



St. Paul News

October 2022

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

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.

Pastor's Message

An ancient Hebrew fable goes like this:

Once there was a small leaf on a limb of a tall tree. The leaf was very content with its good life until it saw the birds flying above the forest. The leaf, then, yearned to be free like the birds, free to fly and experience many different things. The leaf struggled and struggled to be free. Then one morning, a strong gust of wind jerked the leaf from the limb and sent it sailing above the forest. It was free! It could now flit about as it pleased! How exhilarating it was for the leaf to see all the strange, new sights! It was great! Soon, however, the leaf began its journey downward and, eventually, it joined the other dead and dying leaves on the forest floor. There the sun's lethal rays struck the leaf. As the leaf withered and died, it cried out, "This is not freedom! This is not freedom! This is death!" Too late! The leaf realized that freedom does not mean separation and complete independence. How wrong it was!



There are people and groups of people who think that only complete liberty with license to do anything one desires is freedom. They desire to do things as they please. This means freedom to not go to Sunday service or Bible Study if something else comes up. This means freedom to not serve in God's Church because of old age or a busy life.

When this kind of freedom is applied to matters of faith and God, independence from God, His way, His will, His Word always marks the beginning of the journey downward. It cannot be otherwise.

As people of God, we know that the answer to real freedom is definitely not in doing our own thing. True and lasting freedom does not mean complete independence, but rather complete dependence on the Lord our God, having a heart that cries out, "Lord, what would you have me to do?" Only as we depend on God for His love, mercy, grace and strength, which He gives us through Christ Jesus, do we have freedom, especially the forgiveness of all of our sins.

Only when we depend on the Lord God to provide us with spiritual food, His Word and Sacraments, do we have the strengthening of our faith in His Son our Savior who reminds us, "If you continue in My Word, then are you My disciples indeed, and you shall know the truth, and the truth shall set you free." John 8:31-32. Only as we depend on the Lord can we hope for that life which can never be separated from God, that life in Him.

In John 8:36, Jesus also says, "If the Son therefore shall make you free, you shall be free indeed." Oh yes, Christ Jesus frees us so that now we can live to Him, with Him and for Him and so that "we can do all things through Him Who strengthens us." (Philippians 4:13)

+God's Peace+

Pastor Jonathan Varns

ITEMS OF INTEREST

LWML News

Sunday, October 2nd we will recognize the activity and service of our Lutheran Women Mission League (LWML) during the service. Donuts, juice, and coffee will be served following the service. All are welcome.

Mites can do mitey things! The "Noisy Offering" from September was \$39.47. 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.

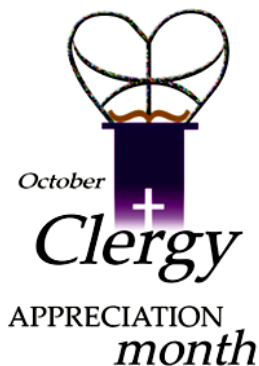
Everyone is welcome to attend the Montevideo Zone LWML Fall Joy Shop which will be held October 16th at St Paul, Granite Falls. Registration begins at 2:30 pm and program will start at 3 pm. The speaker is Virginia Flo, from Lutherans for Life. (Virginia bio is on page 3 and the flyer for the Joy Shop is on page 6). Snacks and coffee will be provided. Please mark your calendars for this event.

The Ingathering at the Joy Shop will be for Hope Pregnancy Center in Willmar. Hope Pregnancy Center helps women and men facing pregnancy decisions by providing compassionate care. They are supported by individuals, churches, and the local community, so they are able to provide their services at not cost Hope Pregnancy Center does not provide or refer for abortions. A need list on items that can be donate is available in the narthex.

The St. Paul LWML quarterly meeting will be Monday, October 17th at 6:30 pm in the parish hall. All ladies are invited to join us.

Shoebboxes

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! If you'd like to help with the OCC project, please contact Molly Hoff.



