

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH VISITOR

SEPTEMBER 2026

*The mission of St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church is to
Celebrate and Proclaim to all the saving grace of JESUS CHRIST in word and deed.*



WORSHIP AND PICNIC IN THE PARK

September 6

10:00am

Ritter Park Picnic Shelter

Bring a dish to share, a chair, and wear your red St.
Paul T-shirt.



HELP US PACK!

We will be packing 100
Blessing Bags at our
Annual Worship and
Picnic in the Park on
September 6. We need
everyone to help pack!
Plan now to attend!
Many hands make light
work!

BECAUSE OF GOD'S GREAT MERCY

a stewardship program for our congregation



"Because of God's Great Mercy" is the title of our stewardship emphasis this year. The scriptural basis of this focus on our stewardship of all that God has entrusted into our care is I Peter 2:9, "But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness and into his marvelous light."

We begin by proclaiming all that God has done for us, hence the title "Because of God's Great Mercy." God has made us God's own people. We will also consider how generous giving is an important part of every Christian's life, and how our combined generosity can make even greater things possible through our congregation.

We will think together about how our giving to St. Paul is an important part of our Christian faith, and how St. Paul uses our offerings to do God's work within the congregation's walls, in our community, and around the world.

"Because of God's Great Mercy" will ask those of you who are financially able to increase your giving to St. Paul by at least ½ of 1% of your household income. For those of you who do not give on a weekly basis, we ask that you commit to doing so.

"Because of God's Great Mercy" will use mail, e-mail, and time in worship to share information with you. Please make a special effort to watch for material during this important time in our congregation's life.



Pastor's Reflections

September is here! It seems like I was just getting ready for Camp Luther. Where does it go, all the time? How many times have you said that? So, as we begin another calendar month, we get geared up once again for all the ministries that were "on the back burner" during the summer months. Let me name a few: choir is once again meeting for practice, the book study we had been doing before the summer will once again start up, Thursday Noon Bible study will be starting once again, Sunday school is starting. I am sure you can name a few more.

There are ministries that need your help to keep them functioning. I have been praying for God to bring someone forward to do our Sunday morning video streaming to those who are not able to join us with their presence at worship. No one has come forward. If you have any interest in helping please see Dan Beals or myself. The after-worship coffee/ fellowship needs helpers for that ministry – people to make coffee and to clean up especially. You have another idea for a new ministry. Please do not hesitate to let me or one of the Council members know.

I am taken back to time once again. It is interesting because many of us want more time to do more things. Most of scripture does not highlight time. The inspired writers of the books of the Bible sense that God is moving through the "times" of life. One of my favorite mentions of time and timing is in Ecclesiastes chapter 3. "For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven."

It seems to me we each have 24 hours a day. Subtract out 7 to 8 hours for sleep and that means we have 15 to 16 hours for the rest of the stuff of life. The stuff that the writer of Ecclesiastes continues in chapter three:

a time to plant and a time to pluck up what is planted.

a time to kill and a time to heal.

a time to break down and a time to build up.

As our ministry "times" begin once again after the rest of summer may God be glorified in all we do and say and are in this place called St Paul Evangelical Luther Church.

Blessings and Peace on your times

Pastor KLM <><

Dear Church Family,

Thank you so much for your prayers, cards and expressions of sympathy during the passing of my beloved Mother. You have been a great comfort to me and my family. We are deeply grateful for your compassion and for keeping us in your prayers. It is a blessing to be part of such a caring and loving church family.

With heartfelt gratitude, David Stuart



Dear St. Paul Congregation,

It's good to be back after the summer! As last year, we are starting with a bit of a whirlwind: The ecumenical Worship with First United Methodist Church on Aug. 23, Christmas in August on August 30, and the Worship/picnic at Ritter Park on September 6.

A brief review of the summer: Thank you so much to Keith Wellman for filling in for me. Keith is my rock! And congratulations to Jackson Wellman for playing patriotic hymn selections on the organ on July 5! I think you might hear more of Jackson's playing in the future...

