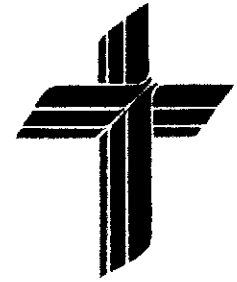


# THE MESSENGER



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

**JULY 2024**

Dear Friends in Christ:

Now that we have defined our terms and have seen what predestination is according to God's word, I believe we need to touch on one more subject about it and that is what it does not mean.

Take for example this quote from the Baptist Faith and Message (2000) "All true believers endure to the end. Those whom God has accepted in Christ, and sanctified by His Spirit, will never fall away from the state of grace, but shall persevere to the end. Believers may fall into sin through neglect and temptation, whereby they grieve the Spirit, impair their graces and comforts, and bring reproach on the cause of Christ and temporal judgments on themselves; yet they shall be kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation."  
(<https://bfm.sbc.net/bfm2000/#iv>)

Now contrast that with what St. Paul writes in 1 Timothy 1: "18 This charge I entrust to you, Timothy, my child, in accordance with the prophecies previously made about you, that by them you may wage the good warfare, 19 holding faith and a good conscience. By rejecting this, some have made shipwreck of their faith, 20 among whom are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have handed over to Satan that they may learn not to blaspheme." These two people if there is not repentance, as Paul hopes there will be, were putting their eternal salvation in jeopardy. If we are to believe the Word as the Word of God, then the idea that one can not fall away from salvation, can not be proven from the Word.

Jesus says in John 3:18 "Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God." This is the reality for one who has never believed as well as for one who has believed and has fallen into unbelief. That is why it is so important for the Holy Spirit to lead the authors of the Word of God to emphasize over and over again the importance of faith, and the fruit of that faith being the good works the Lord has called us to do. For example, Ephesians 2:10 "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them." Also, Titus 3:8 "The saying is trustworthy, and I want you to insist on these things, so that those who have believed in God may be careful to devote themselves to good works. These things are excellent and profitable for people."

Of course the other side of all of this is the fact that if someone has turned their back on the Lord and has chosen to live as if there is no God, the day that the Lord allows them through His Spirit to see the error of their ways and repent, then all of heaven rejoices as the Lord proclaims in Luke 15:10 "Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

The certainty of our salvation is not in some false idea that God would never let us go, of course He doesn't want believers to fall away but there will be punishment for those that do, so to give people a false hope that they are God are inseparable no matter what they do in their lives gives them that false security that God never gives in His word.

Which is why, for our final thought here John 10:27-30 is not a proof text for once saved always saved, "27 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. 28 I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. 29 My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. 30 I and the Father are one." For this passage is talking about those who are walking in the Lord through repentance and the forgiveness of sins, carrying their cross daily and putting aside the flesh.

# ★ ★ JULY

BirUhdays · Anniversaries

- 3 - Josh & Jenna Layton (14)
- 4 - Doug & Marla Rincker (32)
- 5 - Howard\* & Kay Dust (10)
- 6 - Travis\* & Gina Vonderheide (22);  
Brad\* Storm
- 7 - Dan & Karen Pfeiffer (34);  
Chris Rincker; Sandy Bugenhagen;  
Laurie Wirth
- 8 - Tanner Bowers; Isaac Kramer;  
Tanya Walker; Tobias Weber
- 9 - Mike & Laurie Rincker (19);  
Amelia Batson; Oaklyn Williams  
Eli & Emily\* Dollarhide (2)
- 10- Jack Clark; James Stodden
- 11- Mike Rincker; Vivian Granat
- 12- Griffin McIlwain
- 13- Scott Pieper
- 14- Nick & Brittani Oller (6); Hannah Hayes;  
Mackenzi Tabbert
- 15- Kelsey Long; Melissa Luce;
- 17- Kevin & Alison\* Wirth (25);  
Rance\* Merriman
- 18- Jennifer Ashmore; Collins Logue
- 19- Ashley Sherrill; John Reel
- 20- Johanna Batson; Ryan Oller
- 21- Joyce Ulmer
- 22- Marcia Thomas; Delreen Lenz;  
Bianca\* Nichols
- 23- Otis & Donna Rincker (41)  
Stephanie Jack & Danny Barker (2)
- 24- Darin & Colleen Storm (37);  
Rachel Kessler
- 25- Tyler & Jennifer\* Wirth (9);  
Chris\*& Katie Harley (18)
- 26- Lela Ostermeier; Sarah\* Vogel  
Courtney Wittenberg
- 27- Linda Doehring; Gary Duncan;  
Alyssa Rincker; Henry\* York
- 28- Karly Wetherell; Cooper Kirkley
- 29- Luke & Lauren Wetherell (18);  
Nicole Rincker;  
Seth Rincker; Abby\* Luce;  
Pastor Whybrew
- 30- Tyler Wirth
- 31- Pam Clark; Jesse & Mariah Williams (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 644-3124 to hear His message.





