



# *St. Paul News*

## *November 2024*

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

*The Lutheran Church -  
Missouri Synod*

1050 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Granite Falls, MN 56241

**Rev. Jonathan Varns**  
Pastor

860 11th Ave  
Granite Falls, MN 56241  
218-235-8493

shepherdofthecross@gmail.com

**Church office:**  
320-564-2221

stpaulgf@embarqmail.com  
www.stpaulgf.org

**Chairman**  
**DuWayne Galow**  
320-435-0620

#### **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**

After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" Revelation 7:9-10

As many advances as medical science has made, it still cannot prevent death from occurring. In 2017, an Indonesian man by the name of Sodimedjo died at the reported age of 146. Reportedly born in 1870, he had outlived four wives and all of his children. He had 12 grandchildren, 17 great grandchildren and two great-great grandchildren. The years passed and passed and passed, and it seemed like he might live forever. But alas! Death finally came to him too, as it does to all of us.

While we may be powerless to do anything about death, Jesus is not. The sole reason that our Lord Jesus Christ descended from His throne in heaven was to come down to earth and keep God's Law perfectly because He was without sin and then to offer His life as the perfect sacrifice on the altar of the cross for our place. The way that Jesus could give us life was by His own death.

All Saints Sunday, the first Sunday in November, is the date on which the Church celebrates the hope that we have that because Jesus died and rose again, all who die in faith will one day rise again in the resurrection on the last day. We have a hope that will not disappoint us, but a hope that sustains and strengthens us.

Many people are afraid of funerals, but not us. We are not afraid because we have something to say at funerals. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia! We have something to sing at funerals – I know that my redeemer lives.

The glorious picture that John describes of heaven is one of the ways that God gives us hope. We can look forward to angels and archangels and all the company of heaven gathered around Jesus and singing praise to the Lamb who was slain. Imagine for a moment all the people who have received the gift of faith in Jesus from every place and from every age, a great multitude that no one could number will be gathered around Jesus and singing a hymn of victory as we enter into the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end.

A blessed All Saints Sunday to you all in the remembrance of those who have gone before us who have died in the faith and that, because of the work of our Lord Jesus Christ, we too will one day join them in the joys of paradise!

+God's Peace+

Pastor Jonathan Varns

# “Come, Ye Thankful People, Come”

## Thanksgiving Eve Worship

Wednesday, November 27th

at 7:00 pm



We invite you, your friends and neighbors to join in thanking our God for all the blessings He gives to us. Following our Thanksgiving Eve Worship, we will enjoy a piece of pie and coffee during the social hour. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex if you wish to donate a pie.

### Midweek Advent Services

Advent is the beginning of a new Church year and the Midweek Advent Services will be on Wednesday, December 4th, 11th, and 18th starting at 6 pm. Handbell Choir practice to follow the service. Midweek Classes for K-6th grades remains at 5 pm as does the Confirmation Class at 7 pm and there will not be Mixed Choir practice on Wednesdays during Advent.

### Quarterly Meeting

The Quarterly Voters' Assembly will meet Sunday, December 15th directly following the service. The 2025 Congregational Budget will be presented. All confirmed members who are 18 years of age and older are encouraged to this meeting and to share in the decision making of the congregation.

### LWML News

Mites can do mighty things. The noisy offering along with the mites for October was \$57.92. Thanks for your continued support of LWML missions! There are also mite boxes available for adults and children to use at home on the bulletin table.

On Monday, October 20th the ladies met for their quarterly meeting. Highlights from the meeting were:

- Membership dues for 2025 will be \$15. A sign-up sheet will be in the narthex. They are due by November 10th.
- Sue Erickson and Judy Rode were re-elected Co-Presidents for a two year term.
- It was determined to have a fundraiser in November to support missions. Orders will be taken for “Go, Set, Ready” coffee in a variety of flavors and decaf. They will be sold in 1# quantities for \$15.
- Missions that will receive donations of \$100 each this year will be: American Bible Society, Bethesda, LCMS GLOBAL Missions, Avera Care Center, YMC Santa's Sleigh, Concordia St. Louis, Concordia Fort Wayne, Lutheran Island Camp, Eagles Nest, and PABLO. In addition a vote was taken to give \$150 for Shoebox postage.
- Volunteers are needed to bring 2 crockpots of soup, bread, and dessert for the January Bloodmobile. Contact Sue or Judy if you are willing to help prepare any of those items. A Thrivent card will be available to purchase the ingredients.

