

St. Paul Lutheran Church

Sept 2023 Newsletter

*From the
Pastor's Desk*



**Greetings and His peace to
you!**

You've heard it many times before and it hasn't changed yet. And it won't until Jesus the Christ returns to make all new.

I speaking of the Fallen-ness of not only us as human creatures, but also on/in the world that we live in. While we are still here on earth, we are subject to everything that the devil, the Fallen world itself, and our own sinful natures have to throw at us. It's inevitable that we fall prey to those sinful things and often enough it's just like God's servant, the Apostle Paul, write in **Romans 7:15-20** concerning doing the things that we shouldn't do and not doing the things we should. I affectionately call this "the Paul tongue twister." Seriously though, he hits the nail right on the head, even the first part where he shares that he just doesn't understand why this keeps happening over and over. He later identifies the cause for what it is- it's the sin within us and around us.

It'd be all too easy to give up because we're so surrounded by what our own natures and this worldly world hammer us down with. Sometimes it seems like we're even at odds with not just the world and all the evil that is in it, but from our own families too. Even our church family. No one is immune from being attacked, battered, and beaten down so much and/or often, that we feel like we have nothing left and want to quit trying.

To stop fighting would be a really bad mistake. The 'quitting' road travels to isolation and despair which only leads to a very dark place where many people have been lost. God will not give us more than we can handle and we have His promise on it in **1 Corinthians 10:13**. And part of that help to endure comes in the form of our brothers and sisters in God's family.

It is certainly a precious gift from our LORD Himself when we are able to support and pray for one another, especially when one of us is in need. We are members of one body- the body of Christ. And when one part is hurting, the other parts hurt too. Following Jesus' lead, we care for one another.

Is there a 'flip' side to helping and 'building up' of our brothers and sisters (or neighbors)? Yes.

Do you get angry or upset because something is being done that you don't like, or, for whatever reason, think is pointless or even worthless? Do you think something is being done or said wrong, or not the way you would do it? Do you vocalize these feelings/opinions in a helpful manner, or are you, as the Apostle Paul put it, a noisy gong, just making loveless, hurtful noise instead of a calming, beautiful melody?

As your undershepherd, and maybe more importantly, your brother in Christ, it grieves my heart when unhelpful things are spoken secretly, or even worse, blatantly said or done. This should not be. We are of one family with the same goal. That goal is to tell people about the Good News that is Jesus the Christ crucified and Risen for our sins giving us eternal life. We are not doing that one task well if we are too busy speaking out against one another or ideas that might be helpful tools for spreading the Gospel. We are to be helpful, not a hindrance.

That being said, let us ALL examine ourselves, ask God for forgiveness where we have done wrong, help to be better, joyful, servant children in His family, and to begin anew each day, helping, building up, and strengthening one another as our Lord and Savior did for us all so that we go out into the world telling others what Jesus has done for them!

God's richest blessings to you and your family!

in His name,

Pastor Mike Metzler



CHURCH NEWS



Sept Acolyte Schedule:

Sept 3rd: Piper

Sept 10th: Norah

Sept 17th: Corbin

Sept 24th: Hunter

Ushers: Tony Nelson and John Maser

THANK YOU to Vacation Bible School kids, Levi, Henry, Cadence, Marlowe, Abe, Lucy, Davis, Isaac, Charlie, Nash, Harlan and Elliotte for coloring the Suncatchers for our home bound members. They really appreciate them, and now enjoying them hanging in their windows.

Wednesday Bible Study begins on September 13th at 10am. Everyone is welcome!

If you are a family with children up to 20 years of age, please join us for a **Meatball Dinner** on Wednesday Sept 6th from 5 to 7pm. Let us take care of you and your family while you visit and play with those going through the same season of life as you! If you have any questions contact Jayne or Pastor or text 320-279-2153. There will be no cost, but we would appreciate it if you would let us know that you are coming so that we can adequately prepare.

Grindstone Lake Bible Camp Women's Retreat: Sept 15th and 16th. For more information, contact Grindstone Lake Bible Camp at 320-245-2777. The costs are: for Friday only its \$30, for Saturday only it is \$45 or for the full weekend it is \$60.

GermanFest is coming up! Save the date: Friday October 13th! Start thinking of silent auction donations, pie auctions and if you can help in anyway.

Minnesota Adult and Teen Challenge Duluth Gala: is on October 19, 2023. Postcards about this event is at church, on the table. More information in the next newsletter.

Bingo! Come join us on Wednesday Sept 20th at 1pm for an afternoon of BINGO!

