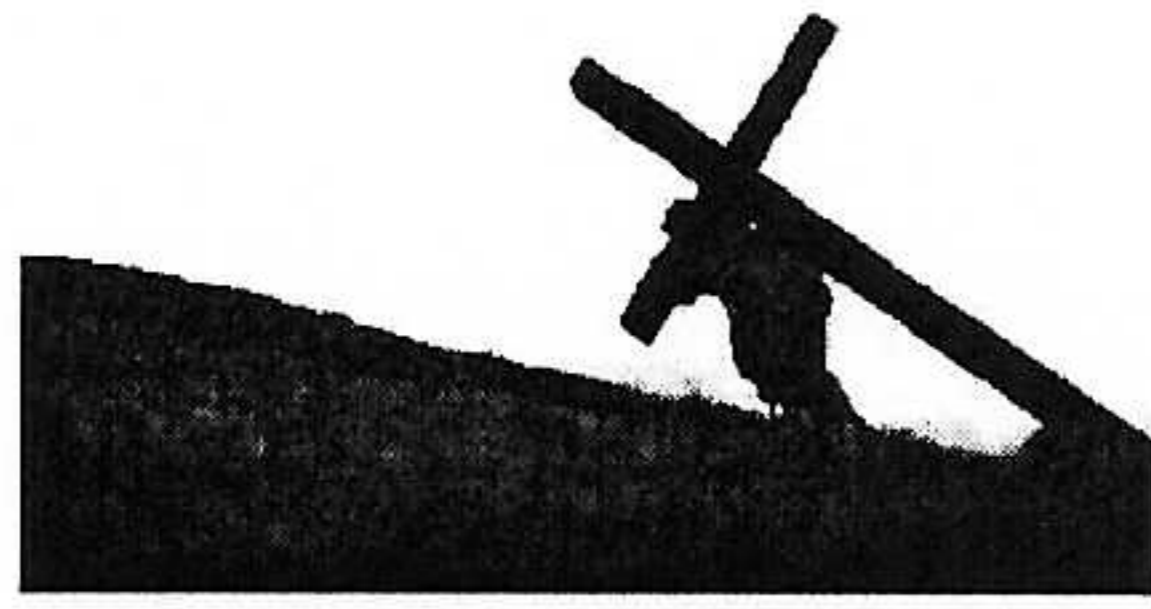


***Message from the Pastor***



**Transfiguration and Lent**

*After six days Jesus took Peter, James and John with him and led them up a high mountain, where they were all alone. There he was transfigured before them. (Mark 9:2)*

*As the time approached for him to be taken up to heaven, Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem. (Luke 9:51)*

In the last six months of his life, Jesus went up two mountains. They could not have been any more different from each other. On the first mountain Jesus climbed, his three disciples saw a breath-taking sight. It wasn't the view from the mountain, but what was on that mountain. Jesus was "transfigured before them." That meant his appearance changed; glory was streaming from his face, and his clothes became dazzling white like lightning. The disciples were seeing Jesus in his true colors, as the divine, glorious Son of God.

But it wasn't long afterwards that Jesus "resolutely set out for Jerusalem." It took some time, Jesus still had much to teach, people to heal—but his mind was on another mountain, Mount Calvary ("the place of the skull"). There Jesus would hide any glory and appear as a shamed, disgraced convict to be tortured as he hung dying on a cross. Six months after the transfiguration came the crucifixion and Jesus' death.

As we come to worship Jesus this month, we'll notice the sharp contrast. On February 11<sup>th</sup>, the last Sunday of Epiphany, we'll observe Jesus' transfiguration and learn what it means for us, how we also can be assured that Jesus is God's

Son. "Listen to him!" as the voice told Peter, James and John (Luke 9:35). The altar cloths that Sunday will be white, to signify Jesus' holiness and divinity.

