



St. Paul News

September 2025

St. Paul Lutheran Church

**The Lutheran Church -
Missouri Synod**

**1050 10th Avenue
Granite Falls, MN 56241**

**Rev. Dávid Tilney
Vacancy Pastor
710 9th Ave**

**Clarkfield, MN 56223
218-206-5825**

dmtilney@hotmail.com

**Church office
320-564-2221
stpaulgf@embarqmail.com
www.stpaulgf.org**

**Chairman
Brad Christensen
320-981-0014**

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

Dear Friends in Christ,

Have you ever waited by the phone, hoping it would ring? Maybe it was for test results from the doctor. Maybe it was a job interview. Or maybe it was a loved one you hadn't heard from in a while. You check your phone every few minutes. You leave the ringer on high. You watch. You wait. And the waiting can feel like forever.

That's where we are as a church right now. We've extended a call. We've prayed. We've hoped. And now—we wait.

Psalm 130:5-6 says, "I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in His word I hope; my soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen for the morning, more than watchmen for the morning."

Psalm 130 is a prayer that rises up out of the depths of trouble. The psalmist is crying out to God. He feels the weight of sin and the silence of waiting. But he doesn't run away. He doesn't take matters into his own hands. He waits on the Lord.

That's not passive waiting. It's not crossing our arms and tapping our toes in frustration. It's hopeful waiting—trusting that the Lord is faithful, that His mercy is real, and that His timing is always better than ours.

The malady in this psalm—the pain—is that we're often overwhelmed by what we can't control. In our sin, we try to grab hold of everything and force our own solutions. We get anxious, we get restless, and sometimes we doubt that God is really paying attention. It's hard to wait when your heart is tired.

But listen to what comes next: *"If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand? But with you there is forgiveness, that you may be feared."* (vv. 3-4) That's the Gospel. That's our hope.

Even when we are deep in worry, or guilt, or confusion, God does not count our sins against us. Through the cross of Jesus Christ, God has already answered our greatest need. Jesus descended into the very depths of sin and death to lift us up with forgiveness. Because of Him, we are not abandoned. Because of Him, we have mercy.

If God has not failed us at the cross, He will not fail us now. Even in a season of uncertainty, His Word gives us a rock-solid promise.

So what do we do while we wait? We keep trusting His Word. We keep praying for our called pastor. We keep serving one another. We keep proclaiming the Gospel, because Jesus hasn't stopped being our Shepherd—even as we wait for an under-shepherd.

The vacancy may not be over yet. The answer hasn't come. But the Lord has come—and He will not leave us. Jesus is still building His Church. His mercy is still flowing. And His morning will come.

Prayer: Lord Jesus Christ, out of the depths we cry to You. In this time of waiting, give us patient hearts and hopeful spirits. Remind us that Your mercy is greater than our worry, and that Your cross is stronger than our doubt. Be with the man we have called to be our pastor. Guide his heart. Lead our congregation. And help us all to trust in Your perfect timing. In Your holy name. Amen.

Blessings in Christ,
Pastor David Tilney, Vacancy Pastor

ITEMS OF INTEREST

Voters' Meetings

A Special Voters' Meeting will be held Sunday, September 7th directly following the worship service. This meeting is to review and select a Pastor to call. We need a quorum to vote so please plan on attending.

The next Quarterly Voters' Meeting will be held on Sunday, September 21st at 10 am. All confirmed members who are 18 years of age and older are invited both meeting and to share in the decision making of the congregation.

LWML News

Thanks to all who furnished food and/or helped at the Summertime Pie Social that was held on Wednesday, July 16th. It was a great get-together with family and friends that shared the time with good food and conversation. We served approximately 145 meals and the net proceeds were \$2,173.11.

Mites can do mitey things! The "Noisy Offerings" were In July \$36.47 and \$40.25 for August. Thanks for your continued support of LWML missions!

Judy Rode, Mary Hammer and Sue Erickson gave a report on Sunday, August 24th during coffee time about their trip to the National LWML Convention in Omaha that was held this past June.

Sue Erickson attended the Lakeland 11 Regional Fall Rally Planning Meeting on July 27th. The rally is scheduled for Sunday, October 26, 2025. It will be held at the meeting room at the Montevideo Veterans' Home. The speaker will be Mary Scott who is a Parish Nurse and she will be addressing the topic of Life Directives. The Theme is: "I am the Vine, you are the branches," John 15:5. Registration is \$10 with a catered lunch. Registration begins at 1:30 pm and the Rally begins at 2 pm. The Ingathering will be supplies for the VA in Montevideo. Watch for a poster on our bulletin board as more details will be forthcoming. Also discussed was that the "Quarterly" will increase 50 cents to \$6.50 per copy and there is a NEW Facebook page for Minnesota North LWML. If you need help finding it, contact Sue Erickson for additional help.

Mark your calendars for the MN North District LWML Convention that will be held at the Park Event Center in Waite Park, June 22-24, 2026, with the theme of "Let His Joy Be Your Joy", from John 15:11 and then the 42nd Biennial LWML Convention will be held at the Oklahoma City Convention Center July 8-11, 2027 in Oklahoma City, OK.