### Christmas Calendar

**Sunday, December 8th**

Christmas Potluck - 5 pm

**Tuesday, December 24th**

Christmas Eve Service - 6 pm

**Wednesday, December 25th**

Christmas Day Service - 9:30 am



# LWML Fundraisers

LWML will be selling "Go, Set, Ready" coffee from a company in Benson, MN. They are sold in 1# quantities for \$15. They offer ground or bean and even K-cups with a variety of flavors. More information and order blanks are available on the narthex shelf. Orders along with payment are due by November 17th and can be given to the office. The coffee will be delivered by mid December.



Then LWLM bake sale is planned for December 8th following the service. If you would like to donate an item or two, please have it at church before the service that morning. We also ask that you mark a price on the items. Please see Sue Erickson or Judy Rode if you need any special ingredients.



## Vital Statistics

### October Attendance and Finances

<u>Date</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Offering</u>
Sun, Oct 6	77	\$3,073.00
Sun, Oct 13	47	\$3,181.00
Sun, Oct 20	59	\$2,112.00
Sun, Oct 27	119	\$3,017.00

(2024 Budget Income needed each Sunday - \$3,882.00)

### Financials as of 10-28-24

Year to Date Actual Contributions	\$132,619.29
Year to Date Contributions Needed	<u>\$151,004.10</u>
Difference	(\$18,384.81)
Year to Date Actual Expenses	\$146,333.59
Year to Date Budgeted Expenses	<u>\$151,004.10</u>
Difference	\$4,670.51

## November Birthdays

Nov 2	Melissa Soukup
Nov 3	Adeline Ebel Carrie Kvam
Nov 4	Kathy Brunner
Nov 5	Trevor Hustad
Nov 6	Saul Lee Noel Petersen
Nov 9	Chad Luepke Abigail Varns
Nov 14	Amanda DeJong
Nov 15	Olivia Hinz
Nov 16	Wes Erickson Kelly Winters
Nov 17	Makaylee Roberts Jill Schmidt
Nov 18	Brielle Redepenning
Nov 21	Karla Meyer
Nov 22	Jacob Guertin Marci Petersen
Nov 23	Loretta Hewitt
Nov 24	Brian Beyer Michelle Miller Deven Schmidt
Nov 25	Brett Hammer Judy Rode
Nov 26	Gordon Kvam
Nov 28	Kari Twedt
Nov 30	Janine Banken Trevor Read

### Birthday Blessing to you all!

Please contact the church office if we missed yours.

## Shoebox Dates:

Packing Day  
Sunday, November 3rd at 10:45 am

All Boxes Due  
Sunday, November 17th



**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 3**

### **Serving for November**

Baker, Lisa  
 Brown, Mike and Anne  
 Cuklanz, Larry and Nancy  
 Duenwald, Karley  
 Freitag, Avis  
 Gabbert, Carol  
 Galow, DuWayne and Karen  
 Hegna, Rolland and RaeAnn  
 Hewitt, Loretta  
 Hildahl, Linda  
 Hoff, Jason and Molly  
 Ims, Dorothy  
 Iverson, Pam  
 Johnson, Jennifer  
 Just, Wes and Norma  
 Kelly, Mary  
 Kvam, Curtis  
 Nelson, Carol  
 Olson, LuAnn  
 Peterson, LeRoy and Jan  
 Quintal, Teresa  
 Reinke, Darlene  
 Rigge, Anita  
 Rush, Barb  
 Schmidt, Deven and Jill  
 Schmidt, Douglas Jr. and arla  
 Steffen, Boyd  
 Streich, Eugene  
 Streich, Linda  
 Trotter, Donnie and Jodi  
 Ulven, Lorna  
 Van Sickle, Eric and Jane  
 Winters, Kelly

