

THE MESSENGER

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
511 S. Walnut
Strasburg, Illinois 62465
(217) 644-2661
stpaulsstrasburg@gmail.com



JULY 2025

Dear Friends in Christ:

This month brings the final installment of the Formula of Concord – Solid Declaration on “God’s Eternal Foreknowledge and Election.” Specifically, we have been looking at the eight ways that we should see election as a blessing to believers rather than something that should cause us anxiety or even fear.

²² 8. Finally, He will eternally save and glorify in life eternal those whom He has elected, called, and justified.

We have to remember Election is always positive. Yes, God does know who is going to believe and not believe, He does not make people believe or not believe though. I have written about this many times in the last seven months of our discussion here, because if God does make people believe or not believe then what is His criterion for those decisions? Which then also turns God into a liar because He says that Jesus came to save all people. For example, from 1 Timothy 2:1-4 “*First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, ² for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. ³ This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴ who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.*” (ESV) As well as in Romans 10:12-13 “*¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. ¹³ For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”* (ESV) All and everyone are very important words here in these verses for they do not allow a possibility that God either overrides or circumvents His own teaching that He has given to us. For if He would then, of what use is the Bible to the Church? This is why it is important not to read our thoughts into the Lord, but rather to take His word at face value believing it as He has given. Therefore, with that in mind, if we can believe in Jesus, by the power of the Holy Spirit calling us through the Gospel, then we can also and must believe that as we live in repentance and the forgiveness of our sins in and through Jesus the end result is that life eternal is also ours. John, in his Gospel proclaims this in consecutive verses in chapter three, “¹⁴ And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. ¹⁶ “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.” (ESV) We can also go to John 6:47 “⁴⁷ Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life.” (ESV) Or Romans 6:22-23 “²² But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life. ²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (ESV) Or 1 John 2:25 “²⁵ And this is the promise that he made to us—eternal life.” (ESV)

I think He has made His point; the gift of Justification, sanctification (holy living), repentance, forgiveness, and eternal life are for all to receive, but sadly there will always be those who choose horribly wrong and that to their eternal separation from God for eternity. Which is why the teaching on predestination, and election, are so important for the church then, now, and in the future, to not confuse or muddle, when it is being taught through His Word.

JULY Birthdays & Anniversaries

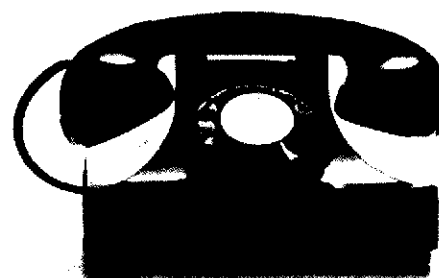
- 3 – Josh & Jenna Layton (15)
- 4 – Doug & Marla Rincker (33)
- 5 – Howard* & Kay Dust (11)
- 6 – Travis* & Gina Vonderheide (23);
Brad* Storm
- 7 – Dan & Karen Pfeiffer (35);
Chris Rincker; Sandy Bugenhagen;
Laurie Wirth
- 8 – Tanner Bowers; Isaac Kramer;
Tanya Walker; Tobias Weber
- 9 – Mike & Laurie Rincker (20);
Amelia Batson; Oaklyn Williams
Eli & Emily* Dollarhide (3)
- 10- Jack Clark; James Stodden
- 11- Mike Rincker
- 12- Griffin McIlwain
- 13- Scott Pieper
- 14- Nick & Brittani Oller (7); Hannah Hayes;
Mackenzi Tabbert
- 15- Kelsey Long; Melissa Luce;
- 17- Kevin & Alison* Wirth (26);
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 (42)
Stephanie Jack & Danny Barker (3)
- 24- Darin & Colleen Storm (38);
Rachel Kessler
- 25- Tyler & Jennifer* Wirth (10);
- 26- Sarah* Vogel
Courtney Wittenberg
- 27- Linda Doebling; Gary Duncan;
Alyssa Rincker; Henry* York
- 28- Cooper Kirkley
- 29- Luke & Lauren Wetherell (19);
Seth Rincker; Abby* Luce;
Pastor Whybrew
- 30- Tyler Wirth
- 31- Pam Clark; Jesse & Mariah Williams (4)

