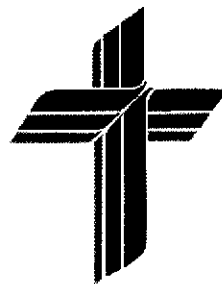


THE MESSENGER

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
511 S. Walnut
Strasburg, Illinois 62465
(217) 644-2661
stpaulcms@consolidated.net



AUGUST 2022

Dear Friends in Christ:

As we move on in the Brief Statement we come to the next topic, Of Conversion. It has quite a few paragraphs, so I will be taking only a few paragraphs at a time.

We teach that conversion consists in this, that a man, having learned from the Law of God that he is a lost and condemned sinner, is brought to faith in the Gospel, which offers him forgiveness of sins and eternal salvation for the sake of Christ's vicarious satisfaction, Acts 11:21; Luke 24:46, 47; Acts 26:18.

All men, since the Fall, are dead in sins, Eph. 2:1-3, and inclined only to evil, Gen. 6:5; 8:21; Rom. 8:7. For this reason, and particularly because men regard the Gospel of Christ, crucified for the sins of the world, as foolishness, 1 Cor. 2:14, faith in the Gospel, or conversion to God, is neither wholly nor in the least part the work of man, but the work of God's grace and almighty power alone, Phil. 1:29; Eph. 2:8; 1:19; Jer. 31:18. Hence Scripture call the faith of men, or his conversion, a raising from the dead, Eph. 1:20; Col. 2:12, a being born of God, John 1:12, 13, a new birth by the Gospel, 1 Peter 1:23-25, a work of God like the creation of light at the creation of the world, 2 Cor. 4:6.

There is a bit of confusion about the topic of conversion, okay that was being generous because there is actually a lot of confusion, in even the Church about conversion. Such as how does one become converted, what is my role in conversion, and who is converted. These are what we are going to be looking at in this topic. The Explanation to Martin Luther's Small Catechism is helpful here also, where in the explanation of the third Article of the Apostles' Creed we read "What is this work of the Holy Spirit called? It is called conversion (being turned) or regeneration (new birth)." So, if the work of the Holy Spirit is conversion, then we have to say that we don't have anything to do with our own conversion, it is God's doing. Which stands to reason, thinking Biblically as St. Paul writes in Ephesians 2 "1And you were dead in the trespasses and sins 2 in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— 3 among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind."

We can't overemphasize that deadness that Paul writes about in Ephesians. Dead means just that I can't make myself love God, remember we were "weak, ungodly, sinners, enemies." (Romans 5:6-11) We didn't know that we were to love God nor that there was a God to love in the first place. I know sometimes we are accused of harping on this truth way too much, oh that it was so though, because there is still a majority of people, even in the Church that believe they were the ones that welcomed Jesus into their hearts. This is why the Brief Statement was written to inform those who desired to have fellowship with the Missouri Synod that we believe, teach, and confess what the Bible says. This is why there isn't even fellowship among all Lutheran bodies in the United States because the Bible is not the foundation for all that the Church teaches.

We haven't even touched on the Evangelicals that believe that they made the decision to follow Jesus. From just these two short paragraphs from the Statement we see that there is already a contradiction of their teaching and that of the Bible. This is why Churches like the LCMS have got to continue to write, preach and teach the true message of the Bible into the hearts and minds of others. Allowing them to see that conversion, as God proclaims it is so much better than that which they have been taught. Because Biblical conversion relies on Jesus for everything just as we are supposed to do.

Lutheran Ladies Aid of Strasburg – July 2, 2022 Minutes

The Lutheran Ladies Aid of Strasburg met in the Grace church social hall on July 7th, 2022 at 1:30pm. Neva Hagan presented a reading for mites and our mite box money was collected for this quarter. Sharon Rincker and Leigha Moffett were our hostesses for the day. Pastor Whybrew had devotions from Col. 1:9 scripture.

Linda Doehring called the meeting to order by welcoming members. Linda thanked Neva for her mite devotion and Pastor for his devotion. Roll call was answered by 17 members. Kay Dust read the June 2nd minutes and they were approved. Eight cards were sent to church family and friends in June. Charlene Telgmann and Holly Giertz read the treasurer's reports and they were approved. They will be merging the bank accounts soon and ordering new checks for the joint account. The President and Treasurer only will be able to sign checks. It was so moved by Muriel and seconded by Chris Storm to make these changes to the account.

There will be a Zone Officer's Meeting at St. Paul's, Wheeler on August 8th at 6:30 PM and all officers are invited to attend. The joint Fall Rally will be held on Sept. 21st at St. John's, Louisville and all are encouraged to attend!

