

St. Paul News

September 2023

St. Paul Lutheran Church

*The Lutheran Church -
Missouri Synod*

1050 10th Avenue
Granite Falls, MN 56241

Rev. Jonathan Varns
Pastor

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Chairman
Larry Cuklanz
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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

Many of my friends spent much of high school behind a fast-food counter, getting blamed for the grill guy's mistake, or being the grill guy, whose mistake caused someone else to take the heat. At the end of the day, they'd come home smelling like a sweaty French fry, but they learned to strive for excellence, even in a business equated with mediocrity.

When you walk into a fast-food restaurant, which side of the counter you plan to occupy makes all the difference in your attitude. If you stand in front of the counter and see dirty tables or find a mistake in your order, you should expect someone to resolve it. Someone else.

But if you enter the building and stand behind the counter, when something's not right, you should feel embarrassed and eager to resolve the situation.

So, when you consider your church membership, which side of the counter do you stand on? When something's not right, do you expect someone else to resolve the problem, or do you immediately start thinking about how you might?

Too often, church rosters fill with spiritual customers shopping for religious goods and services. When something's not right, they ask questions like, "Why doesn't someone do something about this?" instead of, "Is there anything I can do to help?" In simplest terms, when you see litter, do you stop to pick it up, or do you expect someone else to?

What about the other work that's not getting done the way it could or should? Are you doing what you can? Often, it's fallen short because the person responsible has so many other tasks to handle. Is there something else you could take onto your shoulders to ease that burden? When you call it "my church," do you mean it? Do your words and actions support the work and ease the burden, or do you complain that they got your order wrong?

Jesus told those who followed Him, "The harvest is large, but the workers are few. So, ask the Lord who gives this harvest to send workers to harvest his crops. Go! I'm sending you out like lambs among wolves." (Luke 10:2-3)

Do you see the response? 'Pray for workers to harvest people. Hey, your prayer is answered! You are the answer to your own prayer!' Living in the kingdom of God means celebrating the resurrection every day by following our Risen Lord as He serves others through us.

Next, take your eyes off the church property to the world. As you look at the needs of the community and beyond, how many problems do you respond to with, "Someone should do something about that!" where you are that someone?

God has blessed us with the honor of serving in His kingdom in so many ways and has given time, money, and skills needed to serve. What can we do to bring glory to God among us?

+God's Peace+

Pastor Jonathan Varns

ITEMS OF INTEREST

Voters' Meeting

The next Quarterly Voters' Meeting will be held on Sunday, September 17th following the service. All confirmed members who are 18 years of age and older are invited to this meeting and to share in the decision making of the congregation. Following the meeting there will be a potluck dinner.

Potluck Dinner
Sunday
September 17th



LWML News

Thanks to all who furnished food and/or helped at the Summertime Pie Social that was held on Wednesday, July 19th. All enjoyed the get-together with family and friends and shared the time with good food and conversation. We served 171 meals and along with the leftover food sold the total sales were \$2,307.42.

Mites can do mitey things! The "Noisy Offerings" were \$57.17 in July and \$43.04 for August. Thanks for your continued support of LWML missions! There are also mite boxes available for adults and children to use at home. You can find them on the bulletin table.

The Lutheran Women's Missionary League welcomed over 3,500 people to the 40th biennial convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, June 22-25, 2023, under the theme "Celebrate the Lord of the Nations" based on Psalm 33:12-13. The voting body adopted a \$2,350,000 mission goal for the 2023-2025 biennium. This goal, by the grace of God, will fund 31 mission grants, as women and men respond in prayer and mite offerings during the next two years. LWML Minnesota North District contributes \$0.25 of every dollar collected to this mission goal. A video and listing of the new mission grants selected can be found at <https://www.lwml.org/mission-grants>. There were over 100 participants attending from LWML Minnesota North District! This included our members Sue Erickson, Mary Hammer, and Judy Rode. (Watch bulletin for date when they will be showing pictures of the convention.) A highlight of the convention was the district banner procession and the procession of the flags of 83 nations where the LWML has participated in missions. Two buses of participants from MN North District made the trip and stopped at Mequon College and Ellsworth Creamery on the return trip. The more information can be found at <https://www.lwml.org/2023-convention>.