## **Daily Bible Readings for November**

Nov 1	Isaiah 36–37	Psalm 119:97–120	1 Timothy 3
Nov 2	Isaiah 38–39	Psalm 119:121–144	1 Timothy 4
Nov 3	Jeremiah 1–2	Psalm 119:145–176	1 Timothy 5:1–22
Nov 4	Jeremiah 3–4	Psalm 120	1 Timothy 5:23–6:21
Nov 5	Jeremiah 5–6	Psalm 121	2 Timothy 1
Nov 6	Jeremiah 7–8	Psalm 122	2 Timothy 2
Nov 7	Jeremiah 9–10	Psalm 123	2 Timothy 3
Nov 8	Jeremiah 11–12	Psalm 124	2 Timothy 4
Nov 9	Jeremiah 13–14	Psalm 125	Titus 1
Nov 10	Jeremiah 15–16	Psalm 126	Titus 2
Nov 11	Jeremiah 17–18	Psalm 127	Titus 3
Nov 12	Jeremiah 19–20	Psalm 128	Philemon
Nov 13	Jeremiah 21–22	Psalm 129	James 1
Nov 14	Jeremiah 23–24	Psalm 130	James 2
Nov 15	Jeremiah 25–26	Psalm 131	James 3
Nov 16	Jeremiah 27–28	Psalm 132	James 4
Nov 17	Jeremiah 29–30	Psalm 133	James 5
Nov 18	Jeremiah 31–32	Psalm 134	1 Peter 1
Nov 19	Jeremiah 33–34	Psalm 135	1 Peter 2
Nov 20	Jeremiah 35–36	Psalm 136	1 Peter 3
Nov 21	Jeremiah 37–38	Psalm 137	1 Peter 4
Nov 22	Jeremiah 39–40	Psalm 138	1 Peter 5
Nov 23	Jeremiah 41–42	Psalm 139	2 Peter 1
Nov 24	Jeremiah 43–44	Psalm 140	2 Peter 2
Nov 25	Jeremiah 45–46	Psalm 141	2 Peter 3
Nov 26	Jeremiah 47–48	Psalm 142	Galatians 1
Nov 27	Jeremiah 49–50	Psalm 143	Galatians 2
Nov 28	Jeremiah 51–52	Psalm 144	Galatians 3:1–18
Nov 29	Lamentations 1–2	Psalm 145	Galatians 3:19–4:20
Nov 30	Lamentations 3–4	Psalm 146	Galatians 4:21–31



We have the opportunity to purchase red poinsettias for our Christmas Services. The cost will be \$17.50 each. A sign-up sheet is available in the narthex, or you may return this form to the church office. All orders along with payment are due by December 1st.

I WOULD LIKE TO PURCHASE A POINSETTIA

---

IN MEMORY OF:

---

---

# St. Paul Lutheran Church

## Quarterly Voter's Meeting Minutes

### September 15, 2024

(Covers period from June 23rd to present.)

1. Meeting called to order by Chairman DuWayne Galow. 32 in attendance.
2. Opening prayer by Pastor Varns
3. Minutes from June's meeting were reviewed. Motion to accept by Jim Wegner, 2nd by Dennis Smith. Motion passed.
4. Financial Report from Aug report: we have had more expenses than income and transferred \$9,500 so far, this entire year to pay our bills. Only \$4500 remains for this year of the Thrivent monies. Please prayerfully consider giving. Giving to requested donations is good, but also give to offerings so neither side is hurt in the budget. Question by Kerry: are we doing better by passing the offering plate? It was noted that more loose cash comes in than when the plate is left at the back of the church. It does swing in amount from week to week. Designated Projects: June through August.
  - Income from 125th Anniversary: We will be asking freewill donations for the meal.
  - Improvements, waxing and outside painting. We asked for \$11,000 and reached goal. Payment is made for painting. Trustees and Kerry did some outside painting.
  - Handbell expenses were lights and gloves.
  - Mixed choir was sheet music.
  - SAC, incoming money from free will donations and funeral income. Outgoing is Sunday morning donuts and supplies for coffee hour, plates, creamer, coffee, etc.
  - Sunday School rooms blinds on the south side were replaced. The blind fund was used and remaining amount from the general fund.
  - Water cooler supplies: more water purchased.
  - Don Hempel memorial was moved to accessible improvements.
  - Discussion on west entrance and if it would ever be done financially. Families will be contacted who donated to this.

Motion made to accept the financial reports by Jim Wegner, 2nd by Jim Rigge. 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, pastoral homebound visitations.
  - Irregular activities - The Pastor's conference is tomorrow in Brainerd through Tuesday.
6. Membership Report
  - Baptisms: Colt Ryder McCreey born October 16, 2023 - baptized July 14, 2024  
Matthew David Varns born June 19, 2024 - baptized August 4, 2024
  - Transfer In: Chris and Emily Matasovsky from Redeemer, New Ulm
  - Deaths: Carol Nelson died August 7, 2024 – no pastoral care  
Vern Rigge died August 11, 2024 - funeral August 15, 2024  
Marlue Folkens died Sept 7, 2024 – funeral at Wing-Bain Sept 13, 2024  
Gerald Reinke died Sept 10, 2024 – funeral Sept 14, 2024

#### Board and Committee Reports

##### 7.1 Board of Elders

- Gene S., Loren, Larry, & Mike are working through the Book of Concord
- Question from Dave Yaeger about people who are on membership, but not showing up for church. Elders have been contacting people, going through the membership.

##### 7.2 Board of Trustees by Tom Edman

- Front building crosses, & bell tower has been painted, funded, and paid for.
- Completed the flooring waxing taking about a week. All stripped, reviewed by Trustees. Five coats of wax were done. Also, trustees and others moved things back and forth over the one week. Trustees and Dan Enninga doing the moving. Our tiles are original to the building of the church. Buffing will yet be done. We will be maintaining the floors ourselves with buffing.

