



The Parish Word



St. Paul Lutheran Church of Kalkaska, MI
2470 Beebe Rd
Kalkaska, Michigan 49646
www.stpaulkalkaska.org

Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod
Pastor Tom Phillips
(217) 371-2122
Rev.Phillips.STL91@gmail.com

St. Matthew Lutheran Church of Mancelona, MI
211 E. Hinman St.
Mancelona, Michigan 49659
www.stmatthewmancelona.com

November – December 2025

Something to think about... Margins

Have you ever walked in the woods and noticed how the edges, especially the southern edges have the thickest, densest growth? It's where the birds forage and the deer and rabbits browse and take cover.

Permaculture is a hobby of mine. My favorite guide is Ben Falk's "The Resilient Farm & Homestead."

One basic principle is "the edge effect." My goal is to reproduce in my back yard the same beautiful design God uses in the rural areas. I focus on creating edges and encouraging their incredible productivity.

Jesus worked on the edges of society, in the margins. He preached in the countryside. He mingled with the crowds. He fellowshiped with the "tax-collectors and sinners, and even ate with them." Jesus tells us His work is "to seek and to save the lost." The lost are often in the margins, on the edges between the church and society.

When we go about the mission Christ gives to His Christians and to His Church, we imitate Jesus and seek the lost. Of course, we bring the Gospel full force in our Sunday worship and Bible Studies, but we also are called to imitate Jesus and go to the margins. We reach out to members of our congregation who haven't been to church in a while. We visit those who are homebound.

With prayer, we also move farther out. Many people dwell on the fringe of our congregation. How can we push farther into the edges and into the community? Consider your own life... who is in the margins of your life? How can we seek the lost and put them into contact with the One-Who-Saves them?

Pastor Phillips

Learn by heart...

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.
(Rom. 1:16 ESV)

The Lord of the Harvest heard our prayers

Rev. Brent Berg has accepted the Lord's Call to serve His people at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Lewiston, Michigan. Bethlehem is a member our Petoskey Circuit of the Michigan District. This means our Circuit is full! We are now five pastors serving seven congregations.

Rev Berg will be installed on November 9 at 4pm. You are invited! A meal will be served following the installation. The church is located at **3805 County Road 612, Lewiston, Michigan 49756**

News from St. Matthew's

We served three dozen people at the 5th Tuesday Community Meal (Sept. 30). Thank you to all who helped! The next meal is March 31, 2026.

The Men's Club (and several ladies!) made 170 pasties on October 11. We still have some for sale. Contact Ed Sell.

News from St. Paul's

We kicked off our men's ministry in September with 17 men (and 5 kids) attending. A chili supper & card night was held on October 25th.

Our Sunday Bible study class (and others), collected \$532 for seminary student, Peter Ventimiglia and his family! We converted it to a gift card and sent it to him. Thank you to everyone for your generosity.

The pasty sale was a big success this year. We made 160 pasties. We've sold all but 2. We raised \$804! These funds will help keep flowers on the altar every week and help to update the kitchenware. Thank you everyone who helped, donated, or purchased pasties!

For the time being, please send your items for the January 2026 "Parish Word"
No later than December 15th to: ***Rev.Phillips.STL91@gmail.com***

From Martin Luther's Small Catechism...

A "catechism" is a book for teaching, usually in the form of questions and answers. We study the catechism (and the Scriptures!) all during our life.

The Lord's Prayer: The Second Petition

Thy kingdom come.

What does this mean? God's kingdom comes by itself without our prayer, but we pray in this petition that it may come to us also.

How does God's kingdom come? God's kingdom comes when our heavenly Father gives us His Holy Spirit, so that by His grace we believe His holy Word and lead godly lives here in time and there in eternity.

Winter Whiteout Youth Camp (gr 7-12)!

From Brian Horning,

Director of Family Life Ministry @ Zion – Petoskey

Zion Lutheran Church of Petoskey is excited to host our 6th annual **Winter Whiteout Weekend** youth retreat for Lutheran youth in northern Michigan! The date is – **MARCH 6-8, 2026**; the keynote presenter is locked in – **Michelle Bauman** (Lutherans for Life National Director of Y4Life); and we are ready to start receiving group reservations.

Check it out, talk it over, and please consider joining us in Petoskey for an impactful weekend retreat! **The per person cost for the whole weekend (including lift tickets, meals, lodging, etc.) is \$125 per person.**

If your group decides you would like to participate, the next step is to complete the "Group Registration Form" and send it in the mail with your deposit. Space is limited and filled on a first come first serve basis. ☺ Do you plan to ski / snowboard OR do the Adventure Center (challenge & ropes course).