October Birthdays

Oct 1	Crystal Cunningham, Amber Twedt, Mason Williamson
Oct 3	Amy Redepenning
Oct 4	Jonathan Anderson
Oct 5	Travis Luepke
Oct 6	Eric Freitag, Delaney Myer, Eleora Varns
Oct 7	Sandra Dudonis, LeRoy Kvam, Valerie Skjefte
Oct 8	Anne Brown, Nancy Hammer
Oct 9	David Yeager
Oct 10	Kaddisyn Luepke
Oct 11	John Korthuis
Oct 12	Paul Hinz
Oct 13	Wes Just, Michael Tesch
Oct 14	Marie Holtan
Oct 16	Melanie Gatchell
Oct 17	Don Gabbert, Kayla Trotter
Oct 18	Teresa Hildahl, Ken Podratz
Oct 19	Karen Galow
Oct 21	Jaden Berends, Nick Johnson, Allan Reinke
Oct 22	James Luepke
Oct 23	Kathy Enninga
Oct 26	Mazie Jeseritz Allison Kahler
Oct 27	Greg Meyer Lu-Ann Smith
Oct 30	Craig Baumann
Oct 31	Keith Brouwer, Amber Dandurand, Kelly Rikke

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 October

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 November

Anderson, Rachel
Berends, Anthony
Berends, Chris
Buchholz, Merlin and Sylvia
Christensen, Brad and Maria
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
Myers, Troy and Jenna
Phinney, Katie
Putnam, Charlie
Rode, Judy
Ryer, LisaRyer, Shannon
Schulte, Richard and Kelly
Staab, Tyler and Tara
Steffen, Don
Stengel, Rob
Stengel, Gene and Pam
Syring, Melodee

Daily Bible Readings for October

Day	Morning Study	Evening Study
1	Isaiah 22,23	Eph. 3
2	Isaiah 24-26	Eph. 4
3	Isaiah 27,28	Eph. 5
4	Isaiah 29,30	Eph. 6
5	Isaiah 31-33	Phil. 1
6	Isaiah 34-36	Phil. 2
7	Isaiah 37,38	Phil. 3
8	Isaiah 39,40	Phil. 4
9	Isaiah 41,42	Col. 1
10	Isaiah 43,44	Col. 2
11	Isaiah 45-47	Col. 3
12	Isaiah 48,49	Col. 4
13	Isaiah 50-52	I Thess. 1
14	Isaiah 53-55	I Thess. 2
15	Isaiah 56-58	I Thess. 3
16	Isaiah 59-61	I Thess. 4
17	Isaiah 62-64	I Thess. 5
18	Isaiah 65,66	II Thess. 1
19	Jer. 1,2	II Thess. 2
20	Jer. 3,4	II Thess. 3
21	Jer. 5,6	I Tim. 1
22	Jer. 7,8	I Tim. 2
23	Jer. 9,10	I Tim. 3
24	Jer. 11-13	I Tim. 4
25	Jer. 14-16	I Tim. 5
26	Jer. 17-19	I Tim. 6
27	Jer. 20-22	II Tim. 1
28	Jer. 23,24	II Tim. 2
29	Jer. 25,26	II Tim. 3
30	Jer. 27,28	II Tim. 4
31	Jer. 29,30	Titus 1

Speaker for the Fall Joy Shop Virginia J. Flo - Biography

Virginia joined Lutherans For Life in September 2013 and currently resides in Eagan, Minnesota. She serves LFL as the Director of Volunteer Relations providing leadership to the many frontline volunteers across the country engaged in providing life-affirming ministry in support of the sanctity of human life. She has spent her life in a dual career in business management, working for several major corporations in the Twin Cities area, as well as making a career in church work. She has worked extensively in the areas of Christian education, stewardship, and outreach, while also serving as a choir director sharing her love of Christian music with both adults and children. In her business experience she has worked in management, marketing, technology, and the graphic and visual arts. Her strong conviction For Life has given her the opportunity to speak on many life issues, with a particular emphasis in the area of physician assisted suicide, which is being addressed in many states today. She grew up in a family that welcomed foster children who found a safe home with them in the country. She has authored a Christian fiction novel capturing some of those foster care experiences. Virginia has served as a LFL life chapter president and is now working at LFL national equipping Lutherans and our neighbors to be Gospel-motivated voices For Life.

Paul Lutheran Church

Voters Quarterly Assembly Minutes

September 18, 2022

(Covers period from June 26th to present.)

