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# Good News of St. Paul

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St. Paul Lutheran Web Site: [www.stpaulcastlerock.org](http://www.stpaulcastlerock.org)

E-mail [stpaulcr1@comcast.net](mailto:stpaulcr1@comcast.net)

September 2023

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## *Share the Love and Message of Christ*

### Love is the Answer



My puppy (Princess Jasmine) was bitten by my larger dog (Bailey). I felt sick to my stomach as the puppy screamed in pain not only when bit, but periodically for the next couple of days. She seems okay now, but in the midst of her pain, I felt ill with concern about her (Jasmine's) hurting. Then God

reminded me about how He feels sick too when we, His children, fight with each other, when people hurt others, and when people hurt themselves.

Twice this past week I heard young adults explain to me how Christianity is perceived as judgmental and hurtful by many young adults. This is especially true of people who have friends that are of different faiths or identify as LGBTQ+ or if they themselves identify differently than hetero and Christian.

I think, once again about how God experiences pain. How did those who identify as God's people, as wholly loved and accepted, and who have been invited into relationship with the Divine get the reputation as judgmental a\*\*holes?

The younger adults I spoke with, didn't want to be associated with the judgmental Christians. They each expressed hurt in being grouped into a Christian understanding was judgmental, instead of accepting and loving. I think this is a good reminder for all of us who call ourselves Christian.

Recognizing some Christians condemn those who they view as different or see as sinful is prevalent in our society. I believe it is important to recognize the following when we drift towards judgment and condemnation: First, we all sin, we all still fall short,

even today we continue to miss the mark. God's Grace is still a gift and unearned. Second, we are not righteous through our works, but through the faith of Jesus Christ and our trust in Him. We have been forgiven through Christ's work. We are made righteous only through Jesus. We stand before God because of God's work (period). We just receive in faith. Third, when we use the bible to condemn others, we trip over the same "stumbling block" as the religious of Jesus' time. You know, those people Jesus most often conflicted with and those whom God in Jesus condemned.

We are all humbled before God, and in our humility God is able to use us. God chooses to use us to do His will. We are the instruments of God's will. And Love is God's will for God's children (you). Love is the fulfillment of the law and God's will for us (Rom.13:10).

In society where conflict is common, Love is our mission. Love respects and values and cares for differing opinions and all people. We may not agree with others and that is okay, but Love is the only act that will bring us together and produce Shalom (peace). God is the source of Love as God is Love and Love defines God's character (1 Jn.4:8). It should define God's people too (Jn.13:35). God's love brought you and me Shalom.

Love is the answer to all the troubles of this world, including division. Let us be Love to the world.

Blessed to be a blessing,  
Pastor Norm



## Remembering Members & Friends

Please remember these people  
with your prayers, phone calls, or cards:

**All God's people including:** Carol Jean, Sharon Blankenship, Teresa Bryan, Terry Myers, K.C. Babcock, DeLores Gillan, Barbara Fernandez, Russ, Betty Light, Ed Berndt, Amy Baker, Robert Oswalt, Scott Sparks, Dianne Whitten, Annette Hammond, Tom Boren, Kevin Strang, Martha Olson, Sandy Catt, Emma Cooley, Emma Agren, Amy Agren, Nathan Victor, Brad Foster, Vineta Thomsen, Mary Brown, Bruce Schumacher, Stephanie Petkovich, Don Miller, Darlene Jackson, Eric Smith, Jean Jones, Angie Manfreddi, Angie Boudier, Crystal Hummel, Beth Hinesley

**All Care givers and Care receivers:** Vi Benham Donna Rodgers, and Marlene White

**Those serving in the Armed Forces:** Lukas Houser, Makayla Wilbur, Sam Gallow, Eddie Oswalt, Matthew Cogburn, Ariel Bryan, Lori Ogden



Long time St. Paul member, **Linda Solberg**, passed away on August 2, 2023.

She and Ken moved to their residence in Texas in December 2022 to be near their daughter, Laura, and family.

A memorial service will be held next year - on **Saturday, March 9, 2024 at 1 p.m.**

***Blessed be her Memory***

Condolences may be sent to: Ken Solberg, 9601 Cypress Lake Drive, Crowley TX 76036



### SEPTEMBER

3	Tyler Adams	17	Gretchen Schwinn
4	Kevin Rahn		Easton Ashby
6	Pr. Sue Wanwig	18	Darcy Davidson
7	Joseph Hummel	19	Geri Skreen
10	Cody Lux		Darren Ashby
11	K.C. Babcock		Helga Prim
	Austin Ogden	20	Marlene Rahn
12	William Schaafsma	21	Diana Rahn
14	Mikel Skreen	25	Dayne Johnston
	Cara Kittelson	28	Steve Foster
15	Larissa Moore	29	Pr Carol Kyllingstad



### SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 5 Elena & Nick Clark
- 6 Brad & Stephanie Ness
- 8 Tom & Anna Cunningham - 61 years
- 9 Ed & Lorraine Berndt - 72 years
- 10 Jerod & Nancy Vandehey
- 30 Steve & K.C. Babcock - 51 years



### Special Congregational Meeting

On July 30<sup>th</sup> a congregational meeting was held to ratify the changes made to the St. Paul Constitution approved at the January 29th annual congregational meeting. (2 step process). It passed unanimously. (46 votes)



## Wonderful World of Bee...stings!

These following tips might reduce your risk of bee stings:

- Avoid canned pop or sweet beverages. Use wide open cups so you can see them
- Tightly cover garbage cans and food containers
- Clean away any fallen fruit, garbage and yes, animal feces!
- Wear closed toe shoes outdoors
- Avoid bright colored or floral clothing
- Don't wear loose clothing as they can sneak in your body.

Bee stings can produce many different reactions, from temporary pain to a severe reaction. Treatment for minor reactions include removing the stinger ASAP, wash area with soap and water, apply cold compress to site. More moderate reactions - add OTC pain relievers, elevate area if sting is located on arm or leg, use calamine or hydrocortisone cream to ease the redness, itching or swelling. Additionally add Benadryl if itching is bothersome. Some home remedies that seem to help include baking soda paste on site, a raw onion, apple cider vinegar, honey, and toothpaste!

These stings may cause life threatening allergic reactions called anaphylaxis. Symptoms can start within minutes or up to 1/2 hour. They include hives, your face turning red or pale, swelling of the tongue and throat, difficulty breathing, cough or wheezing, nausea and vomiting, stomach cramps/diarrhea, dizziness and loss of consciousness. Any of these symptoms require immediate medical attention. Although most people do not have severe reactions, it is a good idea to keep an eye on those bee stings!

To your health, K.C. Babcock, R.N.

## Walden Island Tea Thank You

*I want to thank you for your generous participation and donations to the Walden Island Tea.*

*It was another great successful year as we have raised \$8100 of donations to Kids Clothes Closet and Community House two charities close to me and my family's heart.*

*Thank you Corlan Small and Becky Dahlman for the support and work. Plus my super dishwashing crew, Pastor Norm and David Whittaker! Not a dish broken! And, of course, to the Islanders, as "it takes a village" to achieve so much for others.*

- K.C. Babcock

## Mission Statement

The council, at their Aug. regular meeting, changed the St. Paul Mission Statement from *Spread the Love and Message of Christ* to ***Share the Love and Message of Christ.***

## Lay Representative Update

At the Synod Assembly in May, Mary Rosen was voted in as a member of the SWWA Synod Council as the Lower Columbia Conference Lay Representative for 2023-2025.

***Congratulations, Mary!***

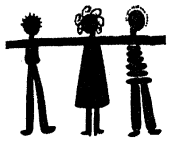
## Prayer Updates

If you have any updates on those who are on our intercessory prayer list, please contact Geri or Pastor Norm with that information.

## Men's Breakfast

Men's Breakfast continues to meet the first Sat. of each month at 8 a.m. however, for the month of Sept., due to the Labor Day Holiday, the men will meet the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sat. - Sept. 9th.





## Kids Clothes Closet

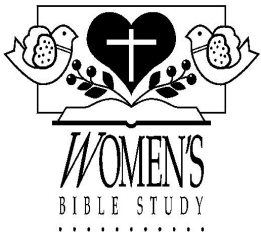
The 34<sup>th</sup> annual Kids Clothes Closet give-away was held August 18. Packages of underwear and socks, and gifts cards for jeans and shoes were given to 146 children, (47 families) preschool through high school, an increase over last year's attendance. A good selection of clothing was available for tops and pants.

Between set-up, serving clients, and tear-down, many are needed for this one-day event. Thankyou to the following for their service: Anita Gallow, Becky Dahlman, Phyllis Ogden, Iona Gould and grandchildren Ellen and Abby, Pastor Ross, Dayne Johnston, Jessica and Jacob Rahn, Shirley Johnson, Sandy Catt, Shirley Cooper, Leah Peterson, KC Babcock, Pat Dick, Jill and Hannah Lair, Yvonne Martin, and Ben, Easton, and Nathan Ross. Many thanks to Curtis Thomsen and Leona Boone for sorting donated clothing. Also, thanks to Geri Skreen for preparing and mailing reminder postcards.

Thank you to all who have given so generously toward this worthwhile cause, both monetarily and/or providing clothing. Many parents expressed their gratitude for this help.