On Wednesday, February 14, we will start the Lenten season. The altar cloths turn purple, as a time of repentance for us and passion for our Savior. In Lent we too will "resolutely set out for Jerusalem," walking with Jesus in his final two days from the upper room in Jerusalem to his dying breaths on the cross. We learn the great love of Jesus, that he hid his glory and emptied himself of divine privileges so he would be branded a sinner and take the place of us sinners.

Let us go with Jesus to both mountains this Transfiguration and this Lenten season. Let's keep both in mind, for Jesus needed to be true God to win our salvation from sin, but also true man to suffer death for us all.

*--Pr. Timothy Blauert*

***Sunday Worship in February:***

**Sunday, February 4:** 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Epiphany. Jesus Is Revealed as Healer. (8:30 am communion)

**February 11:** Transfiguration Sunday. Jesus Is Revealed as God's Son.

**February 18:** 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent. The Battle against Satan: Overcoming Temptation. (communion both services)

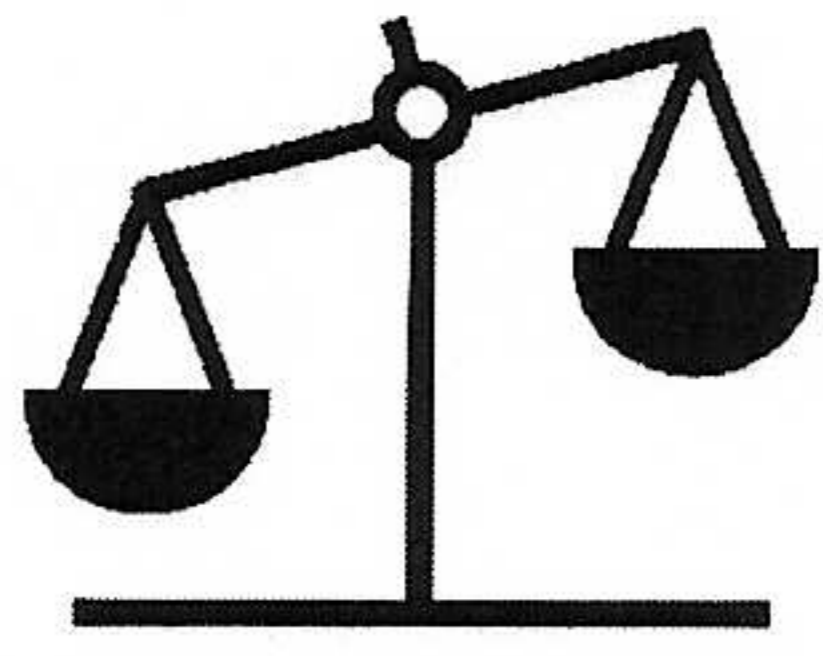
**February 25:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent. The Battle against Satan: Taking up the cross.

**Our Daily Devotions**, starting on Feb. 12<sup>th</sup>, will take a close look at Jesus' passion on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. Prior to the 12<sup>th</sup> we will continue the theme "Christ Is the Answer", devotions from 1 Corinthians.