(cont. on page 4)

September Birthdays

- | | |
|---------|--|
| Sept 1 | Andrea Berends,
Emma Donner,
Doug Ramirez |
| Sept 2 | David Guertin |
| Sept 3 | Aaron Lubrant |
| Sept 6 | Larry Donner,
Brent Hegna |
| Sept 7 | Mary Hammer |
| Sept 8 | Rosemary Hempel,
Diane Hinz |
| Sept 9 | Cherish Hammer |
| Sept 11 | Ashley Johnson |
| Sept 12 | Laura Zimmer |
| Sept 14 | Angela Hammer-Grimes |
| Sept 15 | Mariah Skjefte |
| Sept 16 | Sara Canatsey,
Eric Van Sickle |
| Sept 17 | James Wegner |
| Sept 18 | Anthony Berends,
Carol Nelson |
| Sept 19 | Avis Freitag, Eric Hildahl |
| Sept 20 | Dennis Gabbert,
Keanna Oaks,
Laura Ramirez,
Bentley Sherwood,
Cameron Zens |
| Sept 21 | Karley Duenwald |
| Sept 24 | Nolan Hildahl,
Michael Luepke |
| Sept 26 | Holly Cobb, Alesha Hjelle,
Raymond Reinke |
| Sept 27 | Willow Myers |
| Sept 28 | Dorothy Nokleby,
Robert Stengel |
| Sept 29 | Emily Ebel |
| Sept 30 | Sophie Van Sickle |

Birthday Blessings to you all.

Please contact the church office if
we missed yours.

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 4

Serving for September

Banken, Jim and Janine
Baumann, Jayne
Bruss, Margie
Canatsey, Kristin
Donner, Jenelle
Donner, Jessica
Ebel, Colton and Emily
Edman, Tom and Tammy
Gabbert, Don and Jeanne
Hildahl, Dan and Valerie
Holtan, Marie
Hoyer, Lanny
Jeseritz, Tanya
Johnson, Mark
Keller, Katie
Kling, Verlyn and Barb
Kvam, Carrie
Kvam, Gordon
Kvam, LeRoy and Debra
Luepke, Mike and Pam
Meyer, Greg and Jackie
Meyer, Larry and Karla
Petersen, Loren and Marci
Reese, Tom
Rude, Odell and Carol
Schultz, Dennis and Phyllis
Skjefte, Dave and Val
Smith, Dennis and Lu-Ann
Steffen, Kerry and Julie
Syring, Marjorie
Timm, Craig and Susan
Timm, Daphne
Timm, Lee
Twedt, Charles and Kari
Wilking, Larry
Yeager, Dave and Darlene

Group 1

Serving for October

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
Phinney, Katie
Putnam, Charlie
Rode, Judy
Ryer, Lisa
Ryer, Shannon
Schulte, Richard and Kelly
Saab, Tyler and Tara
Steffen, Don
Stengel, Gene and Pam
Stengel, Rob
Syring, Melodee

Quilters

Quilters will be starting Tuesday, September 12th at 8:30 am and women and men are welcome to join. If you can tie a knot you, you can help. They are always looking for more fabric and sheet. The city wide garage sales are a good place to check out.

Shoe Boxes

Reminder to all. We will be again working on Operation Christmas Child Shoebox project this fall. Please start to collect items and back to school sales are wonderful for getting inexpensive supplies for kids that need them!

LLL Convention

Minnesota North District Lutheran Layman League Annual Convention will be held at St. Mark Lutheran Church, Benson, MN on Saturday, September 23rd. The guest speaker will be The Lutheran Hour Rev. Dr. Micheal Ziegler. Registration with coffee is from 9:30 - 10:00 am. Registration fee is \$15 (includes lunch). and is due by September 20th. All are welcome! For more information, please check the flyer posted on the narthex bulletin board.

College Addresses

Attention College Students and Parents: Please remember to notify the church office of all college addresses as soon as possible. We like to be able to keep in touch with our college students, and our District office also requests the college addresses of our students.



Looking for Singers and Ringers

The new season for the choirs will begin in September. All high school students and adult are encouraged and welcome to join the Handbell and Mixed Choirs. Rehearsals begin on the following dates:

- Handbell Choir - Wednesday, September 13th 6pm
- Mixed Choir - Wednesday, September 13th at 7 pm

Join us and use your gift of music to praise our God!

