

Good News of St. Paul

St. Paul Lutheran Web Site: www.stpaulcastlerock.org

E-mail stpaulcr1@comcast.net

September 2024

Share the Love and Message of Christ

Favorable/Unfavorable

2 Timothy 4:1-2 - *In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I solemnly urge you: proclaim the message; be persistent whether the time is favorable or unfavorable; convince, rebuke, and encourage, with the utmost patience in teaching.*



I've had three conversations since I started with St. Paul in March that gave me pause. Two of the conversations happened with people from St. Paul. One of the conversations

happened in the last couple weeks with a friend from Chehalis. All of the conversations were about the role and long-term responsibility of an interim pastor.

Here at St. Paul the conversations were about how we make plans as a congregation when we don't know how long Pastor Matt is going to be here. The conversation with the friend in Chehalis made the statement - an interim shouldn't make any changes because the new pastor will just change them again.

Interim time in a congregation is never a favorable time. There is much uncertainty about the future. We don't know how long this season is going to last. We don't know who our next pastor will be. And who is this guy who swoops into Castle Rock from up north and will be gone as soon as we call our next pastor?

The temptation is to hold fast for the next chapter. To treat the interim time as a holding pattern for what comes next. Let's preserve what we have and then we'll have something to offer to our new pastor.

A wise mentor once told me that all pastors, whether called or interim, are temporary. At some point the pastor will leave or die. As a pastor, our congregations we serve often predate us and hopefully will exist long after we leave. In a way, every pastor is an interim.

What that means is that we as The Church have work to do. In this interim time, we continue to convince, rebuke, and encourage. If you see this time as favorable or unfavorable the work of this congregation has importance in our community.

My prayer is that as we enter into fall, we continue to look for ways to grow as a congregation. I pray that we make plans into an uncertain future because we never really do know what the future holds, no matter who fills the office of pastor in this place.

Ultimately, St. Paul Lutheran Church is not defined by the holder of the pastoral office but by the ministry, teaching, service, and presence in the community. As a congregation we will continue to seek our call to ministry to our community.

- Pastor Matt





Fall and Vaccines Are Back!

Kids are off to school and pumpkin flavorings are soon to come - along with respiratory viruses. Four vaccines are approved to help combat severe symptoms from Covid-19, Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV), influenza and pneumonia:

- Covid-19 is recommended to everyone 6 months or older, even if you've been previously vaccinated.
- Flu vaccine is recommended to everyone 6 months or older yearly
- RSV for older adults 75+ or ages 65-74 with risk factors; RSV (Maternal) pregnant women 32-36 weeks gestation
- Pneumococcal Pneumonia adults 65+ or ages 19+ with certain risk factors

Plus we still have to keep up on our tetanus! Tetanus boosters for adults is every ten years. Children need six doses between 2 months and 12 years and then every ten years thereafter. Unless you cut or puncture yourself and your provider will recommend.

Next article I'll let you learn about more vaccines you might have missed!

To your health, K.C. Babcock, RN

September

- 5 Elena & Nick Clark
- 6 Brad & Stephanie Ness
- 8 Tom & Anna Cunningham - 62 years
- 9 Ed & Lorraine Berndt - 73 years
- 10 Jerod & Nancy Vandehey
- 30 Steve & K.C. Babcock - 52 years



September

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



Remembering Members & Friends

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

All God's people including: Darlene (Small) Oslund, Leanne Erdelbrock, Ella Masten, Pr. Bob Sinclair, Dani Foster, Kimberly Jones, Ed Berndt, Amy Baker, Scott Sparks, Dianne Whitten, Nathan Victor, Brad Foster, Mary Brown, Bruce Schumacher, Don Miller, Jean Jones, Beth Hinesley; **All Care givers and Care receivers:** Vi Benham Donna Rodgers, and Marlene White.

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

Church Library

Needing some new reading material?

Remember - we have a well stocked

library with a pretty good selection for you.





Kids Clothes Closet

Our annual Kids Clothes Closet give-away was held August 23. Packages of underwear and socks, and gifts cards for jeans and shoes, were given to 176 children, preschool through high school, an increase of 30 over last year. Families also selected outfits from gently used school clothes.

Between sorting, set-up, serving clients, and tear-down, lots of help is needed. Thank you to the following for their service, many in several capacities: Mary Rosen, Becky Dahlman, Julie Davidson, Pat Dick, Maali Amrine, Dayne Johnston, Jessica Rahn, Kathy Erdreson, Jill and Hannah Lair, Sandy Catt, Bob Ross, Clarence Knutson, KC Babcock, Anita Gallow, Phyllis Ogden, Leah Peterson, Ilona Gould and grandchildren, Abby and Wyatt, Yvonne Martin, Nathan, Zadun, and Easton Ross, Diana and Kevin Rahn, Ken Ness, and Joel Anderson.

