



St. Paul News

May 2024

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

Christ is Risen! He is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!

The Gospel of Christ Risen as the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep (1 Corinthians 15:20), that He has Risen and promised that those who believe in His will rise again to new life, is the crux of the confidence we have in the Gospel. If there was a dead body, there would be no Resurrection. But because Christ has surely been raised, Easter changes everything!

And as Christians, we want others to know this, to believe it, so to share with us God's kingdom in heaven at Jesus' final coming. So don't be ashamed to tell them! As Paul says in Romans 1: "For I am not ashamed of the Gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, 'The righteous shall live by faith.'"

Paul's message was the Gospel because it was the only means that can deliver everyone to whom God gives the faith to believe it. It is how a righteous God makes people righteous.

What makes the Gospel powerful is its content. Through the Gospel God gives us faith that is necessary for the believer to receive God's righteousness through Christ.

So you see, it is not how well you know the Bible, nor how eloquently you tell someone about the Bible, nor your station in life, nor how popular you are, nor how forcefully you proclaim the Gospel that causes someone to believe. It is entirely the work of God, through the Gospel that you tell others about, that the Holy Spirit uses to work faith in someone's heart.

So you should not shy away from telling someone about what a difference Jesus makes in your life or inviting them to "come and see" the Gospel proclaimed at St. Paul. The only way you can mess up is by not telling someone about Jesus. Proper doctrine can be gained by study—just as you continue to learn more about the Bible through reading it, studying it and hearing it proclaimed.

Just think of the joy that you will experience in heaven when someone comes up to you and says, "You may not remember me, but you told me about Jesus and that's why I'm here now."

+God's Peace+

Pastor Jonathan Varns

Items of Interest

Graduates

Our congratulations to the following high school graduates from our congregation: Garrett Cobb, Olivia Hinz, and Ethan Staab. There will be a special recognition for our graduating high school seniors following the worship service on May 19th. Everyone is encouraged to attend and wish them luck.



Church Council

The installation for our new June 2024 - May 2025 Council members will be Sunday, June 2nd during the service. They are DuWayne Galow, Chairman; Vice-Chairman, Jim Rigge; Elders: Mike Brown and Larry Cuklanz; Trustees: Chris Berends and Kris Cobb; Treasurer, Carol Gabbert. Thank you to Dave Guertin, Jason Hoff, Travis Luepke, and Anne Brown who are off the Council. Our appreciation to them for their past work.

Church Council Members June 2024 - May 2025

Chairman: DuWayne Galow

Vice Chairman: Jim Rigge

Secretary: Mary Hammer (1st term/3rd yr)

Treasurer: Carol Gabbert (1st term/1st yr)

Board of Elders

Larry Cuklanz (1st term/1st yr)

Mike Brown (2nd term/1st yr)

Loren Petersen (1st term/3rd yr)

Gene Stengel (1st term/3rd yr)

Board of Trustees

Chris Berends (1st term/1st yr)

Kris Cobb (1st term/1st yr)

Tom Edman (1st term/2nd yr)

Dennis Smith (1st term/ 3rd yr)

May Birthdays

May 1	Mark Reinke, Shannon Ryer
May 2	Sarah Guertin, Kylie Ramirez
May 3	Norma Just
May 4	Darlene Reinke
May 6	Jenelle Donner, Kathy Korthuis, Craig Timm
May 7	Doug Schmidt Jr, Gene Stengel, Logan Van Sickle
May 8	Bradley Uttermark
May 11	Lennon Anderson
May 12	Pastor Dennis Schultz, David Skjefte
May 13	Merlin Buchholz, Jim Rigge
May 14	Ashley Kirschbaum
May 15	Lucas Canatsey, Victoria Patterson
May 18	Dorian Gatchell, Mason Hegna
May 20	Andrew Lubrant
May 21	Noah Christensen, Parker Hjelle, MacKenzie Kotek, Madeline Varns
May 22	Linda Hildahl, Lisa Ryer, Daphne Timm
May 23	Danica Anderson
May 24	Clifford Anderson
May 25	Garrett Cunningham, Kyra Kvam
May 26	Wesley Anderson, Andrew Beyer, Bobbi Reinke
May 27	Sean Steffen, Lindsay Varns
May 28	Shirley Hempel
May 29	Steve Reinke Jr, Carol Rude

Birthday Blessings to you all.

Please contact the church office
if we missed yours.