1. Meeting called to order by Chairman Brad Christensen - 35 members present.
2. Opening prayer by Pastor Varns.
3. Minutes from June's meeting; no corrections or additions noted. Motion by Jim Wegner, 2nd by Gene Stengel, motion passed.
4. Financial/Designated reports from August. The \$1995.00 under Capital Improvements is for the outside spigots. Memorials of E. Streich and G. Hewitt were moved to the Landscaping fund. Motion by Merlin Buchholz, 2nd by Jim Wegner, motion passed.
5. Pastor 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, visitations, and some premarital counseling.
 - Irregular activities – Esther Schmidt end of life ministering, vacation scheduled August 29-September 8th.
 - Don Hempel has moved to homebound status, please pray for him.
6. Membership Report
 - Transfer guardianship of Wesley Peterson and Bentley Kruger (children of late Kelsi Kruger) to Jennifer Johnson.
 - Death: Arlene Sebring Committal was Aug 6 at Doncaster.
 - Released: Abby George and daughter Ava to Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church, Marshall, MN (WELS).
 - Wedding: Nick Lindstrom and Hailey Cobb on September 10, 2022.
7. Board and Committee Reports
 - 7.1 Board of Elders - nothing to note
 - 7.2 Board of Trustees
 - Eternal light has been ordered to replace the old one. Cost is \$1200 plus a 2nd LED bulb has also been ordered.
 - New auto-flushing urinals have been installed in the men's restroom. One is mounted higher on the wall due to water connections.
 - Our janitor has resigned. Ashley Luepke, daughter of Theresa and Otto, has accepted the job. She will have a list of duties and other members have offered to help, also.
 - 7.3 Special committees
 - Education - Midweek started Sept 14th with classes like last year. We have a K-3 teacher, Laura Beyer. We may not have the meal due to no desire for various reasons. Fully implementing the parent-and-student emphasis we described over the last 2 years.
 - SAC – replacement chair is needed. Nancy Cuklanz has resigned as Social Activity Committee chairperson. She was given a round of applause. SAC started in 2005 and needs reorganizing as it is no longer functioning as it was intended. The church Directory has a list under SAC groups and chair duties. A suggestion was made to divide groups according to activity such as funeral, potluck, decorating, and decide on the commitments for each one. Training sessions are suggested possibly following Altar Guild's.

Motion to accept all Board and Special Committee reports by Jim Wegner; 2nd by Jim Rigge, motion passed.

8. Old Business - nothing to note

9. New Business

- Dec 4th at 5 pm is the potluck Congregational Christmas Dinner.
- Dec Qtly meeting will be Dec 11th following the worship service.
- Student Reach Minnesota. Pastor McCosh of Rock Haven visited with Pastor Varns. Many of our High School students are having fear and anxiety with current culture and he is organizing a motivational speaker to talk to the kids. Speaker is Terrance Talley. Total cost is \$4300. McCosh is asking \$750 from the Granite Falls churches. Talk with Pastor regarding this.
- Theresa Luepke, current treasurer, as resigned - new treasurer is needed.
- Courtyard landscaping. The estimate is \$10,000 at present. Esther Schmidt is covering a large portion of the cost with other pledges covering the rest. None will be taken from the budget. The landscape project will continue.
- Kerry Steffen informed us tree trimmer Doug Schulte has trimmed the large tree in the courtyard at no cost to us. A thank you will be sent to him.
- The small trees on the west of the sanctuary are dead.
- Building Bridges choir is planning a concert here at our church Sunday, November 13th at 2:30 pm.
- A donation has been received for a commercial robotic vacuum by Mikita. This is a dry vacuum only. Chairs in parish hall must be turned up so it can work.

10. Announcements

- Next Board of Elders at 6 pm and Council at 7 pm meetings are Tue, Oct 11.
- Fall Pastor's Conference is September 25-27th at Duluth
- Montevideo Zone LWML Joy Shop is Oct 16th here.

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

11 Closed with the Lord's Prayer and dinner prayer

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Hammer, Secretary

Lutheran Free Conference

"*The State of Education in the USA: What Can Christians Do?*" is the topic for the 35th Annual Lutheran Free Conference on Saturday, October 29th, at Redeemer Lutheran Church, 2719 3rd St. N., St. Cloud, from 9:30 to 3:30. Addressing this topic will be: Dr. Ryan MacPherson, Professor, Bethany Lutheran College, Mankato, MN; Rev. Dr. Christian Preus, Pastor, Mt Hope Lutheran Church, Casper, WY; & Dr. Gregory Schulz, Professor, Concordia University, Mequon WI. Registration is \$30, which includes coffee, rolls, and lunch (\$10 for high school and college students). Though the fee is not due until you attend, for meal and refreshment planning, please RSVP to Redeemer on or before Monday, October 24th: office@redeemerstcloud.org or (320)- 252-8171.