Time to Subscribe to the Lutheran Witness

The Lutheran Witness is the official periodical of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, published 11 times a year. We won't be making a congregation subscription. We encourage each household to order direct from Concordia Publishing House - \$24.99/yr. This excellent Christian magazine is well worth the cost!

Who are you bringing to church?

I know it's sometimes tough to even get yourself out the door and in the pew at church, BUT it's not such a bad idea to bring someone along with you. Picking up someone who has difficulty driving themselves to church is a good way to keep yourself "in the habit".

Why not make sure your grandkids hear the Word of the Lord by offering transportation? What about the friends and acquaintances you have who have asked about your spiritual thoughts on various topics. Invite them! Who are you bringing to church?

Parish Bible Studies

Sunday 1015am children's Bible story (SM)

1230pm Adult Bible Class (SPL)

2pm Adult Instruction (SPL)

6pm Youth Catechism (grades 6-8+)

Monday 4pm Adult Bible Class (SM)

Open House at the Parsonage!

Pastor, Beverly & Micah invite one and all to our home for a Christmas Open House. This "Come and Go" event will be 1:30-6:30pm on Sunday December 30. Please stop in for a visit & refreshments!

Our address is 709 W. Dresden in Kalkaska (on the south side of the Kalkaska High School parking lot).

The Recipe Corner: Rhubarb Cake

(Grace Porath: Karen Kirk's grandmother

St. Paul – Lydia Circle "Salads and Desserts" 2003)

Ingredients:

1½ c. sugar

½ c. shortening

1 egg

1 tsp. vanilla

1 c. buttermilk or sour milk

2 c. flour

1 tsp. baking soda

2-3 c. rhubarb (cut in small pieces)

Topping:

1 c. sugar + 1 tsp. cinnamon

Cream sugar, shortening. Add egg and vanilla. Mix well. Add milk. Mix well. Add flour & soda. Add rhubarb and pour into a greased and floured glass 9x13" pan. Cover with the topping mixture and bake at 350 degrees for 50-60 minutes.

Serve with Cool Whip, or ice cream or "as is".

It's STILL all about
JESUS!

For Your Weekly Devotions...The readings for Sunday worship
Try to read the lessons before the date listed (then you will be familiar with the weekly theme!)

November 2 – All Saints

Revelation 7:9-17

Psalm 149

1 John 3:1-3

Matthew 5:1-12

November 9

Exodus 3:1-15

Psalm 148

2 Thessalonians 2:1-9, 13-17

Luke 20:27-40

November 16

Malachi 4:1-6

Psalm 98

2 Thessalonians 3:1-13

Luke 21:5-36

November 23 – Last Sunday of
the Church Year

Malachi 3:13-18

Psalm 46

Colossians 1:13-20

Luke 23:27-43

November 30 – Advent Begins!

Isaiah 2:1-5

Psalm 122

Romans 13:8-14

Matthew 21:1-11

December 7

Isaiah 11:1-10

Psalm 72:1-7

Romans 15:5-13

Matthew 3:1-12

December 14

Isaiah 35:1-10

Psalm 146

James 5:7-11

Matthew 11:2-15

December 21

Isaiah 7:10-17

Psalm 24

Romans 1:1-7

Matthew 1:18-25

December 28

Isaiah 63:7-14

Psalm 111

Galatians 4:4-7

Matthew 2:13-23

“Thy Word is lamp to my feet and light to my path.” Psalm 119:105

St. Matthew's 2026 Officers

Chairman – Dennis Schlak

Vice Chairman – Joan Tewes

Treasurer – Patty Atkinson

Recording Secretary – Edith Plumb & Louise Hinds

Financial Secretary – Ed Sell

Elders – Don Hinds (Head Elder), Ed Sell, Chuck
Smith

Trustees – Chuck Smith, Roger Smelker

St. Paul's 2025 Officers

Chairman – Bud Burns

Vice Chairman – Adam Kuuttila

Treasurer – Patti Ritthaler

Recording Secretary – Pam Burns

Financial Secretary – Pam Burns

Elders – Norm Volz (Head Elder), Bud Burns, Adam
Kuuttila, Gary Ritthaler, Dennis Quast

Trustees – Gary Ritthaler (Head Trustee), Bud Burns,
Scott Risinger

The Parish Classifieds / Idea Corner

Just a reminder: The best way to contact
Pastor Phillips is to call or text his cell
phone (217) 371-2122.

Wanted: Metal fabricator/welder. Pastor
has a couple small projects requiring skills
and tools he doesn't have. Contact Pastor.