The Christmas Party in December, 2022 will be hosted by the committee of Cinda Held, Charlene, Doreen Whybrew and Kay. Plans will be made and discussed with the Ladies in the following months.

The LWML banner will hang at St. Paul's on July 10th and at Grace on July 17th. Charlene and Linda will hang the banner at St. Paul's and Pastor will transport to Grace.

The Pastors summer circuit meeting (also called Winkel, meaning The Gathering) will be held at St. Paul's on August 2nd, starting at 9:00 am. Several Ladies Aid members volunteered to provide breakfast and lunch, and serve the meals that day.

Our project for the month was decided and we will provide a gift card to help with transportation expenses for the Veronica Prosser family. Cinda so moved and Chris Storm seconded the project. All approved.

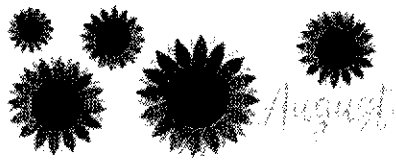
We thanked Marlene for the June altar flowers. Leigha and Sharon were thanked for the beautiful table decorations with floral bouquets and the delicious homemade ice cream with fresh fruit toppings! July flowers will be provided by Kay and our August hostesses will be Karen Kull and Cynthia Roley.

The meeting was closed with the Doxology, the Lord's Prayer and the table prayer. We sang birthday blessings to Linda for her July birthday. We wished Kay and Howard Dust and Cinda and Ed Held Happy Anniversary greetings.

All ladies are invited to attend the next meeting on August 4th at 1:30 pm in the Grace church social hall!

Our Bible verse for the day: God will not abandon those who search for him. Psalm 9:10

Kay Dust, secretary



BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 - Dwight Lading
- 3 - Brittany Kirkley; Stephanie Jack;
Jill Layton; Mac Ogle; Charlee Rincker
- 4 - Andrew Cress; Grace Rincker;
Blake Wirth
- 5 - Shirley Stremming; Raegyn
Wallin, Sharon Weber;
Kim & Brad* Storm (27)
- 6 - Gary & Karen Kull (45);
Chris & Karla Tabbert (34);
Claudia Rincker*
- 7 - Alex Shadwell; Garrett* Weber
Derryl & Sue Pikes (52)
- 8 - Angela Edwards;
Rich & Keri* Reel (13)
Dustin & Karen* York (13)
- 10 - Don & Linda Doehring(54);
Barry & Courtney Wittenberg(20)
- 11 - Courtney Reel; Floyd Storm;
Debra Granat
- 13 - Mildred Rincker(101);
Donnie* & Amy Lawrence (6)
- 14 - John E. Radloff; Zachary Weber
- 17 - Tanner Clark; Kevin Kramer;
Jay Vogel; David & Carol Polk (61)
- 18 - Dee Dee Batson
- 20 - Kennedy Kull
- 21 - Rhonda Kull; Ferd McCormick;
Gary & Johnna Schultz (30);
John & Judy Wittenberg (51)
- 23 - Tim & Susan Beals (42);
Mark & Rhonda Kull (19),
Colton Booher*
- 24 - Ryan Storm
- 25 - Samantha Hayes, Roxanna Shelton
- 26 - Ella Gilbert; Larry Lenz;
Floyd & Chris Storm(66)
- 27 - Morgan Mathis
- 29 - Megan Schlechte; Aaron White
- 30 - Melvina Lading;
Jay & Kathy* Vogel (42)
- 31 - Luke Rincker, Dylan & Amelia
Ohnesorge (3)

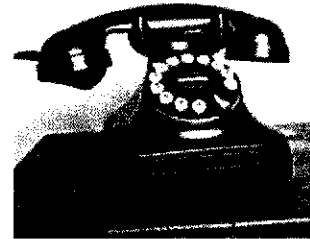
LOCAL LINKS

Pastor Whybrew: chebrev@yahoo.com
 Church: stpaulcms@consolidated.net
 Website: stpaul-strasburg.com
 YouTube: St. Paul's Lutheran Church Strasburg
 Illinois
 Facebook: St. Paul's Lutheran Church



Articles for Newsletter & Guide

Information for the Guide needs to be in the office by 8:00AM on **Wednesday morning**.
 Articles for the Newsletter should be in the office by the **15th** of the month.



Pause for Peace

As your day draws to a close, spend a few moments with God, reflecting on His love and care for you throughout the day. Just dial 217.644.3124 to hear His message

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Baby Bottle A big Thank You to all who contributed to the Annual Baby Bottle Project for The Family Life Center. We collected \$655.36-grand total! If you still have a baby bottle (there are only 4 out) just drop it off at the church office. Thank you!