Save the Date - September 22, 2024

St. Paul Lutheran Church

125th Anniversary Celebration

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 May

Group 1

Serving for May

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
 Luepke, Travis and Jenn
 Markgraf, Kevin
 Phinney, Charlie
 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

May 1	Joshua 22	Job 31	Acts 14
May 2	Joshua 23-24	Job 32	Acts 15:1-21
May 3	Judges 1	Job 33	Acts 15:22-41
May 4	Judges 2-3	Job 34	Acts 16:1-15
May 5	Judges 4-5	Job 35	Acts 16:16-40
May 6	Judges 6	Job 36	Acts 17:1-15
May 7	Judges 7-8	Job 37	Acts 17:16-34
May 8	Judges 9	Job 38	Acts 18
May 9	Judges 10:1-11:33	Job 39	Acts 19:1-20
May 10	Judges 11:34-12:15	Job 40	Acts 19:21-41
May 11	Judges 13	Job 41	Acts 20:1-16
May 12	Judges 14-15	Job 42	Acts 20:17-38
May 13	Judges 16	Psalm 42	Acts 21:1-36
May 14	Judges 17-18	Psalm 43	Acts 21:37-22:29
May 15	Judges 19	Psalm 44	Acts 22:30-23:22
May 16	Judges 20	Psalm 45	Acts 23:23-24:9
May 17	Judges 21	Psalm 46	Acts 24:10-27
May 18	Ruth 1-2	Psalm 47	Acts 25
May 19	Ruth 3-4	Psalm 48	Acts 26:1-18
May 20	1 Samuel 1:1-2:10	Psalm 49	Acts 26:19-32
May 21	1 Samuel 2:11-36	Psalm 50	Acts 27:1-12
May 22	1 Samuel 3	Psalm 51	Acts 27:13-44
May 23	1 Samuel 4-5	Psalm 52	Acts 28:1-16
May 24	1 Samuel 6-7	Psalm 53	Acts 28:17-31
May 25	1 Samuel 8	Psalm 54	Romans 1:1-15
May 26	1 Samuel 9:1-10:16	Psalm 55	Romans 1:16-32
May 27	1 Samuel 10:17-11:15	Psalm 56	Romans 2:1-3:8
May 28	1 Samuel 12	Psalm 57	Romans 3:9-31
May 29	1 Samuel 13	Psalm 58	Romans 4
May 30	1 Samuel 14	Psalm 59	Romans 5
May 31	1 Samuel 15	Psalm 60	Romans 6

Vital Statistics

Attendance and Offering Report for April

<u>Date</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Offering</u>
Sun, Apr 7	56	\$3,326.00
Sun, Apr 14	57	\$2,100.00
Sun, Apr 21	47	\$2,085.00
Sun, Apr 28	85	\$2,263.00
(2024 Budget Income needed each Sunday - \$3,485.00)		

Financials as of 4-29-2024

Year to Date Actual Contributions	\$55,818.37
Year to Date Contributions Needed	<u>\$60,401.54</u>
Difference	(\$4,583.17)
Year to Date Actual Expenses	\$64,685.64
Year to Date Budgeted Expenses	<u>\$60,401.54</u>
Difference	(\$4,284.10)

LWML Happenings

Thanks to all who contribute to the mites and the monthly "Noisy offerings." In April \$69.73 was donated. This money will go toward LWML mission projects.

On Monday, April 15, we held our quarterly meeting. 10 members were present. We decided to have the Summertime Pie Social on Wednesday, July 17. Judy, Mary H., Kathy, Mary K, Nancy C and Sue will be on the committee to organize this fund raiser event. Watch the upcoming newsletters and bulletins for further updates.

Thanks to Nancy C for accepting the office of Secretary! We still are looking for someone to help organize/clean the "Kids Activity Bag" that are in the back of the church. If you would be interested in helping out with this, please contact Judy or Sue.

MN North Convention is at Cragun's Resort from June 3-5. If you would like to sign up for this event, please call either Judy or Mary H and they will assist you in signing up.



St. Paul Lutheran Church

Quarterly Voter's Meeting Minutes

March 17, 2023

(Covers period from Dec 10 to present.)

1. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Cuklanz, 41 members in attendance.
2. Opening prayer by Pastor Varns
3. Minutes from the December Voter's Meeting were reviewed. No additions or corrections were noted. Motion to approve by Jim Wegner, 2nd by Jim Rigge. Motion carried.
4. Financial Report from Feb. Thrivent Designate account for \$4500 was transferred to the General fund to make budget in January (\$1,000) and February (\$3,500). The Designated Project Report format has been changed to show the activity from the last Quarterly meeting til now (Dec, Jan, & Feb) rather than just the current month. 125th Anniversary IN: monies from Dec. bake sale. Capital Improvements: IN: \$500 donation. OUT: LED Light purchase, \$1,041.95. \$24.99, replacement bulb for nursery. SAC: IN: \$500 donation, \$307.50 Arlene Sebring memorial. \$199 donations. OUT: Sunday a.m. Bible class breakfast \$298.36. Quilters: IN: \$85 donation. OUT: \$53.67, supplies. Thrivent Choice: IN: \$1,963 in donations. OUT: \$4500 General Fund, \$100 Santa's Sleigh, \$100 to Food Shelf, \$275 Almich's for Gift Cards (4). We budgeted this year for \$1,000 per month for missions and will probably look at this next year as our income is down. As there were no further questions, motion was made to approve the report by Jim Wegner, 2nd by Jim Rigge. 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.
 - Please pray for Bob Luckow who has aggressive leukemia. It is noted that Bob and Joyce are members of St. Paul Lutheran in Foley, MN.
6. Membership Report
 - Death: Jim Klassen died February 3, 2024 - Memorial Service February 18, 2024)
 - Released: Kristi Klassen to Rock Haven, Granite Falls, MN
 - Released (No addresses): Keyona Eastman; Steve Fenger; Lucas Granfors; Michelle Guza; Kenton, Tiffany, Nick and Trevor Hustad; Donald Kirsch; Keanna Oaks; Rachel Roberts; Shantae Specht; Brayden Tjaden.

Board and Committee Reports

7.1 Board of Elders

- Maundy Thur – Mar 28 at 7 pm, Good Fri – Mar 29 at 7 pm, Easter Sunday – Mar 31 Breakfast 8:30-9:15 am and Service at 9:30 am with no communion.
- Board of Elders is still studying The Book of Concord and it's parallel to LCMS.
- The Board could use more Elders even with the two to be elected today. Please prayerfully consider this and let the church council, office, or Pastor know of your interest.
- Not all people in the directory as "unknown" were removed from membership at this time as we're still trying to contact some. Please contact the office if you know any of these people.

7.2 Board of Trustees – update by Tom Edman

- Lights: ordered, received, but not installed but will do that soon. In communication with an energy audit company with rebates.
- Reviewing the church insurance policy. We are in the middle of 3 year term and looking for options. Currently we pay \$9,000/year not including worker's comp.
- Also, looking to sprucing up the outside of church for the 125th Anniversary. Front crosses, estimate is \$2700 for painting. On a walk through, lettering on front of church needs doing and many other things including pressure washing of stone to remove lichen, repainting everything. Bell tower painting estimate: \$2700. Total estimate is \$20,000-\$21,000 to do everything was given by Zempels. This is just numbers to discuss.

7.3 Special committees

- Education: Confirmation is Sunday April 28th for Carley Redepenning.
If Lindsey Varns continues as midweek teacher, they need an assistant for next Fall for the baby. Currently, maybe 6 kids total including two Varns kids attend.
- The 125th Anniversary committee wants to do a 25-year history booklet and is asking people to come forward to work on that. Sept 22nd is the Anniversary date.

Motion to accept board/committee reports was made by Mike Brown, 2nd by Gene Stengel. Motion carried.

