



St. Paul News

May 2025

St. Paul Lutheran Church

**The Lutheran Church -
Missouri Synod**

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

**Rev. Donald Polege
Vacancy Pastor
28359 Lakeside Way
Lindstrom, MN 55045
651-238-4802
dpolege1@gmail.com**

**Church office:
320-564-2221
stpaulgf@embarqmail.com
www.stpaulgf.org**

**Chairman
DuWayne Galow
320-226-4551**

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:

"A GLIMPSE OF OUR FUTURE HOLY CITY"

Revelation 21:10-14, 22-23

In this my last article to your newsletter, I want to share with you a sermon I had written on one of my favorite books of the Bible. That is the book of Revelation. It gives me such great joy and hope for the future, and I pray it does for you as well.

For thousands of years, people have wondered what heaven is really like. A poet helps us with these words: *"Think of stepping on shore, and finding it heaven; Think of taking hold of a hand, and finding it God's hand; Think of breathing new air, and finding it celestial air; Think of feeling invigorated, and finding it immortality; Think of waking up, and finding it home!"* Human language cannot describe that which is indescribable. Through this special revelation to John, Jesus allows us to look into the future and see the heavenly home awaiting all who are His faithful followers. John had received several visions of the Holy City, but here, this vision focuses on the *"doxa"* in Greek, the *"shekinah"* in Hebrew, that is the glory of God in the new heaven and earth. We can't envision the reality of what heaven is like, but God graciously gives us a symbolic picture to help us appreciate it and long for it. We don't press the symbolism, but we learn from the general impression. And so, we stand beside John on a high mountain and catch *"A Glimpse Of Our Future Holy City."*

To live forever in this heavenly city means to live in the very presence of God Himself. John describes the city as *"having the glory of God, and its brilliance was like that of a very precious jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal."* Jasper is a rare and precious jewel, and to my knowledge, it might not even exist anymore here on earth. But the brilliance of jasper gives us an impression of majesty, and purity, and absolute truth. In this world, the sun and the moon are needed to sustain life. We can't exist without them. That's why environmentalists are so concerned about the pollution of our atmosphere, because pollution might one day block out the sun's energy. In the new heaven, there will be no sun or moon, because God will be with us visibly, providing the life-giving light we need. There will be no day or night in heaven, no periods of darkness, no places where the light of God's presence will not reach. Light is also symbolic of perceiving and understanding. Living in the light of God's presence will enable us to learn the answers to all of those mysteries which God has kept hidden from us.

John tells us that our new Holy City will have God's glory. We are reminded here of the *"shekinah"* of God in the pillars of cloud and fire that led Israel in the wilderness. It symbolized God's presence. Throughout the Bible, we find events when God allowed His glory to be seen by mankind – the burning bush, the Temple and the Tabernacle, the Transfiguration. Moses saw God's glory. Ezekiel did too. Peter, James, and John saw it. Paul saw it. Even Stephen saw the *"shekinah"* of God. In eternal life, God's glory is the sum of all of His attributes. As citizens of heaven now by faith in Jesus, God's power, His creative ability, His flawless wisdom and knowledge are all directly and immediately available to us. As we struggle day in and day out with such limited resources in life, we are awed by the possibility of having divine resources directly suitable for any situation.

cont. on page 6

Items of Interest



Our congratulations to the following high school graduates from our congregation: Karter Canatsey, Riley Hoff, Ashley Luepke, and Kiley and Kindal Meyer. There will be a special recognition for our graduating high school seniors following the worship service on May 18th. Everyone is welcomed to attend and wish them luck.

New Members

Also on Sunday, May 18th we will welcome our new members to St Paul Lutheran. They are Alan and Linda Berends, and Belinda Berends. Please join after the service to get acquainted during coffee hour.