- Kerry and Dan did the painting on south entrance. Also, black trim outside was done by Kerry. The east door, mechanical room and louvers are done. Painting white stucco around church will need to be done and volunteers are needed. Thanks to all who helped with the upkeep.

### 7.3 Special committees

- Education:
  - a. Monday morning Men's Bible Study resumed on August 12<sup>th</sup>
  - b. Sunday morning Bible Study resumed on September 8<sup>th</sup>
  - c. Midweek and Confirmation classes resumed on September 11<sup>th</sup>
  - d. Thursday morning Bible Study at Granite Ridge resumed on September 12<sup>th</sup>
  - e. Bible Class at 6:30 pm resumed on September 12<sup>th</sup>
  - f. K-3 Sunday School today after services from 10:45 to 11:30 and led by Lindsay Varns,
- The 125th Anniversary committee:
  - a. Memorabilia is still wanted.
  - b. The loose offering of the day was discussed with ideas for new kitchen stoves, mission work through LWML, parament needs, and someone noted Prairie 5 is looking for money to update their kitchen. Tabled for now and decision will be made at the Voter's Meeting in December. Motion was made Darlene Yaeger to set funds aside and determine at Voter's Meeting in December 2nd by Cody Odegard. Motion passed.

Motion to accept the reports by Gene Stengel, 2nd by Jim Rigge. Motion passed.

### 8. Old Business

- From our last quarterly meeting the decision was made to change "janitor fee" to "usage fee" since we have no janitor, and volunteers are doing the cleaning.

### 9. New Business

- The National Youth Gathering (held every 3 years) is July 19-23rd, 2025 in New Orleans. Cost is around \$400-450 depending on when we register, plus hotel and travel. High Schoolers 14 yr or older or 9th grade are eligible. If you are interested at all, please talk to pastor because earlier registration is better and saves money. Possibly use Youth Project money and possibly fundraisers.
- MN North District Convention is February 23-25th, 2025 in Grand Rapids, MN. St. Paul gets 1 pastoral delegate and 1 lay delegate. A circuit forum will be announced soon. If you are interested in being a delegate, or if you are interested in submitting a nomination for district positions, or an overture to guide the mission of the district, please talk the pastor.
- There is a request for someone to set up and change banners and put up the funeral banner. Talk to Pastor if you are willing.
- There is a request for the Parish Hall tables to be taken down for Building Bridges Choir for the Thursday after the Anniversary. About 4 will go down and the rest will stay for the LWML Joy Shop October 6th.

### 10. Announcements

- The 125th Anniversary Celebration September 22
- Board of Elders and Council meetings are Oct 8

Motion to adjourn by Jim W., 2nd by Gene. Motion carried.

### 11. Closed with the Lord's Prayer and Dinner Prayer


Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Hammer, secretary

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



# NOVEMBER 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>Elder</b> Gene Stengel	<b>Altar Guild</b> Jayne Baumann and Lu-Ann Smith				1	2 
<b>3</b> 8:30 am Adult Bible Study 9:30 am Communion Service 10:45 am K-3 Sunday School	<b>4</b> 8 am Men's Bible Study	<b>5</b> 8:30 am Quilting	<b>6</b> 5 pm K-6 Midweek Class 6 pm Handbell Practice 7 pm Conf Class 7 pm Mixed Choir Practice	<b>7</b> 9 am Bldg Bridges Choir 9:30 am Women's Bible Study at Granite Ridge 6:30 pm Bible Study	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> 8:30 am Adult Bible Study 9:30 am Communion Service 10:45 am K-3 Sunday School	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 8:30 am Quilting	<b>13</b> 6 pm Handbell Practice 7 pm Mixed Choir Practice	<b>14</b> 9 am Bldg Bridges Choir 6:30 pm Bible Study	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> 8:30 am Adult Bible Study 9:30 am Communion Service 10:45 am K-3 Sunday School	<b>18</b> 8 am Men's Bible Study	<b>19</b> 8:30 am Quilting 6 pm Board of Elders 7 pm Church Council	<b>20</b> 5 pm K-6 Midweek Class 6 pm Handbell Practice 7 pm Conf Class 7 pm Mixed Choir Practice	<b>21</b> 9 am Bldg Bridges Choir 9:30 am Women's Bible Study at Granite Ridge 6:30 pm Bible Study	<b>22</b> Newsletter Articles Due	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> 8:30 am Adult Bible Study 9:30 am Communion Service 10:45 am K-3 Sunday School	<b>25</b> 8 am Men's Bible Study	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 7 pm Thanksgiving Eve Service	<b>28</b> <b>Happy Thanksgiving</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
	St. Paul Lutheran Church delivers "Dinner at Your Door"					