



# *St. Paul News*

## *November 2023*

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

*The Lutheran Church -  
Missouri Synod*

1050 10<sup>th</sup> 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**

Some people have questioned the history of Halloween. Many claim it is a pagan holiday. It is, in fact, not a pagan holiday. Albeit abbreviated, here's why:

It all starts with All Saints' Day. In the first three centuries after Christ's resurrection, the lives of the martyrs of the Church were commemorated on the day and in the place where they were killed. During this time, a special day being dedicated for the commemoration of all saints began too. November 1<sup>st</sup> was just the day chosen around or before 800 AD.

OK, so what does this have to do with Halloween? In the Bible the day begins at sundown or evening. This is why we have Christmas Eve. Halloween is All Hallows' Eve', that is, All Saints' Evening. Halloween is the beginning of All Saints' Day starting at sundown on October 31st.

Claims that Halloween has its origins in the Celtic festival of Samhain (pronounced Sow-in) are false. The celebration of All Saints' Day didn't originate in Ireland or any other area populated by Celts or their descendants. All Saints' Day started in the Middle East in the first few centuries of the Church. Also, the particular day chosen doesn't have any significance to the Celts or Samhain. Samhain was a Lunar festival of harvest, which means that it can vary up to a month. Samhain taking place on October 31<sup>st</sup> would only happen once every 30 years. The Christian Church didn't get Halloween/All Saints' Day from the pagans, the pagans are trying to claim that Christians stole it from them.

Then why would there be claims to undermine this holiday?

All Saints' Eve (Halloween) and All Saints' Day have a special place in the commemoration of the Christian Church because of the Reformation. It was on October 31st, Halloween, that Martin Luther posted his 95 Theses on the door of the church at Wittenberg, Germany. It was on that date he chose to challenge the corruption in the official church about the notion that salvation in Christ could be bought with money or works. All Saints are saved by grace, through faith, revealed by God's Word in Christ. It was on that date that the Church of Jesus Christ began to return to the authority of Scripture alone over the traditions and will of man. It was on that date that the Church began to return to salvation by grace through faith in Christ alone.

It should not be surprising that Satan and the World have gone to such extremes to defile Halloween with anything that would distract Christians and the unbelievers from this.

Most of the traditions of Halloween are not even a problem in and of themselves. And if there are pagan claims to these traditions, they are usually a lie.

Carved vegetables, particularly pumpkins, with candles inside, called Jack o' Lanterns, are an American invention of the mid-1800s. The term referred to the man a town hired to keep the street lamps lit through the night.

Haunted houses started in the early 1970's in Cincinnati, Ohio where the Jaycees (Junior Chambers of Commerce) introduced them as a way to keep kids entertained on Halloween.

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# “Come, Ye Thankful People, Come”

## Thanksgiving Eve Worship

Wednesday, November 22nd

at 7:00 pm



We invite you, your friends and neighbors to join in thanking our God for all the blessings He gives to us. Following our Thanksgiving Eve Worship, we will enjoy a piece of pie and coffee during the social hour. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex if you wish to donate a pie.

## Midweek Advent Services

Advent is the beginning of a new Church year and the Midweek Advent Services will be on Wednesday, December 6th, 13th, and 20th starting at 6 pm. Handbell Choir practice to follow the service. Midweek Classes for K-6th grades remains at 5 pm as does the Confirmation Class at 7 pm.

## Altar Guild Meeting

There will be a meeting of the Altar Guild members regarding setting up the common cup & flagon, as well as other new information. We'll meet on Sunday, November 12th after church at the front of the sanctuary. It'll be about 20 minutes. Please be present if possible. Thank you, Mary Hammer, AG Co-chair.

## Christmas Calendar

**Sunday, December 4th**

Christmas Potluck - 5 pm

**Sunday, December 24th**

Christmas Eve Service - 6 pm

**Monday, December 25th**

Christmas Day - No Service

The Church Council decided since Sunday, December 24th will be the 4th Advent service at 9:30 am and the Christmas Eve service at 6 pm there will not be a Christmas Day service on Monday.