The 2025 Cub Scouts Pack 629 Popcorn
Sale is wrapping up soon! Order now (on
bulletin board) and payment is due soon.
Text/call Nathan Graham, (231) 676-1001,
for more info!

Occasionally our hens lay more eggs than
we use. If you would like to be "on the list"
to receive eggs, please contact Pastor.
There is no cost. Also, if you have your own
egg-layers, maybe we can combine our
efforts and offer eggs to the congregations
more often... contact Pastor.

Wanted: a wood worker to make a tract
rack for each church. See Pastor for
dimensions.

Did you know... The Sunday 1230pm Bible
Study (@St. Paul) and the Monday 4pm
Bible study (@St. Matthews) are usually
the same? If you have trouble making it to
one, why not attend the other?

Everyone a Greeter: How do you welcome
those who come to worship? If it was your
first time visiting our congregation, how
would you like to be welcomed?

St. Matthew's Bulletin notes: Send your item for the
weekly bulletin, no later than Wednesday morning, to:
emrhplumb1@gmail.com

St. Paul's Bulletin notes: Send your item for the weekly
bulletin, no later than Wednesday morning, to:
stpaulkalkaska2470@gmail.com

Area LCMS Congregations within 50 miles... We are not alone!

(This section is under construction... can you help provide information?)

Circuit 31 (our Petoskey Circuit)

Boyne City - Christ Lutheran Church

8 & 1030am Divine Service

915am Bible Study

Tuesday 6pm lay-led Bible Study

Thursday 10am Bible Study

1250 Boyne Ave., Boyne City, MI 49712

(231) 582-9301 christlutheranboyne@gmail.com

www.clcboyne.com

Pastor Chuck Hoffman

Charlevoix - Bethany Lutheran Church

11906 US-31 North, Charlevoix, MI 49720

(231) 547-9446 bethanycharlevoix@sbcglobal.net

www.bethanycharlevoix.com

Gaylord - Trinity Lutheran Church

9am Divine Service

2nd & 4th Wednesdays 630pm Bible Study

Friday 10am Bible Study

2nd Saturday 9am Men's Bible Breakfast

(call to see which church)

1354 S. Otsego Ave., Gaylord MI 49735

(989) 732-4916 office@trinitygaylord.com

www.trinitygaylord.com

Pastor Kurt Klingbeil

Grayling - Mount Hope Lutheran Church

11am Divine Service (Bible Study after)

1st & 3rd Wednesday 630pm Bible Study

Thursday 9am Ladies Bible Study lay-led

2nd Saturday 9am Men's Bible Breakfast

(call to see which church)

905 N I75 Business Loop

Grayling, MI 49738

(989) 348-5921 mthopelcms@gmail.com

www.mthopelcmsgrayling.org

Pastor Kurt Klingbeil

Kalkaska - St. Paul Lutheran Church

11am Divine Service

1230 Bible Study

630pm Wednesday Bible Study

US 131 N 2470 Beebe Rd,

Kalkaska MI 49646

(231) 258-9258 stpaulkalkaska@att.net

www.stpaulkalkaska.org

Pastor Tom Phillips

Lewiston - Bethlehem Lutheran Church

1030am Divine Service

3805 County Road 612, Lewiston, MI 49756

(989) 786-3713 bethlehemlewisston@gmail.com

<https://bethlehemlewisston.360unite.com/home>

Rev. Brent Berg

Mancelona - St. Matthew Lutheran Church

9am Divine Service

Monday 4pm Bible Study

211 E. Hinman, Mancelona, MI 49659

Mailing Address: PO Box 469

(231) 587-8442 stmatthewmancelona@gmail.com

www.stmatthewmancelona.com

Pastor Tom Phillips

Petoskey - Zion Lutheran Church

8 & 1030am Divine Service

915am Sunday School/Bible Study

7pm Wednesday - Bible Study

500 W. Mitchell St., Petoskey, MI 49770

(231) 347-3438 office@zionlutheranpetoskey.org

www.zionlutheranpetoskey.org

Pastor Matt Peters - Circuit Visitor

Emeritus - Retired Pastors (home church)

Pastor Ken Bernthal (Gaylord)

Pastor Daniel McVey (Kalkaska)

Pastor Don Nemec (Gaylord)

Congregations in neighboring circuits

Bellaire - Hope Lutheran Church (English District)

