



St. Paul News

February 2023

St. Paul Lutheran Church

***The Lutheran Church -
Missouri Synod***

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

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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

"I don't get anything out of the service." A Lutheran can never say this about our services that we hold at St. Paul.

In our service you hear the Word of God. It is present not only in the readings, but also in the liturgy, as most of our liturgical parts are taken straight from God's Word. It is also present in our hymns. Traditional Lutheran hymns are also confessions of God's Word, and they convey the Gospel. Sermons are also based on God's Word and preach the Gospel. Preaching, likewise, so long as it is the proclamation of the Word of God and not yammering on about pizza or the latest football game.

You cannot say that you don't get anything out of our services because the Word of God is always efficacious. Always.

Isaiah 55:10-11 says, "For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it."

Furthermore, it's not just the Word of God. Every Sunday we celebrate the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, wherein you receive the actual Body and Blood of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and where there is the forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation.

In other words, you are getting something out of the service. And not just something. You are getting everything out of the service. You are getting forgiveness, life, and salvation.

When people say they "don't get anything out of the service," they usually mean that they aren't being entertained. And this lust for constant dopamine hits comes from the world, as we are surrounded by 24-7 high-octane on-demand visual and audio stimulation. It's constantly sensual and exciting. To the world, a liturgical service with preaching, hymns, and Holy Communion is a dull affair by comparison.

The best way for the church to exist in a world of dopamine, porn, pop concerts, and light shows is to offer an alternative: authenticity that has been tried and true across the millennia: real worship based on God's preferences rather than our insatiable desire to be the center of attention. We need worship that unites all voices across the range of age demographics and subcultures in a harmonious unity that transcends ephemeral pop trends. At very least, keep the world and its entertainment outside of the nave, and let the church once more be a sanctuary, a holy ark to protect the redeemed from the crafts and assaults of the devil.

For eventually the dopamine hits fail to come, and the "exciting new way of doing church" becomes stale and boring to the self-centered soul. And like an addict, the unsatisfied ego must continue to wander, "not getting anything out of it" and looking for greater titillation elsewhere.

(cont. on page 5)

Items of Interest

Lent

Lent is a season of preparation leading up to Easter. It is the forty days plus the six Sundays before Easter. For centuries, it has been observed as a special time of self-examination and penitence. Lent is a time to recognize what we truly need, and to prepare for the joy of Easter. It is NOT a time to punish ourselves.

Ash Wednesday Communion Service

is February 22nd at 7 pm

following the LWML's Hotdish Supper.

(Midweek classes, Handbells and Mixed Choir will not meet that evening.)

Following Wednesdays in March the schedule is:

- K - 6th grade Midweek class 5 - 6 pm
- Midweek Lenten Service - 6 pm
- Handbell practice - 6:30 pm
- 7th and 8th grade Confirmation - 7 - 8 pm

Paraments for Lent

Purple is a color for Royalty and during Lent we think of Jesus, our King, who took our place under the law. Purple is also the color for mourning and sorrow and repentance for our sins.

- Altar: This symbol is a modified Chi Rho. The Chi (X) and the Rho (P) are the first two letters in Greek for the word "Christ". They are often used together in Church symbolism to denote "CHRIST".
- Lectern: Our lamps are always to be lit and ready as we do not know when Christ will come again. The lamp represents the Word of God. (Ps 119:105)
- Pulpit: Jesus is the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world. (The lamb facing toward the center of the altar and the cross.)

LWML News

Thanks to all who contribute to our monthly "Noisy offerings". In January \$69.84 was donated and this money will go toward LWML mission projects.

Our LWML will be hosting, after being postponed the last two years because of COVID, the Hotdish Supper Ash Wednesday February 22nd from 4:45-6:30 pm. Sign-up sheets for hotdishes, salads and desserts are available in the narthex. We also will need help in the kitchen for several shifts. Ladies, men and students are all encouraged to help! See page 6 for more info.

February Birthdays

Feb 1	Joyce Cruser
Feb 2	Anne Johnson
Feb 3	Michelle Guza
Feb 5	Maddison Johnson Jasmine Petersen Jennifer Schmidt
Feb 6	Bentley Krueger David Skjefte Jr Eileen Wegner
Feb 8	Carley Redepenning
Feb 11	James Ryer Jerrad Ryer Kerry Steffen
Feb 13	Tammy Edman Lucas Granfors
Feb 14	Joseph Anderson Heath Kirschbaum Cheyanne Schmidt
Feb 15	Michael Brown Carole Fechner Chase Kemnitz
Feb 20	Gage DeVries
Feb 22	Seantae Read
Feb 23	Kathy Johnson Jan Peterson
Feb 24	Preston Berends
Feb 26	Allen Stengel
Feb 27	Katie Phinney Lennox Stengel
Feb 28	Donna Hustad
Feb 29	Jackson Staab

Birthday Blessings to you all.

Please contact the church office if we missed yours.