Financials as of 8-28-2023

Year to Date Actual Contributions	\$107,565.81
Year to Date Contributions Needed	<u>\$117,608.32</u>
Difference	(\$10,042.51)
Year to Date Actual Expenses	\$119,487.77
Year to Date Budgeted Expenses	<u>\$117,608.32</u>
Difference	(\$1,879.45)

Daily Bible Readings for September

<u>Day</u>	<u>Morning Study</u>	<u>Evening Study</u>
1	Psalms 148-150	I Cor. 11:16-34
2	Prov. 1,2	I Cor. 12
3	Prov. 3,4	I Cor. 13
4	Prov. 5,6	I Cor. 14:1-20
5	Prov. 7,8	I Cor. 14:21-40
6	Prov. 9,10	I Cor. 15:1-32
7	Prov. 11,12	I Cor. 15:33-58
8	Prov. 13,14	I Cor. 16
9	Prov. 15,16	II Cor. 1
10	Prov. 17,18	II Cor. 2
11	Prov. 19,20	II Cor. 3
12	Prov. 21,22	II Cor. 4
13	Prov. 23,24	II Cor. 5
14	Prov. 25-27	II Cor. 6
15	Prov. 28,29	II Cor. 7
16	Prov. 30,31	II Cor. 8
17	Eccles. 1-3	II Cor. 9
18	Eccles. 4-6	II Cor. 10
19	Eccles. 7-9	II Cor. 11:1-15
20	Eccles. 10-12	II Cor. 11:16-33
21	Sol. 1-3	II Cor. 12
22	Sol. 4,5	II Cor. 13
23	Sol. 6-8	Gal. 1
24	Isaiah 1-3	Gal. 2
25	Isaiah 4-6	Gal. 3
26	Isaiah 7-9	Gal. 4
27	Isaiah 10-12	Gal. 5
28	Isaiah 13-15	Gal. 6
29	Isaiah 16-18	Eph. 1
30	Isaiah 19-21	Eph. 2

Disaster Relief

LCMS Disaster Response is committed to helping with the immediate needs of those affected but also with the long-term needs of the community as they rebuilds from historic disaster. The gifts of God's people are an outward expression of the faith they place in Jesus Christ and of their desire to share the Gospel with those who are experiencing trauma, loss, and tremendous anxiety. Anyone wishing to bolster the disaster-response capacity of the LCMS may send a gift to:

- The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, PO Box 66861, St. Louis, MO 63166-6861. Please make checks payable to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. To restrict the use of your gift, write "Wildfire Relief" or "Disaster Response" on the memo line.
- To give online, visit
lcms.org/givenow/wildfires
or
lcms.org/givenow/disaster
- To give by phone, or for more information, call 888-930-4438.

LWML News cont. from page 2.

On July 15, Judy, Mary and Sue attended the Lakeland 11 fall regional rally planning meeting at Zion Lutheran Church in Hoffman, MN. Zion Lutheran in Hoffman will be hosting this event. Date will be determined when the speaker is finalized. The theme is: "What Child Is This." It will be held on a Sunday afternoon with registration beginning at 2pm. The registration fee will be \$7 and that will include a light supper. We will be carpooling to attend this event. Watch for details in the church bulletin.

Save the date: Monday, October 9th at 6:30 pm will be our next quarterly meeting in the parish hall. Mary K and Nancy C will be serving a snack. This meeting is when we vote as to which organizations receive our annual Christmas donations. Your local LWML is very generous to many organizations both locally and far. Our fundraisers throughout the year will be used to fund the many organizations that we support.

In October, we will again be celebrating "LWML Sunday." We will be hosting the snacks after church services for this yearly event.

Vital Statistics

Attendance and Offering Report

<u>Date</u>	<u>Attend</u>	<u>Comm</u>	<u>Offering</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Attend</u>	<u>Comm</u>	<u>Offering</u>
Sun, Jul 2	73	45	\$5,276.00	Sun, Aug 6	70	48	\$3,226.00
Sun, Jul 9	53	46	\$1,621.00	Sun, Aug 13	60	50	\$2,298.00
Sun, Jul 16	50	40	\$1,466.00	Sun, Aug 20	60	52	\$1,330.00
Sun, Jul 23	66	46	\$4,230.00	Sun, Aug 27	55	50	\$4,610.00
Sun, Jul 30	53	45	\$4,717.00				

(2023 Budget Income needed each Sunday - \$3,834.23)

St. Paul Lutheran Church

Quarterly Voter's Meeting Minutes

June, 25 2023

(Covers period from March 20 to present.)