Church Council

The installation for the June 2025 - May 2026 Council members will be Sunday, June 1st during the service. The are:

Chairman: Brad Christensen

Vice Chairman: Merlin Buchholz

Secretary: Carol Gabbert (1st term/1^s yr)

Treasurer: Theresa Luepke (1st term/2nd yr)

Board of Elders

Larry Cuklanz (1st term/2nd yr)

Brian Beyer (1st term/1st yr)

Dave Guertin (1st term/1st yr)

Jim Rigge (2nd term/2nd yr)

Board of Trustees

Chris Berends (1st term/2nd yr)

Kris Cobb (1st term/2nd yr)

Tom Edman (1st term/3rd yr)

Tyler Staab (1st term/ 1st yr)

Otto Luepke (1st term/ 1st yr)

May Birthdays

- | | |
|--------|---|
| May 1 | Mark Reinke,
Shannon Ryer |
| May 2 | Sarah Guertin, Kylie Ramirez |
| May 3 | Norma Just |
| May 4 | Darlene Reinke |
| May 6 | Jenelle Donner, Kathy Korhuis,
Craig Timm |
| May 7 | Doug Schmidt Jr,
Logan Van Sickle |
| May 10 | Pastor Polege |
| May 11 | Lennon Anderson |
| May 12 | Pastor Dennis Schultz,
David Skjefte |
| May 13 | Merlin Buchholz, Jim Rigge |
| May 14 | Ashley Kirschbaum |
| May 15 | Lucas Canatsey,
Victoria Patterson |
| May 18 | Dorian Gatchell, Mason Hegna |
| May 20 | Andrew Lubrant |
| May 21 | Noah Christensen, Parker Hjelle,
MacKenzie Kotek |
| May 22 | Linda Hildahl, Lisa Ryer,
Daphne Timm |
| May 23 | Danica Anderson |
| May 24 | Clifford Anderson |
| May 25 | Garrett Cunningham, Kyra Kvam |
| May 26 | Wesley Anderson,
Andrew Beyer, Bobbi Reinke |
| May 27 | Sean Steffen |
| May 28 | Dennis Peterson |
| May 29 | Steve Reinke Jr, Carol Rude |

Birthday Blessings to you all.

Please contact the church office
if we missed yours.

PATRIOTIC WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, May 25 at 9:30 am

Following the service there will be a
"Sundae" coffee hour.

Please join us to celebrate Memorial Day.

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 2

Serving for May

Anderson, Bryan and Renae
 Berends, Randy and Tamra
 Beyer, Brian, and Laura
 Cobb, Kris and Holly
 Enninga, Dan and Kathy
 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
 Lindstrom, Nick and Hailey
 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
 Wegner, James and Eileen
 Zempel, Meredith
 Zempel, Nicole
 Zimmer, Kevin and Laura

LWML Happenings

Thanks to all who continue to contribute to the mites and the monthly "Noisy offerings." In April, \$37.47 was donated. This money will go toward LWML mission projects.

Thanks to Nancy Cuklanz, for organizing the Easter breakfast this year. Thanks to the ladies who provided delicious egg bakes and muffins as well! Also thank you to RaeAnn Hegna, Karla Meyer, Katelyn and Ashley Luepke for helping in the kitchen. We had a great turnout!

On Monday, April 21st, we held our quarterly meeting. We began our meeting with our guest speaker Jenn Johnson. Jenn spoke to us about her newly formed non-profit organization "Kelsi's Hope." Jenn and her family make gift bags for dialysis patients. They deliver them to many different locations within the state of MN and also other states. What a tribute in honor of her daughter who passed from kidney failure.

