, a comforting thought for the bereaved, a word of witness to help a seeking soul.

Jesus’ Baptism and Ours

Baptism is a sign of the relationship God initiates with us. We love because God first loves us. Water was used in Jesus’ baptism, which we remember this year on January 7, and it is still used in baptism today. If you have been baptized, find out all you can about that day. Where were you baptized? When did it happen? Who was there, and what happened? Write down what you learned. Now read the story of Jesus’ baptism in Matthew 3:13-17 and compare your stories. What was similar? What was different? The main thing that all baptisms share is the water and the word of God: you are my beloved child.

The Baptism of Jesus

Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him.

John would have prevented him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he consented. And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; and behold, a voice from heaven said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.”

-Matthew 3:13-17

joy

J.O.Y. TRIP ~ SATURDAY, JANUARY 13, 2024

Just Older Youth will meet at the church at **10:45 AM on Saturday, January 13th**, and go to the Cork Pine Eatery in Vassar for lunch, then across the street to the Vassar Theatre to see “*Journey to Bethlehem*,” a musical adventure film for the entire family. This film weaves classic Christmas melodies with humor, faith, and new pop songs in a beautiful retelling of the greatest story ever told: the story of Mary and Joseph and the birth of Jesus. No cost to attend this film, but tickets are required, and 20 tickets have been obtained. If more are needed, we can get them that day.

PLEASE JOIN US for Christian fun and fellowship!! Just Older Youth includes everyone 50 and older. If you can come, please sign the sheet posted on the bulletin board in the narthex.

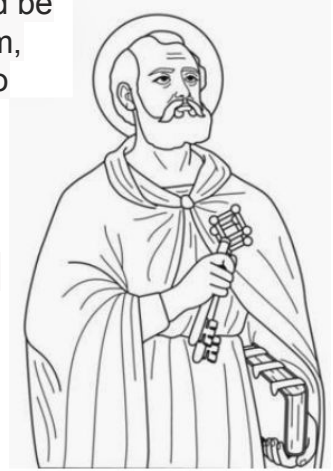
Congratulations
to Dara & Della
Del Real, who
were baptized
on December 3,
2023.



The Confession of St. Peter

On Which the Church Doth Stand ~ January 18

Peter was the first of the disciples to confess Jesus as God—a proclamation that would be critical to our Lord’s ministry and the later ministry of his Church. Jesus responds to him, saying, “Blessed are you, Simon bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father, who is in heaven,” and later, “You are Peter, and on this Rock I will build My church.”



Our Lord Jesus shows us here that this confession came from God himself, demonstrating that faith is not the product of human wisdom or reason but is instead revealed and given by God.

Peter, the rough fisherman and brother of Andrew, is one of the most prominent characters in the Gospels, often known for his stumbling, impetuous, and rash behavior. After all, it was Peter who attempted to walk on the sea, Peter who wished to build three tabernacles on the mountain during the Transfiguration, and Peter who denied Jesus three times on the night that he was betrayed.

Yet Peter also risked his life for Jesus and his work, being sent out after Pentecost and remembered as one of the strongest leaders of the early Church. Although Scripture depicts Peter struggling with himself, contradicting his own beliefs, and acting spontaneously, our Lord’s graciousness towards him reminds us that Jesus did not come to save the worthy but the weak and sinful.

Peter’s confession of Jesus as Christ serves as an example of faith, the “rock” on which the Church is built. Through confessions like this, the Holy Spirit works to call, gather, and build the Church, sanctifying its believers. This day of St. Peter also reminds us that our Lord gives his Church the keys to the Kingdom and instructed Peter and the other disciples to be the early Church’s pastors who would continue the confession of Christ throughout the ages. Through men like these our Lord continues to make himself known to his people through his Word and Sacraments.

So on this day of confession, we can thank our heavenly father that he used an ordinary person like Peter to proclaim his faith and build his Church.