**JULY SCHEDULE**

Organist - Muriel Merriman

**Greeters -**

- July 7 - John & Judy Wittenberg
- July 14 - Bob & Ronda Schlechte
- July 21 - Gerry & Dawn Schlechte
- July 28 - Otto & Lisa Rincker

**AUGUST SCHEDULE**

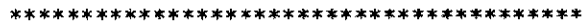
**Greeters-**

- Aug. 4 - Noah Prosser
- Aug. 11 - Dean Schlultz
- Aug. 18 - Patsy Lenz
- Aug. 25 - Barb Ohnesorge

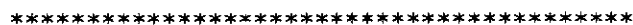


thank you

**Thank you** Thank you to everyone who joined us for the Trinity Lutheran School formal dinner and live auction on May 10! It was a huge success, and we hope you enjoyed your evening of fun, fellowship, and fundraising! With your help, we raised \$52,000 for Trinity Lutheran School! We are so thankful to those who bought tickets, donated items, bid on items, sponsored packages, or helped with this event in any way. It would not be possible without each and every one of you. Our Trinity School family is so grateful to have your support! We ask that you continue to pray that God would bless Trinity Lutheran School. We hope to see you again in the fall for our silent auction and hog roast! God's blessings to each of you!



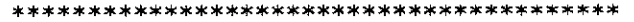
**Thank you** I wanted to let my church family know that I had my left knee replacement surgery on June 4 at SBLH in Mattoon. The surgery went well and I came home June 5<sup>th</sup>. Keep me in your prayers during my recovery. Thank you for your cards, support and prayers. God's blessings to all! Debra and Mark Richards



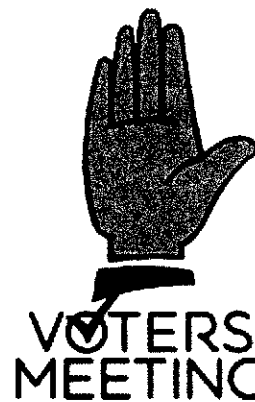
**Thank you** Thank you to everyone that helped in anyway with the church float for the Strasburg celebration. The float looked great!



**Thank you** Thank you everyone for making the Strasburg 150<sup>TH</sup> Celebration a wonderful event. Your kind words, texts, calls, e-mails and generosity was greatly appreciated. Jodie & Sue Co-chairs



The Church Council meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. July 1st.



Please plan to attend the voter's meeting, July 28, 2024 after church



**2024 VBS Mission Project- The family of Walker Warden.** Walker Warden is the 3 year old son of Jacob and Abby (Rincker) Warden of Strasburg. Walker was diagnosed in December 2023 with Juvenile myelomonocytic leukemia (JMML), a rare cancer of the blood that affects young children. In January 2024, Walker began trips to Cardinal Glennon Hospital in St. Louis where he receives daily treatments of chemo for seven days/once a month. The chemo treatments are not to cure the disease but to minimize the symptoms of JMML. The treatments require monthly week-long stays at an Airbnb in St. Louis. Abby and Jacob also have 4 other children from 8<sup>th</sup> grade to baby Meredith who was born in March. During VBS June 17-21, there will be a daily offering for the Walker Warden family. Your support and generosity would be appreciated.

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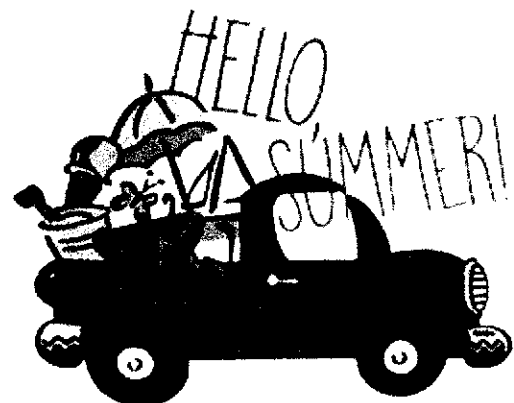


**Summer Sunday School for Kids** Sunday School for kids in grades 1-8 will be taught a little differently this year. We are going to use twelve beautiful pictures for our lessons. With each picture we will read the corresponding story from the Bible and discuss it, and then the students will do a worksheet on it. The lesson will end with a fun game or activity. The class which will begin on June 9<sup>th</sup> is being taught by Dee Dee Batson and Lisa Shelton. The 12 framed pictures (Larry made the frames) were generously donated to our church by Patsy Lenz. We encourage all kids to come to Sunday School every week. Summer vacation does not mean a vacation from God!



