



Saint Paul's Lutheran church

Year of Fellowship

January 2019
Newsletter



www.stpaulserie.org



New Member Class
Sunday, Jan. 6 | 11:15 AM | Conference Room (Rm 112)

NEW MEMBERS

New Member Weekend: Jan. 12 & 13
Affirmation at both worship services: Saturday at 5 PM & Sunday at 9 AM.

Pastor Sami will host a new member class from **11:15 AM-12:15 PM on Sunday, January 6**. New members will be welcomed into the family of St. Paul's as full members on Saturday, January 12 or Sunday, January 13, depending on the service they like to attend.



EPIPHANY PARTY
Discover Baby Jesus in the king cake & be crowned king for a day!

SUNDAY, JANUARY 6
10:15 AM
FELLOWSHIP HALL

Join us for White Elephant Regift Exchange!

All are invited to attend St. Paul's Epiphany Party, on **Sunday, January 6 at 10:15 AM**, where we will celebrate the three kings' journey in royal fashion with a White Elephant Regift Exchange & king cake. Whoever finds a Baby Jesus in the king cake will be crowned king for the day! White Elephant gifts should be purposely regifted- so find something in your attic, basement, or from under the Christmas tree- & wrap it up (one gift/person).



Active Listening Forum
Listen as Jesus listens to us.

Saturday, Jan. 5 at 4 PM
Sunday, Jan. 6 at 10:15 AM
Conference Room

Hosted by Stephen Ministries

Everyone is welcome to join Sandra Hall for this forum on the skill of listening intently to others. It will be offered on **Saturday, January 5 at 4 PM and Sunday, January 6 at 10:15 AM** in St. Paul's Conference Room.

As we visit those who are lonely, ill, unable to get out, have experienced losses, or just in need of a friend to talk with, it is important to listen. Listening is tool that we learn to use in all areas of our lives. We need to fine tune it and understand its importance, so that we become more faithful disciples.

Questions? Contact our Stephen Ministry Team at StephenMinistries@stpaulserie.org or 814-833-1761, ext. 387.



POTLUCK SUPPER & PIE BAKE-OFF

Saturday, January 26
6 PM
Fellowship Hall

Win 1st Place

Faith, Family, & Friends will be hosting a Potluck Supper & Pie Bake-Off following the 5 PM service on **Saturday, January 26**. Bring a side dish to share & join in the pie contest by baking a homemade pie! Sign-up sheet in the narthex. Meat, beverages, & place settings will be provided. Join us for a fun evening and see who walks away with the prize for the best pie! Questions? Contact Michelle Fuller at FaithFamilyAndFriends@stpaulserie.org or 814-833-1761, ext. 351.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

3108 Sterrettania Road

Erie, PA 16506-2658

www.stpaulserie.org

Saturday Worship Service, 5 PM

Sunday Worship Service, 9 AM

Christian Learning Hour, 10:15 AM

(September-May)

Office hours: 9 AM - 5 PM,

Monday– Friday

814-833-1761 | Office@stpaulserie.org

Pastor Sami Pfalzgraf's Office Hours:

Mondays & Wednesdays: 9 AM-12 PM

814-833-1761, ext. 103 | Pastor@stpaulserie.org



**St. Paul's Patchwork of Love
Quilters & Knitters– Dec. 2018**

Pastor Sami's New Year's Resolutions

This is the time of year when we start thinking about resolutions for the New Year. We want to eat healthier, exercise more, or do better at saving money. The point is we want to live a better life, but we know the way to live a better life is by making God first in our lives. By attending church we hear the word of God and make that word a part of our lives. We learn how to love God and others, even when they are driving us crazy. We learn how to live good lives with strong morals. We hear that we are good enough and when we mess up, we are always forgiven. All this good news helps increase self-worth and lower depression. We also have a church family. I can't tell you how many times I hear, "If it wasn't for my church family, I don't know if I would have made it through. They are so important to me." The research from "Take Me to Worship" tells us that parents who attend church make a significant impact on their children. It also helps family communication and makes youth and students more comfortable talking to their parents about issues in their lives. Church is important, so let's make coming to worship, joining a new church group, or volunteering in some way at church a new year's resolution.