**FEBRUARY 2024**

**St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church Connection**

106 S. Maple St. PO Box 357 North Freedom, WI 53951



**GOD ON TRIAL**

2024 LENT SERIES Feb. 14—Mar. 29

Service time: 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays

Feb. 14, Ash Wednesday “Testimony” Pastor Blauert, preacher

Feb. 21 “Misconceptions” Pastor Brad Pearson of Prairie du Sac

Feb. 28 “Truth” Pastor Dave Karow of Rock Springs

Mar. 6 “Sympathy” Pastor Tim Kuske of Baraboo

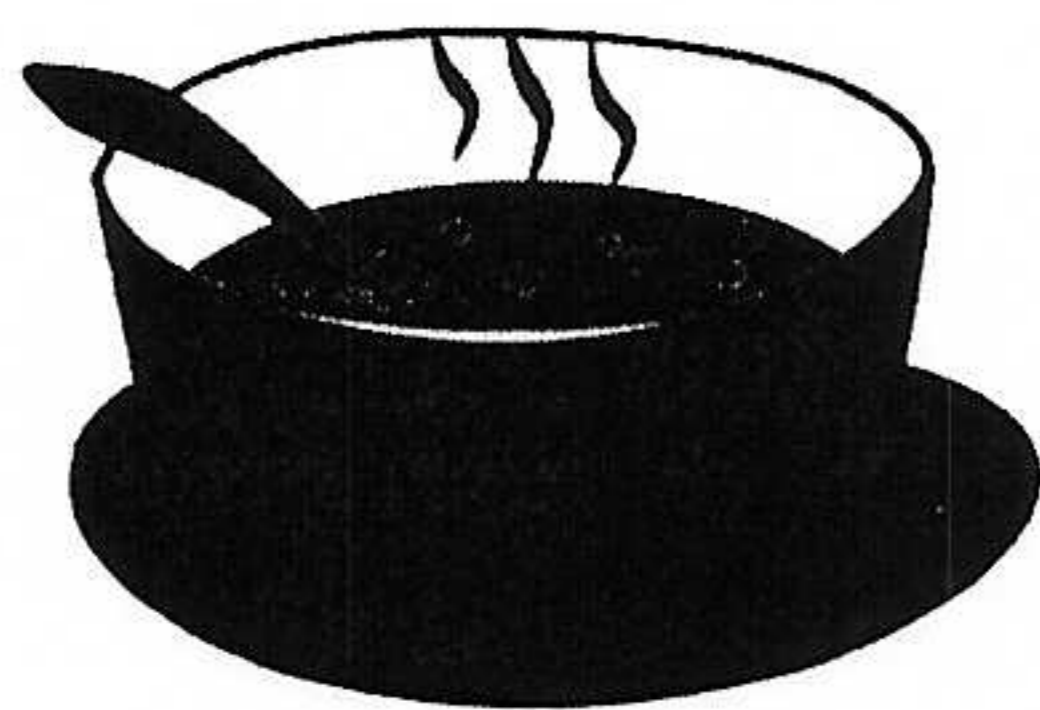
Mar. 13 “Accusations” Pastor Steve Neyhart of Reedsburg

Mar. 20 “Restraint” Pastor Dan Lewig of Hill Point/Lime Ridge

Mar. 28, Maundy Thursday “Respite” 6:30 p.m. service with communion

Mar. 29, Good Friday “Evidence” 3 p.m. service.

A soup supper will be served on Feb. 14 at 5:30 p.m. before the service. Treats will be served after each Wednesday Lent service.



**Ash Wednesday Soup Supper:** Feb. 14 at 5:30 p.m. Please sign up at church if you will be attending, and also sign up to bring some food for the soup supper!