A Brief History

A version of this festival dedicated to St. Peter and his confession has existed since the fourth century. It was formerly called “the Chair of Peter,” and the commemoration tended to honor Peter as the head of episcopal authority and focus on his position as a leader of the twelve disciples.

While the Roman Catholic Church and other Protestants have continued to observe this feast on its historic date in February, many Lutherans and others following the Reformation observed their primary commemoration of Peter on the January date. The main reason for this shift was a desire that the feast not fall during Lent so that it could be celebrated as a proper feast and conflict with Lenten observances.

Collect

Heavenly Father, Thou didst reveal to the Apostle Peter the blessed truth that Thy Son Jesus is the Christ: strengthen us, we beseech Thee, by the proclamation of this truth, that we too may joyfully confess that there is salvation in no one else; through the same Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with Thee and the Holy Ghost: ever one God, world without end. Amen.

January 22nd is Sanctity of Human Life Day 40th Anniversary

On January 13, 1984, President Ronald Reagan issued a proclamation designating **January 22nd as the first National Sanctity of Human Life Day**, noting it was the 11th anniversary of Roe v. Wade, the Supreme Court ruling that legalized abortion in all 50 states.

In the case of Roe v. Wade, the US Supreme Court struck down state laws restricting abortions during the first six months of pregnancy. In the following decades, the debate has continued to rage between those who believe a woman has a right to

choose whether to continue a pregnancy and those who believe that aborting such a pregnancy is the murder of an unborn child.

January 2024 will commemorate the 40th year our nation has observed the sanctity of human life. However, the need to pray for a culture of life in our nation is still vitally important. Abortions continue to occur.

The day is traditionally marked as a holy day by the Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod as Sanctity of Human Life Sunday.

Prenatal Developmental Markers:

Day 1: Each single-cell zygote possesses its own unique genetic DNA signature identifying him or her as a distinct human being.

Day 14: Embryo has developed an irreversible top and bottom, front and back, left and right.

Day 18: Heart begins beating.

Day 23: Brain and spinal cord are formed.

Day 28: Baby has all his or her vital organs, arms, legs, and reproductive cells.

Day 50: When most mothers become aware of pregnancy, the infant has a complete skeleton and over 4,000 distinct anatomical parts, equaling 90% of structures found in adults.

“You are not and never have been simply a number, a blob of tissue, or an invisible nobody. Rather, you are now and always have been God’s handcrafted gift to the world.”

*Michelle Bauman,
director of Y4Life –
A Life Quote from
Lutherans For Life •
lutheransforlife.org*



Life Is Precious

All human life, created in the image of God and redeemed by the blood of Jesus Christ, is precious!



The Unborn

At 15 weeks of pregnancy, the unborn baby has developed every major organ and most are functional, she responds to touch and pain, she has a preference for sweet over bitter flavor, and she demonstrates right or left hand dominance.

Fearfully & Wonderfully Made

We celebrate all people as fearfully and wonderfully made by the hands of God.

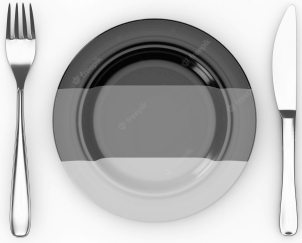
Created By God

Even during the times when we do not feel comfortable in our own bodies, we embrace our gender, appearance, and abilities as created by God.

All human life has an inherent dignity, worth, and sacredness that sets it apart from all other life within the world because humans are made in the image of God, thus warranting the protection of life throughout the entire course of existence.

*“Children are a gift from the Lord; a reward from Him.”
Psalms 127:3*

SAUERKRAUT SUPPER



Sunday, January 14, 2024

Fellowship Hall

Carry outs Available



Serving from Noon – 1:30 p.m.