SURVEY!! Please fill out the survey that is located near the end of this newsletter. You can return it to the church office, by mail, or by email to the church. Thank you for taking the time to fill out this survey!

Sunday School & CASE: Look for information coming up in the bulletins and next months newsletter.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Sept 2023

1st: Corbin Klande
7th: Troy and Tonette Peterson
10th: Hannah Davis
12th: Matt Maser
13th: Charles and Michelle Grewe
15th: Croix Brant
16th: Shandy Jorgenson
Brady and Christina Somnuk
21st: Doug and Wendy Kottke
23rd: Jim Christenson
24th: Ron and Ashely Brant
25th: Jim Jarvis
26th: Mike Sorenson
28th: Trent and Tina Rabe
29th: Tim and Nichole Hansen

Flower Chart:

Sept 3rd: Wendy Kottke
...in loving memory of Scott Graber
Sept 10th: Jennifer Kubesh
...in loving memory of Gerry Graber
Sept 17th: Lois Kruse
...in loving memory of Marlin
Sept 24th: (Open)

There are open spots available in October and November for flowers. Honor a loved one and sign up!



SUPPLICATIONS

Supplications are requests in prayer on behalf of others. Supplications may be things such as healing, to things like a better job or the like. Here are some supplications:

For **all world leaders**, that they would look to the one, true, God, follow His guidance, do what is upright in God's sight in serving their fellow human creatures in their God-given vocations and having the courage not 'cave in' to their own wills and wants.

For **all those struggling to be motivated**, that God help those struggling to look to Him for courage and strength to keep trying and not give up, and direct their hands and feet to do all for His glory.

For **Arden Gruett, Lois Kruse, Lorraine Robbins, Florence Berquist**, and those we name in our hearts, for God's continued healing and comfort for them and their families.

For those in the **U.S. Coast Guard**, as they serve in their vocations that keep us safe and secure. God grant them courage and honor to meet the daily challenges, both in their training and when they are called upon to do their duty.

For the **Pine County Sheriff's Office Deputies** that they know that God watches over them as they continue to help maintain order and keep us safe.

For the **Willow River Fire Dept.** that they remember that God protects them as they serve us.



FUN AT MASER'S MEADOWS FARM!

Saturday, Sept 23rd from 4 to 7 pm.

Non pot-luck picnic, with **lawn** games, **hay rides**,
firepit fire (conditions permitting), fellowship, &
maybe even some impromptu contests!

at Matt & Jayne Maser's place.

3072 350th Ave.

Come & join the fun!

Contact Jayne or Pastor for more info

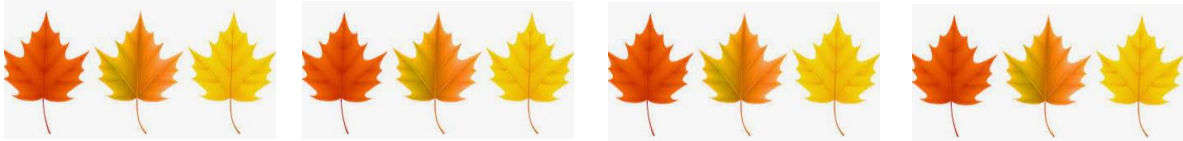
LITTLE LAMBS



Little Lambs did not reach the required enrollment number to remain open this fall. Enrolled families have been given notice.

The preschool committee will work with Staci to ensure tasks for closure are completed.

New ideas are being welcomed from all for how our congregation can best serve our community. The committee will share with the council.



Confirmation Corner

This year's Circuit Confirmation Retreat was exciting! Trinity in Isle hosted on Friday, Aug 11th in the evening and we parted company on Sat, Aug 12th after breakfast and a morning devotional worship service. Friday night was full of study of the Sacrament of the Altar (Holy Communion), some snacks, and played some cool games including a Bible verse scavenger hunt!

Confirmation 2023-24 is fast approaching and will begin on **Sunday, Sept 10 from 10:30am to 12 noon** and continue throughout the year until May. Examination day is May 18 and Confirmation Day is Sunday, May 19.

Returning as a 2nd year student is **Piper Brant**. She is joined by 4 first year students- **Norah Ausmus, Corbin Klande, Hunter Peterson, and Charlotte Rabe**.