I had a great time during my trip to Europe: the first 3 weeks I spent with my family (they live in a little town outside Hamburg in the north of Germany), then I was a faculty member at summer music festival in Austria near Vienna for about 10 days (teaching and performing), played a solo piano recital in my hometown on August 2 (for the fourth year in a row – it's become a tradition), and spent the last few days again with family.

We started rehearsing together with Debbie Bradley and the choir of First United Methodist on August 12. This was our third collaboration, and I think we are really growing together! The ecumenical Worship on August 23 went well – we sang four different anthems and especially “We Are Children of Song” complemented Pastor Kevin's sermon nicely. Rhonda Adkins (FUMC pianist) played two of the choral anthems, I played on the other two, and Jay Brooks (FUMC organist) accompanied the hymns. Teamwork! I'd also like to mention that Dr. Karen Becker visited and joined us in the alto section for the last rehearsal and the service. Thank you, Karen!

The choir is commencing regular rehearsals at St. Paul on Wednesdays at 7 pm. If you are interested in joining us or would like to contribute musically otherwise, please don't be shy and either talk to me or just show up. I can guarantee that you will be welcome!

Looking forward to the fall,

Henning



NOISY OFFERING

September 6 at the picnic

We will be collecting change for the Backpack Program. Please leave your change (or paper money) in the bucket in the narthex.

Dear St. Paul Congregation,

As summer draws to a close and the first hints of cooler weather begin to arrive, our youth are settling into a brand-new school year filled with opportunities to learn, grow, and discover new things. We recently celebrated the *Blessing of the Backpacks*, lifting up our students, teachers, administrators, and school staff in prayer. As they begin another year, we pray that our schools remain safe places where minds are challenged, friendships are formed, and faith continues to grow alongside academic success.

Before summer officially slipped away, we gathered for a wonderful ice cream social following worship. Nearly 70 members joined in the fun, sharing stories, laughter, and plenty of sweet treats. It was a joyful reminder of how special it is to reconnect with one another after a busy summer season and enjoy the fellowship that makes our church family so meaningful.

Our youth have also been busy helping others through our **Christmas in August** project. Together, we are collecting supplies to prepare 100 blessing bags for individuals and families in need throughout our community. The ornaments have quickly disappeared from the tree as our youth enthusiastically shop for needed items. It has been heartwarming to see their excitement and generosity as they put their faith into action by serving others.

Looking ahead, we are excited for our annual **St. Paul Church Picnic** at Ritter Park. Gathering for worship, food, fun, fellowship, and service outside the church walls is always a wonderful opportunity to share Christ's love with our community. Events like these remind us that evangelism often begins with a welcoming smile, a shared meal, and an open heart. The picnic also serves as a great transition into Rally Day and the start of another Sunday School year.

This year, we are blessed to offer two Sunday School classes for our young people. Students in Kindergarten through 4th grade and those in 5th through 9th grade will meet to explore God's Word, strengthen friendships, and grow in their faith. Barbara Garnett and I are excited to walk alongside these students as they learn more about God's love and how it guides their daily lives.

Our CCC group will also be kicking off a new year on Wednesday, September 16, from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. We look forward to gathering again for snack suppers, activities, games, and lessons centered on the weekly Gospel. We will continue partnering with LYO for community service projects and outings, giving our youth opportunities to learn, serve, and have fun together.

As we embrace this new season, I am thankful for the energy, compassion, and enthusiasm of our young people. My prayer is that they continue to learn, share, pray, serve, and love as disciples and children of God. Thank you, St. Paul, for the many ways you encourage and support our youth ministry. Together, let us continue using our God-given gifts to brighten someone's day, lend a helping hand, and share Christ's love wherever we go.

Your loving sister in Christ,

Jill May

GIVING OF BIBLES



As part of their Baptismal journey, we give new Bibles to our students during certain milestones. On

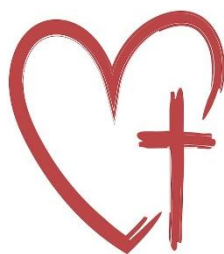
Sunday,

September 6 we will be giving Bibles to several of our students. Please plan to be here to celebrate with them.