Financials as of 1-27-2023

Year to Date Actual Contributions	\$9,064.00
Year to Date Contributions Needed	<u>\$14,701.04</u>
Difference	(\$5,637.04)
Year to Date Actual Expenses	\$17,107.98
Year to Date Budgeted Expenses	<u>\$14,701.04</u>
Difference	(\$2,406.94)

St. Paul Lutheran Church

Quarterly Voter's Meeting Minutes

December 11, 2022

(Covers period from Sept 18 to present.)

1. Called meeting to order by Chairman Brad Christiansen. 28 members present.
2. Opening prayer led by Pastor Varns.
3. Minutes from our September quarterly meeting were reviewed. A question was asked on printing the minutes of the quarterly meeting in the next month's newsletter. It was clarified that in the future, the Council would review the minutes at their next monthly meeting and then the minutes could be published in the newsletter.

Motion made to accept minutes was made by Molly Hoff, 2nd by Jim Wegner. Motion passed.

4. Financial/designated projects reports
 - The Designated SAC account currently has \$1100.54. SAC funds are used for kitchen and serving supplies such as plates, cups, etc. In the past anything over \$500 could be used elsewhere. Motion to move \$500 to the General Fund to reduce the amount currently in SAC was made Mike Brown, 2nd by Molly Hoff. Motion passed.
 - The Eternal Light Designated account: The light was purchased for \$1,336 leaving a balance of \$464 which will be used for installation as an electrician will have to pull a new line for it.
 - The Christ candle is broken. New ones available don't fit the current holder. A memorial may possibly be used for that.
 - Question was asked concerning the Kirschbaum house under Unrestricted Funds. The account is specified to be used as needed but repaid. Following discussion, a motion was made to stop transferring money monthly into capital improvement fund as of January 1, 2023 and use the Kirschbaum house fund if there is a need and pay that back as soon as possible as a no interest loan. The Designated Capital Improvement Fund will be used until it is \$.00.

Motion made by Anne, 2nd by Merlin to approval the financial reports. 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, Midweek and confirmation classes 5 pm to 8 pm, visitations.
 - Irregular activities – Advent services 6 pm on Wednesday. Thursday morning Bible Study was canceled in November. Also, normal visitation schedule has been delayed a couple of weeks as I helped work on the floor.
 - There were questions on visiting and Molly H informed us that the Care Center will contact our members and bring them together for Pastor to visit there.
6. Membership Report
 - Esther Schmidt died Sept 19; funeral at the church Sept 24.
 - Marriage: Rachel Christiansen & Nick Anderson on August 26, 2022, in Glenwood MN
7. Board of Elders
 - Christmas Eve Candlelight Service Saturday Dec 24 at 6 pm.
 - Sunday Dec 25 Christmas Day service with communion at 9:30 am – no bible study.
 - Sunday, Jan 1 New Year's Day service with communion at 9:30 am – no bible study.
8. Board of Trustees
 - Needed is someone to do sidewalk shoveling when there is snow, but not enough for the parking lot to be cleared. For larger amounts, Rob Stengel and crew do the sidewalks. Mike Brown volunteered to shovel the sidewalks for the lighter snowfalls.
 - Gene Stengel has purchased a new Mikita robotic vacuum to do floors here at church. This will work for the Parish Hall with chairs put up and the sanctuary and narthex. Thank you, Gene!
9. Special committees
 - Social Activities Committee (SAC) chairman is needed yet. This will likely be shared by several people.
 - An audit committee is needed for our books and volunteers for this are Sue Erickson, Gene Stengel, Dan Enninga and Dennis Smith.

10. New business:

- Theresa Luepke has resigned as treasurer and Anne Brown has agreed to complete Theresa's term. Motion made for Anne to be treasurer for the current term made by Carol G, 2nd by Carol Podratz. Motion passed.
- Otto Luepke has resigned so we now have 3 trustees.
- Next year elections will be held in March and open positions are for elder, VP, secretary & trustee. Be thinking of these positions and if you would like to volunteer or encourage someone else
- Proposed budget:
 - a. Motion made to approve \$21,000 housing allowance for Pastor for 2023 made by Gene S., 2nd by Dan Enninga. Motion passed.
 - b. Lay people: The large financial increase in outdoor yardman is for snow removal.
 - c. Church and office decrease: postage is down due to not mailing the newsletter. Worship supplies: decrease the number Portals of Prayer; discontinued Creative Worship; decreased the number of bulletins; and no kids activities sheets each Sunday.
 - d. Christian Education: VBS is currently not being done. Lutheran Island Camp is no longer providing this service.
 - e. Care of God's House: Natural gas, water and electric are all anticipating rising amounts. Capital improvements will zero out now.
 - f. Insurance: Property insurance is up but \$8100 is an estimate allowing for an estimated increase.
- f. Missions: MN North District: Clarification was made if this amount is a portion of our income for the year. We do decide the amount to be used for district purposes. Circuit assessment: Used for district conferences and conventions for Pastor. Discretionary missions: for people contacting the church asking for help. Suggestion is made to have gift cards available for gas, etc.

Motion to approve the 2023 budget made by Phyllis Schultz, 2nd by Mike Brown. Motion passed.

