

St. Paul Lutheran Church of Kalkaska, MI
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Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod
Pastor Tom Phillips
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St. Matthew Lutheran Church of Mancelona, MI
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July – August 2026

Every Christian Man...

“Every Christian man should consider the possibility that God might be calling him into the pastoral ministry.” *Rev. Dr. Carl Fickensher*

With graduations behind and the next part of life beginning, our High School grads and college students face the question, “What will I do with my life?” Perhaps many of us have asked, what will I do

next with my life? Answers to these questions often revolve around three questions: What do I want to do? How much money can I make? Can I get and keep a job in that field?

I believe the greater question that needs to be at the head of this list is “What does God want me to do with (the rest of) my life?” Dr. Fickensher’s statement at the beginning of this article makes a serious point. It is not about fear or anxiety... such as, “There aren’t enough pastors and teachers!!!!” It is about love God an His design for your life among His people.

God does not call everyone into the pastoral or teaching ministry, but He does call all of His people to something. Read Exodus 17:10-13. God calls warriors and prophets and people to hold up the prophet’s hands. How is the Lord calling you?

The topic of how God calls His people to various occupations and positions in life is called the Doctrine of Vocation (Calling). Have you considered your vocation? A similar question is “What are my responsibilities in this vocation? ***This is serious homework:*** Open your Small Catechism to “The Table of Duties” and you see the many vocations to which God has called His people.

Pastor Phillips

News from St. Matthew’s Ladies Guild

(Submitted by Louise H.)

We have been busy the last two months. In June we hosted a luncheon after the memorial service for three of our members who passed on in the last few months. Father’s Day is fast approaching and we look forward to the celebration.

St. Matthew Ladies Guild will meet July 7th and August (the 1st Tuesday each month). All ladies of the congregation are encouraged to join in the meetings. We meet at 11am for the business meeting and enjoy a pizza lunch after the meeting. We look forward to seeing you at our next meeting.

Learn by heart...

¹⁴Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and perform your vows to the Most High, ¹⁵and call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify me.

Psalm 50:14-15 ESV

St. Paul Voters Meet August 23

On August 23, we will have our 3rd quarter Voters Meeting. This is a good opportunity to hear the latest news from the boards and groups associated with St. Paul. Other proposed business items should be given to the church council before the day of the meeting.

St. Matthew Hosts “Service in the Park”

Palmer Park – Mancelona: We invite the entire Parish to join us on July 12th with the Service in the Park. There will be no Kalkaska service that Sunday. The festivities begin at 10am with an outdoor worship service, followed by a picnic luncheon (St. Matt’s Men’s Club provides the meat). Each family should bring a dish to pass (and lawn chairs, if desired). This is a Parish-wide service, we hope to fill the park!

In the afternoon some members from both congregations will attend a Pit Spitters game in Traverse City.

Please send your items for the September/October 2026 “Parish Word”
No later than August 15th to: Rev.Phillips.STL91@gmail.com

SPL Men's Ministry Elects First Officers

Officially recognized by the voters in the May 2026 meeting, St. Paul's new men's ministry held its organizational meeting on Saturday June 20th. Bud Burns manned the grill and an excellent potluck supper was enjoyed by the twelve men in attendance.

A business meeting followed with three main items addressed: election of officers, financial arrangements, and setting a regular meeting day. Mike Harm was elected president. Bud Burns will handle the duties of Treasurer, and Norm Volz will take on secretarial duties. The office of vice president is vacant. Thanks, Men, for volunteering!

Following the business meeting the men enjoyed a rousing nine innings of dartball as Adam's Atomics took the field against Bud's Wise Guys.

Atomics edge out Wise Guys 2-1

JUNE 20 – KALKASKA – It was a pitchers' duel until the sixth inning when the Atomics batted around the order. The Rev started it off, reaching base on a single. Later, with two outs and a man on first, Mike V., called up earlier that week from the Escanaba farm team, hammered a two-base hit. With runners on second and third, and two outs, the magic happened as young Josh S. hit the first pitch for a two-run double by young Josh S.

The Wise Guys rallied back in the bottom of the 7th on Eric S. lead-off triple, scoring on a sacrifice by the rookie Liam W. Bud's boys ultimately fell short due to outstanding defensive play by the Atomics, giving them the win by a score of 2-1.