- Roxanne Knutson



Kid's Meals lunches were provided every weekday at noon from June 18th to August 21st.

A thank you to weekly leaders from other churches: Amy Bobst (St. Mary's), Hank Morkert (LDS), Teresa Frankenbery (C.R. Christian). Jessica Lakey (Apostolic Lutheran), Janet Prince (C.R. Baptist), and Barbara Rutherford (C.R. Methodist).

Our attendance for meals was significantly up from last year, averaging 59 meals a day. A total of 2,748 meals were given out.

Kid's Meals volunteers for Clarence for his two weeks: Anita & Roger Gallow, Mary & Loren Rosen, Julie & Jon Davidson, Kathleen Duysen, Kevn Rahn, Paul Scwinn, Pat Dick. K.C. Babock's volunteers: Lynne Donahe, Cheryl & Jerry Borgaard, Earl Small, Anita Gallow, Paul Schwinn.

Thank you to all who helped this year with the program.

- Clarence Knutson

Carry On (A Stewardship Message)



We know the Bible stories of the disciples being in a boat during a storm, Jesus is with them sleeping in the back, or walking on the water to them. The point of both of those stories is

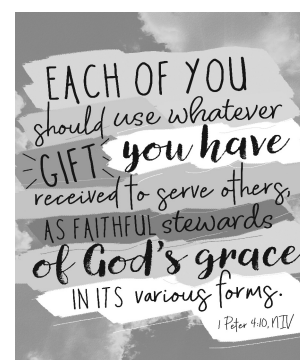
that Jesus is with us in the storms we find ourselves in. I read a devotion recently called "carry on". With permission from the source, I offer it here:

Daily, we get up and get in our boats and row through the order of events. We do this without thought. This pattern prepares us for whatever comes. If the day brings us something new, we are ready to keep rowing and continue fulfilling our call of duty and service. It is a call to carry on. We're trained and practiced so- ready or not- we follow through on our mission. We set our sights ahead to the shore we want to reach.

God said, "I am with you to the end of the age", and we must carry those words with us in the boat daily as we row, anticipating change, taking on challenges. Just as God is with us, we are to be with each other to help support and encourage them. Carry on is a promise to uphold and share. We carry on, row the boat in the same direction, embrace the challenges and know that Jesus is with us.

There are several boats at St. Paul that could use some additional rowers. Helping with worship, or Godly Play are ways that we carry on in service.

- Mary Rosen, Stewardship Committee



New Wednesday Morning Study

The Bible Study on the Book of Proverbs -



A study in wisdom and faith to begin Wednesday, September 18th at 10 a.m. in the church library.

We will look at all 31 Proverbs using the book written by Janice Williams. Mary Rosen will lead the group.

This workbook format includes reading each proverb, and answering the question listing in the workbook. The questions are easy and designed for conversation on how it applies to our lives.

Books are \$4.00 and if you let Mary Rosen or Geri know you are interested, we will have them available on September 18th.



Thank You To:

- Pastor Bob Ross for his desire to take on the job as archivist and begin to organize past records.
- Mary Rosen for teaching the Wednesday morning Bible studies.
- Roxanne Knutson who coordinates the annual Kids Clothes Closet drive - an ongoing task as clothing donations are accepted year round. This year proved we are blessed to be a blessing as the numbers increased substantially.
- Clarence Knutson who coordinates the Kids Summer Meals, and has for many years. Truly meets a need in our community.
- All those who step up as minister assistants - which are needed weekly.
- All parish workers who give their time and usher or provide cookies on Sunday mornings.
- Earl Small for outside watering of the church grounds during our dry summer.
- Those people who do things 'behind the scenes' and don't ever receive recognition.

Narrative Lectionary Why are we reading that?

In the normal course of preaching and worship at St. Paul, we use a lectionary to guide our scripture readings. Sometimes, we might spend a few weeks on a theme. Other times we might spend a few weeks in a particular book of the Bible. Normally, however, we follow a lectionary guide.



"Did not our hearts burn within us ... while he opened to us the Scriptures?"

Luke 24:32, ESV

There are two main lectionaries that St. Paul uses: The **Revised Common Lectionary** and the **Narrative Lectionary**.

The Revised Common Lectionary assigns four readings for each Sunday: 1st Lesson (usually Hebrew Bible), Psalm, 2nd Lesson (Epistle, usually from New Testament books other than the four Gospels), and a Gospel. The Revised Common Lectionary follows a three-year cycle: A year of Matthew, a year of Mark (with a bunch of others thrown in because Mark is so short), and a year of Luke. The 1st Lesson, Psalm and gospel are usually related to each other in some way and the 2nd Lesson often spends several weeks in one or another of the 'letters'. The Revised Common Lectionary closely follows the Church Year.

