

September 26, 2024

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ:

From Pastor Larry's desk

In my former jobs one piece of advice that I was given to help encourage participation was to change the way I asked for questions. Traditionally, I would ask, "Do you have any questions?" and most of the time, the answer to that would be "no". The better question to ask is "What questions do you have?" It encourages those that are shy to participate. Most importantly, it addresses the fact that we usually do have questions about something. I encourage our Confirmation Students to ask questions. I encourage you to do the same. I try and do the same as well. And when you do, I encourage you to ask a person those questions. Yes, the Internet is a repository of information, but the Internet, even despite the latest advances in technology, won't really engage you. This is how we not only learn more information, (and specifically about God and faith is my hope), but how we challenge each other to think about what we learn and what we think we know. Asking questions fills in blanks that we didn't know existed. Asking questions challenges us to come up with our own thoughts on what the answer is before we "Google it".

For instance, at the top of crosses/crucifixes, you will see the letters INRI. Why is that? What does that mean? If you don't know, don't feel bad. It's a common question I get. When you do have questions, please know that Pastor Troester and I are here to help you answer them. You can get a hold of us in many ways- feel free to use them! And, I'm not going to answer that question about INRI here. I'm happy to answer it though. Just ask...

Board of Elders – Dennis Pieper – Head Elder

A vision statement for St. Paul is, "Blessed are those who hear the word of the Lord, and keep it." Luke 11:28. The sermon series on the book of James has taught us, we are saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ, and we are led to do the good works that God has called us to do. To put it into the terms of our Luke verse: Now that we have heard the saving words of Jesus, our Lord, we keep that word by keeping, obeying, putting it into practice, daily.

Church Council - Dennis Pieper

About the time you receive this newsletter St. Paul will be celebrating the ministry of Pastor Troester, here at St. Paul and within the Kingdom. Knowing Pastor Troester he will say, "Don't look at me, look to Jesus." Yet, it is proper to look at people in your lives who have encouraged you in your walk with Jesus. Mom, Dad, Grandparents, friends and other family members, are just a few whom God has brought alongside His word to draw you into relationship with Him. How are you doing at being an example for others? Are involved beyond Sunday morning worship? Do you have daily devotions, in a Bible study, using your skills and abilities to support St. Paul ministry and elsewhere? As Pastor Troester has strived to follow Jesus, we strive to do likewise. See you at our Voter's Meeting on October 20th. May we work together to further His kingdom.

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Youth Director – Paul Szymanski

Registration for next year's LCMS National Youth Gathering is right around the corner. If you have any questions about that or need a registration form please reach out and I will get you one. Forms are due to me by October 20th. We will be going to Fright Fest at Great America in October, so keep your eyes on the bulletin for information.

Focus Mission for the 4th Quarter is Lutheran Church Charities

Across all the ministries of LCC, their desire is to *BE THERE* to share the Mercy, Compassion, Presence and Proclamation of Jesus Christ to those who are suffering and in need. Amid life's storms, LCC's steady presence becomes a beacon of hope, a reminder that God's love is unwavering. St. Paul's support will help Lutheran Church Charities in answering the call to be a source of strength and comfort, to cast aside fear and doubt, and *BE THERE* to bring light to the darkest corners of crisis.

Mission Quilts - Women in Mission – Karen Gustafson

On Sunday, September 22nd, 40 quilts and items from the Prayer Shawl Ministry were put in the church. A quilt was offered to any college student in the congregation to use while away at school. We hope to wrap these students with warmth and comfort knowing that their home church friends remember them while they are there. The remaining quilts were boxed up to be sent to Lutheran World Relief - an organization that distributes them to places in need worldwide. The quilting group continues to meet on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month from 9 am until 11 am. We invite anyone to join us and help us tie quilts together for a few hours. And as always, we thank those who help with the work either at home or by bringing donations to the church for us to use. God bless!

Lutheran Women in Mission

The LWML group from the Northern Illinois District recently held its 77th Convention at Trinity Lutheran Church in Tinley Park. About 150 people attended this convention and our church also sent one delegate to participate in this event. Karen Gustafson was able to attend and help vote on the new Mission Grants for the new biennium (2024-2026.) These Mission Grants are funded through the mite box donations used throughout our churches. The donations are split between the local mission projects and the national mission goals. Many thanks to those who have already returned their boxes - mite offerings "given in prayer." If you have a Mite Box at home, remember to drop your spare change in there a little at a time and you will be amazed at how quickly it fills up! The mite offerings are ongoing and you can bring them in whenever your box is ready and then take a new box to fill. There is a larger purple box at the back of the church for you to return your mite box into. It is amazing to see the projects that have been completed with these donations. They are "Mighty Mites" for sure! More information about the convention and mission selections will be shared at the October meeting of the Ladies Aid - Lutheran Women in Mission.

Ladies Aid - Women in Mission – Mallory Kelly

Ladies, you are invited to attend our Tuesday, October 8th gathering in the narthex at noon. If you are able, please bring a salad to share.