8. Old Business – none

9. New Business

- We received a letter from MNN President Rev. Brady Finner with a thank you for our mission donation of \$12,000 for the last year.
- The annual financial review was done March 7 by Sue Erickson, Jayne Baumann, and Larry Cuklanz. Recommendations were:
 - a. Is it necessary to do the member's quarterly contribution statement? According to Kelly Nokleby, our accountant, the IRS doesn't require it. A yearly contribution statement will still be done. Discussion and suggestion was made to send it out by email or sign up if you need one. The March's quarterly report though will still come to everyone.
 - b. Recordkeeping, It is clarified that if a member wishes a contribution to go to missions, they must indicate that on the check and also on the envelope. But all money otherwise goes to the general fund of which \$1,000 each month goes to LCMS missions.
 - c. Anyone can count money, but there needs to be two people overseen by an Elder.
- We will renew the yearly Missionary Jastram support of \$600. It will come from Missions in designated projects and the balance from Thrivent dollars at this time.
- Request of funds for the pictorial directory. 80 copies are needed and Printmaster's cost is \$800, or we can do it here for approximately \$200 (about \$2.50 a copy). Edmans have a binding machine and will let us use it. It's a comb type closure. We have a laser printer so that might be an issue with photo paper.
- Elections of officers: Duwayne Galow, Chairman; Vice Chairman, Jim Rigge; Elders: Mike Brown and Larry Cuklanz; Trustees: Chris Berends and Kris Cobb. New positions begin June 1st. Any other nominations for elders? None noted from the floor. Motion for nominations to cease made by Merlin Bucholtz, 2nd by Carol Podratz. Motion passed. Motion made by Gene Stengel, 2nd by Anne Brown to cast a unanimous ballot. Motion passed. Dave Guertin, Jason Hoff, Travis Luepke, & Anne Brown are all off the Council. (Jason and Travis on until June 1st). Our appreciation to them for their work.
- As noted by Carol Gabbert trash pickup has changed. Sweetman now provides garbage and recycling at no charge for the churches.
- Carol Gabbert brought up our water cooler. We can do ourselves for \$170/year. We pay \$108/year rent plus the water jugs and cups. Kris Cobb spoke up and is willing to donate the machine! Carol will talk to Premium to stop the current service. We'll check into getting bottles of water where it is most cost efficient.

10. Announcements

- Board of Elders and Council meetings are Apr 9.
- Anne Brown announced that a baby shower for Lindsey Varns is being planned for Saturday April 27th, 10-12 at church. They are expecting a boy in June.

Motion made to adjourn by Jim Wegner, 2nd by Ken Podratz. Motion carried.

11. Closed with the Lord's Prayer and table prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Hammer, Secretary

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

Our thanks to those who donated a flower for the Easter garden.



Mike and Anne Brown in
memory of loved ones.
Larry and Nancy Cuklanz in
memory of loved ones.
Tom and Tammy Edman in
memory of loved ones.
Dan and Kathy Enninga in
memory of loved ones.
Wes and Sue Erickson in
memory of loved ones.

Mary Hammer in memory of Merle, Paul and Val Schei,
Marvin Hammer and Monroe and Hazel Rachie.
Rolland and RaeAnn Hegna in memory of loved ones.

Dorothy Ims in memory of Paul Ims and others.
Dorothy Nokleby in memory of loved ones.
LeRoy and Jan Peterson in memory of the Bottcher family.
Ken and Carol Podratz in memory of our parents.
Pastor and Phyllis Schultz in memory of our parents.
Kerry and Julie Steffen in memory of loved ones.
Al Timm in memory of Mavis Timm and Curt Timm.
Pastor and Lindsay Varns in memory of loved ones.
Jim and Eileen Wegner in memory of loved ones.
Dave and Darlene Yeager in memory of our sons
Brian and Scott.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<u>Elder</u> Gene Stengel	<u>Altar Guild</u> Nancy Guertin and Carol Gabbert	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u> 9:30 am Women's Bible Study at Granite Ridge 7 pm Bible Study	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	
<u>5</u> 8:30 am Adult Bible Study 9:30 am Communion Service	<u>6</u> 8 am Men's Bible Study	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u> 9:30 am Women's Bible Study at Granite Ridge 7 pm Bible Study	<u>10</u>	<u>11</u>
<u>12</u> 8:30 am Adult Bible Study 9:30 am Communion Service	<u>13</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>16</u> 9:30 am Women's Bible Study at Granite Ridge 6 pm Board of Elders 7 pm Church Council 7 pm Bible Study	<u>17</u>	<u>18</u>
<u>Mother's Day</u>		St. Paul Lutheran Church delivers	"Dinner at Your Door"			
<u>19</u> 8:30 am Adult Bible Study 9:30 am Communion Service	<u>20</u> 8 am Men's Bible Study	<u>21</u> Newsletter Articles Due	<u>22</u>	<u>23</u> 9:30 am Women's Bible Study at Granite Ridge 7 pm Bible Study	<u>24</u>	<u>25</u>
<u>26</u> 8:30 am Adult Bible Study 9:30 am Communion Service	<u>27</u> Memorial Day	<u>28</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>30</u> 9:30 am Women's Bible Study at Granite Ridge 7 pm Bible Study	<u>31</u>	