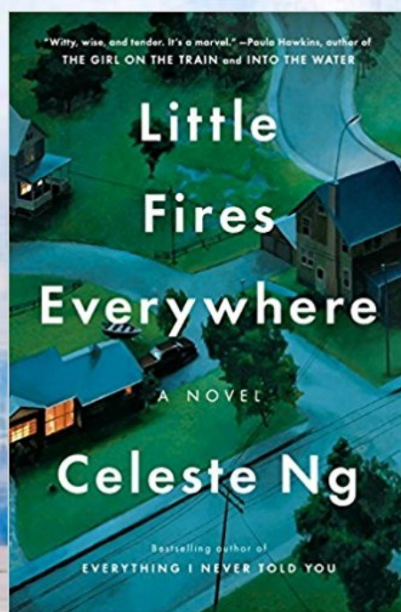
Pastor Sami

Book Club

Saturday, January 5

6 PM

Conference Room



Join us **Saturday, January 5 at 6 PM** in St. Paul's Conference Room for fantastic discussion & fellowship as we delve into *Little Fires Everywhere* by Celeste Ng.

Little Fires Everywhere explores the weight of long-held secrets and the ferocious pull of motherhood-and the danger of believing that planning and following the rules can avert disaster, or heart-break. -from goodreads.com

GriefShare Ministry

St. Paul's has partnered with Great Lakes Hospice to continue the bereavement ministry we started in 2018. We will continue to have ongoing monthly Grief Support Groups, and we are adding a program called GriefShare in March 2019.



GriefShare is a Christian-based grief support program that incorporates faith and spirituality into the healing process after a loss. Each session of GriefShare involves watching a video, journaling, and group discussion. Each session has a different focus, so attendance for each session is helpful but not required.

You do not need to be a member of St. Paul's to attend this program; anyone who has suffered a loss is welcome to attend free of charge. More information about GriefShare will be available in St. Paul's February Newsletter.

New Insights into Epiphany

Epiphany is the church season when the Magi, or three wise men, visit Jesus. They are often depicted as kings, but that is not accurate. Magi, or wise men, were astrologers. Nowhere does it say they were kings. We got that idea from the hymn, "We Three Kings." This story is only in the book of Matthew and it doesn't say there were three. We assume there were three because there are three gifts, but there could have been more or less.

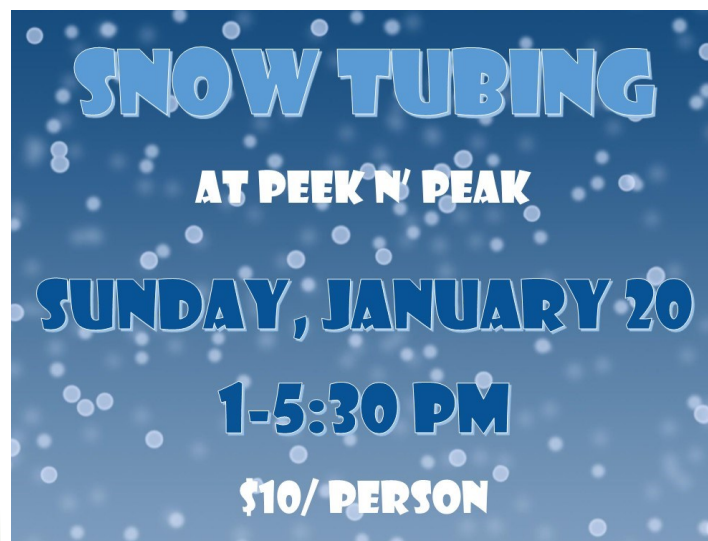


They came from the East which could have been Iraq, Iran, Saudi Arabia or Yemen. Most likely, because of the distance and other factors, it's probable that the Magi's visit did

not occur until Jesus was about three. Often we see the Magi with the Nativity scene, but it's not accurate. The Magi probably came much later. These new insights may cause some of us to get discouraged and wonder what is true in this story we have loved from our youth.

It's true that God came to earth as an innocent child. It is true that people came from near and far to praise God and live in the hope Jesus brought. It's true God continues to reveal God's self to us every day.

Youth & Student Ministries



All ages welcome to join us for snow fun at Peek n' Peak on **Sunday, January 20 from 1-5:30 PM. \$10/person.** Invite your friends!

RSVP by Friday, January 18 to Melissa Collins at YouthDirector@stpaulserie.org or 814-833-1761, ext. 105 for transportation & attendance.