St. Paul Hosts VBS & Church Picnic

From August 4-6, is our Parish-wide Vacation Bible School "Tropical Trek." Children and parents learn Bible stories that show how God finds us wherever we are. VBS will be held at St. Paul – Kalkaska, from 9-Noon each day. VBS is a joint effort of St. Paul and St. Matthew Churches.

Everyone, especially our VBS families, are invited to St. Paul's Church Picnic on August 9 at the church. We begin with worship at 11am, follow by a potluck lunch, a Bible Story, and games.

St. Matthew Voters Meet July 19

On July 19 we will have our 3rd quarter Voters Meeting. Proposed business items should be given to the church council before the day of the meeting.

News from St. Paul's Ladies Guild

(Submitted by Linda H.)

St. Paul Ladies Guild is working on project after project for missions! Please bring your plastic grocery bags (for resting mats for the homeless), lightweight and dark-colored towels and washcloths (for hygiene kits), as well as gently used double or queen-sized (for quilts).

And there's one more mission project: making layette kits for expectant moms (cloth diapers, medium to large onesies and sleepers, receiving blankets, bath towels, ivory soap, etc.)! A more detailed item list will be posted in the narthex soon. They will be looking for School supplies will not be collected

until they go on sale later this summer.

The ladies are also thinking about having some craft days in the fall... More info to come!

Zucchini Cookies *(Submitted by Diane S.)*

Ingredients:

- ¾ c. Shortening
- 1 c. zucchini, grated
- 1 c. brown sugar
- 3 c. oatmeal
- ½ c. sugar
- 1 c. flour
- 2 eggs
- ½ c. wheat germ
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- ½ tsp. soda

Cream together the ingredients in the left column. Add zucchini and mix well. Add the rest of the ingredients and mix well. You can add 1 cup of raisins, chocolate chips, raisins or nuts.

To Everyone

The commandments... are summed up in this one rule: "Love your neighbor as yourself." Romans 13:9

I urge... that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone. 1 Timothy 2:1

From Luther's Small Catechism,
The Table of Duties

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 Sixth Petition

Lead us not into temptation...

What does this mean? God tempts no one. We pray in this petition that God would guard and keep us so that the devil, the world, and our sinful nature may not deceive us or mislead us into false belief, despair, and other great shame and vice. Although we are attacked by these things, we pray that we may finally overcome them and win the victory.

Law and Gospel Quiz

The correct understanding of Law & Gospel distinguishes "salvation by grace" from "self-righteousness." The Law commands & threatens. It shows our sin. The Gospel promises & forgives. It shows our Savior (SoS). Answers in the Idea Corner.

- *Call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify me.* Law or Gospel?
- *When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long.* Law or Gospel?
- *The Lord is far from the wicked, but He hears the prayer of the righteous.* Law or Gospel?
- *But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.* Law or Gospel?

A tip for making it to church on Sunday!

Try making Saturday evening as a time to "get ready for church."

- Turn off Screens.
- Have family time.
- Prepare your offering (with a thankful heart).
- Choose your Sunday clothing.
- Prepare a dish to share at the "after worship fellowship."
- Read the Sunday Bible readings.
- Go to sleep at a reasonable hour... looking forward to the Christian fellowship.

A New Inquirer's Class Starts July 19

Soon you will have another good opportunity to ask Pastor Phillips all your questions about the Bible and the teachings of the Lutheran Church. This class will cover the basic Christian teachings contained in Luther's Small Catechism. Classes progress at the pace of the participants.

The class is appropriate for any non-member wishing to receive the Lord's Supper with our congregation, or for anyone considering membership in Either St. Paul or St. Matthew.

Classes will be held at St. Paul on Sunday evenings, but may change depending on the needs of the participants. Contact Pastor Phillips for more information.

New Catechisms Available!

Time to update your copy of Luther's Small Catechisms... features... cost \$23 each (we can special order large print for \$35 + S/H). St. Paul members send a message to Pastor Phillips. St. Matthew members send a note to Edith. An order will be placed in July.

You Gotta Hear This: Issues, Etc.

Issues, Etc. is a podcast committed to *Educating a New Generation of Lutherans*. Issues, Etc. is produced by Lutheran Public Radio, Inc. in Collinsville, IL and hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken. The ten-hour weekly program features expert in theology, Biblical interpretation, Christian apologetics, ethics, philosophy, law, and culture.

Go to www.IssuesEtc.org and you can listen to "on demand" podcasts or their "best of" set. You can also choose to listen to sacred music... all for "no charge!" Issues, Etc. also sponsors the annual "Making the Case" conference (held in July).

