

St. Paul
EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN
CHURCH

Missouri
Synod

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Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ:

The church is never in summer mode for Jesus is one day closer to returning to this world and we are His Church, actively "making disciples," and faithfully being good stewards of His gifts. It's amazing how, in God's way, we get when we give and rather than losing something we actually gain more in the things of God. As you read about the ministry we share here at St. Paul, consider where God is calling you to use His gifts to you, and go and do.

From the desk of Vicar Larry

Another course complete! In what has been billed as the hardest of the SMP program, I have completed "Lutheran Confession of Faith". This class is specifically designed to precede ordination, when I will be confessing that Scripture is the inerrant Word of God, and that the Book of Concord and its writings are the proper exposition of the Word of God, and that this is my faith. The final paper is a kind of "Basics of what we believe". Please let me know if you are interested in a copy of it. I plan on using it for those I know that are interested in a basic understating of the Christian faith or are from another denomination and want to understand confessional Lutheranism better.

2024 is already as a year of major changes! Each class of training and intensive with my cohort is a growing experience. Supporting my Mom through health issues. Dealing with my health issues. Preparing to wish my sister farewell as she and her family move to Tennessee. Celebrating a year at the radio station. Our youngest, Meagan, graduating from college and moving out on her own. Coming up in July is my ordination and installation at St. Paul. Oh, and let's not forget... Claire Elizabeth Hatfield - Our Granddaughter. This has been an intense stretch of time and most of you know exactly what I'm talking about, because you've lived through it. You've ridden the roller coaster. Maybe you are on the roller coaster now. Fortunately, we know the One who is orchestrating our story within His Master Story. We know the One who loved us enough to die for us. We believe, by faith, that God is with us through it all, both the joy and the pain, and that He will bring us to His presence forever, where the pain is gone, and there will be eternal joy and peace. Thank you for your prayers, and for walking with Cheryl and me on this journey together. We are grateful for you and love you immensely. Blessings and peace!

Board of Elders – Dennis Pieper

We live in a time of blessings that we did not have when St. Paul was started in 1868. There was no indoor plumbing or electricity, so, no refrigerators, toilets, microwaves, or hairdryers. Your medicine cabinet would not have Advil or Tylenol. Of course there was no TV, Telephones, or radio, let alone internet, cell phones, and wireless connections. But they did have something we still have today, that being the Word of God, the Bible. So, in this time of discipleship growth, let's see the Blessings and seek ways to share the Blessing.

Church Council – Blessed to be a blessing

Every church is blessed with people who have talents, skills, and gifts which were given to enrich the believers in that church. Clearly, we have people who work to complete tasks – look at all our active groups. However, the leaders say "I don't want to go to meetings or plan future tasks and events." But what happens if the person(s) is no longer able to coordinate the group? How can we work together to assure the ministry continues? How can we (the various groups work together and perhaps fill an even greater need? Keep in mind, you have been, Blessed, how might you Be a Blessing.

Treasurer – Paul Szymanski

When we talk about giving to a church we immediately think about finances, but God asks us for more than that. He wants us to have a charitable heart, to give our whole selves to Him, hence "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind" (Luke 10:27). I challenge you to consider other ways that you can give to God. Maybe it's serving on the church council, or helping with the food pantry, or attending bible study. We all have gifts that enable us to be of service to others, if you aren't using them somewhere, find a way to get out there and be the hands and feet of Jesus.

Youth Director – Paul Szymanski

Summer is almost here. Nothing specific on the calendar as of yet, but keep an eye on the bulletin for upcoming events and dates. There will also soon be information on beginning to plan for the National Youth Gathering. I am attending the National Youth Workers conference in July and then we will be hitting the ground running come fall. Keep an eye out for information regarding registration for this awesome event.

Vacation Bible School – June 17th – 21st

Hometown Nazareth – Where Jesus was a Kid - Registration is open – You can register at <https://vbsmate.com/StPaulMatteson>. If you need assistance in registering, please feel free to contact the office and we can walk you through it. We will look into the Bible, God's Holy Word, and discover that who Jesus is, and how He lived to give us eternal life with Him!