LWML Sunday is October 5, 2025. Monday, October 20th will be our quarterly meeting at 6:30 pm in the parish hall. We welcome all women of our congregation to attend!

Thursday Bible Class will start September 11th at 6:30 pm. The study will be "Strong and Courageous, A Study of the Promises in Joshua." Let me Mary Hammer know if you'll be coming so materials can be ordered. All are welcomed.

September Birthdays

Sept 1	Andrea Berends, Emma Donner, Everly Lindstrom, 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,
Sept 19	Avis Freitag, Eric Hildahl
Sept 20	Laura Ramirez, Cameron Zens
Sept 21	Karley Duenwald
Sept 24	Kiplier Anderson, Nolan Hildahl, Michael Luepke
Sept 26	Holly Cobb, Alesha Hjelle, Raymond Reinke
Sept 27	Willow Myers
Sept 28	Dorothy Nokleby, Rob Stengel
Sept 29	Emily Ebel
Sept 30	Sophie Van Sickle

Birthday Blessings to you all.

Please contact the church office if we missed yours.

Choirs: The new season for the choirs will begin September 10th. Handbell Choir at 6 pm followed by the Mixed Choir at 7 pm. All high school students and adult are encouraged and welcome to join the Handbell and Mixed Choirs. Any questions please see Phyllis Schutlz.

Quilters: Quilters will be starting Tuesday, September 9th at 8:30 am and women and men are welcome to join. If you can tie a knot you, you can help.

SAC Groups are our greeters and ushers.

If this is your month to serve, please prayerfully consider where you are able to and willing to help.

Group 2

Serving for September

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

Vital Statistics

Attendance and Offering Report

<u>Date</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Offering</u>
Sun, Jul 6	57	\$3,860.00
Sun, Jul 13	65	\$2,270.00
Sun, Jul 20	46	\$1,690.00
Sun, Jul 27	40	\$1,070.00
Sun, Aug 3	46	\$3,215.00
Sun, Aug 10	61	\$1,386.00
Sun, Aug 17	36	\$1,740.00
Sun, Aug 24	59	\$1,860.00
Sun, Aug 31	n/a	

(2025 Budget Income
needed each Sunday - \$3,270.00)



Daily Bible Readings for September

Sept 1	2 Chronicles 6	Malachi 2:17-3:18	John 9:1-23
Sept 2	2 Chronicles 7	Malachi 4	John 9:24-41
Sept 3	2 Chronicles 8	Psalms 73	John 10:1-21
Sept 4	2 Chronicles 9	Psalms 74	John 10:22-42
Sept 5	2 Chronicles 10-11	Psalms 75	John 11:1-27
Sept 6	2 Chronicles 12-13	Psalms 76	John 11:28-57
Sept 7	2 Chronicles 14-15	Psalms 77	John 12:1-26
Sept 8	2 Chronicles 16-17	Psalms 78:1-20	John 12:27-50
Sept 9	2 Chronicles 18	Psalms 78:21-37	John 13:1-20
Sept 10	2 Chronicles 19	Psalms 78:38-55	John 13:21-38
Sept 11	2 Chron. 20:1-21:1	Psalms 78:56-72	John 14:1-14
Sept 12	2 Chron. 21:2-22:12	Psalms 79	John 14:15-31
Sept 13	2 Chronicles 23	Psalms 80	John 15:1-16:4a
Sept 14	2 Chronicles 24	Psalms 81	John 16:4b-33
Sept 15	2 Chronicles 25	Psalms 82	John 17
Sept 16	2 Chronicles 26	Psalms 83	John 18:1-18
Sept 17	2 Chron. 27-28	Psalms 84	John 18:19-38a
Sept 18	2 Chronicles 29	Psalms 85	John 18:38b-19:16
Sept 19	2 Chronicles 30	Psalms 86	John 19:17-42
Sept 20	2 Chronicles 31	Psalms 87	John 20:1-18
Sept 21	2 Chronicles 32	Psalms 88	John 20:19-31
Sept 22	2 Chronicles 33	Psalms 89:1-18	John 21
Sept 23	2 Chronicles 34	Psalms 89:19-37	1 John 1
Sept 24	2 Chronicles 35	Psalms 89:38-52	1 John 2
Sept 25	2 Chronicles 36	Psalms 90	1 John 3
Sept 26	Ezra 1-2	Psalms 91	1 John 4
Sept 27	Ezra 3-4	Psalms 92	1 John 5
Sept 28	Ezra 5-6	Psalms 93	2 John
Sept 29	Ezra 7-8	Psalms 94	3 John
Sept 30	Ezra 9-10	Psalms 95	Jude

Shoeboxes

Reminder to all. We will be again working on Operation Christmas Child Shoebox project this fall. Please start to collect items with a quality "wow" item that will capture the child's attention the instant he or she opens the box. Gift suggestions for fun toys, hygiene items, and school supplies to fill the shoebox are available in the narthex.