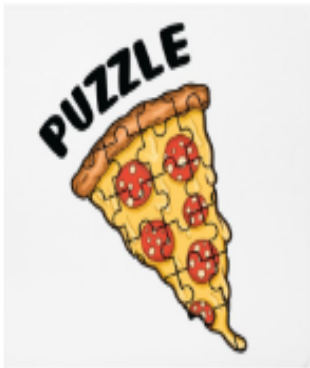
If you know someone who would benefit from adult confirmation instruction, or just have a question or 2, please contact the pastor by office phone voicemail 320-384-6267 (ext 2), cell (or text) 763-286-4803, or email at revmetzler18@gmail.com

Youth Group

Youth Group Invitation

All youth grades 7-12 are invited to join us for youth group. We meet one Wednesday each month for dinner, devotion, and other activities. Additional events and activities may be planned throughout the year based on group interest and commitment.

PIZZA AND PUZZLES NIGHT



Wednesday, September 13, 6pm at the church. We will kick off the youth group year with Pizza and Puzzles night. Bring your appetite and your skills to conquer a variety of puzzle types with your team - decoding, jigsawing, cross wording, word searching, wire untwisting, peg triangles and whatever else we can think of. Bring yourself, bring a friend. Text Rebecca if you have questions or want to share your favorite pizza. 612-247-9319 See you there!

Did you know?

What is *unrepentant*? What does it mean to be *impenitent*? As you might have suspected, these 2 words are related. They mean the same thing.

Last newsletter, we explored the *Office of the Keys* (the power to ‘unlock’ heaven by forgiveness or to ‘lock’ heaven by not giving forgiveness from **John 20:22-23**) and how Jesus gave His church on earth the power to forgive someone if they were repentant and not forgive them if they were unrepentant.

If a person is described as being *unrepentant* or *impenitent*, they are not sorry for the sin or sins they have committed. In other words, the sinner in question either does not believe they have sinned against God or their neighbor and not sorry, OR the person knows they have sinned and is not sorry at all, blatantly refusing to ask for forgiveness from God and/or their neighbor.

Opposite of these two words is *repentant*. If a person is described as being repentant, he or she, is truly sorry for their sin/sins, asks God and possibly their neighbor for forgiveness, and also asks God for help to do better.

St. Paul Lutheran Church
Unapproved Council Minutes
August 7, 2023

Present: Aaron Peterson, Star Lawin, Wendy Kottke, Rod Lawin, Doug Kottke, David Berquist, John Frank, Bill Morgan, David Berquist, Pastor Mike Metzler, Jennifer Kubesh

Meeting called to order by Aaron Peterson at 7:05pm

Secretary's Report was accepted, motion by Bill and second by Star

Treasurer's Report was accepted, motion by Doug second by Star.

Balance as of August 3rd

Income: 63,977.72 Total Expense: 80,597.50 Savings: 33,754.84

Checking: 4,121.30 Net Ordinary Income: -16,619.78

Pastor's Report: 6 Home visits, 4 office visits/meetings, 1 off site meeting, attended Vacation Bible School, Little Lambs Preschool open house, upcoming confirmation retreat, writing for the newspaper, attending summer gospel concerts, elders meeting. Finalize plans for confirmation retreat, working on liturgies for fall and advent, and talking to Pastor Tim about upcoming men's group retreats.

Trustee's report: Keeping the lawn mowing going with the help of Chuck and after the last storm, found some leaks in the church. More later.

Old Business:

Roof Valley Caps have been installed. Aaron did some research, the valley caps were likely installed improperly, so Aaron wrote a letter to Miller's Roofing. Moving forward with the roof, motion by David and second by Rod to send this letter and see what happens.

New Business:

Bank Resolution: Still a work in process.

Sunday School: We would like a Board of Education to begin, so talk to a few people who might be willing to lead this, and then look for teachers for Sunday School.

Pastor and Aaron will work on this and contact the people to see if they can get this started. CASE was discussed, still talking it over.

GermanFest: No Beer allowed, to many liability issues and insurance problem.

1099: For anyone we pay over \$600, need information on that.

Insurance: who is under the work comp coverage.

Budget 2024: Toby is working on it.

Little Lambs Preschool: Summer Session was cancelled, not enough kids. Only have two kids signed up for fall, see what happens.

Motion by Wendy, second by Star to adjoin the meeting at 8:20pm, closed with The Lord's Prayer. NEXT COUNCIL MEETING IS MONDAY SEPTEMBER 11th at 7pm.

Respectfully Submitted by Jennifer Kubesh, church secretary, St. Paul Lutheran Church.

CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION

Church Email: st.paulhinckley@yahoo.com

Church Phone: (320) 384-6267

Website: www.stpaulhinckleymn.org



Like us on Facebook! <https://www.facebook.com/SPLCHINCKLEY>

Check Facebook or church website for any updates on schedules for Worship Service and other events.

