



# *St. Paul News*

## *June 2023*

### **St. Paul Lutheran Church**

*The Lutheran Church -  
Missouri Synod*

1050 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Granite Falls, MN 56241

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#### **OUR MISSION STATEMENT**

The mission of  
St. Paul Lutheran Church  
is to promote the  
worship of the Triune God  
as revealed in Holy Scriptures,  
by teaching the Gospel of  
Jesus Christ and administering  
the Sacraments, in order to  
equip people for Christian  
life and service.

### **Pastor's Message**

Our Sunday morning Bible Study just finished studying the Liturgy. We took a deep look at what we do and say on Sunday morning, its significance, and its Scriptural foundation.

A main problem we have among some pastors and congregations in American Christianity is not knowing how liturgy works. Many churches treat liturgy like a paint brush. It's an instrument used to give expression. It matters not how many styles of brushes there are, but only that what is conceived within the mind and heart is able to be birthed into a reality upon the canvas. In other words, the liturgy of contemporary worship is like a paint brush in the hand of a pastor who uses it to express his (or her) artistic creativity from week to week.

A better way to understand liturgy is to think of it as a seed. We just finished planting season around here, and what are farmers doing now? Seeds need to be planted, nourished, and left undisturbed. You cannot dig it up every week. Otherwise, it will never be able to do what it is meant to do, that is, germinate and sprout.

The liturgy is meant to be planted within our hearts and given time to do its work. Unceasing change to the liturgy that happens in the likes of contemporary worship prohibits this from happening. While some may think that creative contemporary worship is life, it is death to the liturgy and uproots the spiritual life that it tries to implant in the hearts and minds of Christians.

Liturgy needs a stable text. Stability permits frequent repetition which allows the text to become part of the spiritual life of those participating in it. One pastor who does contemporary worship once said, "I wish there was a way that we could say parts of the Bible and people would just respond and say it along with us." Stable, traditional liturgy does exactly that. Rather than focusing upon what needs to be said next, the liturgy is already present in the mind and on the lips, allowing the Holy Spirit to draw one into the present gathering of the Church around Christ's Word and Sacraments.

There is a variety to our traditional worship. We follow the Christ's birth, life, death, and resurrection throughout the Church year, and the Propers of the day give us new prayers and readings which cycle every three years. However, there is always a great focus on the Word and Sacraments, we never miss proclaiming the Gospel, and we do not have change just for the sake of creativity.

Think of it like this: the state of American Christianity is like what Dante saw upon entering Hell. He recounts, "And I, beholding, saw a banner fly, whirling about racing with such speed that it seemed that it would scorn to stand, or pause, and all behind that flag in a long file so numerous a host of people ran." (Inferno 3.52-55). Pastors and congregations are driven to run after the banner of fads that whirls ahead promising growth and prosperity to any who catch it.

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# ITEMS OF INTEREST

## Church Council

The installation for the June 2023 - May 2024 council members will be Sunday, June 4th during the service. The Board of Elders will meet June 20th at 6 pm followed by the Church Council at 7 pm. Then the Quarterly Voters' Assembly will meet on Sunday, June 25th at 10:45 am in the parish hall. All are encouraged to attend, because they will be showing how to use the new AED (defibrillator).

## LWML Happenings

The "Noisy Offering" along with the mites for May was \$55.96. Thanks for your continued support of LWML missions!

The LWML Biennial Convention will be held in Milwaukee from June 22-25. Pray for safe travels for the following attendees: Mary Hammer, Judy Rode, and Sue Erickson. Any donations for "Gifts from the Heart" can still be dropped off in the coatroom till June 20th.

Our next fund raiser will be the Summertime Pie Social on Wednesday, July 19th. Sign up sheets will be provided for food donations and workers for the event. Contact Mary Kelly, Nancy Cuklanz, or Kathy Enninga with any questions.

Check out the bulletin board for the flyer advertising the LWML Retreat at Lutheran Island Camp from August 11-13th. You can attend one day or all three. The theme is "Balancing Act Amid Life's Challenges." The speakers on Saturday will be Deb Vinkemeier and Katie Koplin. Deb writes and publishes devotions and Bible studies on Linked In and Facebook. Katie is a podcaster and 1517 contributor.

Save the date for July 16th, we'll meet after church for our quarterly meeting. At that time we will be finalizing plans for the Summertime Pie Social.