9am Divine Service

1030am Bible Study

hopeinbellaire@gmail.com

Pastor Seaver

Benzonia

Cadillac - Emmanuel Lutheran Church

11198 E M 55, Cadillac, MI 49601-8474

(231) 775-3261 <https://emmanuelcadillac.org/>

Pastor Brennan Woell - Circuit Visitor

Cedar - St. Paul Lutheran Church

Elk Rapids - Grace Lutheran Church

10am Worship

16194 Wanigan Drive

Elk Rapids, MI 49629

(231) 264-5312

Pastor Jim Redmann

Glen Arbor

Good Harbor

Houghton Lake - St. John Lutheran Church

Interlochen - Redeemer Lutheran Church

Pastor Jason Bauer

Leland - Immanuel Lutheran Church

Mesick - Faith Lutheran Church

Traverse City

St. Michael Lutheran Church

Pastor Mike Latham

Trinity Lutheran Church & School

Pastor Mike Goers - Circuit Visitor

A Christmas True or False Quiz



Can you separate fact from fiction in the Christmas story? Test your knowledge by answering True or False to each statement.

- T F There are no records of Joseph speaking in the Christmas story.
- T F The wise men were three kings from the orient.
- T F The little drummer boy came to the manger after the other shepherds.
- T F The star did not appear above the manger.
- T F Jesus' ancestors include a prostitute, an adulterer, a woman who committed incest, and a non-Israelite.
- T F The angel Gabriel appeared to Mary first and then he appeared to Joseph.
- T F Mary rode a donkey from Nazareth to Bethlehem.
- T F Joseph and Mary went to Bethlehem because of a decree by Caesar Augustus.
- T F The wise men followed the star as it moved from their eastern land to Israel.
- T F The wise men did not arrive on the night of Jesus' birth.
- T F God sent a choir of chubby angels to announce Jesus' birth to the shepherds.
- T F Shepherding was considered a very noble occupation.
- T F Both Joseph and Mary were told that the baby was to be named "Jesus."
- T F When Herod heard about Jesus he was the only one concerned about this new king.
- T F The wise men found Jesus lying in a manger in the town of Bethlehem.
- T F After the angels announcement the shepherds went straight to Bethlehem to see Jesus.
- T F Joseph married Mary immediately after the angel appeared to him.
- T F Some of the shepherds doubted and refused to believe the message they heard from the angels.





Here are the answers:

- T There are no records of Joseph speaking in the Christmas story. I'm sure he said something, but there is absolutely no record of him speaking at all.
- F The wise men were three kings from the orient. The number of wise men is not mentioned. They were not kings.
- F The little drummer boy came to the manger after the other shepherds. What little drummer boy? There is no mention of a drummer boy in the Bible.
- T The star did not appear above the manger. It appeared above the house where Joseph's family was living (Matthew 2:9-11).
- T Jesus' ancestors include a prostitute, an adulterer, a woman who committed incest, and a non-Israelite. Rahab was a prostitute, David & Uriah's wife were adulterers, Tamar & Judah committed incest, and Ruth was from Moab. Matthew 1:3,5,6.
- F The angel Gabriel appeared to Mary first and then Gabriel appeared to Joseph. Trick question. Mary was first, but we don't know the name of the angel who appeared to Joseph (Matthew 1:20). It might have been Harold. You know, "Hark the Harold Angel Sings."
- F Mary rode a donkey from Nazareth to Bethlehem. A donkey does not appear anywhere in the Biblical account. She probably walked.
- T Joseph and Mary went to Bethlehem because of a decree by Caesar Augustus. Yep. Luke 2:1-5.
- F The wise men followed the star as it moved from their eastern land to Israel. Apparently not. The wise men saw the star in the east (Matthew 2:2). But it did not take them to Jerusalem. In Jerusalem they asked for directions. Once leaving Jerusalem the star appeared again and led them to the house in Bethlehem (Matthew 2:9).
- T The wise men did not arrive on the night of Jesus' birth. The wise men arrive sometime after Jesus is born (Matthew 2:1). Jesus is called a child, rather than a baby (Matthew 2:11). He may have been as old as two (Matthew 2:7,16).