**FELLOWSHIP TIME on February 4**

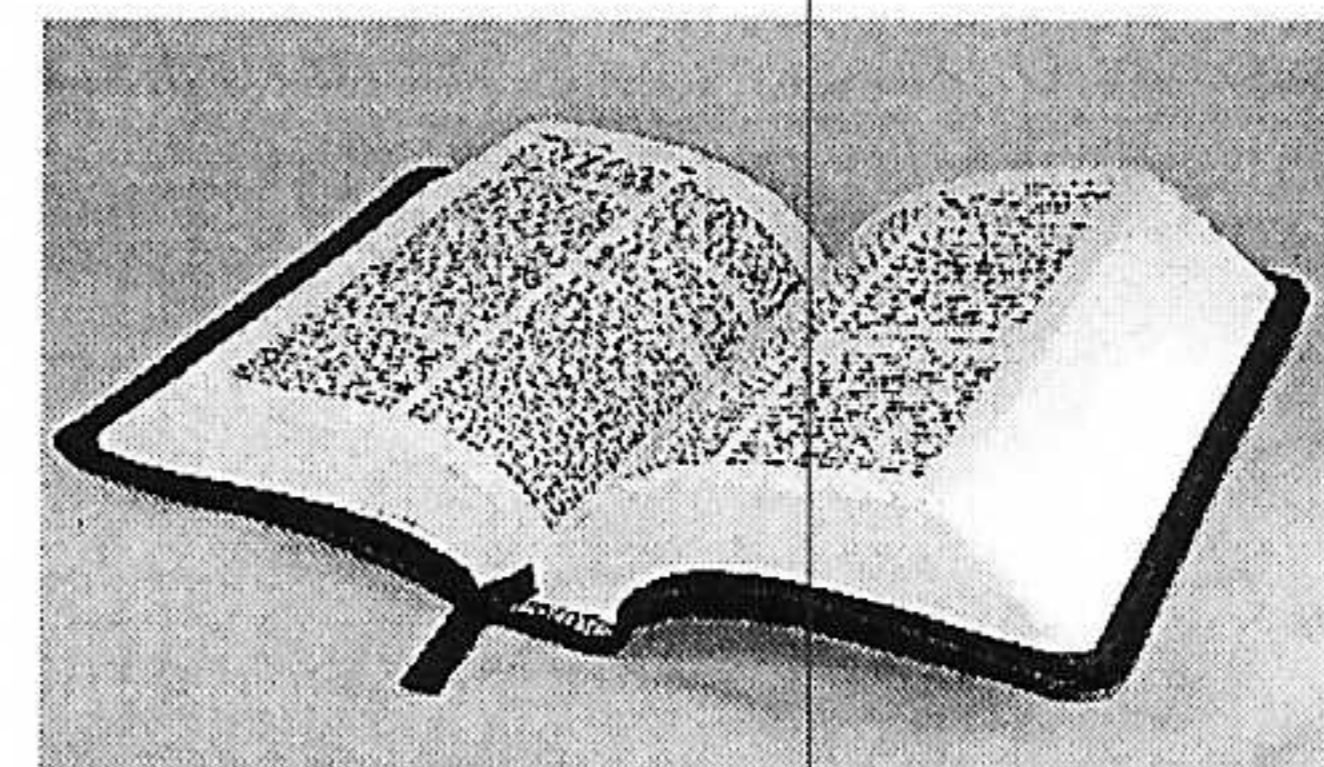


Following the single service we have on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday (8:30 am), we invite everyone to stay for some fellowship time. Enjoy some coffee and refreshments and get to know your fellow members at St. Paul's better!

If you'd like to serve, you may sign up at the fellowship hall. Thank you for volunteering!

**LADIES' AID**

The Ladies' Aid will be going out to eat at Quindt's Towne Lounge in Baraboo on Tuesday, Feb. 6 at 5:30 p.m. Please sign up at church by Sunday, Jan. 28<sup>th</sup>, or call Elaine Shimniok by Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup> if you didn't sign up and would like to go, so we can get our reservation in. All ladies are welcome!



**Bible Study on Revelation**

**Sundays at St. Paul's**

We'll meet after fellowship hour on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday and in between the services on Feb. 18<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>. Join us for a look at this fascinating book of the Bible that has a lot to tell us about our world today!

**Game Night: February 19<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 pm**

Bring a snack to pass, a beverage and a game and join us for an evening of fun and fellowship!