Menu:

Sauerkraut & Polish Sausage

Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Rolls, and Dessert



Adults - \$14.00

5-12 - \$5.00

Under 5 - Free



Advance ticket sales only

Ticket sales after church (see an Elder)

OR in the church office Monday - Friday, 8:30-4:30.

Deadline for tickets sales is January 10

Sponsored by the Board of Elders

Did you know? Although sauerkraut is a term which is made up of the German words sauer (sour) and kraut (cabbage), it is a Chinese invention. It was, in fact, the Chinese who first fermented cabbage in rice wine over 2,000 years ago.



Operation Christmas Child

2023 Final Update

WOW !!!! God has again blessed your efforts for Operation Christmas Child in a mighty way. After the packing party on October 29th we continued to be blessed with more donations. God wasn't done with us yet. He provided more items and donations. Diana was able to pack more shoe boxes. After it was all said and done, St. Paul Lutheran Church packed and took to the Drop Off Center **334 shoe boxes**. **Praise and Glory to God** for giving us the means to bring **the gospel of Christ** to children around the world. With the help of St. Paul's **334 shoe boxes**, the Caro Drop Off Center processed and took to the Central Collection Center a total of **1,992 shoe boxes**, a record. We thank Karen Mozden , The Michigan Lutheran Marriage Encounter Group, Vicki Reinbold, and Becki Bates for your donations to help with shipping costs. In addition, thank you to Diane Hasenleder and Lisa Graf for their donations to help buy shoe box filler items. These donations came in after the Packing Party.

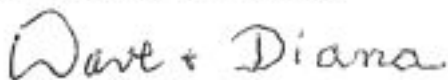
On Friday, November 17th Tim Bates, Doug DeRocco and Karen and Jeri Mozden transported all 31 of our egg cartons of shoe boxes from the church to the Drop Off Center for processing. Thank you Tim, Doug, Karen and Jeri for going the extra mile !!!!

We are so thankful to those of you who helped during National Collection Week: Thank You Glennis Kirkey and Marilyn Hinderer for your delicious cookies. Glennis, thank you for your craft projects that will be packed in next year's shoeboxes. To Mitzi LaValley, Cathy Erla, Linda Bitzer , Linda Matuszak, Karen Mozden and her sister-in-law Jeri thank you for volunteering at the Drop Off Center. We had a hectic and busy collection week.

On the second Monday of Collection Week, we transported our cartons of shoeboxes to Lakeport, Michigan. Dillon and Kevin Hollosy of Bay Area Rental once again provided a covered trailer and pickup to transport half of our cartons. Our son Mike and daughter-in-law Cheryl pulled a second covered trailer with the rest of the cartons. The trailer was donated by Cheryl's brother Ron Parrish.. We transported 120 large cartons and 31 egg cartons filled with our 1992 shoe box gifts. **God once again provided and we give Him thanks, glory and praise!!!!**

We thank and praise God for the opportunity to serve Him in this vital and rewarding ministry. We thank Pastor Steele for his support, and the members of St. Paul Lutheran Church for your donations, participation, help and prayers this year. We look forward to next year when we will once again "Pack a Shoe Box." **To God Be the Glory !!!!**

In Christ, In service with you,



Dave & Diana Mattlin

St. Paul Project Leaders and Caro Area Drop Off coordinators

My life flows on in endless song
Above earth's lamentation.
I hear sweet, though far off, hymn
That hails a new creation.
Through all the tumult and the strife
I hear the music ringing;
It finds an echo in my soul-
How can I keep from singing?

-Robert Lowry, "How Can I Keep from Singing,"
Christianity Today

Some Resolutions for a New Year

During the new year:

- I resolve to put Christ before my church and my church before my club.
- I resolve to put the spiritual before the material and the eternal before the temporal.
- I resolve to put God's Word before men's opinions.
- I resolve to put Christ before the creed.
- I resolve to put the Savior before the teacher.
- I resolve to walk more by faith and trust and less by sight and reason.
- I resolve to live in order to grove rather than to get.
- I resolve to strive to be good rather than great.
- I resolve to put more of God and less of myself in my work.