It was also decided to have the Summertime Pie Social on Wednesday, July 16th. Watch upcoming newslet-

Daily Bible Readings for May

May 1	Joshua 22	Job 31	Acts 14
May 2	Joshua 23-24	Job 32	Acts 15:1-21
May 3	Judges 1	Job 33	Acts 15:22-41
May 4	Judges 2-3	Job 34	Acts 16:1-15
May 5	Judges 4-5	Job 35	Acts 16:16-40
May 6	Judges 6	Job 36	Acts 17:1-15
May 7	Judges 7-8	Job 37	Acts 17:16-34
May 8	Judges 9	Job 38	Acts 18
May 9	Judges 10:1-11:33	Job 39	Acts 19:1-20
May 10	Judges 11:34-12:15	Job 40	Acts 19:21-41
May 11	Judges 13	Job 41	Acts 20:1-16
May 12	Judges 14-15	Job 42	Acts 20:17-38
May 13	Judges 16	Psalms 42	Acts 21:1-36
May 14	Judges 17-18	Psalms 43	Acts 21:37-22:29
May 15	Judges 19	Psalms 44	Acts 22:30-23:22
May 16	Judges 20	Psalms 45	Acts 23:23-24:9
May 17	Judges 21	Psalms 46	Acts 24:10-27
May 18	Ruth 1-2	Psalms 47	Acts 25
May 19	Ruth 3-4	Psalms 48	Acts 26:1-18
May 20	1 Samuel 1:1-2:10	Psalms 49	Acts 26:19-32
May 21	1 Samuel 2:11-36	Psalms 50	Acts 27:1-12
May 22	1 Samuel 3	Psalms 51	Acts 27:13-44
May 23	1 Samuel 4-5	Psalms 52	Acts 28:1-16
May 24	1 Samuel 6-7	Psalms 53	Acts 28:17-31
May 25	1 Samuel 8	Psalms 54	Romans 1:1-15
May 26	1 Samuel 9:1-10:16	Psalms 55	Romans 1:16-32
May 27	1 Samuel 10:17-11:15	Psalms 56	Romans 2:1-3:8
May 28	1 Samuel 12	Psalms 57	Romans 3:9-31
May 29	1 Samuel 13	Psalms 58	Romans 4
May 30	1 Samuel 14	Psalms 59	Romans 5
May 31	1 Samuel 15	Psalms 60	Romans 6

ters and bulletins for further updates. Our summer quarterly meeting then will be held on Sunday, July 13th after church to finalize the Summertime Pie Social. This will be a very brief meeting.

On Sunday, April 27th, Judy Rode attended the Spring Rally at Nicolai Lutheran Church in Canby. Opening devotions and prayer was led by Pastor Dean Roger. The guest speaker was Katy Gifford, from Wheaton. Her presentation was based on "Grace in God's Garden." She spoke about Joy, Trials and Tribulations. The Bible Study was led by our Pastoral Counselor, Pastor David Tilney, from St. Luke's of Wood Lake. The business meeting was conducted by Jane Remiger, Montevideo Zone President. VP Karen Nelson, Secretary, Marie Boetther and Pastor Counselor David Tilney, were all re-elected. Val Johnson, Lakeland 11 Regional VP reported on the April Board of Directors meeting and gave updated information on the National LWML Convention in Omaha.

The Altar Guild is looking for more volunteers to help in the months of June-July-Aug-Sept. If you are new to this, then we will pair you with someone who is experienced. You should be at least 16 years old and either men or women can do this job. If you are only available for a couple weeks that is fine too. Please contact the office or Sue Erickson or Mary Hammer.

Judy Rode, Mary Hammer and Sue Erickson plan on attending the National LWML Convention in Omaha June 26-29. This summer they will do a report on all the activities of the convention.

St. Paul Lutheran Church
Quarterly Voter's Meeting Minutes
March 16, 2025

(Covers period from Dec 10 to present.)