VBS Helpers

We could use a few more helpers for VBS – specifically with crafts, which this year is the Nazareth Marketplace and as a group leader – No teaching is required as a group leader. Contact Kate Habenicht for more information

Mission Quilt News – Karen Gustafson

About 50 completed quilts were presented in church on Sunday, May 19th, and we were able to see the fruits of our labor as the blankets were on the backs of the pews. We also prayed for the ones who would be receiving these quilts as they will be sent to Lutheran World Relief for distribution to various places. What a joy-filled fellowship we have as we gather to assemble these quilts! We meet and continue working on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month from 9 - 11 am.

Summer Ladies Bible Study

The Summer Ladies Bible Study begins on Thursday, June 6th at 6:30 pm. Come and join us as we learn about the Psalms by using Max Lucado's book, "Life Lessons from Psalms." All ladies are welcome! Contact person is Karen Gustafson (708) 478-1841.

St Paul Food Pantry – Rich & Ruth Treichel

The food pantry has been the recipient of various food drives in the area. This food adds diversity to the food received from Greater Chicago Food Depository. Our many volunteers work very hard to fill 200 bags every Friday so we are prepared for the weekly Saturday challenge of serving around 200 families. We begin serving the food early every Saturday morning as the cars are wrapped around the church. Everything is very well organized, thanks to our wonderful volunteers. Come join us on a Saturday, and you will be amazed at how many people are helped and how well the food pantry runs!

Grandparents

Here are a couple ideas for connecting with your grandchildren in June: Do a backyard or living room campout; ask your grandchildren to teach you something they are good at; assign a day for each grandchild that you will pray for them then call or text them for specific requests. See your 2024 Grandparenting Planner for more ideas and encouragement.

Fellowship and Fire

For thousands of years, men have gathered around a fire for many reasons including celebrations and supporting each other. You are invited to join other men **Thursday, June 20th @ 7:00 P.M.** as we come together to relax, celebrate our victories, and support each other around a fire. You only need to bring your favorite outdoor chair and your favorite campfire consumables (beverage, snacks, etc.). We will gather behind the Education Building – just look for the fire.

Mission Focus for April, May & June – 2024 Alaska Mission Trip

This year will be St. Paul's 10th mission trip to Alaska. St. Paul is sending 15 missionaries to Alaska in July. The VBS team will conduct Vacation Bible School for the children and Community Meals for all residents of Mentasta Lake. The Work Team will perform construction, maintenance, and cleanup projects for families and residents and small businesses in Copper Center, Glenallen, Kenny Lake, and surrounding communities. Please support the mission trip with your prayers and contributions.

Help Needed

- **Drivers are needed to shuttle Alaska Missionaries** to O'Hare on Wednesday, July 24th and Friday, July 26th. Drivers are also needed to pick up the missionaries at O'Hare and bring them back to St. Paul on Sunday morning, August 4th. Please contact Scott Schulz if you can assist.
- **The Technology Team** is looking for volunteers to assist with the sound during the worship services, transmitting the worship services over You Tube and Facebook, and projecting the order of worship on the screens. No experience is required and we will train you. Please contact Bill Miller if you are interested.

Voice of Care: Spiritual Respite Companion Care Workshop

On May 18th Voice of Care and St. Paul came together to learn the basic skills of caring for others. We see the opportunity for St. Paul to establish connections within our congregation and community to share the love of Jesus and meet very practical needs. 100% of those attended spoke that the workshop was meaningful and fun. Voice of Care has two more workshops scheduled: June 1st at Immanuel Dundee and June 2nd at Trinity Roselle. Check voiceofcare.org for details and to register. Call Dennis Pieper at 708-750-4954 and he can sign you up.

In Closing...

This summer is time for family, and family is by God's design for our good. We include Sunday worship in our family life because God, your Heavenly Father, knows you need it and gives you His Word and His gifts in Jesus' Body & Blood. Blessings come in Christian community as we give and receive God's care through the people of the church. To God be the Glory.

Peace,

Pastor T.