**American
Red Cross**



BLOOD DRIVE MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

**Monday, January 15, 2024
12 - 5:45 PM**

Appointments are encouraged -

Walk-ins are welcome

Call 1-800-RED-CROSS

(1-800-733-2767)

**or visit RedCrossBlood.org to schedule
your appointment.**

**Must have photo ID or donor card to
donate.**



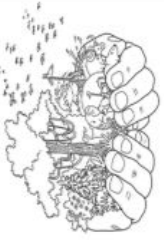


- Every 2 seconds someone in the U.S. needs blood and or platelets.
 - Approximately 29,000 units of red blood cells are needed every day in the U. S.
 - Nearly 5,000 units of platelets and 6.500 units of plasma are needed daily in the U.S.
 - Blood and platelets cannot be manufactured; they can only come from volunteer donors.
 - The blood type most often requested by hospitals is type O.
 - One donation can help save more than one life.
- Eligibility questions? Call
1-800-RED CROSS
(1-800-733-2767) or visit
RedCrossBlood.org.

If you have a smart phone, or a computer, you will really love the Bible Reading Plan for this year. You can have it read to you as you follow along if you want. Download the Bible app. - it's pictured below (Or on your computer go to Bible.com)

Under "Find Plans" you will want the one that is called "The One Year Chronological Bible" - pictured below

"The One Year Chronological Bible" - pictured below

YOU DO NOT HAVE TO DOWNLOAD THE APP TO READ THE PLAN ON YOUR OWN -
You can just follow along with the calendar.

This is what the app looks like.	 <h1 style="text-align: center;">January 2024</h1> 							This is what the plan looks like.
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday		
Gen = Genesis Chr = Chronicles	1 Genesis 1-3	2 Gen. 4-6 1Chr.1:1-4	3 1 Chr. 1:5-23, Gen. 7-10	4 Gen. 11-14, 1 Chr. 1:24-27	5 Gen. 15-17	6 Gen. 18-21:7		
7 Gen. 21:8-24:67	8 Gen. 25:1-26, 1 Chr. 1:28-34	9 Gen. 25:27-28:5	10 Gen. 28:6-30:24	11 Gen. 30:25-31:55	12 Gen. 32-35:27	13 Gen 36, 1 Chr 1:35-2:2		
14 Genesis 37-39, 1 Chr. 2:3-6, 1 Chr. 2:8	15 Gen 40 Gen 35:28-29, Gen 41	16 Gen. 42-45:15	17 Gen. 45:16-47:27	18 Gen. 47:28-50:26	19 Job 1-4	20 Job 5-7		
21 Job 8-11	22 Job 12-14	23 Job 15-18	24 Job 19-21	25 Job 22-25	26 Job 26-29	27 Job 30-31		
28 Job 32-34	29 Job 35-37	30 Job 38-40:5	31 Job 40:6-42:17					

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

God's Blessings as you celebrate your special day!



January 2

Julie McCreedy

January 3

Marjorie Becker
Tammy Sattelberg
Miranda Spry

January 4

Ava Eremia
Emma Franklin
Holly Russell

January 5

Sarah DePelsMaeker

January 6

Jackie Garcia
Amanda Kaye Pearsall

January 7

Norma Bates
Valorie Beckrow
Charlotte Szczygiel
Claire Szczygiel
Terry Richardson