Minnesota North LWML has a quarterly newsletter that you can view online. It's called Minnesota Northern Light and it details happenings within the MN North District. To view go to [mnnortherlight@lwml.org](mailto:mnnortherlight@lwml.org).

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and unfortunately, the farther they run, the more they are driven away from the narrow path of Jesus Christ. Declining church attendance and the rise of the "nones" is evidence of this.

Value the traditional liturgy. It has upheld the Church for thousands of years with little change, through tyrants and persecutors, through famine and pestilence, and through popularity, prosperity, and secularization. You are in the house of your wise fathers. May you live and find rest for your souls in the Divine Service of the living God.

+God's Peace+

Pastor Jonathan Varns



## June Birthdays



June 1  
June 3

Melodee Syring  
Jordynn Berends,  
Bryce Schmidt



June 4  
June 5

Rowan Betker  
Larry Cuklanz,  
Matthew Johnson,  
Kolton Luepke



June 6  
June 7

Troy Myers  
Mark Johnson



June 8  
June 9

Blayke Schmidt  
Gerald Reinke



June 10

Jody Hempel,  
Hunter Kerkela,  
Alfred Timm



June 12  
June 14

Tara Staab  
Brayton Hammer,  
Tanner Read



June 15

Nancy Cuklanz,  
Chad Doose,  
Jonathan Varns



June 16

Susan Doose,  
LeRoy Peterson



June 17

Dustin Enninga,  
Kristin Rosassen



June 18  
June 20

Anna Larson  
Dale Luepke Jr



June 22

Tom Edman,  
Darla Schmidt



June 24  
June 25

Jacob Galow  
Tracie Read



June 26  
June 27

Chance Roberts  
Erin Bissett



June 29  
June 30

Brenda Peterson  
Logan Hoff,  
Adriana Thein



## Birthday Blessings to you all.

Please contact the church office if we missed yours.



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# Midweek School Year Review

By Pastor Jonathan Varns

Midweek/Confirmation Classes: Midweek K-6 and Confirmation 7-8 meets Wednesday night. K-6 class time is from 5-6 pm. Pastor leads the older kids, and Laura Beyer and Lindsay Varns lead the younger kids. K-6 classes studied the Old Testament Bible stories and the older class began memorization of the Catechism. There are 4 in the older class and 8 in the younger class. Confirmation class time is from 7-8 pm, led by Pastor Varns. Each student works on the module they are currently on with their parents. This year there were 3 students, with one of those participating in the Rite of Confirmation at the end of the year. Parents are required to participate in the material with their children and during class, pastor is present to facilitate this and answer any questions. Unfortunately, there has been some contention with Confirmation as parents are struggling with participating in classes with their children. Pastor requires their participation because God has made them the primary educators of the faith to their children. Luther writes in his Small Catechism, "As the head of the family should teach it in a simple way to his household." Studies also show that parental involvement is the primary factor for whether or not a child will retain the faith as an adult. Since this congregation has a void of frequent church attendance by young adults, the requirement of parental participation is solely for the building up of the faith of the congregation and its families. In other words, as many wonder if the next generation will have faith to keep the church open, parental engagement is the greatest way to bolster the chances of their children having faith into their adult years.

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## Granite Falls Community Paper Shredding Event

Sponsored by Thrivent and St. Paul Lutheran Church

Saturday, September 9, 2023

9 am to noon

at St. Paul Lutheran Church parking lot - 1050 10th Ave

Donations accepted for:

Living at Home Block Nurse Program

and

St. Paul 125th Anniversary in 2024

Beverages and treats will be provided for everyone.



Please remove rubber bands and paper clips before bringing to event.

This is a Thrivent Action Team Event.

**SAC Groups** will be our greeters and ushers.  
 If this is your month to serve, please prayerfully  
 consider where you are able to and willing to help.