## Photo Directory

We will be doing our own 2024 Pictorial Directory this fall and we are asking that you submit your own picture or family picture by emailing it to church (stpaulgf@embarqmail.com) or bring one into the church office. You also have the option to come in and Jayne Baumann or Mary Hammer will be happy to take the picture for you. Anyone wishing to help with this project, contact Sue or the office. Deadline to submit is February 1st.

## Quarterly Meeting

The Quarterly Voters' Assembly will meet Sunday, December 10th directly following the service. The 2024 Congregational Budget will be presented. All confirmed members who are 18 years of age and older are encouraged to this meeting and to share in the decision making of the congregation.

## Invitation

There will be an Open House to celebrate Judy Rode's 80th birthday on Sunday, November 19th from 1 pm to 3 pm at St. Paul Lutheran, Granite Falls. All are invited.

Please save September 22, 2024! This is the Sunday we will recognize the 125th Anniversary of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Granite Falls, MN. More info will be available in following newsletters and bulletins.



## LWML News

We would love to see new members join us in all the mission work we do (we only meet 4 times a year). A sign-up sheet has been placed in the narthex for the 2024 Membership dues which are \$10.00 and please pay them by November 5th. Dues can be placed in the offering plate or given to the office. Please indicate that it is for LWML.

Mites can do mitey things! The "Noisy Offering" from October was \$70.14. Thanks for your continued support of LWML missions! There are also mite boxes available for adults and children to use at home on the bulletin table.

Our last quarterly LWML meeting was held on October 9th. Our next quarterly meeting will be held on January 15th at 2 pm in the parish hall. Nancy Guertin and Kathy Enninga will serve a snack. We encourage new members!!!

We are still in search of a secretary and treasurer for our local LWML. Each office is for a 2-year term. Please consider helping if you are able. Contact Judy Rode or Sue Erickson to ask more about these positions that need filling by January 1, 2024. Judy and I will gladly help you with any questions you may have. We would like to thank Nancy Guertin for being our past secretary and Jeanne Gabbert for being our past treasurer.

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## Bake Sale

A bake sale is planned for December 10th following the service. Proceeds from this sale will go towards St. Paul Lutheran's 125th Anniversary. If you would like to donate an item or two, please have it at church before the service that morning. We also ask that you mark a price on the items. Please see Sue Erickson or Judy Rode if you have any questions.

## November Birthdays

Nov 1 Keyona Eastman  
Nov 2 Melissa Soukup  
Nov 3 Adeline Ebel  
Carrie Kvam  
Nov 4 Kathy Brunner  
Nov 5 Trevor Hustad  
Nov 6 Saul Lee  
Noel Petersen  
Nov 9 Chad Luepke  
Abigail Varns  
Nov 14 Amanda DeJong  
Nov 15 Olivia Hinz  
Nov 16 Wes Erickson  
Kelly Winters  
Nov 17 Makaylee Roberts  
Jill Schmidt  
Nov 18 Brielle Redepenning  
Nov 21 Karla Meyer  
Nov 22 Jacob Guertin  
Marci Petersen  
Nov 23 Loretta Hewitt  
Nov 24 Brian Beyer  
Michelle Miller  
Deven Schmidt  
Nov 25 Brett Hammer  
Judy Rode  
Nov 26 Gordon Kvam  
Nov 27 Tricia Chodur  
Nov 28 Kari Twedt  
Nov 30 Janine Banken  
Trevor Read

**Birthday Blessing to you all!**

Please contact the church office if we missed yours.

## Shoebox Dates:

Packing Day

Sunday, November 12th at 10:45 am

All Boxes Due

Sunday, November 19th



**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.

## Daily Bible Readings for November

### Group 2

#### Serving for November

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  
 Korthuis, 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  
 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

### Group 3

#### Serving for December

Baker, Lisa  
 Brown, Mike and Anne  
 Cuklanz, Larry and Nancy  
 Duenwald, Karley  
 Freitag, Avis  
 Gabbert, Carol  
 Galow, DuWayne and Karen  
 Hegna, Rolland and RaeAnn  
 Hewitt, Loretta  
 Hildahl, Linda  
 Hoff, Jason and Molly  
 Ims, Dorothy  
 Iverson, Pam  
 Johnson, Jennifer  
 Just, Wes and Norma  
 Kelly, Mary  
 Kvam, Curtis  
 Nelson, Carol  
 Olson, LuAnn  
 Peterson, LeRoy and Jan  
 Quintal, Teresa  
 Reinke, Gerald and Darlene  
 Rigge, Vernon and Anita  
 Rush, Barb  
 Schmidt, Deven and Jill  
 Schmidt, Douglas Jr. and  
 Darla  
 Steffen, Boyd  
 Streich, Eugene  
 Streich, Linda  
 Trotter, Donnie and Jodi  
 Ulven, Lorna  
 Van Sickle, Eric and Jane  
 Winters, Kelly