January 8

Frank Waskiewski

January 9

Ed Mozden

January 11

Adam Peasley
Liz Zuercher
Nolan Sattelberg

January 12

Glennis Kirkey
Penelope Lynch
Jennifer Isley
Quinn DePelsMaeker

January 13

Saylor Cuthrell
Connie Witkovsky

January 14

Karen Elmy
Zeke Rickwalt
Steven Franklin

January 15

Terry Ewald
Donna Hiser
Carolyn Parker
Laura Strzelewicz
Candi Wark

January 16

Lynn Hayward
Doug Kline
Brittany Ewald
Joan Spry

January 17

Teri Kopasz

January 19

Sally Martin

January 23

Grant Ewald
EJ Fisch
Owen Olson

January 24

Canton Tetil
Betty Hiner

January 25

Kyle Cybulski
Mabel Hollender
Stephen Sprague

January 26

Jody Barrigar

January 27

Marcy Campbell
Diane Huenemoeder

January 28

Morgan Eremia
Dean Ewald
Jackie Greenfield
Marci LaValley
Jensen Koehler

January 30

Ashley Ziemba
David Lester

January 31

Laura Andrews
Ryleigh Ewald
Jocelyn Tetil

St. Paul Lutheran Church
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 Phone: 989-673-4214
 Web: www.stpaulcaro.org

January 2024

Pastor: Cameron K. Steele
 Home: 989-673-2516
 Cell: 989-550-3355
 Email: RevCameron.Steele@gmail.com

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Ushers: Chris Gaudett Doug DeRocco Lucas Gaudett Tim Bates Scott Cuthrell Larry Neuman Randy Terbush Ray Stec</p>	<p>1 Prayer Chain: Church Office: 673-4214 lyn@stpaulcaro.org Flower Chair: Margaret LaValley 673-6392</p>	<p>2 5:30 Contemporary Rehearsal 6:30 Board of Elders</p>	<p>3 7:00 Worship Service</p>	4	5	6 Epiphany
<p>7 The Baptism of Our Lord 8:30 Contemporary with Holy Communion 9:45 Ushers Meeting, Sunday School / Bible Class 11:00 Traditional with Holy Comm. 12:15 1st & 2nd Year Confirmation</p>	<p>8 6:00 Handbells Practice 7:15 Choir Practice</p>	<p>9 8:30 Quilters 5:30 Contemporary Rehearsal 6:30 Church Council</p>	<p>10 7:00 Worship Service</p>	11	12	13 10:45 JOY Trip
<p>14 Second Sunday after the Epiphany 8:30 Traditional with Holy Communion 9:45 Sunday School / Bible Class 11:00 Contemporary with Holy Comm. 12:00 - 1:30 Sauerkraut Supper sponsored by the Elders</p>	<p>15 12:00 Red Cross Blood Drive 6:00 Handbells Practice 7:15 Choir Practice</p>	<p>16 8:30 Quilters 5:30 Contemporary Rehearsal 6:00 LWML</p>	<p>17 7:00 Worship Service</p>	18	19	20
<p>21 Third Sunday after the Epiphany Life Sunday 8:30 Contemporary with Holy Communion 9:45 Sunday School / Bible Class 11:00 Traditional with Holy Comm. 12:15 1st & 2nd Year Confirmation 7:00 Voters' Assembly</p>	<p>22 Sanctity of Human Life Day 6:00 Handbells Practice 7:15 Choir Practice</p>	<p>23 8:30 Quilters 5:30 Contemporary Rehearsal</p>	<p>24 7:00 Worship Service</p>	25	<p>Elders: Eric Bitzer 550-0297 Bob Eremia 810-691-1302 Kent Graf 673-5496 David Hoard 550-2969 Jamie LeBlanc 545-2131 Bill McQueen 598-0444 Bob Smith 325-1038 Garrett Tetil 670-6221 Brian Voss 286-1461 John Weidman 550-4764</p>	
<p>28 Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany 8:30 Traditional with Holy Communion 9:45 Sunday School / Bible Class 11:00 Contemporary with Holy Comm. 11:00 SS Kids sing January Song of the Month 12:15 1st & 2nd Year Confirmation</p>	<p>29 6:00 Handbells Practice 7:15 Choir Practice</p>	<p>30 8:30 Quilters 5:30 Contemporary Rehearsal</p>	<p>31</p>			