**Group 1**

**Serving for June**

Berends, Anthony  
 Berends, Chris  
 Buchholz, Merlin and Sylvia  
 Christensen, Brad and Maria  
 Christensen, Rachel  
 Doose, Chad  
 Doose, Greg and Susan  
 Doose, Mike and Kristi  
 Erickson, Wes and Sue  
 Gabbert, Dennis  
 Gatchell, Dorian and Melanie  
 Guertin, Dave and Nancy  
 Hammer, Nancy  
 Hammer, Tracy  
 Hempel, Tim and Jody  
 Hildahl, Eric and Teresa  
 Johnson, Matthew  
 Klassen, Jim  
 Klassen, Kristin  
 Luepke, Travis and Jenn  
 Markgraf, Kevin  
 Myers, Troy and Jenna  
 Phinney, Katie  
 Putnam, Charlie  
 Rode, Judy  
 Ryer, Lisa, James and Jerrad  
 Ryer, Shannon  
 Schulte, Richard, and Kelly  
 Staab, Tyler and Tara  
 Steffen, Don  
 Stengel, Gene and Pam  
 Stengel, Rob  
 Syring, Melodee

**Group 2**

**Serving for July**

Anderson, Bryan and Renae  
 Berends, Randy and Tamra  
 Beyer, Brian, and Laura  
 Cobb, Kris and Holly  
 Enninga, Dan and Kathy  
 Enninga, Dustin and Krystle  
 Guertin, Sarah  
 Hammer, Brett  
 Hammer, Mary  
 Hempel, Terry and Rosemary  
 Hinz, Paul and Diane  
 Jeseritz, Randy  
 Johnson, Ted and Kathy  
 Kirschbaum, Janet  
 Korhuis, John and Kathy  
 Luepke, Otto and Theresa  
 Miller, Eugene  
 Myers, Troy and Jenna  
 Nokleby, Dorothy  
 Podratz, Ken and Carol  
 Redepenning, Tony and Amy  
 Rigge, Jim and Cindy  
 Rigge, Michael  
 Sherman, Leslie and Renee  
 Sietsema, Barb  
 Stengel, Allen and Pat  
 Streich, Chris  
 Streich, LouAnn  
 Varns, Pastor and Lindsay  
 Wegner, James and Eileen  
 Zempel, Meredith  
 Zempel, Nicole  
 Zimmer, Kevin and Laura

**Daily Bible Readings for June**

<u>Day</u>	<u>Morning Study</u>	<u>Evening Study</u>
1	II Chron. 4-6	John 12:20-50
2	II Chron. 7-9	John 13:1-17
3	II Chron. 10-12	John 13:18-38
4	II Chron. 13-16	John 14
5	II Chron. 17-19	John 15
6	II Chron. 20-22	John 16:1-15
7	II Chron. 23-25	John 16:16-33
8	II Chron. 26-28	John 17
9	II Chron. 29-31	John 18:1-23
10	II Chron. 32,33	John 18:24-40
11	II Chron. 34-36	John 19:1-22
12	Ezra 1,2	John 19:23-42
13	Ezra 3-5	John 20
14	Ezra 6-8	John 21
15	Ezra 9,10	Acts 1
16	Neh. 1-3	Acts 2:1-13
17	Neh. 4-6	Acts 2:14-47
18	Neh. 7,8	Acts 3
19	Neh. 9-11	Acts 4:1-22
20	Neh. 12,13	Acts 4:23-37
21	Esther 1-3	Acts 5:1-16
22	Esther 4-6	Acts 5:17-42
23	Esther 7-10	Acts 6
24	Job 1-3	Acts 7:1-19
25	Job 4-6	Acts 7:20-43
26	Job 7-9	Acts 7:44-60
27	Job 10-12	Acts 8:1-25
28	Job 13-15	Acts 8:26-40
29	Job 16-18	Acts 9:1-22
30	Job 19,20	Acts 9:23-43

**Vital Statistics**

Attendance and Offering Report - May 2023

<u>Date</u>	<u>Attend</u>	<u>Comm</u>	<u>Offering</u>
Sun, May 7	38	34	\$3,310.00
Sun, May 14	68	60	\$4,790.00
Sun, May 21	70	55	\$1,103.00
Sun, May 28	38	38	\$1,990.00,

(2023 Budget Income needed each Sunday - \$3,542.00)

**Financials as of 5-29-2023**

Year to Date Actual Contributions	\$65,685.07
Year to Date Contributions Needed	<u>\$73,505.20</u>
Difference	(\$7,820.13)
Year to Date Actual Expenses	\$79,899.32
Year to Date Budgeted Expenses	<u>\$73,505.20</u>
Difference	(\$6,394.12)

**LWML Summertime Pie Social**

**July 19th**

More info will be in the bulletins and July newsletter.