LOCAL LINKS

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

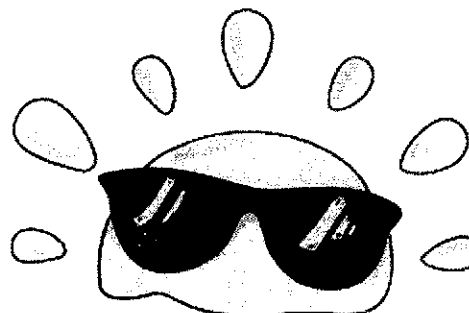
Articles for Newsletter & Guide

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 6 - Dennis & Kenna Wirth
July 13 - Pastor & Doreen Whybrew
July 20 - Brandon & Shelby Beltz
July 27 - Jim & Phyllis Weiss

AUGUST SCHEDULE

Greeters-

Aug. 3 - Mark & Melissa Luce
Aug. 10 - John & Judy Wittenberg
Aug. 17 - Bob & Rohnda Schlechte
Aug. 24 - Gerry & Dawn Schlechte
Aug. 31 - Otto & Lisa Rincker

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thank you

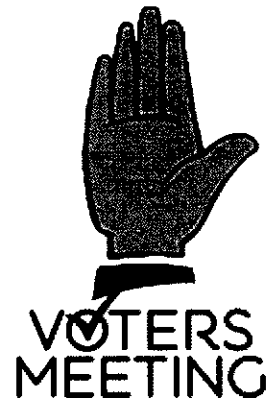
Thank you The floor in the office has been replaced along with a new coat of paint on the walls. It looks really nice! **Thank you...** Don Telgmann, Tim Lenz, Chris Ashmore, Mike Pfeiffer and Charlene Telgmann for moving everything in/out of the office.

Baptisms

Baptism Augustus James Allen, son of Gabe and Marcell Allen was baptized Sunday, June 1, 2025. His sponsors are Tanner Clark and Caleb and Lorelei Schwenk. God's blessings to Augustus and his family



The Church Council meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. July 7th.



Please plan to attend the voter's meeting, July 27, 2025 after church.

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Pastor Whybrew will be on vacation July 5-12. If you have an emergency or hospitalization please contact one of the elders.



****Congratulations to 4th year seminarian Micah Brown who graduated from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis on May 17, 2025. Micah received a call to serve as the Associate Pastor at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Batavia, IL. Blessings to Micah and his wife Jen.**

In May, Hunter Kinnison completed his second year of study at Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne. For his third year of study, Hunter received a vicarage assignment to St. Paul Lutheran Church in Eldora, Iowa. He begins his yearlong service at St. Paul on July 13. May the Lord continue to bless Hunter and his wife Naomi during this time.

Joshua Gerken will return to Concordia Theological Seminary for his 4th year of study after completing a yearlong vicarage assignment at Concordia Lutheran Church in Fort Wayne. Please keep Joshua, wife Rachel, and son Callan in your prayers as they prepare for the 2025-26 school year.

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News from St. Paul's first adopted seminary student:

The first seminary student St. Paul's congregation supported thirty years ago (during the 1990-91 school year) was Jerry McNamara when he was a 4th year seminary student at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis. He and his wife Mary Beth visited our congregation twice during his senior year. Currently, the Rev. Jerry McNamara serves as a full-time hospital chaplain at a Level 1 Trauma Center in the Houston area and is also a part-time vacancy pastor at local churches. He finds the chaplaincy work exciting and fulfilling as he helps patients and families at their greatest time of need. The following note is from Pastor Jerry to our congregation:

Please share this to folks at St Paul:

After your support, I have been blessed to serve as a Children & Youth pastor in Florida, plant a new church near Atlanta that saw hundreds come to faith, served as a Texas District staff person serving over 90 congregations, oversaw expanding churches through building programs, adding Stephen Ministry, and much more. Now 34 years and 2000+ sermons later, I know I have had the chance to glorify God and serve His people because YOU first served us. My wife Mary Beth and I—along with our three sons and two grandsons—say THANK YOU for planting seeds in us that have blessed more people than any of us could have imagined! Yea, God, for His goodness through you, the St Paul Lutheran family!