- F God sent a choir of chubby angels to announce Jesus' birth to the shepherds. Actually God sent an army of warrior angels. See Luke 2:13. "Company" and "host" are military terms.
- F Shepherding was considered a very noble occupation. In first century B.C., shepherding was close to what we would consider garbage collecting. Shepherds were unable to remain ritually pure according to Pharisaic laws and so were considered unclean. Yet God chose them for His birth announcement!
- T Both Joseph and Mary were told that the baby was to be named "Jesus." Yes. See Matthew 1:21 and Luke 1:31. In Judaism, babies were always named by their father. Here we see God the Father (not Joseph) giving Jesus his name. By the way, "Jesus" is the Greek form of the Hebrew name "Joshua," the successor of Moses. (Joshua means "Yahweh saves").
- F When Herod heard about Jesus he was the only one concerned about this new king. All Jerusalem was disturbed by this news of a new king (Matthew 2:3).
- F The wise men found Jesus lying in a manger in the town of Bethlehem. Jesus was in a house by this time (Matthew 2:11).
- T After the angels' announcement the shepherds went straight to Bethlehem to see Jesus. Correct. They were excited! They did not hesitate. They did not stop at Starbucks, they did not pass "Go" and stop to collect their \$200! Luke 2:15-16.
- T Joseph married Mary immediately after the angel appeared to him. Yes. His obedience was quick, cheerful and complete. Matthew 1:24.
- F Some of the shepherds doubted and refused to believe the message they heard from the angels. They went to see the baby right away, they spread the word, and they praised God for what they had been permitted to see and hear. No doubt there. Luke 2:15-20.

CHRIST
THE SAVIOR
is BORN!

The Parish Word – Calendar

November 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	SPL Boy Scouts Mondays @ 530p		SPL = St. Paul – Kalkaska SML = St. Matthew – Mancelona	SPL Alcoholics Anonymous Thursdays @ 8p		1 4pm Circuit Pastors Soirée (Gaylord) Time Change (one hour back before bedtime)
2 9a Worship (SML) 11a Worship (SPL) 1230p Bible Study (SPL) 2p Adult Instr (SPL) 6p Confirmation (@SPL)	3 4pm Bible Study (SML) 6pm Friendship Ministry (SML)	4 11a Ladies Guild (SML)	5	6 Pastor's day off	7	8
9 9a Worship (SML) 11a Worship (SPL) 1230p Bible Study (SPL) 4pm Installation of Rev. Berg @ Lewiston 6p Confirmation (@SPL)	10 4pm Bible Study (SML) 6pm Friendship Ministry (SML)	11 930a Winkel @ Zion – Petoskey 1p Ladies Guild (SPL) 430p Elders (SML) 530p Council (SML)	12	13 Pastor's day off	14	15
16 9a Worship (SML) 11a Worship (SPL) 1230p Bible Study (SPL) 2p Adult Instr (SPL) 6p Confirmation (@SPL)	17 4pm Bible Study (SML) 6pm Friendship Ministry (SML)	18	19	20 Pastor's day off	21	22
23 9a Worship (SML) 11a Worship (SPL) 1230p Potluck & Voters (SPL) 6p Confirmation (@SPL)	24 4pm Bible Study (SML) 6pm Friendship (SML)	25	26 9a Elders (SPL-Big Boy)	27 Thanksgiving Day	28	29
30						

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The Parish Word - Calendar

December 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	SPL Boy Scouts Mondays @ 530p	SPL = St. Paul – Kalkaska SML = St. Matthew – Mancelona		SPL Alcoholics Anonymous Thursdays @ 8p		
	1 4pm Bible Study (SML) 6pm Friendship Ministry (SML)	2 11a Ladies Guild (SML)	3 6p Potluck Supper @SML 7p Advent Vespers @SML	4 Pastor's day off	5	6
7 9a Worship (SML) 930a Ladies Guild (SPL) 11a Worship (SPL) 1230p Bible Study (SPL) 2p Adult Instr (SPL) 6p Confirmation (@SPL)	8 4pm Bible Study (SML) 6pm Friendship Ministry (SML)	9 930a Winkel @ Boyne – Christ 1p Ladies Guild (SPL) 430p Elders (SML) 530p Council (SML)	10 6p Potluck Supper @SML 7p Advent Vespers @SML	11 Pastor's day off	12	13
14 9a Worship (SML) 11a Worship (SPL) 1230p Bible Study (SPL) 2p Adult Instr (SPL) 6p Confirmation (@SPL)	15 <u>Newsletter Deadline</u> 4pm Bible Study (SML) 6pm Friendship Ministry (SML)	16	17 6p Potluck Supper @SML 7p Advent Vespers @SML	18 Pastor's day off	19	20
21 9a Worship (SML) 11a Worship (SPL) 1215p Ref. German Food Potluck (SPL) 2p Adult Instr (SPL) 6p Confirmation (@SPL)	22 4pm Bible Study (SML) 6pm Friendship Ministry (SML)	23	24 7pm Christmas Eve @ SPL	25 11am Christmas Day w/ Holy Communion @ SPL	26	27
28 9a Worship (SML) 11a Worship (SPL) 130p-630p Open House @ the Parsonage	29	30	31 9a Elders (SPL-Big Boy) 5p New Years Eve Fellowship @ St. Paul			

Save this page!