Congregational Care Ministries

Congregational Sympathy

Congregational sympathy is extended to the family & friends of **Laurie J. (Pivovar) Siira**, aunt of Keri Schmidt, who passed away November 26, 2018.

Congregational Prayers



Please keep our following brothers and sisters in Christ in your daily prayers: **Marian & Alvin Boltz** (parents of Beth Kuric),

the Davis family– upon the death of Bobby (cousin of Carol Davis), **Richard McGarvie, Charles Roward & Linda Isaly, Steve Zinram, & for the care receivers who are given support by the Stephen Ministers.**

Pray for members of our church family and community who are facing illness or surgery.



Continue to pray for those who are homebound or in nursing homes: **Clara Davis, Kathryn Duran, Alice Eger, Les Einhipple, Kay Heidler,**

Ken Johnson, Phyllis Lindahl, Emmy Loomis, Sally McIlvried, Ellie Perry, Alice Ristau, Connie Slattery, and Donna Spangler. Wrap your hearts around those who are alone, broken-hearted, grieving, or anxious.



We continue to pray for those who are close to us who **serve in the military** – stationed around the world – who defend and fight for freedom:

Samuel Arthur, Michael Cunningham, David Hall, Brennan Madara, Christopher Newlin, Natalie Rambish, Benjamin Sperring, Brody Swab, Christopher Tinsman, Thomas Weidle, and Zachary Zehner.

Visitation requests, including home communion, or congregational care questions? Contact June Kessler at CongregationalCare@stpaulserie.org or 814-833-1761, ext. 339.

We keep our **college students** in prayer as they study and prepare for their future vocations: **Breanna Berger, Karly Bliley, Emily Collins, Ethan Cunningham, Alex Farantz, Andrew Haverly, Justin Kuric, Alexa Kwiatkowski, Madison Maciulewicz, Matthew Parry, Eriq Schau, Aidan Sloppy, Derek Sloppy, Spencer Sorenson, Ian Stroul, Emily Thelin, Nikki Zehner, and Ryan Zimmerman.**

January Anniversaries

Jan 1– Ted & Clara Davis
Jan 2– Jered & Jessica Carr
Jan 8– Tom & Nancy Madara, Joe & Sue Lang
Jan 11– Jim & Louise Berger
Jan 22– Ron & Cheryl Till
Jan 24– Ron & Christa Kaffka

January Birthdays

Jan 1– Judy Newlin
Jan 2– Darryl Schmidt
Jan 6– David McIlvried (Pastor Mac)
Jan 7– Ruth Moyer, Karen Stephens
Jan 11– Jake Buzzard, Ben Thelin
Jan 15– Steven Stroul, Landon Kalie
Jan 17– Keri Schmidt
Jan 18– Sabrina Beilharz
Jan 19– Mark Scholtz
Jan 20– Mark Johnson
Jan 21– Ellie Perry
Jan 22– Nikki Zehner, Debby Sullivan
Jan 24– Brody Swab

Steve Zinram is a friend of St. Paul's and he was recently diagnosed with cancer. If you would like to send a card of support to him, his address is:

27773 Sherwood Dr
Westlake, OH 44145-4487

Congregational Thank You Notes

St. Paul's Church,

Thanks so much for all your cards. They mean so much. Merry X-mas!

Rich & Diane McGarvie

We would like to thank everyone that helped out with the cookie trays, from donating cookies, brownies, fudge cups, rice krispie treats, chocolate covered pretzels, candy & the candy canes to those that helped putting the cookie trays together and those that helped with the delivering of the cookie trays. We would also like to thank the youth for making the beautiful ornaments and cards. We were able to make the holiday a little bit more enjoyable for the 50 recipients/families with the cookie trays. So, thanks again for all your support with the Christmas Cookie Tray Ministry. We could not have done this without everyone's help.

Terry & Ruth Moyer

Thank you so much to everyone who donated funding and helped bring about the new AED Machine. It will make sure that everyone who comes through our doors is cared for. What a wonderful gift to St. Paul's. Thank you!

Faith Formation Ministries

Hope Circle Women's Bible Study

Hope Circle will meet on **Monday, Jan. 14** at 10 AM in the Conference Room. Barb Toy will lead the Bible study & Ruth May will be hosting. Hope Circle will be beginning a 4-session study, "Meetings with Jesus," about the Gospel of John. Questions? Contact Barb Toy at HopeCircle@stpaulserie.org or 814-833-1761, ext. 354.