Pastor
Rev. Mike Metzler

Church Secretary
Jennifer Kubesh

Church Newsletter
Jennifer Kubesh
Cydelle Klände

Organists
Sue Hickle
Connie Odendahl

Church Council

*Meets 1st Monday
each month at 7pm*

Chairman: Aaron Peterson

Vice Chair: Toby Hickle

Elders: Rod Lawin

John Frank

Matt Maser

Greg Kroschel

Trustees: Bill Morgan

David Berquist

Doug Kottke

Secretary: Carol Robinson

Fin. Sec.: Star Lawin

Treasurer: Wendy Kottke

Stewardship 7/1/23 to 8/27/23

General Fund..... \$16,274

Altar Flowers..... \$100

Little Lambs \$10

Missions \$20

TOTAL..... \$16,404



CREATION MOMENTS

Proclaiming Evidence for Truth

THIS WEEK'S CREATION MOMENT

Jumping Tomatoes



And if thou refuse to let them go, behold, I will smite all thy borders with frogs: (Exodus 8:2)

"What a delicious-looking tomato," you say to yourself. But as you reach for it, that bright red tomato suddenly comes to life and jumps away in pursuit of its own lunch! That "tomato" you almost grabbed is actually a tomato frog, a creature found only on the island of Madagascar.

Just before the frog jumped out of your reach, it puffed up its shiny red body because it regarded you as a threat. Fortunately for you, the frog came nowhere near your lips. You see, when a predator bites down on a tomato frog, the frog's skin secretes a thick substance that gums up the predator's mouth and eyes – a superb defense mechanism that reminds us of the mucus secreted by hagfishes.

According to a book called *Astonishing Animals*, evolution is the reason why the tomato frog is bright red in color. The authors say it is mimicking the bright color of the poison arrow frog of Central America. But wait a minute! There are no poison arrow frogs on the island of Madagascar, so how could the tomato frog's bright color be attributed to mimicry? It can't mimic a frog that no creature on the island has ever seen!

Once again, when you're an evolutionist, evolution accounts for absolutely everything in nature. Creationists reject that kind of thinking. We believe that God blessed the island of Madagascar with many unique and colorful creatures. And each one was given just the right combination of characteristics by its Creator.

Ref: "Tomato frog," *Astonishing Animals*, T. Flannery and P. Schouten (Atlantic Monthly Press, New York), pp. 122-123. Photo: Tomato frog. Courtesy of © Alfeus Liman.

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ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH SURVEY

Please take a moment to fill out the survey below. You can return the survey by email, st.paulhinckley@yahoo.com, by mail (St. Paul Lutheran, PO Box 99, Hinckley, MN 55037), or drop it off at the church (there will be a basket on the table in the narthex).

What do you believe is the mission of St Paul Lutheran Church?

What are some strengths at St Paul's? Are there areas that we can/should improve?

Do you feel welcome at St Paul's? Do you believe the atmosphere is friendly? Please explain.

Do you believe there is conflict within the church?

Do you believe that our congregational care is in line with the mission of the Church?

Do you believe there is balanced law and gospel in the sermons? Are the sermons easy to follow?

What brings you to church?

How often do you attend in-person service?

How often do you view live stream service?

Do you believe that it is important to live stream services?

Do you attend another church on a regular basis?

Do you feel informed about church projects, activities, and decisions in the church?

Are there ways that we can improve communication?

In what areas would you like to serve at St Paul?

Are there things that would make it easier to serve/volunteer?

Are there groups or activities that you would like to see at St Paul?

How can we reach out to/serve our community?

How can we encourage young families within the church?

How can we encourage new membership?

Do you believe the way that St Paul spends money is in line with the mission of the Church?

Would you like a visit from the Pastor?

Are there other concerns or thoughts that you would like to share?

SEPTEMBER 2023

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT	
					1	2	
							
3 9am Worship 10am Fellowship	4 Labor Day	5 1 st day of School!	6 5pm Family Dinner	7	8	9 <i>Pastor's days off</i>	
10 9am Worship w/ Communion 10am Fellowship 10am Confirmation	11 7pm Council Mtg	12	13 10am Bible Study 6pm Youth Group Meeting	14	15	16 <i>Pastor's days off</i>	
17 9am Worship 10am Fellowship 10am Confirmation	18	19	20 10am Bible Study 1pm BINGO	21	22	23 4pm Church Picnic @ Maser's <i>Pastor's days off</i>	
24 9am Worship w/ Communion 10am Fellowship 10am Confirmation	25	26	27 10am Bible Study	28	29	30 <i>Pastor's days off</i>	

*St. Paul Lutheran Church
PO Box 99
Hinckley, MN 55037*

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September 2023**



For God so Loved the World