1. Meeting was called to order by Chairman DuWayne Galow. 35 members registered.
2. Opening prayer led by Pastor Polege.
3. Minutes from December's meeting was reviewed with no corrections/additions and the motion was made to approve by Jim W, 2nd by Merlin B. Motion passed.
4. Financial Report for February and Dec- Feb Designated Projects were reviewed. Note in Designated Projects the West Entrance and the 125th Anniversary funds are moved to the general fund, closing those accounts. The Vernon Rigge memorial of \$60 has been moved to the general fund per Jim Rigge. Thrivent Choice Dollars are coming in and a reminder that they need to be acted on by the end of March. Also note that minimum IRA's for those over age 70 can be donated to the church, saving taxes on both ends. It was reported that a \$300 donation was received this week from the Building Bridges Choir. Motion to approve both reports by Nancy C, 2nd by Jim W. Motion passed.
5. Pastoral Report: Pastor Polege shared his commitment to the church as vacancy pastor for as long as he can with Bible classes and confirmation classes, as well. He has been visiting our home bound usually on Mondays and tries to visit once a month.
6. Membership Report
 - Deaths: Dennis Gabbert died February 4, 2025 (no funeral service) spring burial
James Banken died February 6, 2025, funeral will be February 18, 2025
Allan Reinke died February 8, 2025
Dale Luepke Jr died February 11, 2025
Shirley Hempel died February 14, 2025 – funeral February 19, 2025
7. Board and Committee Reports
 - 7.1 Board of Elders

Dave Guertin reports about 9 home bound visits made. Catechism is going well. He talked to Pastor Finern and he wants to do a pre-call visit and has chosen Thursday, March 27th, following Lenten services. This will also go on our web site, bulletin, Facebook.
 - 7.2 Board of Trustees

Working on maintenance.
Tom has a possible janitorial person, also doing lawn care. Chris Elyea. We have allocated 6 hours/week just doing janitorial. He will be an independent contractor, not needing a background check. There will be a probationary period. Liability insurance should be under our church. He'll have flexible hours mostly during LuAnn's working hours. Kerry Steffen will train him.
The adjuster for our hail roof damage has given us a March date to check the roofs. Roofs will need addressing whatever the outcome as the shingles are nearing their end of life as 25-year shingles. We are insured through Brotherhood of Massachusetts.
 - 7.3 Special committees

No reports

Motion made by Tyler S to approve the Board reports, 2nd by Otto. Motion passed.
8. Old Business

The 2024 Financial Audit was done January 29, 2025, by Kathy Enninga, Sue Erickson, and Mary Kelly. They found the reports in order/complete.
Copies of the daily devotions "Forgiven to Forgive" suggested by Pastor Pumphrey are still available in the narthex.
9. New Business

Election:

 - a. Vice chairman: Merlin Bucholtz is interested.
 - b. Secretary: Carol will resign as treasurer in June to become secretary. Teresa Luepke will then be our treasurer.
 - c. Elders, 3: Brian Beyers and Dave Guertin.
 - d. Trustees, 2 : Otto Luepke and Tyler Staab.

Volunteers can be added.
Motion made by Phyllis to accept these positions, 2nd Kathy E. Motion passed.

We donate \$600/year to support missionary Jastram in Japan. Motion by Dave Yeager to continue, 2nd by Carol. Motion passed. Money has been taken from Thrivent Choice in the past.

The committee of Nancy Cuklanz, Sue Erickson, LuAnn Olson, and Phyllis Schultz reviewed the "Serving Guidelines for Weddings and other Events." Guidelines for serving funerals has been approved by Council in the past. This will be treated as the other guidelines approved by the congregation. Cleaning, minimum of \$100. Clergy, minimum of \$200. Motion to accept with changes by Dave Y, 2nd by Tyler. Motion passed.

Call Committee needed: 5 or 7 (odd numbers) are needed with the council suggesting preference on differing ages. Volunteers are Dave Yeager, Mary Kelly, Dave Guertin. We can leave until the call committee meeting with Pastor Finnern. Holly, Hailey, and Cindy are also interested but did not attend today. Preference to one person per family. Voting will take place at the meeting.

10 Announcements

Next Board of Elders and Council meetings are April 8th.