**Church**

**Picnic** St. Paul's Lutheran Church Picnic will be held today, Sunday, June 23<sup>RD</sup> at Ballard Nature Center, Altamont, IL. The meal is at 12:30 pm and will be catered by Kirby Foods. The meal is free will donation. Please bring your BEST dessert to be shared. Activities include trails to walk, take in the visitor's center, fishing pond for kids, games for kids and adults or just bring a lawn chair and enjoy the day. If you would like to attend, please sign-up in the narthex by Sunday June, 16<sup>th</sup>.



## CRADLE ROLE

July 2024

Is bedtime a hassle in your family because your child fights going to bed? Here is an activity you could try. You will need a box large enough for a “bed” to hold a favorite stuffed animal. Use a towel as a blanket for the “bed”.

First have your child collect his or her favorite stuffed animal. Then convert the box into a comfy bed having your child help you make the bed using the towel. Now you and your child use the bed-time routine with the stuffed animal that you use together each night. Your child could rock the animal to sleep, make up a story, “read” his/her favorite story from a book or perhaps you could all join in singing a song you usually sing together at bedtime. Use your nightly bedtime routine that is familiar. Don’t forget the bed-time prayers and lots of hugs and kisses. To ensure the most peaceful night’s sleep for the animal, place the box-bed near your child’s bed—just in case anyone gets scared in the night and needs a comforting hug.

Hopefully, this activity will provide sweet dreams for you and your child.

Taken from 365 TV-Free Activities You Can Do with Your Child by Steve and Ruth Bennett, Adams Media Corporation, Holbrook, Massachusetts, 1996, Activity 23.

## Lutheran Ladies of Strasburg Minutes – June 6, 2024

The Lutheran Ladies of Strasburg met in Grace Social Hall on June 6, 2024. Muriel opened the meeting with reading from author Dale Meyer's book about D-Day June, 1944. In his book, he quoted a prayer for the nation was offered by President Roosevelt and the feeling of the country at that time in our history.

President Muriel Merriman called the meeting to order. Fifteen members answered roll call. The May Minutes and Treasurer's reports were read and approved. Our members continue to send cards and make visits to members of our congregations.

We received a thank you card from Valerie Reed and family.

The upcoming events are: Zone Officers Meeting July 23, 6:00 pm at St Paul's, Strasburg. Fall Rally, September 18<sup>th</sup> at Sigel. The LWML National Convention will be June 26-29, 2025 in Omaha, Nebraska.

July is the month for MITES.

The July Flower committees will be Tammy Sentel from Grace and Kay Dust from St. Paul's. Muriel thanked the retiring committees of Marianna and Sharon for flowers. We all enjoyed lunch at the Windsor Pub.

Our verse for the day was "Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my Rock, and my Redeemer." Ps. 19:14.

We closed with the Doxology, Lord's Prayer and Table Prayer. We sang Birthday Blessings to Kay, Neva and Lori. Happy Anniversary to Doreen and Pastor Whybrew.

Our next meeting will be held on WEDNESDAY, July 3rd, 1:30 at GRACE Social Hall. PLEASE NOTE the meeting is the 3<sup>rd</sup> NOT Thursday the 4th.

Vivian Granat, Secretary

**Funeral Service Preparation Sheet**  
**Grace/St. Paul's Lutheran – Strasburg**

**Please Print**

**One copy per family member**

**More Copies may be requested from each Congregation**

Full Name/please include Maiden Name \_\_\_\_\_

Birth Date \_\_\_\_\_

Baptism Date/Church \_\_\_\_\_

Confirmation Date/Church \_\_\_\_\_

Confirmation Verse \_\_\_\_\_

Favorite Bible Readings

Old Testament \_\_\_\_\_

Epistle \_\_\_\_\_

Gospel \_\_\_\_\_

Psalm \_\_\_\_\_

Favorite Hymns

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Pall Bearers

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