

# *St. Paul News*

## *October 2023*

### **St. Paul Lutheran Church**

*The Lutheran Church -  
Missouri Synod*

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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**

In the early morning hours of Feb. 18, 1546, Martin Luther closed his eyes forever. And the hand that hammered the 95 Theses into the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg on Oct. 31, 1517, penned its final words: "We are all beggars. This is true."

And this is the truth that our Lord says makes you free. Ironic, isn't it? That, in order to be free, you must be a beggar; you must be utterly dependent and reliant upon God. This makes us uncomfortable.

But what Luther would remind us is that we are all indeed beggars. But we're not just anyone's beggars. We're God's beggars. And this is His legacy to the Christian Church. Christ came for sinners. He came to seek and save the lost. He came to heal the sick and raise the dead. He came for sinners, and He dwells only with sinners.

And, if we are to be where He is, we must be willing to be counted among the lost, the sick, and the dead. We must be willing to be beggars. We must cry out for mercy, for grace, and for his undeserved love and kindness. We must be dependent solely on Him and what He gives.

And here's the beauty: He gives us everything. Everything – forgiveness of sins, salvation from death and the devil, and eternal life. This is not because of any worthiness or merit in us, but it is because of His divine goodness, mercy, and grace.

On account of Christ's death and resurrection, the Father forgives you, saves you, and is pleased with you. And you receive. You receive His love, His righteousness, His holiness, His acceptance, and His inheritance. We are all beggars. This is true.

This is the heart and soul of Christianity and the life-blood of the Christian Church. God justifies us, and He declares us innocent and righteous by His grace received through faith for the sake of Christ. This is not because of our works; this is because of His work on the cross. We, who once were enemies of God, are reconciled to Him and made to be His children.

This is what Luther would point us to when He took up his pen for the last time and scribbled "We are all beggars. This is true." We are beggars. But we are beggars of the God who does not ignore us, who doesn't pass by us on the other side. We are beggars of the One who descended from heaven to make His dwelling with sinners. We are beggars of Him who deigns to dwell with us, among us, and – yes – even in us by grace for Christ's sake. For in the bread and cup that we bless, we share together with Christ and each other the riches of God's grace.

So inexhaustible are the riches of this grace – the Gospel in sermon and absolution, in Baptism and Holy Communion – that our cups overflow. We, who are God's beggars, are not only inexhaustibly satisfied but have something to give back in thanksgiving and praise.

+God's Peace+

Pastor Jonathan Varns

# ITEMS OF INTEREST

## LWML News

Mites can do mitey things! The "Noisy Offering" from September was \$38.13. Thanks for your continued support of LWML missions! There are mite boxes available for adults and children to use at home. You can find them on the bulletin table.

Sunday, October 1st, we will be celebrating LWML Sunday. The women take part in the service and have treats/coffee afterwards in the parish hall. During coffee time, Judy R, Mary H, and Sue E will be showing pictures of their experiences at the LWML Convention in Milwaukee. We look forward to sharing with you about the missions of this amazing group of women!



Sunday, October 15th Zion Lutheran Church in Hoffman, MN is hosting the LWML Regional Rally. Registration begins at 2 pm and the Rally begins at 2:30 pm. Cost is \$7 and that includes a light meal afterwards. The speaker is Rev. Blake Rickbeil from Bertha, MN. The Bible Study Leader is Rev. Dan Gifford. The "Ingathering" is for Grant County Foster Closet. They are requesting large size diapers and pull-ups to fit up to age 5-7, personal care items--shampoo, soaps, lotions and blankets. This Rally includes the Wheaton, Appleton and Montevideo Zones. All are welcome!

The St. Paul LWML quarterly meeting will be Monday, October 9th at 6:30 pm in the parish hall. All ladies are invited to join us.

## 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.

## October Birthdays

Oct 1	Crystal Cunningham, Amber Twedt, Mason Williamson
Oct 3	Amy Redepinning
Oct 4	Jonathan Anderson
Oct 5	Travis Luepke
Oct 6	Eric Freitag, Delaney Myer, Eleora Varns
Oct 7	Sandra Dudonis, LeRoy Kvam, Valerie Skjette
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 1

### Serving for October

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

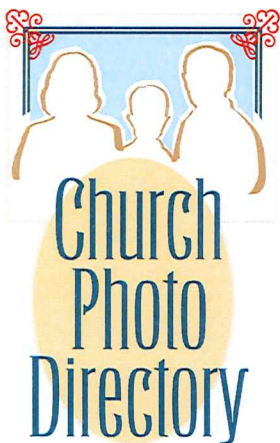
## Group 2

### Serving for November

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  
Rigge, Michael  
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  
Zimmer, Kevin and Laura

## Daily Bible Readings for October

<u>Day</u>	<u>Morning Study</u>	<u>Evening Study</u>
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



## Smile - Photo time

We will be doing our own 2024 Pictorial Directory this fall and we are asking that you submit your own picture or family picture by emailing it to church (stpaulgf@embarqmail.com) or bring one into the church office. You also have the option to come in and someone will take the picture for you. Anyone wishing to help with this project, contact Sue or the office. Deadline to submit is February 1st. This gives families the ability to gather at Christmas. The color printing of the book will be done by Print Master of Willmar.

## Paper Shredding

The Thrivent Paper Shredding event that was held on September 9th in the church's parking lot, despite the rain shower, was a success! There was approximately 2000 lbs shredded and donations received were \$566 for the 125th Anniversary and \$350 for Granite Falls Living at Home Block Nurse. Thanks, to all who helped.

The Granite Falls Living at Home Block Nurse Program clients, volunteers, board of directors and staff want to thank the members of St. Paul Lutheran Church for all you do for our community. The Thrivent sponsored - document-shredding event was a great success. Thank you for having us be a part of that event!