1. Meeting called to order by Chairman Larry Cuklanz with 25 members and 1 visitor in attendance.
2. Opening Prayer by Pastor Varns
3. Minutes from the March's Meeting were reviewed. Motion to approve by Jim Wegner, 2nd by Carol Gabbert, motion passed.
4. Financial/Designated reports from May were reviewed.
 - Correction noted: Actual May amount should be Designated added to General in the amounts in Checking accounts and LCEF Saving Accounts. Total Funds should be: \$96,579.16.

As reported

Financial Position Statement as of 5-31-2023

Checking accounts	General	\$1,603.92	
	Designated	\$69,201.68	\$69,201.68
LCEF Savings Accounts	General	\$16,793.93	
	Designated	\$8,979.63	\$8,979.63
Total Funds			\$78,181.34
Restricted Funds			\$30,690.39
Net Funds Available			<u>\$47,490.92</u>

Corrected amounts

Financial Position Statement as of 5-31-2023

Checking accounts	General	\$1,603.92	
	Designated	\$69,201.68	\$70,805.60
LCEF Savings Accounts	General	\$16,793.93	
	Designated	\$8,979.63	\$8,979.63
Total Funds			<u>\$96,579.16</u>
Restricted Funds			\$30,690.39
Net Funds Available			<u>\$65,888.77</u>

- Brick Planter is completed. Kerry suggested that remaining funds should be designated to other outside work.
- Question on West Entrance. We have \$2000 for probing on the plans, but if we are not moving forward with plans, maybe we should timestamp a time that the funds will remain designated until such a time in the future to be redesignated to something else. (5 years was mentioned). Should consider options of less elaborate plans, such as a driveway with roof for a drop off service. Discussion continued on the restroom issue on the church side of the building. Consider if the classroom could be repurposed?
- Railings should be considered on both current entrances of the church.
- Sunday school room blinds are degrading – Travis is looking into this already.

Motion to accept by Loren Petersen, 2nd by Phyllis Schultz, motion passed.

5. Pastoral ministry

- Regular activities – Sunday morning worship service, recorded, edited, and uploaded; Sunday morning Bible Study, Monday morning 8:00 am men's Bible Study, Thursday morning 9:30 am, Women's Bible Study. Pastoral Homebound visitations.
- Question: could service consider additional opportunities to sit. Seems to be a lot of standing in the services.

6. Membership Report

- Death: Dorothy Schrupp died March 30, 2023 – funeral April 29, 2023
- Transfer Out: David and Carol Fechners to St John Ev. Lutheran Church, Corcoran, MN
- Baptism: Rhett Allen Brown born December 15, 2022 - Baptized April 16, 2023
Dawn Adeline Lubrant born March 10, 2023 - Baptized on June 18, 2023
- Released: Mike and Laura Betker and Sons, Sullivan and Rowan

7. Board and Committee Reports

7.1 Board of Elders

- Changing format of meeting; Each elder would have a different department and take turns leading the meeting; Discussed which elder was on duty each month. Gene has the schedule through December.

7.2 Board of Trustees

- Travis/ Pastor provided an update on the Grass/Weeds growing in the courtyard. Current state is intentional, it is considered a cover crop, that will die off and grass will remain. Leveling of the courtyard is planned for a Fall/spring timeframe, as there seems to be some low spots.

- Bats - services have been found and plugged. Hope this will alleviate the bat problems
- Flat roof areas have been repaired due to found leaking above/around the sacristy.
- Blinds are being repaired.
- Estimates for benches in the courtyard are being gathered.
- Tom Edman is refinishing the existing bench from the courtyard.

7.3 Special Committee Reports

- 125th Anniversary is next year – the committee has met one time and have received notes made during the 100 Anniversary celebration.

Board and Communication Reports – reviewed, motion by Merlin Buchholz, 2nd by Jim Wegner, motion passed.

8. Old Business

- Video training on new AED; May show again at a future meeting depending on additional attendance. AED is on the wall between the restrooms.

