



St. Paul News - September 2026

St. Paul Lutheran Church – LCMS

1050 10th Ave, Granite Falls, MN 56241

Welcome

Dear friends in Christ Jesus.

Allow me to share a little about my family and myself, as we come to be a part of your church family. You know my name, David John Sutton, but please call me Pastor Sutton. I was born in Wisconsin Rapids, and spent my youth between La Crosse, and Westby WI. My beloved wife, Bonnie was born in Green Bay—yes, we are Packer fans—and she has lived in many places. We met at Central High School in La Crosse, and were married in '93, settling in Westby, near my parent's farm. We owned a RadioShack store in Westby. During those years our first child was born, Jean-Luc. He lives in Michigan now.

In 2000 we closed the store and I found work as an MRO Purchasing agent at a private label food manufacturer in Manawa. We moved to nearby Clintonville WI, living there for ten years and attending St. Martin Lutheran Church. In 2005 our second child was born, Alexander (he goes by "Xan"). While he technically still resides at home, he is a junior at Wisconsin Lutheran College in Milwaukee where he's working on a mathematics degree, with a minor in theater. In addition to drama, he is part of WLC's Touring Choir, and their smaller Chamber Choir.

In Clintonville, Bonnie worked many places. She was a bank teller, a receptionist, and an assembler at an injection molding plant.

With changes in our lives, and in my workplace, I began to wonder if I should be a pastor. When I spoke to my Pastor about this, he wondered why I wasn't. However, to attend seminary one needs to have a Bachelor's Degree. I only held an AS in Biomedical Electronics, but Marian University accepted that degree, and in 2010 I graduated with a BS in Interdisciplinary Studies, with a Communications Minor, and we were off for four years at Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, IN.

Bonnie worked to support our household. First as a store refit specialist and then as a photo specialist at a nearby Walgreens.

After receiving a Masters in Divinity in 2014, I was called to serve Our Savior Lutheran Church (OSL) in Marlette, MI. In Marlette, Bonnie also began a new trade. She worked as a substitute teacher in the public schools, taught Spanish in OSL's Day School and home-schooled Xan from 5th grade through middle-school.

During the six years at OSL those dear saints and I grew in the love of Christ through worship, Bible Study, and personal discussions. In 2020 (what a year for a change) the saints of St. Paul's in Irma, WI, and Faith in Harshaw, WI called me to serve their dual parish. For six years those beloved saints heard the word in worship and study, received the gifts of God in Christ, and grew in faith and love toward our Lord.

Now, God has seen fit by His Holy Spirit to call this poor servant to care for the souls of St. Paul, Granite Falls. It is my hope that you will see me as your Seelsorger. An old German word for a pastor, the doctor of souls. I pray that we too, together in Christ, may grow in love and understanding of Jesus and one another. You will find that I am an open book, and my door is always open. I am looking forward to being with you, learning from you, and sharing the gifts of our Lord that you too may grow in faith, hope, love toward Christ Jesus. Pastor David J Sutton

Rev. David J. Sutton

Pastor

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Church office

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Chairman

Brad Christensen

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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.



You are invited to
 Pastor David J. Sutton
 Installation
 Sunday, September 13th at 4 pm
 catered lunch to follow.

Voters' Meeting

A Quarterly Voters' Meeting will be held on Sunday, September 20th 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. Hotdogs & barbeques will be provided, we are just asking for salads, and desserts.

Potluck Dinner
 Sunday
 September 20th



LWML News

The "Noisy Offering" along with the mites for August was \$26.18. Thanks to all of you who find pocket change again and again to fill our cans. These offerings support LWML Missions.

Sunday, October 4th is our LWML Sunday. The ladies will be helping hand out bulletins and ushering for this service. We will also be serving a snack after services before Bible Class. We hope everyone can join us!

Monday, October 19th is our quarterly meeting. All ladies of the congregation are invited to attend. The dues for 2027 is \$19 (LWML Quarterly magazine - \$7, National Convention Fund - \$7, and Zone -\$5). A sign-up sheet will be available soon the in narthex.

Our church will be hosting the LWML Joy Shop this fall. It will be held on Sunday, October 25th. The registration fee is \$5 and the speaker will be Kelly Witnebel. Watch for a flyer on our bulletin board for more information.

Thanks to Thrivent, we now have a \$250 grant to purchase some healthy treats for our social hour after services. We have several diabetic members, and this will be a better option for them!

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 Skjette
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	Kipler 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 start in September. All high school students and adults are encouraged and welcome to join. Rehearsals for the Handbells on Wednesday, September 2nd at 6 pm and Mixed Choir on Wednesday, September 9th at 6:45 pm.

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

Group 3

Serving for September

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

Vital Statistics

Attendance and Offering Report for August

<u>Date</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Offering</u>
Sun, Aug 2	39	\$5,752.00
Sun, Aug 9	38	\$2,115.00
Sun, Aug 16	46	\$935.00
Sun, Aug 23	40	\$675.00
Sun, Aug 30	N/A	

(2026 Budget Income needed each Sunday - \$3,336.00)

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

Financials as of 9-27-2026

Year to Date Actual Contributions	\$97,305.42
Year to Date Budgeted Income	<u>\$115,639.28</u>
Difference	(\$18,333.86)
Year to Date Actual Expenses	\$73,140.03
Year to Date Budgeted Expenses	<u>\$115,639.28</u>
Difference	\$42,499.25

Quilters

Quilters will be starting Tuesday, September 22nd 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 cotton sheets. The city-wide garage sales are a good place to check out.