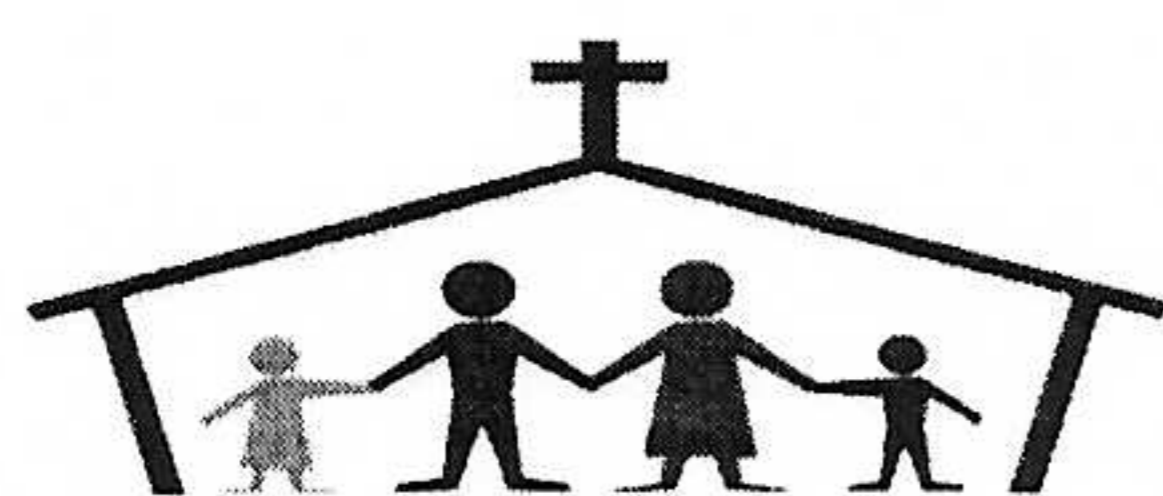
# FEBRUARY 2024 St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church Connection

106 S. Maple St. PO Box 357 North Freedom, WI 53951

## CHURCH COUNCIL

At our Jan. 14<sup>th</sup> congregational meeting, the voters elected Mark Shimniok and re-elected Jeremy Zimmerman to 3-year terms on the council. They were installed on Jan. 21<sup>st</sup>. Minutes of the meeting are included in this newsletter.

The council will meet on Feb. 11<sup>th</sup> in between church services. Specific council positions will be decided on at that meeting.



## ALTAR GUILD

The altar guild sign-up sheet for 2024 is on the table in the fellowship hall. This is a great way to help with worship at St. Paul's. Please speak with Rose Vertein if you are interested and have questions. Thank you!

## CARDS



Mary Klemm is our Sunshine Lady for St. Paul's. If anyone is sick or needs a card of encouragement, please contact her.

## Offering Helpers

St. Paul's is once again bringing the offering up during the worship service. We are asking volunteers, especially teens, to take this up during the service. A sign-up sheet is there at the fellowship hall for volunteers.

We will not pass the plate during the service, so please contribute our offering before the service. We are bringing the offering up during the service as a reminder to everyone that our gifts are being given to the Lord.

## Baptism announcement



Archie John Weber, son of Mason Weber and Morgan Rathman, was baptized on Sunday, January 28<sup>th</sup>, in a private ceremony at 2 p.m. Witnesses of the baptism were Ashley Kingcade and Patrick Felton. We welcome Archie into God's family, as he is being born again of water and the Spirit (John 3:5).

## With the Lord...



In the last week of December, the Lord took two of our members home to heaven. Robert "Bob" Klingemeyer died on December 27, and Aurella Gurgel passed away on December 31. Bob was buried with military honors on Thursday, January 11. Aurella's funeral was on Saturday, January 13. Please keep their families in your prayers.

*We do not want you to be ignorant about those who fall asleep, or to grieve like the rest of men, who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. 1 Thess. 4:13,14.*

## LWMS news:

St. Paul's will be collecting for our LWMS mission offering through March 31st. You may contribute in the jar in the fellowship hall.

The next rally will be at St. John's, Baraboo, on Saturday, April 20, starting at 9 a.m.

# FEBRUARY 2024 St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church Connection

106 S. Maple St. PO Box 357 North Freedom, WI 53951

## INFORMATION ABOUT ST. PAUL'S:

**Pastor:** Rev. Timothy Blauert.

**Church secretary:** Elaine Shimniok.

**Contact us:** Church office: 608-522-4493.

Pastor's cell phone: 507-279-8560.