We praise God for the way he has used and is still using the work of Rev. Jerry to further his kingdom and that St. Paul's was able to support him financially and with love and prayers during his last year at the seminary.

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LYF Eight LYF members are heading to the Higher Things conference in Seward, NE July 8-11 on the Concordia University campus. These conferences are held on college or university campuses around the country, giving attendees a taste and feel for what going off to school will be like.

This year's conference theme is **All Things New**. He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" (Revelation 21:5) Jesus promises that just as He is risen, we will rise. The last great enemy has been destroyed. Everlasting life belongs to all who believe... one day.

Attending members: Madison Beitz, Brinlie Durbin, Kennedy Kull, Colby McCormick, Oliver Wascher, Zaida Wascher, Rachel Weaver, & Tabitha Weaver. They are chaperoned by Sarah Luce and Pastor Weaver. Thank you to Grace, St. Paul's and Trinity for your continued support that helps make this trip possible!



Vacation Bible School We just had a great week of Vacation Bible School. There were 88 children enrolled, and 8 or 9 adult's in Pastor's class. Every day we had around 40 adult teacher/ leaders and teen helpers. Thanks to everyone who helped make our week so wonderful – those who came to work and help, those who brought kids and grandkids, those who donated cookies and other items, and those who prayed for us. Especially thanks to the great children who learned these five important lessons: Jesus calls us, Jesus leads us, Jesus teaches us, Jesus saves us, and Jesus sends us. A special thank you goes to our VBS Director, Diane Jack, for all her time and effort in making VBS a truly blessed experience!

Report for the June 2025 meeting of the Lutheran Ladies of Strasburg

The June 5th meeting of the Lutheran Ladies of Strasburg met at St Paul's Lutheran church at 10am. The meeting was called to order by President Muriel Merriman. Muriel opened with a devotion on "Jesus is My Comfort". Eighteen members were present. Roll call and reading of the minutes was conducted by Secretary Tammy Sentel. Treasurer Charlene Telgmann gave the treasures report and collected dues.

Muriel read a thank you note from Trinity Lutheran School for our donation to their May fund raiser. We also received a thank you from Donna Pfeiffer for the card and cross the group sent her. Confirmand Lorelei McCormick sent a thank you note for her personalized bookmark.

Muriel reminded the group that next month we will be collecting Mites. There will be a Zone officer meeting on July 28th. The group decided that this month's project will be Tom and Leslie Newell for medical expense. Other upcoming events include Vacation Bible School at St Paul's on June 16th to 20th and the National LWML convention in Omaha, Nebraska on June 26th to the 29th. July's meeting will be on the 3rd at St Paul's with hostesses Lori Pieper and Judy Wittenberg. Flowers for July will be Sharon Grieco for Grace and Kay Dust for St Paul's. Muriel thanked the June flower committee Cindy Roley for Grace and Sharon Rincker for St Paul's. The meeting closed with the memory verse: God is Love 1 John 4:8, the Doxology and the Lord's Prayer. The group sang Happy Birthday to Kay Dust, Neva Hagen and Lori Pieper. Pastor and Doreen were acknowledged for their 39th Anniversary on June 20th. The group adjourned and carpooled to Windsor Pub for their yearly lunch outing together. The group said the Table prayer before eating their delicious lunch.

Secretary, Tammy Sentel

Save the Date!

LUTHERANS FOR LIFE OF ILLINOIS

PRESENTS

A STATE-WIDE LIFE EVENT

At Trinity Lutheran Church, Auburn, Illinois

August 23, 2025, 9:00 AM—2:00 PM

Registration \$20

Featuring Presentations on:

Care for Caregivers

Citizenship Issues

End of Life Issues

Foster Care

Illinois Life Essay Winner

Pregnancy Care

(Door Offering for Maternity Home, Pregnancy Center, and Foster Care Ministry)

First Step
Women's
Center

Illinois
Family
Institute

Lutherans
For
Life

We Are
Called to
Care

Redeeming
Life Outreach
Ministry

I AM
FEARFULLY
AND
WONDERFULLY
MADE

Lutherans For
Life of
Illinois