11. Adjourn with the Lord's Prayer and Dinner Prayer

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Hammer

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

Vital Statistics

Attendance and Offering Report for April

<u>Date</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Offering</u>
Thur, Apr 3	32	\$700.00
Sun, Apr 6	73	\$1,857.00
Thur, Apr 10	43	\$330.00
Sun, Apr 13	76	\$3,021.00
Thur, Apr 17	60	\$275.00
Fri, Apr 18	57	\$960.00
Sun, Apr 20	135	\$4,263.00
Sun, Apr 27	56	\$775.00

Financials as of 4-28-2025

Year to Date Actual Contributions	\$51,105.58
Year to Date Budgeted Income	<u>\$56,675.32</u>
Difference	(\$5,569.74)
Year to Date Actual Expenses	\$49,502.74
Year to Date Budgeted Expenses	<u>\$56,675.32</u>
Difference	\$7,172.58

(2025 Budget Income needed each Sunday - \$3,270.00)

**Our thanks to those who
donated a plant for
our Easter garden.**



Merlin and Sylvia Buchholz in memory of loved ones.

Larry and Nancy Cuklanz in memory of loved ones.

Tom and Tammy Edman in memory of loved ones.

Dan and Kathy Enninga in memory of all our loved ones.

Wes and Sue Erickson in memory of loved ones.

Pete and LeAnn Gunlogson in memory of loved ones.

Mary Hammer in memory of Merle, Paul and Val Schei,
Marvin Hammer and Monroe and Hazel Rachie.

Joyce Luckow in memory of the love of my life.

Dorothy Nokleby in memory of loved ones.

Anita Rigge in memory of all our loved ones.

Pastor and Phyllis Schultz in memory of our parents.

Kerry and Julie Steffen in memory of loved ones.

Al Timm in memory of Mavis Timm and Curt Timm.

Jim and Eileen Wegner in memory of loved ones.

Dave and Darlene Yeager in memory of our sons Brian and Scott.

cont, from page 1

Our life in the Holy City will be in exclusive company. The text tells us that this city is surrounded by a great wall. *"It had a great high wall with twelve gates. . ."* Walls are constructed to divide. They leave some inside and some outside. Having seen a heavenly city with walls, John is telling us that there are some who will not enjoy living in eternal bliss. They are those who refuse and reject God's gift of faith in Jesus. They are those who have no time for God or His Church during their earthly lives. They are those who will be condemned to eternal darkness and damnation. In Biblical times, cities were constructed with walls to keep invaders out. And so, the walls of the Holy City will keep those who Jesus said will be *"thrown into outer darkness where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."* But to be brought to faith in Jesus in this life is like being brought from darkness into God's marvelous light.

In the Holy City, we are told that angels are assigned to guard the twelve gates in the great wall. They check the credentials of those desiring to enter. Some people deny the existence of this place beyond space and time. They can't see it, so it doesn't exist. Others believe that all people will live in heaven, because God is all good and merciful. He could never condemn anyone to eternal torment in hell. Others strive with their pious and self-righteous lives to save up enough merits for admission. For them, the price is too high. But then again for others, the price has been paid for by Jesus. Our admission to the Holy City cost the life of the Son of God. Those in the vision standing before the throne are those who have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

Even though our new life in the Holy City will be in exclusive company, it is not too late for others to be included. The opportunity for eternal life is open to everyone – to family members or friends who now see no relevance for Christ in their lives, to those who have drifted away from Jesus, to those in our communities who couldn't care less about any kind of relationship with God. The opportunity is still available to them while there is still time. How does one provide any real comfort to the survivors of a deceased person, who had no use for God in His life? On death's bed, it is too late. One can approach the Holy City from any direction. No one is excluded because of race, age, social status, or any other human criteria. In heaven, there is no skin color, no age, no social classes, no human sources of envy and jealousy. The names of God's chosen people are inscribed on the gates. God knows we are coming even before we get there. Our names have already been written in the Book of Life the day we were baptized.