## LERT Training

St. Paul, Montevideo will be hosting a basic Lutheran Early Response Team (LERT) training workshop on Saturday, October 28th. We'd like at least one or two from each congregation to register for the event. LCMS members age 14 and up are welcome. Lunch and refreshments will be provided. Pre-registration is recommended to ensure that enough material will be available for attendees. Please see page 5 for more information.

## Vital Statistics

### Attendance and Offering Report

<u>Date</u>	<u>Attend</u>	<u>Comm</u>	<u>Offering</u>
Sun, Sept 3	30	27	\$6,640.00
Sun, Sept 10	60	50	\$3,000.00
Sun, Sept 17	58	47	\$2,515.00
Sun, Sept 24	51	44	N/A

(2023 Budget Income needed each Sunday - \$3,834.23)

## Financials as of 9-23-2023

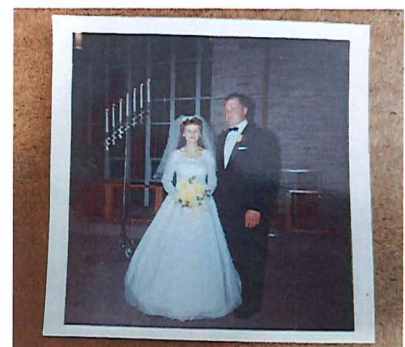
Year to Date Actual Contributions	\$120,005.21
Year to Date Contributions Needed	<u>\$132,309.36</u>
Difference	(\$12,304.15)
Year to Date Actual Expenses	\$132,500.92
Year to Date Budgeted Expenses	<u>\$132,309.36</u>
Difference	(\$191.56)

## “Built on The Rock”-125th Anniversary

Plan to celebrate 125 years of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Granite Falls, MN, on **September 22, 2024**. No confirmations have been received yet but plans are to have MN North District President Rev. Brady Finnern preach at a 10:30 am service followed by a catered noon meal and a musical program at 2 pm by The Garms Family followed by refreshments. If you have any memorabilia from days past please bring them to the church office that it can be shared that day.

## From the archives...

Sixty year ago St. Paul Lutheran Church building at 1050 10th Ave was dedicated on October 20, 1963. The 1st baptism was on November 1, 1963 for Alan Buchholz, son of Merlin and Sylvia. Before the dedication and without any pews the wedding of James Benson and Judith Ashburn was held on September 14, 1963.



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## Disaster Response through Basic LERT Training

Saturday, October 28, 2023

Tornadoes, floods, fires. When a disaster or crisis happens, do you have a strategy and plan how to respond? Or will you merely react because there is no plan in place? Advance preparation will significantly increase your effectiveness in when a disaster occurs.

Responding to a disaster is a vital part of who we are as members of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Responding to a disaster allows a congregation and its members to confess Christ to their community, region and world in ways they may have never considered before.

This fall, a Disaster Response training event is planned for the southwest area of our MN North District. The goal is to prepare congregations and individuals to be better prepared when a disaster strikes and help them know how to respond. The LERT (**Lutheran Early Response Team**) model will be presented. Participants will learn how to develop local teams of trained volunteers to respond when disasters occur.

### Basic LERT TRAINING

St. Paul's Lutheran Church— 321 N. 5<sup>th</sup> St, Montevideo, MN

Saturday, October 28, 8:30am-3:00pm

**Registration: \$30/person** (includes all materials, two breaks, and lunch). Pay at the event.

Make checks payable: "**Minnesota North District – LERT training**"

The day is divided into three main sections:

- An introduction to the LCMS Disaster Response program
- Congregation preparedness
- Lutheran Early Response Teams

Congregations are encouraged to **send a group of people** to this training so that you can continue as a LERT-trained team when you get back home. Pastors, please share this information with your congregations

Anyone who is interested is welcome to attend the training session. However, only LCMS members who are 14 years or older will receive certification as LCMS LERT volunteers. Trainers will distribute LERT training materials at the class. Following completion of the training, certificates of participation, volunteer ID cards, and T-shirts from LCMS Disaster Response will be sent to the church for distribution.

**Pre-registration is important and online.** Please register as soon as possible event at: [www.lcms-lert.org](http://www.lcms-lert.org) Here's what to do:

1. Sign up for an account. Part of the one-time registration process is granting permission to use class pictures, reading and acknowledging the liability waiver, and selecting T-shirt size. **Every volunteer needs their own personal email address** to register (two people cannot share an email address). You will be guided through a series of screens to complete.
2. Click on the "Districts" tab, then click on "Minnesota North District" and **select** which event you want to attend: Montevideo. Please pre-register as soon as possible as materials are ordered in advance.

**A minimum of 12 pre-registrations by October 18** is required or the event may be cancelled.

Any questions, contact: Rev. John Beck who is one of our District Disaster Response Coordinators and LERT Trainers, by email [john6beck@gmail.com](mailto:john6beck@gmail.com) or phone (320) 249-4012.



## Lutheran Free Conference

36th Annual Minnesota Lutheran Free Conference is Saturday, October 28th 9:30 am - 3:30 pm at "Redeemer Lutheran Church, 2719 Third Street North, St. Cloud, MN. The theme is Christian Piety: What's a Lutheran to Do?" Cost: \$30/person; \$10/high school or college student (includes coffee, rolls, & lunch). Though the fee is not due until you attend, for meal and refreshment planning, please RSVP to Redeemer on or before Monday, October 23rd, at [office@redeemerstcloud.org](mailto:office@redeemerstcloud.org), or (320)-252-8171. If you have any questions, contact Rev. John Grein (320) 583-7788.

At a free conference the speakers are free, free to speak as individuals, not as representatives of a church body.