Parish Bible Studies

Sunday 1015am children's Bible story (SM)

1230pm Adult Bible Class (SPL)

Monday 4pm Adult Bible Class (SM)

Starting July 19: Adult Instruction / Inquirer's / New Member class

Essential Bible Study Tools for Every Household

- Primary Bible (ESV) – study Bibles have notes, more maps and improved cross-references)
- Notebook (record your thoughts & questions). Share with Pastor or in Bible Class
- Similarly, you can keep a prayer journal (of prayers and answered prayers).
- Highlighters, Fresnel lens (magnifier), bookmark
- Bible Gateway app or website (also has an audio version so you can listen or read along)
- Bible Atlas (places matter!)
- Bible Handbook (explains things such as currency, weights and measures. Also, has notes on ancient customs, etc)
- Free <https://bookofconcord.cph.org/>

THIS AND THAT...

Recipes, thoughts, memories and what not from our brothers and sisters in Christ!

Recommended Reading:

The Comfort of Lutheran Doctrine

By the Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison

Review by Joan Tewes (St. Matthew)

I wonder how many of us, not including our pastors, have ever really spent time studying our Lutheran doctrine or even truly understand what it is... let alone how it could possibly provide comfort? I was married to a Lutheran pastor and admit I never studied the Book of Concord or specifically what our doctrine professes. I only know what I was taught in church, what we Lutherans confess and believe.

The Rev. Dr. Harrison, our LCMS President, wrote

The Comfort of Lutheran Doctrine. Pastor Phillips gave it to me to read and asked that I share my thoughts on it. I had no idea what I was agreeing to, but I said "ok."

Dr. Harrison takes specific parts of our doctrine and discusses them in a way that shows the comfort and certainty of what we believe. It is about God's desire for all of us to be saved, not because of anything we do or have done. He alone has done it all... for us.

Our doctrine is based on the authority of Scripture that points us to the cross and Christ crucified for comfort and salvation. Through the Water, Word and Sacrament of Baptism we are given our identity as children of God while the sacrament of Holy Communion reassures us of His forgiveness and peace. All of this reaffirms our salvation and removes any fear or doubt.

Being comfortable in our Lutheran doctrine allows us to be confident in our everyday life, including struggles. Dr. Harrison is basically discussing our doctrine as it relates to how the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ and the promise of heaven provide absolute comfort and certainty; how our Baptism comforts us because it ensures our forgiveness; and how we

are comforted by knowing His Word is the divine authority of God, is our way to salvation. The Book of Concord, our confessions, creeds, and Holy Communion look to the certainty that Scripture is the highest authority and basis of our Lutheran theology.

Dr. Harrison concludes his discussion by addressing comfort during suffering as Jesus did and comfort in the work place, home, church, wherever we are, through faith, prayer and God's grace and mercy.

The bottom line is that we attain comfort because our salvation has been accomplished for us as God promised... by His Son, Jesus. We are baptized,

forgiven children of God. How much more reassured can we be?

I would recommend reading this book to learn a bit more about how we as Lutheran Christians have assurance because the

foundation of our theology is Holy Scripture.

Listen to the interview of the author at <https://issuesetc.org/2026/06/03/the-comfort-of-lutheran-theology-pr-matt-harrison-6-3-26-1543/>

Sunshine Cake (Submitted by Kathy C.)

A great cake to welcome summer!

Ingredients:

- 1 Yellow Cake Mix
- 1 11oz. can Mandarin oranges & juice
- 4 eggs
- ½ c. vegetable oil

Preheat oven to 350..Mix all ingredients together. Bake in a 9x13 pan for 10 minutes. Then, refrigerate.

Frosting: 20oz. can crushed pineapple with juice.

1 8-9oz. Cool Whip

1 packet instant dry vanilla pudding

Mix all ingredients together until thick. Frost the top of the cake (in pan) and refrigerate.

Something to think about...

The Word of God shall not return void, and God's Word cannot be without God's people, and God's people cannot be without God's Word.

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther

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!)