11. Announcements:

- Cancellation policies for weather printed in December's newsletter (If YME school closes, our church activities do not take place).
- Board of Elder/Council mtgs are Tues, Jan. 10th.

Motion to adjourn the meeting and closed with The Lord's Prayer,

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Hammer

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

Daily Bible Readings For February

<u>Day</u>	<u>Morning Study</u>	<u>Evening Study</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Morning Study</u>	<u>Evening Study</u>
1	Exodus 27, 28	Matthew 21:23-46	16	Leviticus 22, 23	Mark 1:1-22
2	Exodus 29, 30	Matthew 22:1-22	17	Leviticus 24, 25	Mark 1:23-45
3	Exodus 31, 32, 33	Matthew 22:23-46	18	Leviticus 26, 27	Mark 2
4	Exodus 34, 35, 36	Matthew 23:1-22	19	Numbers 1, 2	Mark 3:1-21
5	Exodus 37, 38	Matthew 23:23-39	20	Numbers 3, 4	Mark 3:22-35
6	Exodus 39, 40	Matthew 24:1-22	21	Numbers 5, 6	Mark 4:1-20
7	Leviticus 1, 2, 3	Matthew 24:23-39	22	Numbers 7	Mark 4:21-41
8	Leviticus 4, 5, 6	Matthew 25:1-30	23	Numbers 8, 9, 10	Mark 5:1-20
9	Leviticus 7, 8, 9	Matthew 25:31-46	24	Numbers 11, 12, 13	Mark 5:21-43
10	Leviticus 10, 11, 12	Matthew 26:1-19	25	Numbers 14, 15	Mark 6:1-32
11	Leviticus 13	Matthew 26:20-54	26	Numbers 16, 17	Mark 6:33-56
12	Leviticus 14	Matthew 26:55-75	27	Numbers 18, 19, 20	Mark 7:1-13
13	Leviticus 15, 16, 17	Matthew 27:1-31	28	Numbers 21, 22	Mark 7:14-37
14	Leviticus 18, 19	Matthew 27:32-66	29	Numbers 23, 24, 25	Mark 8:1-21
15	Leviticus 20, 21	Matthew 28			

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.

(cont. from page 1)

Take delight that in our Divine Service that we do at St. Paul, you always get everything out of it, for you get God's Word, a strengthening of your faith, and the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation, all over again, each and every week. Remember, the Word of God is what matters, and the Word of God always accomplishes the things God desires. Always.

+God's Peace+

Pastor Jonathan Varns

Group 1

Serving for February

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
 Phinney, Katie
 Putnam, Charlie
 Rode, Judy
 Ryer, Lisa
 Schulte, Richard and Kelly
 Staab, Tyler and Tara
 Steffen, Don
 Stengel, Gene and Pam
 Stengel, Rob
 Syring, Melodee

Group 2

Serving for March

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

Council News

Elections for the Church Council will be held at the next quarterly meeting in March. Open positions are for Vice-Chairman, one Elder, and one Trustee. Following are the individuals who terms are expiring. Jim Rigge as Elder and is not eligible to be nominated for this position because he is completing his 2nd term. Trustee, Dan Enninga, is ending his 1st term and is eligible for another term. Larry Cuklanz will moving to Chairman leaving the Vice-Chair position open. Be thinking of and asking members to consider these positions.

Snow Policy

If Sunday Worship Service is cancelled, all other events for the day are also cancelled. If YME School classes are cancelled due to the weather, all church events for that day are also cancelled. The closing can be heard on KMGFM-FM (105.5), KKRC-FM (93.9), KDMA-AM (1460) and also will be posted on Facebook. In regards to worship services during the winter season, please remember to **use your best judgment** in terms of going out in wintry weather. If it is unsafe for you to be out (even in your own driveway), don't go out. Although Pastor is glad to visit you in the hospital, he would rather visit you in your home! So, be safe; missing church due to weather is not an offense to God; remember how much he cares for you too.

Thank You

The new Eternal Light has been installed. This was given by the family in memory of Richard Tjosaas.

Vital Statistics

Attendance and Offering Report - January 2023

<u>Date</u>	<u>Attend</u>	<u>Comm</u>	<u>Offering</u>
Sun, Jan 1	38	37	\$3,656.00
Sun, Jan 8	67	61	\$1,983.00
Sun, Jan 15	52	49	\$750.00
Sun, Jan 22	44	40	\$2,445.00
Sun, Jun 29	N/A		

(2023 Budget Income needed each Sunday - \$3,392.56)





Wednesday, February 22nd
(Snow Day - February 24th)
4:45 pm to 6:30 pm

St. Paul Lutheran Church, LCMS
1050 10th Ave, Granite Falls, MN

**Menu: Hotdishes, Salads, Bread,
Desserts, Coffee & Milk**

Prices: Adults.....\$13
Ages 4-12.....\$7
Under 3.....Free

Sponsored by the Lutheran Women's Missionary League
Takeout meals available - 564-2221
A Thrivent Action Team Event