Stephen Ministries

As we begin our journey into the New Year, let us all be mindful of those we journey with. No one knows what the coming year will bring, but experience tells us it will be a mixture of happiness and heartache. Let's resolve to really notice the people God has placed in our lives, from loved ones to strangers, and see them as God sees them, His beloved children!

Your Stephen Ministry team is here should you encounter someone that needs to journey with them through a difficult time. Contact June Kessler, Sandra Hall or Becky Holcomb at StephenMinistries@stpaulserie.org or 814-833-1761, ext. 387.

Church Council Highlights

From the December 2018 meeting:

We welcomed the new members in the Class of 2021. The election of officers will happen at January council meeting. We reviewed the December Congregational Meeting and prepared for the January Congregational Meeting. The new pulley system for curtains in the sanctuary will be going up in early January.

Next meeting: Monday, January 21, 2019 at 7 PM in the Conference Room.

Congregational Meeting

Sunday, January 13
10 AM
Sanctuary

All are invited to join us for this very important meeting. We will receive Annual Ministry Reports, install Leadership Council Members, & vote on adoption of new St. Paul's Constitution.

Sunday School Ministries

Thank you to all the teachers, shepherds, and parents who have made the first half of rotation Sunday School a success. We could not have done it without your help! It has been



2018 Pageant

wonderful to see the kids getting to connect with more people in the church and looking forward to the next week for a different activity.

A special thank you to the Sunday School Team, Elizabeth Gould, and Megan Rainbow for the Christmas Pageant.

We continue to need more congregation members to help with Sunday School. Remember, it's only 3 weeks to share your talent and love with our kids! Please join us!!

Church Attendance & Finances



| By The Numbers: | Nov 2018 |
|---------------------------|-----------|
| Avg. Attendance: Saturday | 32 |
| Avg. Attendance: Sunday | 111 |
| November Offering | \$25,902 |
| November Expenses | \$27,352 |
| November Difference | -1,450 |
| Offering Year-to-Date | \$287,905 |
| Expenses Year-to-Date | \$302,767 |
| Difference Year-to-Date | -\$14,862 |

End-of-the-Year Giving Opportunities:

- Wireless connection technology for the projector to the computer in the sanctuary: \$1,000.
- The screen for the sanctuary: \$1,799.
- A donation to support the Easter Cantata.
- A donation to support the Student Mission Trip.
- A special donation to the general budget of the church.

Pre-School Ministries

We will look forward to a visit from the Erie Zoo's traveling zoo in January. They bring live animals to school for the children to touch and learn about. This is a great outreach program for our students. We will also have fun enjoying snowman-themed activities and songs. We will learn about things that sink and float with some hands-on activities. The children will learn more about number and letter recognition and concepts, as well as rhyming, and opposites.



Time to plan ahead! Let your family, friends, and neighbors know that we will be having an Open House & Registration Day for 2019-2020 school year. Registration forms are currently available on our website at www.stpaulserie.org. More information to follow. For more information about our pre-school program, please contact Tammi Ferrante at PSDirector@stpaulserie.org or 814-833-1761, ext. 114.

Child Development Center Ministries

The Child Development Center is expanding by moving 10 five year-olds down to the first floor after the 24 elementary students leave for school. This frees up space on the second floor to expand the baby and 2-3 year-old rooms. Child Development Center already has new babies and 2-3 year-olds signed up to begin Jan. 2019. Tuition will also be raised by \$5 in January 2019.

January also brings bounce house fun during Martin Luther King, Jr. in-service day!

Questions? Contact Dawn Chismar at CDCDirector@stpaulserie.org or 814-833-1761, ext. 116.



Child Development Center Task Force

At its November meeting, the Congregation Council was advised of some financial issues that have arisen at St. Paul's Child Development Center ("CDC") as a result of problems collecting state reimbursements and related management issues. Council has appointed a Task Force to work with CDC to address the outstanding issues. Members of the Task force include Bryan McCowin, Pam Brady, Joe Lang, Steve Thelin, and Kelly Zimmerman.

Student Ministries (grades 7-12)

December was full of fellowship and service! We had our Tacky Christmas Party on December 11th for our students.

We decorated human Christmas trees, gurgled Christmas carols, and tested our Christmas knowledge. Pastor Sami joined in on the fun and showed her competitive side!