The divine revelation conveyed to us through the apostles is the foundation of our future Holy City. There were twelve foundations, each with the name of an apostle of Christ. The way into this place is not hard to find. In fact, the way is found in the Bible. God has given us His Word by direct inspiration. We find in this holiest of books the true Gospel, the living Gospel, the very power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes. Do you really believe that God's power to save is found in the Bible? If you do, then the apostolic Word is your Word of life, your access to repentance, your means to faith and forgiveness, your ticket to eternal splendors.

Catching a glimpse of our new home should be motivating us every day to build our faith in the foundation of the apostles and the Lord Jesus. With Jesus reaching out and holding on to us through His Word, we won't be left out in the darkness of our sin, remembering what we had been offered in this life and what we had rejected. The Bible is the Book of Life, the means through which Jesus guarantees our entrance into the Holy City. We must not hide it away in our closets, stick it away among other books on a bookshelf, leave it out on a coffee table so that others can see it. We must not ignore its relevance for our lives today and its relevance for our lives tomorrow. We must open its covers often. We must wear out its pages. We must grow in its knowledge. We must let it become a part of us, a part of our lives. When we are united with His Word, we are united with Jesus. Through it, we receive strength against temptations. We receive saving faith in our forgiveness. Through it, we receive comfort and hope for the future awaiting us. AMEN.

May God bless you always,

Rev. Donald Polege

Honoring our Veterans

On May 26th we will celebrate Memorial Day to honor our veterans. How many of us have seen this cross in the courtyard and ever looked at the engraving on the bottom of the cross. It says: "In Loving Memory of Gene Krongard 1933-1951." This cross was first displayed at the old church and then moved to our current church after it was built. A loving memorial from his family.

This young man who at the age of 17 passed away in the Korean War. Gene Kent Krongard was a Seaman Apprentice who served during the Korean War. Born on December 10, 1933 in Yellow Medicine County, he tragically lost his life on May 13, 1951. Krongard was aboard the USS Lofberg in Yokosuka, Japan, touring the ship with his fellow shipmate Irvin McDaniel when a tragic accident occurred. The ship's Hedgehogs fired, resulting in the deaths of both Krongard and McDaniel on Mother's Day in 1951. He is buried at St. Paul Cemetery. Krongard's sacrifice is remembered, and his name lives on as part of the history of the Korean War.





May 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<p><u>Acolytes</u></p> <p>Sun 4 Lucas Canatsey Sun 11 Madelynn Staab Sun 18 Sara Canatsey Sun 25 Brielle Redepen-</p>	<p>1</p> <p>9 am Bldg Bridges Choir 1:30 pm Bible Study</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>
<p>4</p> <p>9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Coffee Time and Choir Recognition 10:45 am K-3rd gr Sunday School 1 pm Confirmation Class</p>	<p>5</p>	<p><u>Altar Guild</u></p> <p>Holly Cobb and Cindy Rigge</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p> <p>9 am Bldg Bridges Choir 1:30 pm Bible Study</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p>
<p>11</p> <p>9:30 am Communion Service 10:30 am Coffee Time 10:45 am K-3rd gr Sunday School 10:45 am Adult Bible Class 1 pm Confirmation Class</p>	<p>13</p> <p>6:30 pm Board of Elders 7 pm Church Council</p> <p>St. Paul Lutheran</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p> <p>9 am Bldg Bridges Choir 1:30 pm Bible Study</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>
	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Newsletter Articles Due</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p> <p>“Dinner at Your Door”</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>
<p>18</p> <p>9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Coffee Time and Graduate Recognition 10:45 am K-3rd gr Sunday School 10:45 am Adult Bible Class 1 pm Confirmation Class</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Newsletter Articles Due</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p> <p>9 am Bldg Bridges Choir 1:30 pm Bible Study</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>
<p>25</p> <p>9:30 am Communion Service 10:30 am Coffee Time 10:45 am K-3rd gr Sunday School 10:45 am Adult Bible Class 1 pm Confirmation Class</p>	<p>26</p> <p>memorial DAY</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p> <p>9 am Bldg Bridges Choir 1:30 pm Bible Study</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>