Roxanne Knutson, KCC coordinator

## Women's Bible Study



We will begin a new 10 week study on Wed., Sept. 13 at 6:30 p.m. and meet at the church. The chosen study: *Seasons of a Women's Life* by Lois Evans. You can pay Geri (or leave money in

the office) Sign up sheet is on the back table. Books are here. Cost for the book is \$11.50. Asking, if possible, \$15 to defray the cost of the DVD that goes along with the study.

## Kids Summer Meals

For the 23<sup>rd</sup> year, St. Paul has organized and hosted the Kids Meals program, which provides free lunches during the summer months to any child who wishes to attend. We served 2,408 lunches to children and the needy in our community over the 8½ week period. An average of 58 kid's meals were served each day, an increase over the meals served last year.



Clarance Knutson supervised and organized the nine-week program. St. Paul was responsible for two weeks of meals this year. First week helpers: Pat Dick, Anita Gallow, Sharon

Blankenship, Cheryll Borgaard, Jacki Whittaker, Becky Dahlman, Shirley Johnson, Neal Johnson, Mary Rosen, Loren Rosen, Jon Davidson, Paul Schwinn, and David Whittaker.

Thank you to KC Babcock for cooking the second week of meals. KC's crew: Kathleen Duysen, Beverly Foul, Sharon Blankenship, Lynne Donahe, Anita Gallow, Philip Portwood, Jerry Borgaard, Cheryll Borgaard, and Paul Schwinn.

Also thank you to the area churches who provided the meals for the other 6½ weeks: St. Mary's Catholic, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (2 weeks), C. R. First Baptist, C.R. Christian, Apostolic Lutheran, and C.R. Methodist.

## GAP Meals, Worship and Prayer

GAP is a monthly time of fellowship and outreach for our community. Please join us on Saturday, September 16 at 5 p.m.



## Thank You To:



- Sandy Catt for keeping St. Paul's website up to date. A challenge in itself!
- Earl Small for his dedication in keeping the outdoor plants watered - especially with the heat and dryness of this summer.
- Paul Schwinn for repairing the swamp cooler in the kitchen so it stays cool when its been hot outside - especially during the kids meals.
- Leann Beall for the basement cleanout done in preparation for the *Godly Play* program kickoff September 10 - and all the other 'behind the scenes' prep needed to bring the program to light. Also to both she and her husband Fred who freshened up the space with new paint.
- Leann Beall and Sandy Catt for designing the banners and signage for Godly Play.
- All involved with the parade/St. Paul float in July - candy throwers, singers, and to Sandy Catt for blowing up over 50 balloons used to decorate the float!
- Earl Small and Paul Schwinn for the sidewalk repairs required by the city.
- Our Sunday morning songleaders who remain faithful: Dana Canary, Daniel Anderson, Clarence & Roxanne Knutson, and Neal & Shirley Johnson. Also Chuck Canary for accompanying.
- Katrina Hinesley, Mary Rosen, and Sharon Blankenship who are faithful at communion set-up and clean-up every Sunday. We appreciate your extra efforts also, Katrina!
- Our faithful custodian, Ruth Bell, who has been a conscientious and dedicated worker for many years here at St. Paul.
- Those who volunteer to usher, provide cookies, or flowers on any given Sunday. And, thank you to the worker leaders for keeping the calendar full.

## Godly Play

*Godly Play*, is an internationally-recognized program, free and open to children age 3-12 and **begins Sunday, September 10**. Sessions last approximately 75 minutes and begin **at 10:30 a.m.** and will meet every Sunday.



The aim is to launch children into a life-long growth of spiritual and moral development with strong Christian foundations. This is done by sharing the mystery of God's presence in our lives, helping children hear God's invitation for spiritual experience and making authentic and creative responses to God's call in our lives. - through story, wonder, and play.

There were eight leaders from our faith community who were trained as Godly Play storytellers. Godly Play forms a foundation to St. Paul restarting youth programming. The youth who attend participate in Spirit driven education through their conversation with peers. Your children and grandchildren are invited to live and learn and play. I'm confident they will love it.

(If you would like to volunteer or want more information, contact Pastor Norm or Leann Beall)

-Article submitted by Pastor Norm and Sandy Catt

## Training - Doorperson for Godly Play

Online training session, Sat., Oct 7 from 8-9:30 a.m.

This person is responsible for making sure the children are ready to enter the Godly Play room for the session, helps with work time, serving the feast, and seeing the children out the door at the end of class.

The cost for the class will be reimbursed by St. Paul. Sign-up is available on the Godly Play website under 'training', or contact Leann Beall.