<u>Day</u>	<u>Morning Study</u>	<u>Evening Study</u>
1	Jer. 31,32	Titus 2
2	Jer. 33-35	Titus 3
3	Jer. 36,37	Philemon 1
4	Jer. 38,39	Heb. 1
5	Jer. 40-42	Heb. 2
6	Jer. 43-45	Heb. 3
7	Jer. 46-48	Heb. 4
8	Jer. 49,50	Heb. 5
9	Jer. 51,52	Heb. 6
10	Lam. 1,2	Heb. 7
11	Lam. 3-5	Heb. 8
12	Ezek. 1-3	Heb. 9
13	Ezek. 4-6	Heb. 10:1-23
14	Ezek. 7-9	Heb. 10:24-39
15	Ezek. 10-12	Heb. 11:1-19
16	Ezek. 13-15	Heb. 11:20-40
17	Ezek. 16	Heb. 12
18	Ezek. 17-19	Heb. 13
19	Ezek. 20,21	James 1
20	Ezek. 22,23	James 2
21	Ezek. 24-26	James 3
22	Ezek. 27,28	James 4
23	Ezek. 29-31	James 5
24	Ezek. 32,33	I Peter 1
25	Ezek. 34,35	I Peter 2
26	Ezek. 36,37	I Peter 3
27	Ezek. 38,39	I Peter 4
28	Ezek. 40	I Peter 5
29	Ezek. 41,42	II Peter 1
30	Ezek. 43,44	II Peter 2



**Poinsettia  
 Order**

We have the opportunity to purchase red poinsettias for our Christmas Services. The cost will be \$18.00 each. A sign-up sheet is available in the narthex, or you may return this form to the church office. All orders need to be placed by November 30th and payment is due by December 15th.

I WOULD LIKE TO PURCHASE A POINSETTIA

IN MEMORY OF:



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**St. Paul Lutheran Church**  
**Quarterly Voter's Meeting Minutes**  
**September 17, 2023**

(Covers period from June 25 to present.)

1. Meeting called to order by Chairman Cuklanz, 32 members attended.
2. Opening prayer by Pastor Varns.
3. Minutes from June's meeting was reviewed. Motion by Jim Wegner to accept as written, 2nd by Gene Stengel, motion passed.
4. Financial/Designated reports from August were reviewed. A question was raised regarding cutting expenses. This will be considered in upcoming budget meetings for next year. It is noted there is not much to cut. People who give money into Thrivent mentioned they do want it used. It has been used for the checking account if falls below a certain point. And money will come out for some of the parking lot repairs, resurfacing and painting. Motion to accept by Dennis, 2nd by Molly, motion passed.
5. Pastoral Report
  - 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.
  - Pastor Varns is re-introducing the common cup for communion. There is theology behind the common cup and the individual cups will still be provided. It is a choice. More information on using the common cup will be provided later. There were questions of concerns of germs and maybe we should be voting on this. Pastor clarified there was no need for a vote as he stated 90% of LCMS churches use the common cup.
6. Membership Report
  - Baptism: Korver Jon Zens born June 5, 2023 – baptized July 23, 2023  
Creed Reinhart McCune born July 4, 2023 – baptized Aug 6, 2023
  - Transferred Out: Joyce Cruser to Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Hutchinson, MN
  - Released: Travis Kling and Troy Kling
7. Board and Committee Reports
  - 7.1 Board of Elders
    - Wednesday, Nov 22nd is the Thanksgiving Eve service is 7 p.m. Jayne B. offered to oversee the pie and coffee afterwards.
    - Sunday, December 24th will be the 4th Advent service at 9:30 am and the Christmas Eve service at 6 pm. With those two services on Sunday, there will be no Christmas Day service for Monday.
  - 7.2 Board of Trustees
    - Parking lot resurfacing is starting this week with Gallagher of Ortonville doing the work. Nancy Cuklanz will cancel the "Building Bridges" choir this week as people won't be able to park in the lot. Others are asked to park in the street or in front for this week.
    - Tom Edman has been working on lighting and timers.
    - Snow removal: Merlin made a motion to have Rob Stengel do this once again, Rolland 2nd, motion passed. It is noted that one of the trustee shovels before LuAnn comes at 9 am.
    - The three outside crosses in front need attention. Tom is looking into this.
    - The chancel lights were checked by Pastor's father (this is what he does), and he replaced a relay. Now the burnt light bulbs need to be replaced. Someone will be contacted to replace them because of the height.
    - The exit light in the entrance by the kitchen was repaired.
  - 7.3 Special committees
    - Education: Midweek and confirmation classes started Sept 13.