Sunday School starts back on Sunday,
September 13 at 11:15am.

Cool to Be a
Christian
Club



Cool to Be a Christian Club (CCC) will start back on
Wednesday, September 16 at 6:00pm.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

2 Isaiah Garnett
3 Betty Church; Pat Jones; Jan Kirby
6 Katie Bell
8 Zak Garnett
9 Garrin Simpson
10 Jennifer Murray; Brad Bell
11 Trudy Hesse
14 Ruthann Arneson
16 Jo Kendall
18 Daniel Kist
21 Annette DuVall
27 Dominick Barham; Neil Arneson
29 Carolyn Becker



SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

26 Dan and Edie Beals



WORSHIP HELPER SCHEDULE

DATE	READER	ASSISTING MINISTER	COMMUNION DEACON	CRUCIFER	ACOLYTE	USHERS	BREAD
9/6	Emma Arneson	Steve Golder	Bernadette Wellman	Daniel Kist	Jaylyn Garnett		Arnesons
9/13	Ruthann Arneson	Jenny Murray	Keith Wellman	Daniel Kist	Jackson Wellman		Arnesons
9/20	Annette DuVall	Linda Schneider	Emma Arneson	Daniel Kist	Kennady Kist		Arnesons
9/27	Barbara Garnett	David Stuart	Ruthann Arneson	Daniel Kist	Willow May	Neil Arneson and Ethan Arneson	Arnesons

Altar Guild: Edie Beals



We pray for: LaDonna, Helen, Opal, Stephen, Helen, April, Rene, Elisha, Bill, Eric, Teresa, Luke, Jake, Phyllis, Michael, Scott and Aiden.

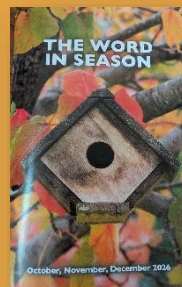


Prayer Shawl Ministry

Prayer shawls are available in the narthex if you would like to give one to someone in need of comfort and prayer. Cards are also available to give with the shawls. These shawls are made by members of St. Paul and are offered free of charge.



The Book Club will meet on September 16. We will be discussing "The Lies They Told" by Ellen Marie Wiseman. Please join us!



Word in Season for October, November, December is available in the narthex. This is a free devotional provided for you by St. Paul.

FINANCES

July Expected \$18,039
July Given \$16,236

YTD Expected \$126,234
YTD Given \$134,450



Cridlin Food and Clothing Pantry

In September we will collect boxes of cereal.

Please leave your donations in the containers in the narthex.

BOOK STUDY

Sunday Mornings

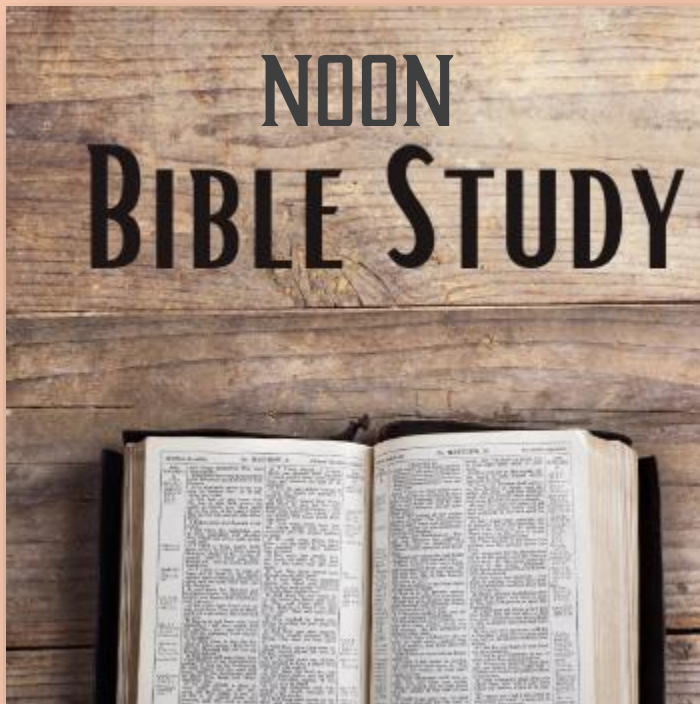


Sunday Mornings at 11:15am

Beginning September 13

We will continue our discussion of "Separation of Church and Hate" by John Fugelsang.