## PSALM Program

The *Path for Strengthening Active Lay Ministry* (PSALM) is designed for congregation members who have discerned a call to more intentional and public lay leadership in their congregation and community. Sandy Catt and Diana Rahn engaged in this two year program in the Summer of 2021. The two year program seeks to develop inclusive lay leaders who are grounded in a Lutheran expression of Christian faith through small group education. It takes a considerable commitment of time and energy and Sandy and Diana deserve profound congratulations for their work over the past two years. They are now prepared to undertake increased leadership in our community and other communities within our synod. Please take a moment and acknowledge their achievement personally. -Pastor Norm

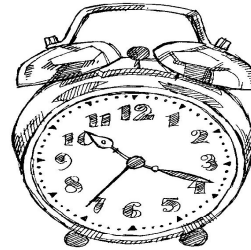


### PSALM Participant Perspective

*The two year Psalm Program provided by the Lutheran Synod was a challenge and a blessing to be a part of. I do not remember reading so many books in such a short period of time before, I finally learned how to speed read, something I had been envious of others for in college! Reading about church history, Martin Luther's theology, baptism and the holy supper, racism (especially for women) in the Bible, how to write and formulate a sermon, seeing Scripture from the view of context, and so much more has opened my world to understanding just a bit more about our God and the people he works through. Answering some of the how, what, when questions I have and providing great tools to research the new questions as they come along. Rebecca Shjerven, our program director and Assistant to the Bishop is a wonderful educator. I feel blessed to know her. The Psalm Program was enlightening and empowering to me personally and my hope is to pass some of these blessings on to others.* -Diana Rahn

## New Schedule and Christian Education

We're going to have a new worship schedule beginning **September 10th**. Traditional worship will be at 9:30 a.m. on Sundays with the Adult and Youth Sunday School taking place immediately following (10:30).



**NEW  
SCHEDULE  
BEGINS**

- Adults will be engaging in a study on Job, led by Dan Shero and Ryan Hinesley.
- Youth aged 3-12 will have *Godly Play* with one of our eight trained story tellers.
- Youth 13-18 will be part of Wisdom discussions.

### ReCreation

During isolation caused by Covid the ReCreation program was started. ReCreation is an outdoor programming targeting Active Adults and Youth. We have taken hiking trips, kayaking trips, had game nights, and performed art and craft activities. Be on the lookout for upcoming events that you and/or your children/grandchildren might enjoy.

### Contemporary Worship

The first Sunday of the month we are gathering for Contemporary Praise and Worship of God at 11:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. God, Grace, and Glory (G3) will be leading the music and we will be listening to God as we develop the service liturgy. That said we want to focus on table talk questions and following the Spirit as we worship our God.



Come and worship God with us...  
for God is worthy of our praise!



## Stewardship

### What does it mean to be a Good Steward?

**Webster's definition is:** 'Those that are entrusted with wealth OF ANY KIND have an obligation to hand those assets down in better shape than inherited them'. It means being responsible beyond the individual or company, and in the long-term beyond one's lifetime.

**Biblical definition is:** 'utilizing and managing all resources God provides for the glory of God and the betterment of His creation'. The Bible says that everything we have belongs to God and we are permitted to use it while we are here on earth. Christian stewardship believes that God will hold us all accountable for how we use the many gifts entrusted to our care (Luke 19: 12-27, 2 Cor. 5:10)

Characteristics of a good steward are: Trustworthy, Faithful, Mindful, Truthful, Diligent, Prayerful. St. Paul Outreach Ministries include: Summer Kids Meals, Kids Clothes Closet, ReCreation, GAP (G3), and Contemporary Worship. Looking ahead to fall and the revival of Sunday school for youth, Oktoberfest, a contemporary worship service, among other things, the question is: **how will St. Paul members show their commitment to being good stewards?**



### Inspiration

*For no one can lay any foundation other than the one we already have—Jesus Christ 1 Cor. 3:11*

Let Christ be our sole Focus and Foundation~  
Not a church building,  
Not our own understanding, or our own desires.  
A true Action of Surrender to the Father is to  
Pray, Trust and be guided by his will!  
Filling of the Spirit and Joy will surely follow.  
-Katrina Hinesley

## Oktoberfest UPDATE



Due multiple scheduling conflicts on Saturday, Sept. 16, Oktoberfest **will not be happening that day.**

But... if enough people step forward to help, we might be able to get the wonderful band to play and offer the fun event on Saturday, October 14, 4-8 p.m.

Anyone who attended last year likely remembers how great the music, food, and vibe was for this outdoor, community-wide outreach event.

Please consider helping making this a possibility for 2023. Sign up for a two-hour shift at this website--  
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040E4FAAAE22A1FD0-yes>

Without sufficient volunteers, the event will be cancelled this year.

-Your Oktoberfest Committee

### Enjoy Some Pics from the C.R. Parade and Summer Lunches...