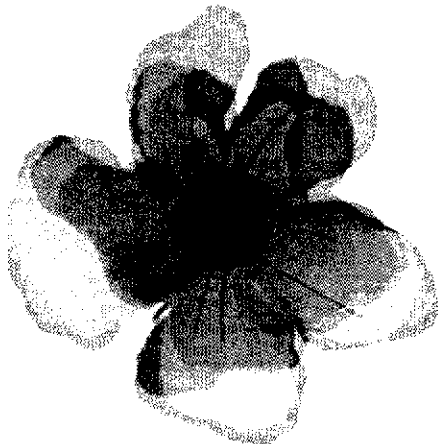


Congratulations To Jesse & Mariah Williams on the birth of their daughter, Oaklyn Noelle Williams. Oaklyn was born July 9, 2022 at 10:17 p.m. She weighed 7lbs and 13oz and was 22 inches long. Grandparents are Mary Tabbert, Dale Tabbert and Mickey & JoAnn Williams. God's blessings to the family.

Congratulations Congratulations to Jake & Allison McIlwain on the birth of their son, Griffin (Griffey) Patrick McIlwain, born Tuesday, July 12, 2022 at 10:34 p.m. Griffin weighed 10lbs and 13 oz and was 20.5 inches long. Grandparents are Don & Kim Telgmann, and Bill & Cindy McIlwain. God's blessings to Griffin and his parents



Our Sympathy Please keep the family Roy W. Reed Jr. in your thoughts and prayers. Roy passed away on Thursday, July 14, 2022. Graveside side services was held at 11:00 A.M. on Saturday, July 30, 2022 in Grace cemetery.



Baptisms

Baptism Maxwell (Max) John Bowers was baptized Saturday July 23rd at St. Paul's. Maxwell is the son of Tanner & Caroline Bowers. Max's sponsors are Zach & Stacey Rincker. His grandparents are Chris & Sue Bowers and John & Eileen Janecki. God's richest blessings to Max and his parents

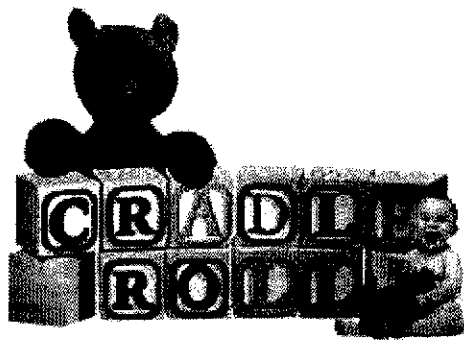
Thanks,
Everyone!

Thank You A big thank you to my church family for all of the prayers, cards and food I received during and after my knee replacement surgery. I am doing fine and feel so blessed. Judy Wittenberg

Thank You Thank you for uplifting Floyd & I with your prayers and with your caring. We especially want to thank Pastor for all of his visits and calls. It helps us both to know you are supporting us. We see progress and we are so thankful. God Bless! Floyd & Chris Storm

Thank You I would like to thank you all so much for your thoughts, wishes and acts of kindness since my cancer diagnosis and surgery. Your prayers have wrapped around me like a big hug! God's blessings to all! Lisa Rincker

Thank You Thank you St. Paul's Sunday School & VBS for your very generous donations. It was a pleasure to be involved in the first and last days of VBS. The kids were so gentle and loving in petting Rachel and everyone made us feel very welcome. We also appreciate the opportunity to tell about our Rachel Comfort Dog Ministry. Rachel especially enjoyed watching the kids play tag and no doubt would have liked to join everyone had she not be "working". We praise God to serve you and let us be a part of your VBS. God's peace and Blessings. Immanuel Lutheran Church Rachel Comfort Dog Ministry Team



Cradle Roll

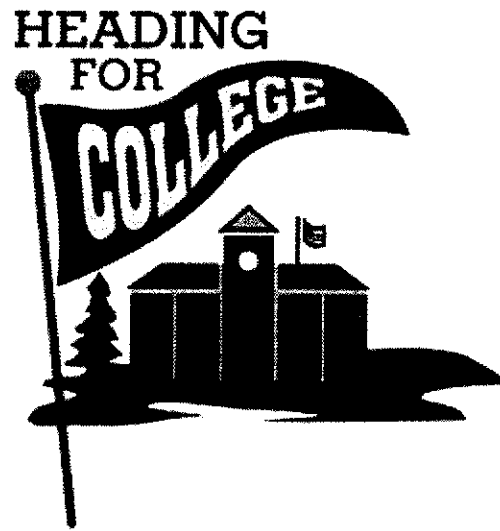
The Cradle Roll program is a ministry for new parents in our congregation which provides materials, support and encouragement for parents with children ages birth to 3 years old. Currently there are 23 children in the program.