Email: [stpaulsnf@hotmail.com](mailto:stpaulsnf@hotmail.com) or  
[tkblauert@outlook.com](mailto:tkblauert@outlook.com).

**Website address:** [www.stpaulslutheran-nf.org](http://www.stpaulslutheran-nf.org)

**Worship times:** Sundays 7:30 and 10 a.m.  
First Sunday, 8:30 a.m.

**Sunday School:** Sundays at 8:45 a.m., or after the service on the first Sunday of the month.

**Sunday School teachers:** Lynn Zimmerman and Corisa Schneider.

**Adult Bible study:** Sundays at 8:45 a.m. or after the service on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month;

**Bible information class** is being held on an individual basis for anyone interested.

### **Church Council**

Jim Dohner, Paul Fuller, Roy Schneider, Mark Shimniok, Dave Zimmerman, Jeremy Zimmerman. Offices will be decided on at the February 11<sup>th</sup> council meeting.

### **Ladies' Aid**

President: Elaine Shimniok  
Secretary: Lynn Zimmerman  
Treasurer: Elaine Shimniok  
Sunshine Lady: Mary Klemm  
LWMS Reporter: Linda Ennis

### **Church organists**

Susan Grossenbacher; Lorene Belter

**Church Custodian** Vonnie Leifer

### **Please remember our shut-in members with your prayers and visits**

Sandy Bender (at home)  
Donna Krayner  
Gary Meske (at home)

Please let Pastor know if you are sick, in the hospital, or are having any other difficulties. He'll be glad to visit and have a devotion and pray with you! Contact information for him is in the left column of this page.



### **Happy Anniversary to:**

(No anniversaries in February)



### **Happy Birthday to:**

Aiden Burrow – February 1  
Kaitlyn Ostrowski – February 5  
Rylee Zeman – February 8  
Andrew Shimniok – February 11  
Darrell Weiland – February 13  
Evelynn Shimniok – February 15  
Ruby Schneider – February 16  
Sarah Schneider – February 21  
Presley Zimmerman – February 21  
Linda Ennis – February 22  
Hudson Hehenberger – February 27  
Carole Ahrensmeyer – February 28

### ***OUR GIFTS to the LORD Dec. 31—Jan. 21***

	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Offering</u>
Sun., Dec. 31: 7:30 am	21	\$3,273
10 am	32	\$410
Sun., Jan. 7: 8:30 am	46	\$1,913.05
Sun., Jan. 14: 7:30 am	18	\$5,360
10 am	8	\$290
Sun., Jan. 21: 7:30 am	28	\$1,480
10 am	20	\$515

## St. Paul's Congregational Meeting Sunday January 14, 2024

President James Dohner opened the meeting at 8:35 AM. Pastor Blauert said a prayer. Paul Fuller read the minutes from the last meeting. Wayne Verlein made a motion and Mark Shimniok second it to approve the minutes. The agenda was looked over. Jeremy Zimmerman made a motion and Dave Zimmerman second it to approve the agenda.

Pastor's Report: We averaged 42 people per Sunday in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter. Lent services will start on Ash Wednesday February 14, 2024. We will again be in rotation with area WELS pastors. Service will be on Wednesday Evenings at 6:30 PM. We will also have a Maundy Thursday and Good Friday service. The time of the latter will be discussed in new business. Easter will be on March 31, 2024. Sunrise service is planned at 7:00 AM with a breakfast afterwards and a 10:00 AM service. Gary Meske and Donna Krayer are visited regularly as shut-ins. Other visits were given to Sandy Bender, Harold Bochler, Delores Raddatz, Ellie Schultz, Faith Verlein, and Linda Favre due to their health issues making it hard for them to attend church. Other members who have not attended church recently but still live in the area have been contacted by Pastor Bauert with some drop-in visits. Those he has not visited yet in the last year will also be contacted to arrange a visit. Aurella Gurgel's funeral was on Saturday January 13, 2024 at St Paul's. Bob Klingemeyer had a graveside service on Thursday January 11, 2024.