- The 125th Anniversary will be held September 22, 2024. The theme will be "Built on The Rock." No confirmations received yet, but plans are to have MN North District President Rev. Brady Finnern preach that day at a 10:30 service, a noon catered meal, and The Garms Family singing at 2 pm followed by an ice cream social. One way to advertise will be with a float in the Western Fest Parade.

Motion to accept reports by Gene, 2nd Dennis, motion passed.

#### 8. Old Business

- The paper shredding event held September 9th was a success. Raised \$566 for our 125th Anniversary and \$350 for Living at Home Block Nursing. The truck was sponsored by Thrivent and that cost was \$1,000.

#### 9. New Business

- Recognition received from the Synod for Missionary support since 2014. The certificate is posted on the bulletin board in the narthex.
- Disaster Response through Basic LERT Training Oct 28th at St. Paul, Monte. More information is posted on the narthex bulletin board.
- We will be doing our own 2024 Pictorial Directory this fall and we are asking that you submit your own picture or family picture by emailing it to church (stpaulgf@embarqmail.com) or bring one into the church office. You also have the option to come in and someone will take the picture for you. Anyone wishing to help with this project, contact Sue or the office. Deadline to submit is February 1st. This gives families the ability to gather at Christmas. The color printing of the book will be done by Print Master of Willmar. Information will be in the newsletter.
- December schedule: The Congregational Christmas Party will be Sunday, Dec 3rd at 5 pm. The Varns will provide music. Carpooling and rides will be provided. Monthly Council meeting will be Dec 5th and the Quarterly Voter's meeting will be Dec 10th.

#### 10. Announcements

- Next Board of Elders and Council meetings – Tue, Oct 10

Motion made by Jim to adjourn, 2nd by Gen, motion passed.

#### 11. Close with the Lord's Prayer and table prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Hammer

(Unapproved by the Voter's - ok'd to publish by Church Council)

Pastor's Message cont. from page 1

Trick-or-treating comes from the Middle Ages (1300s to 1500s) where the church or the poor would go from door to door to beg. In some places these beggars would sing or perform in order to get gifts of money or food. While this happened every day of the year, they were particular active on holidays. In Shakespeare's 1593 play The Two Gentlemen of Verona, the character Speed accuses his master of "puling (whimpering or whining) like a beggar at Halloween." That's all Hallows' Eve.

Wearing costumes on Halloween is first known in Scotland in 1895 and in the United States in 1911.

Halloween, Reformation Day, All Saints' Day are very special days of the year for the Christian Church. Go in peace and enjoy your holiday, knowing that Halloween is indeed a Christian holiday and come to Church the first Sunday in November to celebrate All Saints' Day!

+God's Peace+

Pastor Jonathan Varns

## Vital Statistics

### October Attendance and Finances

<u>Date</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Offering</u>
Sun, Oct 1	39	\$2,150.00
Sun, Oct 8	58	\$2,997.00
Sun, Oct 15	38	\$1,400.00
Sun, Oct 24	58	\$2,663.00
Sun, Oct 29	N/A	

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

### Financials as of 10-26-2023

Year to Date Actual Contributions	\$130,494.34
Year to Date Contributions Needed	<u>\$147,010.40</u>
Difference	(\$16,516.06)
Year to Date Actual Expenses	\$147,081.51
Year to Date Budgeted Expenses	<u>\$147,010.40</u>
Difference	(\$71.11)