July 5 Zechariah 9:9-12 Psalm 145:1-14 Romans 7:14-25a Matthew 11:25-30	July 26 Deuteronomy 7:6-9 Psalm 125 Romans 8:28-39 Matthew 13:44-52	August 16 Isaiah 56:1, 6-8 Psalm 67 Romans 11:1-2a, 13-15, 28-32 Matthew 15:21-28
July 12 Isaiah 55:10-13 Psalm 65:9-13 Romans 8:12-17 Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23	August 2 Isaiah 55:1-5 Psalm 136:1-9 Romans 9:1-5 Matthew 14:13-21	August 23 Isaiah 51:1-6 Psalm 138 Romans 11:33-12:8 Matthew 16:13-20
July 19 Isaiah 44:6-8 Psalm 119:57-64 Romans 8:18-27 Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43	August 9 Job 38:4-18 Psalm 18:1-6 Romans 10:5-17 Matthew 14:22-33	August 30 Jeremiah 15:15-21 Psalm 26 Romans 12:9-21 Matthew 16:21-28

“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 2026 Officers

Chairman – Bud Burns (acting vice-chairman)
Vice Chairman – Adam Kuuttila (acting chairman)
Treasurer – Patti Ritthaler
Recording Secretary – Pam Burns
Financial Secretary – Pam Burns
Elders – Norm Volz (Head Elder), Bud Burns, Adam Kuuttila, Gary Ritthaler
Trustees – Gary Ritthaler (Head Trustee), Bud Burns, Scott Risinger, Cinda Knight, Norma Thornberg

The Parish Classifieds / Idea Corner

Thank you for your prayers and assistance as I recover from surgery! We have the deepest gratitude for your love and support. Pastor & Beverly.

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

Wanted @ St Paul's: volunteers for our Sunday School Ministry. If you can serve as a teacher, or assistant or song leader... please speak with Pastor!

From Benda Belling: Tempurpedic mattress (Full). Free

From Beverly Phillips: Let me recycle your old jeans and t-shirts. Leave items (laundered) in Pastor's office.

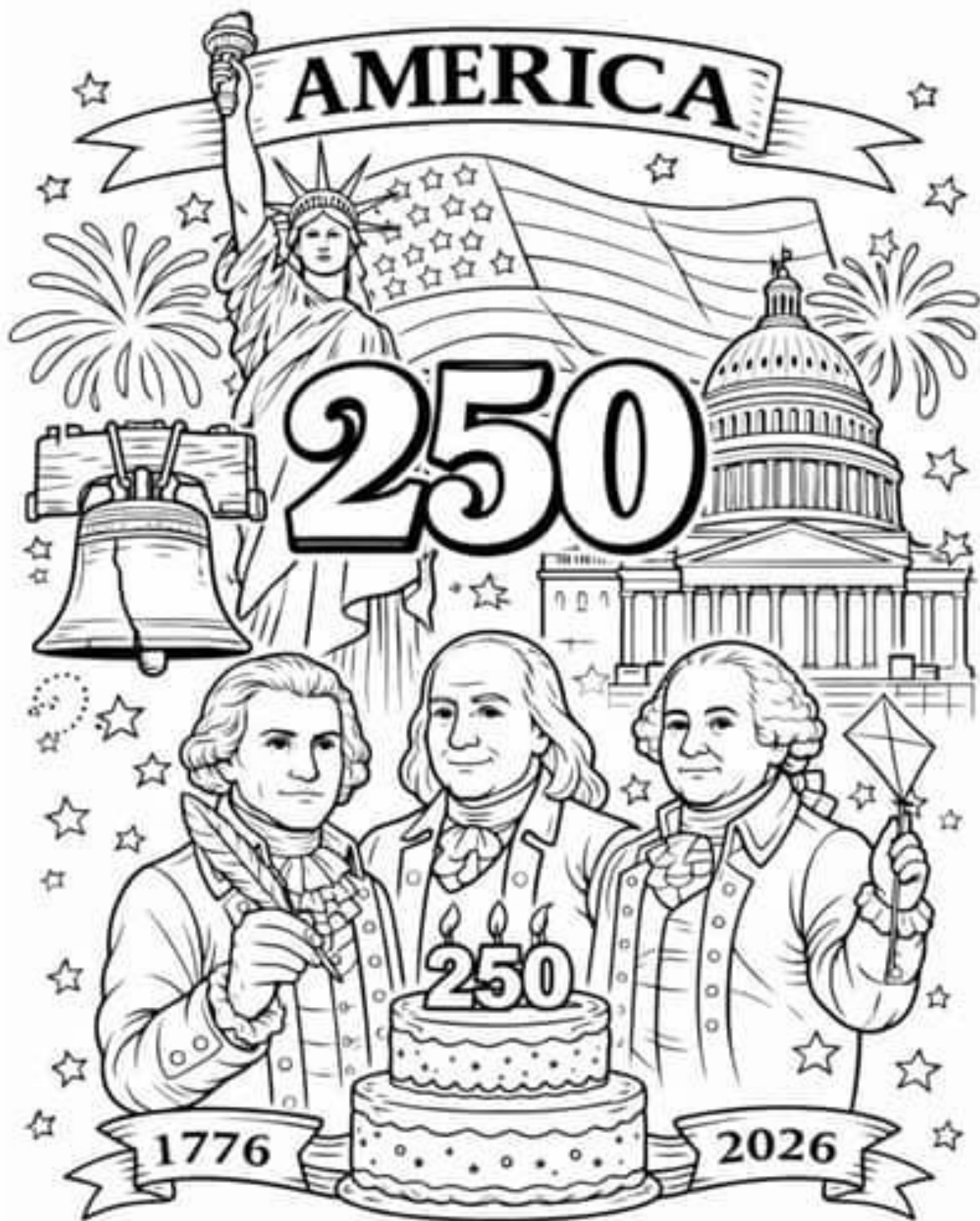
Answers: Gospel (Ps 50:15), Law (Ps 32:3), Both (Prov 15:29), Gospel (Phi 3:20).