Education: We are averaging 7 people for the Bible class Getting into God's Word which will complete by the end of January. We have between 3 to 5 students attending Sunday school. 5 children participated in the children's Christmas eve service on December 24, 2023. There are 2 seventh grade boys in the catechism class that meets on Wednesday afternoon. Carrah Shimniok is taking the Bible information class with the intention of becoming a member. An evangelism canvass was done on the weekends of December 2-3 and December 9-10, 2023 in North Freedom and a 2 mile radius in the countryside around it. Approximately 110 Christmas invitations with service times were handed out to prospects and neighbors in the area. Suzie Grossenbacher assisted in the canvass. We have 4 prospects that we will keep in contact with and do follow up work on. The concrete pouring at the parsonage was put on hold until next spring. Pastor Bauert and Kristine are planning on painting the living room at the parsonage. Jeremy Zimmerman made a motion and Dave Zimmerman second it to approve the pastor's report. Dave Zimmerman read the treasurer's report. Wayne Verlein made a motion and Mark Shimniok second it to approve the report. There were no new members and no releases in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter.

New Business: Bill Page has completed his second term and Jeremy Zimmerman has completed his first. A motion was made by Paul Fuller and second by Jeremy Zimmerman to accept the nomination of Mark Shimniok and Jeremy Zimmerman to the council. The 2024 budget proposal was looked over. Wayne Verlein made a motion and Jeremy Zimmerman second it to approve the proposal. Paul Fuller made a motion and Jeremy Zimmerman second it to continue using the Christian Worship Service Builder. The Good Friday service was requested to be at 3:00 PM on Good Friday and the Easter Sunday sunrise service was recommended to be at 7:00 AM. Also it was recommended to start bringing the offering plates from the back up to the altar during the service. Jeremy Zimmerman made a motion and Paul Fuller second it to approve all 3 recommendations. In old business the kitchen stove burner still needs to be looked at and the parsonage garage door still needs to be replaced. Probably in the spring. Paul Fuller made a motion and Jeremy Zimmerman second it to close the meeting at 9:17 AM. Pastor Blauert lead the congregation in singing hymn 928 "May the grace of Christ our savior" to close as a blessing.

Submitted in God's love,  
Paul O. Fuller, secretary.

# St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church, North Freedom FEBRUARY 2024

Church Phone 608 522-4493; Cell 507-279-8560; E-mail [stpaulsnf@hotmail.com](mailto:stpaulsnf@hotmail.com) or [tkblauert@outlook.com](mailto:tkblauert@outlook.com)  
 Website: [www.stpaulslutheran-nf.org](http://www.stpaulslutheran-nf.org)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 8:30 a.m. Worship & Communion followed by Fellowship & Bible Study & Sunday School	5	6 9 a.m. Pastors' Conference at Rock Springs 5:30 p.m. Ladies Aid Meeting at Quindt's Towne Lounge	7 1:45 p.m. Confirmation Class	8	9	10
11 7:30 Worship 8:35 Council Meeting 8:45 Sunday School 10:00 Worship	12	13	14 Ash Wed. 1:45 p.m. Confirmation Class 5:30 p.m. Soup Supper 6:30 p.m. Lent Service	15	16	17
18 7:30 Worship & Communion 8:45 Sunday School 8:45 Bible Study 10:00 Worship & Communion	19 6:30 p.m. Game Night	20	21 1:45 p.m. Confirmation Class 6:30 p.m. Lent Service	22	23	24
25 7:30 Worship 8:45 Sunday School 8:45 Bible Study 10:00 Worship	26	27	28 1:45 p.m. Confirmation Class 6:30 p.m. Lent Service	29		