A support committee of Virginia Vogel, Amelia Ohnesorge, Susie Allen, Judy Wittenberg, Kay Dust, Shelby Beltz, and Karen Kull assists the Cradle Roll coordinator Colleen Storm. Shelby Beltz coordinates meal deliveries to new parents and Virginia Vogel finds Christian parenting articles for the church newsletter. If you are interested in assisting or want more information, please contact Colleen, at 217-254-4960.



Calling of Weekday and Sunday School Teachers

The process for calling Weekday and Sunday School Teachers for the 2022-23 school year has begun. Please be open to and prayerfully consider a call to teach. Contact Sunday School Superintendent Karen Kull at 217.549.3141 if you are interested in teaching or helping



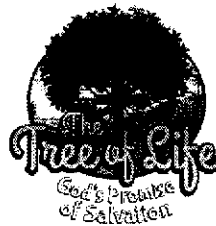
Addresses needed for students leaving for college

If you have a child who will be living away from home at college, please send their mailing address, email and phone number to the church secretary by August 18. Drop it by the church office or email the office at stpaulcms@consolidated.net.

Addresses of adult children

If adult children who have moved out of your home are still listed under your household on the church directory, please update their mailing address, email, and phone number with the church secretary. Thank you

The Tree of Life Summer Sunday School Bible Study



The Tree of Life summer Sunday School Bible Study will finish with lessons 9 and 10 on August 7 and 14.

Please join us. There are classes for preschool, grades 1-8 and a high school/adult class. Pastor's sermons focus on the same lesson each week. Classes meet from 9:30-10:15 a.m. or immediately following the 8:30 a.m. worship service.

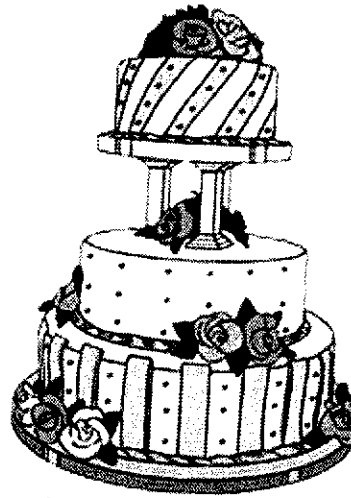


Weekday School Begins August 24

Weekday School is a Wednesday night Christian education program for children who will be entering grades 1-8 during the 2022-23 school year. Classes will begin Wednesday, August 24 at 6:30 p.m. If students haven't already pre-registered, they may do so from 6-6:30 p.m. on August 24. Classes will meet from 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Providing our children with opportunities to study God's Word also provides our children with the tools they need to be a follower of God in an ungodly world. Christian education with other children their age builds a strong foundation that is so important in these times when our faith is challenged daily by worldly influences.

During WDS, students learn the Lord's prayer, Ten Commandments, Bible stories, Apostles Creed, Bible passages and more. The 7th and 8th grade students will meet during this time with Pastor Whybrew for confirmation classes. After two years of confirmation instruction, students will be confirmed in the church, at which time they will be able to participate in the Lord's Supper and commune with other church members. Contact Pastor Whybrew or the church office if you have questions.



Weddings this Month

Congratulations to Stephanie Jack and Danny Baker who were married in St. Louis on Saturday July, 23. Stephanie is the daughter of Diane Jack. God's blessings to the couple.

AUGUST SCHEDULE

Greeters-

- Aug. 7- Jim & Phyllis Weiss
- Aug. 14- Brandon & Shelby Beltz
- Aug. 21- Mark & Melissa Luce
- Aug. 28- John & Judy Wittenberg

SEPTEMBER SCHEDULE

Greeters-

- Sept. 4- Chris & Sue Bowers
- Sept. 11- Otto & Lisa Rincker
- Sept. 18- Bob & Ronda Schlechte
- Sept. 25-



Sesquicentennial Celebration!

Strasburg will be celebrating 150 years in 2024. The first planning meeting was held July 21st. The next meeting is August 10th at 6:30p.m. at the Strasburg Community Building. Come and bring your ideas and help plan. If you would like to help in anyway please contact Sue Bowers 217.690.2706 or Jodie Quast 217.246.3919 co-chairmen of the 150th Sesquicentennial Celebration.