NOON BIBLE STUDY



Noon Bible Study will begin
September 10

Bring your lunch
and enjoy great fellowship
and Bible Study.

September 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 9:30am Quilting	2 7:00pm Choir	3 Pastor at QRT	4	5 9:00-12:00 Confirmation at St. Paul
6 10:00am Worship and Picnic at Ritter Park	7 Labor Day Office closed	8 9:30am Quilting	9 7:00pm Choir	10 Noon Bible Study 6:00pm Scouts	11	12
13 10:00am Worship 11:15am Book Study 11:15am Sunday School 1:30pm Pastor at Woodlands	14	15 9:30am Quilting	16 10:00am Book Club 6:00pm CCC 7:00pm Choir	17 No Noon Bible Study	18	19
20 10:00am Worship 11:15am Book Study 11:15am Sunday School	21 Pastor at QRT	22 9:30am Quilting	23 7:00pm Choir	24 Noon Bible Study 6:00pm Scouts	25	26
27 10:00am Worship 11:15am Church Council 11:15am Sunday School	28	29 9:30am Quilting	30 6:00pm CCC 7:00pm Choir			



Backpack items are an ongoing need throughout the school year. **We will be providing 30 backpacks each week!** If you can help by donating any of the items below, please leave them in the containers in the narthex or bring to the church office.

fruit cups	applesauce
Mac and Cheese	Beef-a-Roni
Beef sticks	Cereal
Pop Tarts	Fruit snacks
Drink boxes	Shelf stable milk
tuna salad/crackers	chicken salad/crackers

All items need to be individual sizes and not contain peanuts.

Please leave your items in the container in the narthex or bring to the church office.

NEWS FROM THE BECKER FAMILY:

Kimberly Becker Kletten retired recently after being in the Travel Industry for 40 years. She celebrated with her friends and family in Oslo, Norway. Lars Fredrik Kletten has accepted a job in Trondheim, Norway as a Digital Service Developer within City Planning & Infrastructure. Lars received his Bachelor Degree and Masters from Norwegian School of Science & Technology, and celebrated his 27 Birthday on August 10. Lars Fredrik is the son of Kimberly & Lars Ketten. Kristine Becker Boike celebrated her 60th Birthday on August 10 with 2 of her daughters and her sister Kamine and Jamshid at The Grove Park Inn, Asheville, and later in Gatlinburg, in the Smokey Mtns with daughters, Carrie and Isabelle. Kristine is employed at Wm. Harris Lee & Company Music in Chicago and teaches Suzuki Violin. Carolyn is proud of her five daughters whose music is enjoyed from Norway & the USA and when in Huntington at St Paul Lutheran Church. On Sept. 5, Katherine Becker & Bijan Mansouri will celebrate their 45th wedding anniversary. They were married here at St Paul Lutheran Church. Cellist, Karen Becker is visiting in Huntington after a busy summer of performing and teaching in the Red Lodge Music Festival in Montana, the Sunflower Music Festival in Topeka, Kansas, Buzzard Bay Music Fest near Cape Cod, and the Nebraska Crossroads Music Festival. Karen's teaching career spans 40 years—9 years as Professor of Cello at Truman State University in Missouri and 31 years in the Glenn Korff School of Music at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln. She looks forward to continue playing principal cello in the Lincoln Symphony Orchestra, as well as teaching pre-college cello students, playing in the Concordia String Trio, and occasionally playing with the Omaha Symphony. Karen enjoys cycling in Huntington and visiting her friends at St Paul Lutheran where she was a former member, of course visiting her Mother, Carolyn Becker.