We also had a chance to serve the younger students on December 16th. High School and Confirmation students helped make chocolate chip pancakes and run the games session with the Sunday School students. It was a great way to serve within our community, especially during this Advent season. What better way to prepare our hearts than to give as our Lord, Jesus Christ, did!

Community Care Ministries

Winter Sock Drive for the Homeless

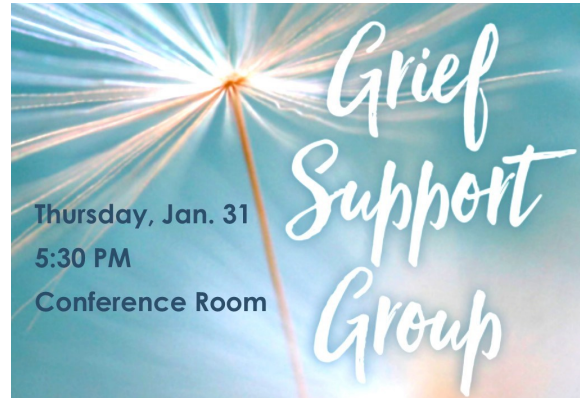
Our Winter Sock Drive is well under way & **107 pairs of new socks** were shared with the guests at St. Patrick's Haven in early December!



Our sock drive continues throughout this winter season. Warm & dry socks are a much-needed clothing item for our homeless friends. Please donate new pairs of socks in the bin located in the narthex at St. Paul's. Thank you!

Grief Support Group Meeting

The Grief Support Group will meet again on **Thursday, January 31 at 5:30 PM** in St. Paul's Conference Room. Meetings are free-of-charge & open to the public. Snacks are provided. RSVPs are appreciated, but not necessary. Questions? Contact Heather McLaughlin at GriefSupport-Group@stpaulserie.org or 814-877-6527. Please note that there will be no Grief Support Group meeting in February.



Worship Assistants' Schedule for January

| Date | Time | Altar Care | Ushers | Assistant Minister | Communion Assistant | Acolyte | Cross-bearer |
|--------|---------|---------------------|----------------------|--------------------|---------------------|--------------|----------------|
| Jan 5 | 5:00 PM | Sullivan/Moore Team | | | | | |
| Jan 6 | 9:00 AM | TBA | Kaffka/Gross Team | Jack Martin | Steve Thelin | Xavier Jones | Megan Bechtold |
| Jan 12 | 5:00 PM | Elmer/Moore Team | | | | | |
| Jan 13 | 9:00 AM | TBA | Kessler/Firment Team | Larry Kessler | Jim Scott | Jacob Gross | Hannah Schmidt |
| Jan 19 | 5:00 PM | Lang Team | | | | | |
| Jan 20 | 9:00 AM | TBA | Wright Team | Len Toy | Karen Marzka | Sam Forehand | Jonah Douglas |
| Jan 26 | 5:00 PM | Fuhrman/Ford Team | | | | | |
| Jan 27 | 9:00 AM | TBA | Carr/Firment Team | Joanne Erikson | Debbie DeCoursey | TBA | TBA |

For scheduling information, contact one of the following individuals via email or call 814-833-1761 and use the appropriate extension:






Saturday Altar Care– Cheryl Moore at SatAltarCare@stpaulserie.org | ext. 352

Altar Care, 9 AM – Karen Marzka at AltarCare@stpaulserie.org | ext. 322

Worship Assistants – Erich & Pam Zech at WorshipAssistants@stpaulserie.org | ext. 348