9. New Business

- New video recording of service - Discussion occurred. Funeral recordings are from the balcony of the church and shows the entire church. We could do this as well, with a new camera and having someone to run the camera and manage the posting uploading of the video. FB Live was also considered, again, we would need someone to run the FB live and utilize/Wifi network to make it be realtime. GoPro doesn't do FB Live option. Discussion on memorial money could be put to this. Several mentioned waiting until we have the money for this project. Usage of the video recordings, the nursing home does use the video recordings from last week to show this week. There is one member currently in the nursing home, but the video is shared with other residents in the nursing home on a single run of the video. Usage is down since Covid has been lifted. Consider training others to download the GoPro App on their phones to assist pastor. Pastor turns it on just before service, but battery life is a concern, about 1 to 1.5 hours of battery life. Sometimes pastor is gone, and then it doesn't get recorded and shared or when pastor is traveling the day of services he doesn't get time to edit and upload the file. Activities involved would be: Starting the Go Pro, take files off from the GoPro memory, Upload those to computer, Edit the file (remove communion portion), approximately 15 min of editing at most, Upload the video.
- Mid-Week Service – Last time this was done was 2016. At times there were 3-4 people in attendance, other times, 1-2.
- Air Conditioner is not working. 2nd one from East
- Youth Conference - planning will begin in 2024 and the event is in 2025.
- Confirmation - Dane needs to contact pastor to take final test so confirmation can be held.

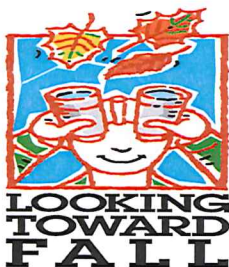
10. Announcements

- Board of Elders and Council meetings for July 11th
- LWML Summertime Pie Social - July 19th from 5-7 pm
- Paper Shredder truck – Sept 9 from 9-12.

Motion by Tarin Gatchell to adjourn meeting, 2nd by Jim Wegner, Motion passed.

Closed with the Lord's prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Marci Petersen



Wednesdays starting September 13th

5 pm - Midweek Classes for K-6th grades

6 pm - Handbell Choir Practice

7 pm - Confirmation Class

7 pm - Mixed Choir Practice

FREE Community Paper Shredding Event

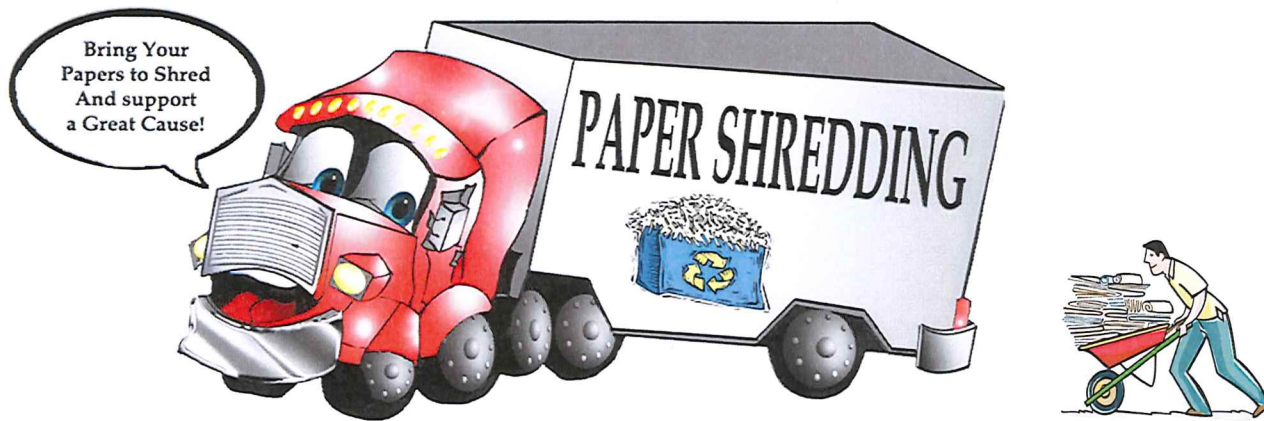
Sponsored by Thrivent and St. Paul Lutheran Church

Saturday, September 9, 2023

9 am to noon

at St. Paul Lutheran Church parking lot

1050 10th Ave, Granite Falls, MN



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.