Support our Troops – Mallory Kelly

Hope is a powerful force that can guide people through even the darkest of moments. Please offer hope through your continued donations of prayer squares, snack items, hygiene items, and cards of thanks/support to our soldiers. Blank cards and coloring sheets can be found on the military table. A handwritten thank you from Lt. Col Rebecca Bolz, "Thank you so much for the thoughtful care package with snacks, hygiene items, and cards for the Marines and Sailors of Combat Logistics Battalion 5. The care packages have been distributed to the Marines and Sailors significantly increasing morale and making each feel a bit closer to home, we are truly blessed to have your continued support. Thank you for all you do and for making our job a little easier."

St. Paul Food Pantry-Rich & Ruth Treichel

The St. Paul Food Pantry continues to be blessed with hard-working volunteers both on Fridays and Saturdays. We had a telephone call from a local food pantry, which was having plumbing problems, and we were asked if we could use the food they in store as they needed to close for a few days. A number of our volunteers loaded up their cars with extra food for our patrons to receive. In addition, we are currently working on the food for the Thanksgiving and Christmas distributions. More on this to come. Join us on Friday mornings or Saturday mornings to help feed the hungry in the area!

College Corner Ministry – Stacey Schmeckpeper & Kathy Johnson

We had a very successful launch to our ministry on the third Sunday of September. We had 21 college students "adopted" by congregation members for a \$10 adoption fee which covered the cost of the gift card that was sent. Members wrote a message on a card of greeting and were given the name of their adopted student to hang on their refrigerator and remember that student this month in their prayers. The packages were sent out the day after the adoption day thanks to Dale and Kathy Johnson. Students reported receiving their mailing within the week. I have received a first-hand report that the Skittles were consumed between the mailbox and the apartment door. :) Students received their first texted Bible verse on Wednesday, September 25th and will continue to receive a texted Bible verse on Wednesdays. **Our next adoption day will be Sunday, October 13, 2024.** We are up to 23 college students. Again, we will be looking for people to adopt students for a \$10 fee (covers the gift card cost) for the month of October. We are excited to be reaching out to these young men and women. Please consider supporting this mission by praying for our students and making a financial donation to help cover the cost of postage, mailing supplies, paper, ink, and the little treats that are sent monthly.

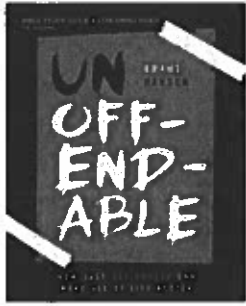
Grandparents

A legacy is not leaving something for somebody, it is leaving something in somebody. You will leave an indelible mark on your family and that will be your legacy. What do you want your mark to look like? How will you be remembered? The Biblical role of a grandparent is to leave a legacy so that our children's grandchildren will one day follow Jesus and make Him Lord of their lives. Ask the Lord to make this a reality for every person in your family. See the October pages in your 2024 Grandparenting Planner for ideas on activities to connect with your grandchildren.

Fellowship and Fire

St. Paul Men, come out and join other men **Thursday, October 17th, at 7:00pm**, as we come together to relax, celebrate victories, tell stories, solve some problems, and support each other around a fire. You only need to bring your favorite lawn chair and

your favorite campfire consumables (beverage, snacks, etc.). You will find us behind the St. Paul Education wing – just look for the fire. Bring a friend.



Men

In this highly charged culture these days it is hard to not be offended by something. Whether you're scrolling through social media, sitting around the dinner table, or watching the news, how can you not be offended by something? But what if "righteous anger" isn't actually biblical? What if anger isn't an effective response to injustice anyway? God does not need you to be angry. Instead, Christ calls us to do something radical and countercultural: Let go of your anger and forgive. Join the Saturday Morning Men's Crew at the church or online for our next six-week study, Unoffendable, when we will

discover practical ways and biblical reasons to let go of anger and our "right" to be offended. Being unoffendable is a choice, and one that will help you flourish in the way God intended. Contact Scott Schulz for more information.

Trunk or Treat Halloween

Thursday, October 31st we will be open from 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. for Trick-or-Treaters from the community and our church to come. You can participate by coming out to the church, open your trunk and hand out treats to kids from the neighborhood. Or, you can bring treats for us to hand out to those who come. Watch the bulletin for more information.

Ladies Advent by Candlelight

Ladies, you don't want to miss this year's **Advent by Candlelight on Sunday, December 1st at 3:30pm** in the St. Paul Fellowship Hall. Please plan to join us for an afternoon of fellowship, enjoying a beautiful program with music entitled "Take Me to the Manger" and delicious food. All women, ages 13 and up, of St. Paul's Church are invited and encouraged to invite their friends and family to prepare their hearts for Advent. There is no charge for this event. Look for a sign-up sheet coming towards the end of October.

In Closing...

The fact that it is 40 years since my Ordination into the Public Ministry is a testament to God's faithfulness in keeping His promise to make sure that we are not Sheep without a Shepherd. Jesus is the Good Shepherd, the Greatest '*Pastor*', and Pastor Larry and I are under-shepherds who serve in the calling and power of Jesus Christ, who had compassion on us "shepherd-less" sheep who are wandering without a Shepherd. Through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, you (the Sheep) called both of us to '*shepherd*' you, and you have provided a living for us through your gifts and your partnership in this ministry. Together we minister to a community, many of whom are 'sheep' looking for a shepherd, or worse yet, following 'shepherds' who are leading them astray and following the devil. Keep searching God's Word for the Truth, and asking questions of us to help you as you grow in the Truth about God.

**In Him
Pastor T.**