Acolytes & Ushers– Larry Kessler at Worship@stpaulserie.org | ext. 315

January Calendar

| January 2019 | | | | | | |
|---|--|--|---|--|---|---|
| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
| 30 Annual Report Articles Due 9:00 AM Worship | 31 Office Closed Pre-School Closed | 1 New Year's Day Office Closed 5:00 PM Holy Trinity Pasta & Soup Kitchen | 2 9:00 AM Scripture Study 12:00 PM Holy Trinity Pasta & Soup Kitchen 4:00 PM Youth Karate 6:30 PM Softball Practice 8:00 PM Men's Basketball League | 3 6:00 PM Erie Krush Meeting 6:30 PM Men's Basketball League | 4 4:00 PM Youth Karate Class 7:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous Marble Group | 5 Stephen Ministry Active Listening Forum 12:00 PM Holy Trinity Pasta & Soup Kitchen 4:00 PM Paul's Table 5:00 PM Worship 6:00 PM Book Club |
| 6 Epiphany 7:00 AM Stephen Ministry Active Listening Forum 8:00 AM Choir Rehearsal 9:00 AM Worship 10:15 AM Epiphany Celebration 10:15 AM Paul's Table 10:15 AM Sunday School 11:15 AM New Members Class 11:30 AM Hand Bell Rehearsal | 7 6:00 PM Basketball Practice 7:00 PM Property Team Meeting 7:00 PM Women's Group | 8 9:00 AM Patchwork of Love Quilting Ministry 3:00 PM Lego Derby 5:00 PM Holy Trinity Pasta & Soup Kitchen | 9 9:00 AM Scripture Study 12:00 PM Holy Trinity Pasta & Soup Kitchen 4:00 PM Youth Karate 6:30 PM Down Syndrome Group Meeting 6:30 PM Softball 8:00 PM Men's Basketball League | 10 12:30 PM Ladies Lunch Bunch 6:30 PM Men's Basketball League | 11 4:00 PM Youth Karate Class 7:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous Marble Group | 12  New Members Weekend 12:00 PM Holy Trinity Pasta & Soup Kitchen 4:00 PM Paul's Table 5:00 PM Worship |
| 13  New Members Weekend 8:00 AM Choir Rehearsal 9:00 AM Worship 10:00 AM Congregation Meeting 10:15 AM Paul's Table 10:15 AM Sunday School 11:30 AM Hand Bell Rehearsal | 14 10:00 AM Hope Circle Women's Bible Study 6:00 PM Basketball Practice 7:00 PM Mother's Group | 15 Newsletter Articles Due 9:00 AM Patchwork of Love Quilting Ministry 5:00 PM Holy Trinity Pasta & Soup Kitchen | 16 9:00 AM Scripture Study 12:00 PM Holy Trinity Pasta & Soup Kitchen 4:00 PM Youth Karate Class 6:30 PM Softball 8:00 PM Men's Basketball League | 17  6:30 PM Men's Basketball League | 18 4:00 PM Youth Karate Class 7:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous Marble Group | 19 12:00 PM Holy Trinity Pasta & Soup Kitchen 4:00 PM Paul's Table 5:00 PM Worship |
| 20 8:00 AM Choir Rehearsal 9:00 AM Worship 10:15 AM Paul's Table 10:15 AM Sunday School 11:30 AM Hand Bell Rehearsal | 21  Martin L. King, Jr. Day Pre-School Closed 6:00 PM Basketball 7:00 PM Church Council 7:00 PM Women's Group | 22 9:00 AM Patchwork of Love Quilting Ministry 5:00 PM Holy Trinity Pasta & Soup Kitchen | 23 9:00 AM Scripture Study 12:00 PM Holy Trinity Pasta & Soup Kitchen 4:00 PM Youth Karate 6:30 PM Softball 8:00 PM Men's Basketball League | 24 6:30 PM Men's Basketball League | 25 4:00 PM Youth Karate Class 7:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous Marble Group | 26  12:00 PM Holy Trinity Pasta & Soup Kitchen 4:00 PM Paul's Table 5:00 PM Pot Luck Supper/Pic Cook-Off 5:00 PM Worship |
| 27 8:00 AM Choir Rehearsal 9:00 AM Worship 10:15 AM Paul's Table 10:15 AM Sunday School 11:30 AM Hand Bell Rehearsal | 28 6:00 PM Basketball Practice 7:00 PM Mother's Group | 29 9:00 AM Patchwork of Love Quilting Ministry 5:00 PM Holy Trinity Pasta & Soup Kitchen | 30 9:00 AM Scripture Study 12:00 PM Holy Trinity Pasta & Soup Kitchen 4:00 PM Youth Karate 6:30 PM Softball 8:00 PM Men's Basketball | 31 5:30 PM Grief Support Group Meeting 6:30 PM Men's Basketball League | 1 4:00 PM Youth Karate Class 7:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous Marble Group | 2 9:00 AM CROP Walk Retreat 12:00 PM Holy Trinity Pasta & Soup Kitchen 4:00 PM Paul's Table 5:00 PM Worship 6:00 PM Book Club |