The Narrative Lectionary is a four-year cycle. There is a year of Matthew, a year of Mark, a year of Luke, and a year of John. The big difference for the Narrative Lectionary is that there is only one lesson assigned for each Sunday. Starting in September, the Narrative Lectionary starts in Genesis and works its way through the Bible into the Epistles as we get to the season of Easter. Other than Christmas, Easter, and Pentecost, the Narrative Lectionary does not follow the church year. The Lectionary follows the story of Christianity starting with our roots in creation in Genesis.

(Narrative Lectionary article continued)

We will again follow the Narrative Lectionary beginning September 8. This year in the Narrative Lectionary is the year of Luke so when we get to Christmas we will follow the story of Jesus through Luke's Gospel.

This year, we will chant a Psalm together and then read the assigned lectionary text for that Sunday. We will not read any New Testament scripture until we get to December 22 and the announcement of the birth of Christ. For September, October, November and most of December we will concentrate on the story of God's people in the Hebrew Bible.

What might be helpful for your devotion and study this year is to read through the Gospel of Luke this fall. What you will find is that the readings we will study together for the next few months are setting the stage for what we will study between Christmas and Easter. What is beautiful about the Narrative Lectionary is that it highlights the ongoing work of God throughout the Biblical record. As a preacher, I find myself hearing the echoes of God's work in the Hebrew Bible as we celebrate Christmas and Easter.

I look forward to sharing this story with you this year. I hope that we will all be able to encounter the salvation of humanity through Jesus Christ with fresh eyes and renewed wonder. - Pastor Matt



- The Family of **Gwen March**
(Pr. Matt March's mother)
- The Family of **DeLores Gillan**
(Geri Skreen's mother)
- The Family of **Barbara Fernandez**
(Diana Rahn's mother)
- The Family of **Dave Wood**
(Gayle Agren's Brother)

Blessed Be Their Memory

The Importance of Taking Time to Wonder



Godly Play will be starting a new session on September 8. Godly Play focuses on growing the spirituality of children through storytelling, creativity, wonder, and play. The program honors the child's natural capacity for religious insights and understanding.

With the recent passing of the founder, Dr. Jerome Berryman, we continue to provide an environment where children embark on and grow in their spiritual journey. Anyone who has been a storyteller or doorperson for Godly Play will tell you that each session provides the opportunity for both the child and the adult to find new meaning in the wonder of God's message to us.

If you would like to volunteer for Godly Play, please contact Leann Beall. Online doorperson trainings and virtual core trainings (storyteller and doorperson roles) are available at <https://circles.godlyplayfoundation.org/events>

Online doorperson training will be held on October 12, 2024 8:00-9:30 AM and on December 4, 2024 4-5:30 PM. St. Paul will cover the cost of the training if you are interested in taking it. -Leann Beall

Transition Team Update

An email went out (copies available at the church) regarding the process of developing the Ministry Site Profile the Transition Team are working on. This is a main goal and they are asking the congregation to familiarize themselves with the questions so you are ready with answers once you are contacted. Your input is vital.

**WE'RE
IN THIS
TOGETHER!**

Inspiration

“See, I am doing a new thing!”

-Isaiah 43:19

Better than you were before – God Promises to never leave us where we started, to refine and restore our brokenness with Joy, Peace and Love molding us into his Image! He desires to make things new

~ When you can't see the Plan, God knows it; when you can't bear it alone, God strengthens you. Do not cling to your old ways of knowing- seek God's Image within you and all around you!

- Katrina Hinesley



Property and Finance Update

Hello Church Friends!

I wanted to give everyone a quick update on the Jensen project that Corlan and I have been spearheading. It seems like it is taking forever, but honestly we have been moving forward and completing a lot of behind the scenes work to stretch the money as far as possible!

We were blessed by Damon LeBaron and his company who painted the sanctuary at no cost to us and also was able to get the paint donated. It was long overdue for painting! The fireside room also received a fresh coat of paint.



**Property & Finance
Committee**

There is new carpet in the sanctuary and fireside room, plus new floor covering in the fellowship hall.

Each of those rooms had their own little issues to deal with but all in all they turned out lovely!

Spring of 2023 was a whirlwind of trips to nurseries from Olympia to Woodland looking for just the right plants for the landscape part of the project. Because of the roasting hot summer we only prepped the area to be ready to plant in the fall. A big thank you to all the muscle provided by the P&F guys for all the digging and planting.

We are currently continuing around the building to the east side and are cleaning up the old preschool playground. A lot of prep work is happening now in order to move forward with the pavers and new fence.

Thanks again to all who volunteered time to make this project happen!

Jackie Schwinn, Corlan Small and P&F Committee

THANKS FROM THE HEART

I would like to thank the congregation for allowing me the gift of time in Minnesota these past few years while my mom's health declined.

It meant the world to me

to be able to be with her through her decline and have the opportunity to make memories. I am eternally grateful.

And, especially to Dayne Johnston who filled in for me in the office during the many weeks I was away - which allowed me this freedom.

-Geri Skreen