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?

If you have not "officially" joined our congregation *please speak with Pastor Phillips, so the shepherd knows his sheep!* A new class begins July 19.

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



The Parish Word - Calendar

July 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		SPL = St. Paul – Kalkaska SML = St. Matthew – Mancelona	1	2 Pastor's day off	3	4 Happy USA 250!
5 9a Worship (SML) 11a Worship (SPL) 1230p Bible Study (SPL)	6 4pm Bible Study (SML) 6pm Friendship Ministry (SML)	7 11a Ladies Guild (SML)	8 630p Bd. Of Christian Education (SPL)	9 Pastor's day off	10	11
12 10am Service in the Park @ Mancelona 5pm Pit-Spitters game	13 4pm Bible Study (SML) 6pm Friendship Ministry (SML)	14 130p Ladies Guild (SPL) 430p Elders (SML)	15	16 Pastor's day off	17	18
19 9a Worship (SML) 1015am Voters (SML) 11a Worship (SPL) 1230p Bible Study (SPL) Adult instruction (@SPL)	20 4pm Bible Study (SML) 6pm Friendship Ministry (SML)	21	22	23 Pastor's day off	24	25
26 9a Worship (SML) 11a Worship (SPL) 1230p Bible Study (SPL) Adult instruction (@SPL)	27 4pm Bible Study (SML) 6pm Friendship Ministry (SML)	28 10a Elders (SPL)	29	30 Pastor's day off	31 <i>Trinity Men invite our men to the Phillips Cabin near Wellston</i>	
	SPL Boy Scouts Mondays @ 530p			SPL Alcoholics Anonymous Thursdays @ 8p		

Save this page!

The Parish Word – Calendar

August 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
SPL = St. Paul – Kalkaska SML = St. Matthew – Mancelona	SPL Boy Scouts Mondays @ 530p			SPL Alcoholics Anonymous Thursdays @ 8p		1
2 9a Worship (SML) 11a Worship (SPL) 1230p Bible Study (SPL) Adult instruction (@SPL)	3 4pm Bible Study (SML) 6pm Friendship Ministry (SML)	4 11a Ladies Guild (SML) Vacation At	5 Bible St. Paul	6 School Kalkaska	7	8
9 11a Worship (SPL) 1215pm Church Picnic @ St. Paul Adult instruction (@SPL)	10 4pm Bible Study (SML) 6pm Friendship Ministry (SML)	11 130p Ladies Guild (SPL) 430p Elders (SML) 530p Council (SML)	12	13 Pastor's day off	14	15 <u>Newsletter Deadline</u>
16 9a Worship (SML) 11a Worship (SPL) 1230p Bible Study (SPL) Adult instruction (@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' Meeting (SPL) Adult instruction (@SPL)	24 4pm Bible Study (SML) 6pm Friendship (SML)	25 10a Elders (SPL)	26	27 Pastor's day off	28	29 Men's Ministry Event (SPL)
30 9a Worship (SML) 11a Worship (SPL) 1230p Bible Study (SPL) Adult instruction (@SPL)	31 4pm Bible Study (SML) 6pm Friendship (SML)					

Save this page!