St. Paul Lutheran Church

Quarterly Voter's Meeting Minutes

June 28, 2025

(Covers period from March 22 to present.)

Meeting called to order at 10:36 AM by Chairman Brad Christensen. Attended by 30 members.

Opening prayer led by Elder Dave Guertin

Minutes from Mar meeting and Special Voters' meetings March 22 and May 17 were reviewed. A motion was made by Wes Just and seconded by Jim Rigge to accept the minutes as presented. Motion passed.

Financial Report from May and Mar to May Designated Projects. A motion was made by Jim Wagner and seconded by Otto Luepke to accept the Financial Report and Designated Project reports as presented. Motion passed.

Pastoral Report- Information covered in Elders Report

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

- Released - Sandy (Hempel) Dudonis - personal request, and Shantel Syring to Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, Baxter Twp, Montevideo, MN (ELCA)
 - Transfer In - Joyce Luckow from St. Paul's Foley, MN
 - Affirmation of Faith - Pete Gunlogson and LeAnn Lange
 - Baptized -Adalynn Marie Lindstrom born June 4, 2026 - baptized June 14, 2026

BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

BOARD OF ELDERS

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

- Projects update
 - o South side crosses - a light has been acquired. Needs to be direct wired for LED lighting.
 - o Trees were trimmed with the assistance of Dave Skjefte.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

- Financial Review Committee completed their review of 2025. No issues were found. A motion was made by Jim Rigge and seconded by Dave Guertin to accept the report as presented, Motion passed.

A motion was made by Otto Luepke and seconded by Jim Rigge to accept the committee reports as presented. Motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS

- Pastor Sutton has accepted our call. Will be coming in September.
- Discussion was held regarding projects. Emphasis was placed on proper communication of issues, working together and allowing time for completion by trustees or arranging contractors to complete the work if they are not able.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Summertime Pie social is July 15th from 5-7 PM
- Next Board of Elders and Council meetings are Aug 11

Motion was made by Jim Wagner and seconded by Lanny Hoyer to adjourn with the Lord's Prayer at 11:17 AM. Motion carried.

Submitted by Carol Gabbert

(Not approved by the Voter's but ok'd to publish by Church Council)

Bible Studies

There are Adult Bible Studies on Sunday mornings following coffee time and starting Thursday, September 17th at 1:30 pm is the women's study. The date and time have not been set for the men's class.

Convention Report

Lutheran Women in Mission (LWML) from MN N District meet June 22-24 at the Park Event Center in Waite Park for the 32nd Biennial Convention. The theme was "Let His Joy be Your Joy." Among the attendees were Mary Hammer and Judy Rode, delegates and Sue Erickson and Kathy Enninga.

Those arriving early had the opportunity to participate in Servant Events. Judy helped with making cards for cancer patient that are distributed by "Phil's Friends" and beaded bracelets for MOST (Mission Opportunities for Short Term) Ministries.

Breakout sessions offered on Monday were: "LWML Today and the Vision for the Future," "Fearfully and Wonderfully Made," and "Expanding the Spanish Footprint."

An opening Worship Service was held at Redeemer Lutheran in St. Cloud. Mary and Judy participated in the mass choir. What a thrill to hear so many singing hymns of joy and praise!

The events and speakers reflected the theme "Let His Joy be Your Joy" and the Bible study explored the convention verse "These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full." John 15:11.

President Kathy Brandt from MN N District led the business meetings. Officers for the 2026-2028 term were elected. Rev. Keith Brustuen from St. Paul in Montevideo will be the Pastoral Counselor and Karena LaPolice from Arrowhead Region II replaces Kathy Brandt as District President. The newly elected Mission Grants were announced and a goal of \$150,000 was set for these grants for the 2026-2028 biennium.

Tuesday night attendees were entertained by the Great River Resonance Bell Choir from St. Cloud. This amazing group played with 7 octaves.

Attendees were encouraged to bring items for a Silent Auction with all the proceeds to go directly to mites. \$5,428 was collected.

The next MN N District LWML Convention will be hosted by our region in 2028. More information regarding the planning dates and responsibilities will be coming. The four of us had an amazing time at this convention and encourage other members to join us at the one in 2028.



THANK YOU!



Wow, 60 years!! Our thanks to everyone for the well wishes, cards, gifts and the lovely party as we celebrated our 60th Wedding Anniversary! These past 25 years God has blessed us with your friendship and support, and we thank Him for all of you. We love you all. Denny and Phyllis



REDISCOVERING MISSION: A MISSION FESTIVAL

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH | WILLMAR, MN



GUEST SPEAKER & PREACHER: **REV. LORENZO MURRONE**

Christus Victor Lutheran Church, Rome, Italy

✝ **6:00 PM | EVENING PRAYER** Pastor Murrone will preach.

🍴 **6:30 PM | SUPPER & PRESENTATION**

Hear Rev. Murrone on the work of the Confessional Lutheran Church of Italy.



LOCATION:

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

1401 6th St. SW, Willmar, MN



DATE & TIME:

SEPTEMBER 24th, 2026

6:00 PM (Evening Prayer) | 6:30 PM (Supper)



Come and find out more about the vibrant work of
the Confessional Lutheran Church of Italy.

www.redeemerwillmar.org

(320) 235-4685

[illegible]

Altar Guild
Nancy Cuklanz

St Paul Lutheran Church delivers "Dinner at Your Door"