Newsletters

If you would like to receive the monthly newsletter via email instead of regular mail, please send your name and email address to the church office at stpaulgf@embarqmail.com.

Vital Statistics

Attendance and Offering Report

<u>Date</u>	<u>Attend</u>	<u>Comm</u>	<u>Offering</u>
Sun, Sept 4	35	35	\$1,815.00
Sun, Sept 11	46	35	\$2,904.00
Sun, Sept 18	58	49	\$1,695.00
Sun, Sept 25	58	42	\$2,596.00

(2022 Budget Income needed each Sunday - \$3,331.20)

Financials as of 9-25-2022

Year to Date Actual Contributions	\$97,461.08
Year to Date Contributions Needed	<u>\$129,917.34</u>
Difference	(\$32,456.26)
Year to Date Actual Expenses	\$126,343.75
Year to Date Budgeted Expenses	<u>\$129,917.34</u>
Difference	\$3,573.59

St. Paul Lutheran Church

1050 10th Ave, Granite Falls, MN

LWML

Fall Joy Shop

Sunday, October 16, 2022

Registration begins at 2:30 pm.

Program at 3 pm.

Theme: God Chose You

"You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit". (John 15:16)

Speaker: Virginia J. Flo

Lutherans For Life



*The Ingathering will be for Hope Pregnancy Center
in Willmar, MN.*



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 8:30 am Adult Bible Study 9:30 am Communion Service LWML SUNDAY	3 	4 St. Paul Lutheran	5 5 pm K-6 Midweek Class 7 pm 7-8 gr Conf Class 7 pm Mixed Choir Practice	6 "Dinner at Your Door"	7 	1 8
9 8:30 am Adult Bible Study 9:30 am Communion Service	10 8 am Men's Bible Study	11 6 pm Board of Elders 7 pm Church Council	12 5 pm K-6 Midweek Class 7 pm 7-8 gr Conf 7 pm Mixed Choir Practice	13 9:30 am Women's Bible Study at Granite Ridge 7 pm Bible Study	14 	15
16 8:30 am Adult Bible Study 9:30 am Communion Service 2:30 pm LWML Joy Shop	17 8 am Men's Bible Study 6:30 pm LWML Qtly Meeting	18 	19 7 pm Mixed Choir Practice	20 9:30 am Women's Bible Study at Granite Ridge 7 pm Bible Study	21 Newsletter Articles Due	22
23 8:30 am Adult Bible Study 9:30 am Communion Service	24 8 am Men's Bible Study	25 	26 5 pm K-6 Midweek Class 6 pm Handbell Practice 7 pm 7-8 gr Conf Class 7 pm Mixed Choir Practice	27 9:30 am Women's Bible Study at Granite Ridge 7 pm Bible Study	28 	29
30 8:30 am Adult Bible Study 9:30 am Communion Service	31 8 am Men's Bible Study		Altar Guild Jayne Baumann and Cindy Rigge	Elders Loren Petersen and Mike Brown		

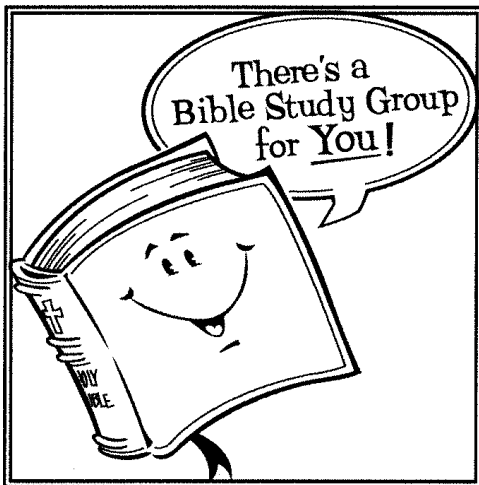
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LWML Sunday - October 2



Sundays at 8:30 am

Adult Bible Study meets in the parish hall.
(Breakfast is served.)

Monday at 8:00 am

Men's Bible study meets in the parish hall.

Thursdays at 9:30 am

Women's Bible study meets at Granite Ridge.

Thursdays at 7:00 pm

Bible Study meets in the parish hall.