Financials as of 8-27-2025

Year to Date Actual Contributions	\$98,675.71
Year to Date Budgeted Income	\$141,688.30
Difference	(\$43,012.59)
Year to Date Actual Expenses	\$80,554.11
Year to Date Budgeted Expenses	\$141,688.30
Difference	\$61,134.19

St. Paul Lutheran Church

Quarterly Voter's Meeting Minutes

June 23, 2024

(Covers period from March 17th to present.)

Meeting was called to order at 10 AM by Chairman Brad Christensen with 26 members attending.

Opening prayer was led by Church Elder Larry Cuklanz

Minutes from the March's Quarterly Meeting was reviewed. A motion was made by Larry Cuklanz and seconded by Roland Hegna to accept the minutes as presented. Motion passed.

Financial Report from May and the Mar through May Designated Projects were reviewed.

- Expenses for the church have been within the budgeted numbers and show a surplus.
- For Designated Projects:
 - ◊ In/out monies for SAC group are typical. Purchases of supplies, coffee hour donations
 - ◊ Line item created for the insurance money received for the repair of the roof
 - ◊ Line item created for Odell Rude Memorial
 - ◊ Further monies received from Shirley Hempel Memorial
 - ◊ Thrivent Choice Funds received and used to cover a District bill, Jastrom's Missionary and transferred to Cemetery Fund

A motion was made by Jim Wagner and seconded by Mary Kelly to accept the Financials as presented. Motion passed.

Pastoral Report – No Report

Membership Report

- Released: Chris and Emily Matasovsky to Living Word Lutheran Church, Marshall, MN
- Baptism: Colter Christopher Berends born Dec 14, 2023, baptized April 27, 2025
- Death: Odell Rude died April 29, 2025 – funeral May 9, 2025
- Affirmation of Faith: Alan and Linda Berends and Belinda Berends

Board and Committee Reports

Board of Elders

- Pastor Tilney will begin as Vacancy Pastor in July.
- Pastor Tilney has vacation scheduled for August. The Elders have talked with Pastor Brustuen and Pastor Baumgarn

Board of Trustees

- The trustees are working with the City of Granite Falls arborist to determine what is wrong with the tree along the south side.
- An update on the roofing repair was given. The roof is complete; the replacement of the gutters is done. There are screens and AC unit repairs left to do.
- Improvements were made in the "V" valleys to give us better protection
- Glacial is still working with the insurance company to finalize total costs. The monies already received from the insurance company have been paid to Glacial. The estimated roof sheet replacement was higher than anticipated.
- Final cost is unknown but estimated to be around \$3,800.

Special committees

- Call committee report
 - ◊ The group has met a few times and reviewed some names. Online conference calls have been held with two pastors.

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- ◇ Further names were requested from the District
 - ◇ Information was provided on what the committee and congregation was looking for in a Pastor and what a Pastor was expecting from a congregation.

A motion was made by Jim Wagner and seconded by Larry Cuklanz to accept the committee reports as presented. Motion passed.

Old Business

- None

New Business

- Chairman asked for discussion on the fact that he was approached and met with the chairman from St. Paul Montevideo regarding thoughts of becoming a dual parish. The discussion was minimal, and no actions were taken.

Announcements

- Next Board of Elders and Council meetings are July 8th.
- LWML Summertime Pie Social – July 16th 5-7 pm

Motion was made by Roland Hegna and seconded by Kerry Steffen to Adjourn with the Lord's Prayer at 10:35 AM. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Gabbert

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





Graduate Recognition
Karter Canatsey, Riley Hoff, Ashely Luepke, Kindal Meyer, Kiley Meyer.



Memorial Day Service
Larry Meyer, Pastor Schultz, DuWayne



New Member
Nicole Berends, Pastor Schultz,

Happenings at St. Paul's



New Members: Belinda Berends, Pastor ,
Linda and Alan Berends



Shingling



National LWML Convention in Omaha
Sue Erickson, Judy Rode, Mary Hammer




LWML
Summertime Pie Social





September 2025



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Altar Guild Nancy Cuklanz	1 	2 <div>St. Paul Lutheran Church delivers</div>	3	4 <div>Dinner at Your Door</div>	5	6
7 10 am Coffee Time 11 am Worship Service 12 pm Special Voters Meeting	8	9 8:30 am Quilters 6:30 pm Board of Elders 7 pm Church Council	10 6 pm Handbell Practice 7 pm Mixed Choir Practice	11 9 am Bldg Bridges Choir 6:30 pm Bible Study	12	13
14 10 am Coffee Time 11 am Communion Service	15	16 8:30 am Quilters	17 6 pm Handbell Practice 7 pm Mixed Choir Practice	18 9 am Bldg Bridges Choir 6:30 pm Bible Study	19	20
21 10 am Qtly Voters Meeting 11 am Worship Service	22 Newsletter Articles Due	23 8:30 am Quilters	24 No Handbell or Choir Practice	25 9 am Bldg Bridges Choir 6:30 pm Bible Study	26	27
28 10 am Coffee Time 11 am Communion Service	29	30 8:30 am Quilters				