

THE MESSENGER

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



JUNE 2025

Dear Friends in Christ:

7. He will also strengthen, increase, and support to the end the good work that He has begun in them [Philippians 1:6], if they cling to God's Word, pray diligently, abide in God's goodness, and faithfully use the gifts they received [Matthew 25:14-30].

St. Paul writes in 2 Timothy 3:16-17 ¹⁶All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work." In other words, the word of God is not given to us by the Lord with one hand and then snatched out of ours by the other. God's election is sure! Our eternal salvation depends on the accuracy of His word for us, and if God is lying to us then why are we wasting our time in following the truths that have been written and given to us in the Bible? The writer of Hebrews in chapter 12, verse 2 reminds us of who Jesus is and what He has done for us, "Looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith...." Also, Paul writing in Romans eight writes this, ³¹What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?" This is why it is so important for us to grasp why the authors of the Formula of Concord wrote what they did for the sake of clarity about Election.

As I have said in a few past months Election is not to be something that makes us question our salvation, but rather shores it up and puts a barrier around it in our minds. Why would the Lord "strengthen, increase, and support" our faith, which is what He has given to us through Jesus' death and resurrection if He was just going to randomly send us to hell since we were not really Elect, a believer. To half a Church full of people wondering if they are really called by God to be one of the Elect or if they are merely wasting their time because He is just going to cast them into hell because they were really saved, is really despicable. The Lord has not promised uncertainty to our faith but certainty. Which is why we are called by the Formula to "cling to God's Word, pray diligently, abide in God's goodness, and faithfully use the gifts they received" If our salvation is a matter of chance or probability of something that we can accomplish then there really is no Salvation because Jesus is not the source and the Perfecter of our faith, we would be. Because we would have to rely on whatever it is that we believe about ourselves and that would be our truth. If we are truthful, who wants to put themselves in a negative light? So of course, I have to be saved, because I'm a good person and therefore it is plain to see that God has got to like me and my effort that I'm putting forward. That is all you have left if Jesus is not the founder and perfecter of our faith. Which sadly leaves a foundation of sand that can cause all of my goodness to come crashing down and leave me questioning once again my salvation.

So, where does that leave us? Quite frankly in the best place that we can be, in the hands of our Risen Lord. when all my excuses and explanations have been stripped away, I am left with only God's promise to me through Jesus. Which is the only thing that we have been promised in the first place. Our faith in Jesus is never misguided or misdirected, because our faith is from Him to us. Paul assures us of this in Colossians 2:11-12 ¹¹In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, ¹²having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead." If salvation is God's work, and He desires all to be saved, which I have written about in previous months, then all who believe in Jesus Christ will be saved as Paul writes in Romans 10:13 ¹³For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." That is my friends our certainty and assurance, our resurrected Savior. Alleluia, He is Risen! He is risen indeed, Alleluia!

JUNE

Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 1 - Ron & Karen Wirth (40); Kane Rincker
- 2 - Wyatt Wetherell; Keri Reel
- 3 - Dustin Vonderheide
Heath & Autumn McCormick (22)
- 4 - Patrick Merriman;
Roger & Wanda Kessler (58)
- 6 - Brian Shelton
- 8 - Tom Weber; Beau Tabbert
Dean & Karen Rentfro (56)
- 9 - Gideon Dollarhide; Megan Ray;
- 10 - Pat Wallace; Bryce Rincker
- 11 - Carol & Troy Salazar (31)
- 12 - Kay Dust
- 14 - Jaden Petri; Will Tabbert;
Henry Vonderheide*
- 15 - Emmalee Storm;
Wes & Rosemarie Manhart (6)
- 16 - Daryn Merriman
- 17 - Brittany Clifton
- 18 - Joshua Glasscock; Jennifer Stodden;
Cathern Stremming;
Mason* Helmuth
- 19 - Neva Hagan
- 20 - Lori Pieper;
Pastor & Doreen Whybrew (39)
- 21 - Susan Beals; Weston Booher
- 22- James* & Claire Hortenstein (6)
- 23 - Nicole Clapp; August* Supan
David & Debbie* Stremming (35);
Luke & Kalei* Rincker (7)
- 24 - Shalyn Tabbert;
Pam & Jack Clark (36); Jaxson Hoene
- 25 - Don & Kim Telgmann (37)
- 26 - Kenna Wirth; Kimber Clifton
- 27 - Logan Mathis; Richard Reel II;
Dalton Storm
- 29 - Luke Gilbert; Sheryl Duncan
- 30 - Lou* & Carol Camilotto (35)

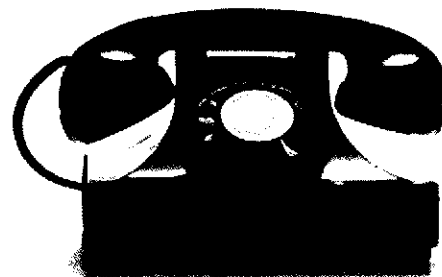
WWW.

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.

JUNE SCHEDULE

Greeters -

June 1- Zach Shelton
June 8- Autumn & Heath McCormick
June 15- Josh Layton
June 22- Dwight Lading
June 29- Gary & Karen Kull

JULY SCHEDULE

Greeters-

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

Organist - Muriel Merriman



Baby Bottle Project On Mother's Day, local churches in our area will be participating in the Family Life Center's BABY BOTTLE PROJECT. The Baby Bottle Project is a fundraising effort the whole family can enjoy. Simply take a bottle provided to you in the narthex and fill it with change from Mother's Day to Father's Day. The church will collect the filled bottles and donate the proceeds to the Family Life Center for the continuation of its life-saving ministry. This fundraiser provides an excellent opportunity for people of all ages to be involved in supporting this local ministry that provides FREE services and education to our area.
YOUR CHANGE CAN CHANGE A LIFE!!

support Our



SEMINARIANS

Dear Friends in Christ,
Thank you so much for your continued prayers and financial support! As I write this my second year of seminary is quickly drawing to a close, papers are coming due, exams are coming, it is certainly a busy time of the year, but it is joyful nonetheless.

At the end of April fourth year students received their calls and are now excitedly preparing to move and begin their pastorates, and second year students, like myself, received vicarage assignments, and are also excited.

I received my vicarage assignment to St. Paul Lutheran Church in Eldora, Iowa. Eldora is a fairly small town an hour northeast of Des Moines and St. Paul is a congregation, about the size of your own. That is about all I know so far, but I am greatly looking forward to my time there and finding out how our Lord will use my experience there to further form me into a pastor.

I start there on July 13 and will spend a year there before returning to Ft. Wayne for a final year of classes.

Please continue to keep my wife, Naomi, and myself in your prayers as we prepare to move to Eldora and as we spend a year getting to know the people there and serving our Lord in their congregation. Again, thank you for all of your support and prayers in these last two years.

Yours in Christ,
Seminarman Hunter Kinnison

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Dear St. Paul's Lutheran Church,
Happy May! Thank you so much for supporting me throughout my education at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis! I thank God for your willingness to aid in the formation of pastors through your prayer and financial support.

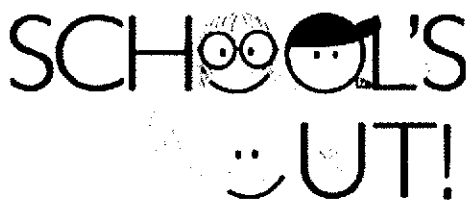
I have been called to serve as the Associate Pastor at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Batavia, IL. God is good! Both Jen and I are extremely excited to be going back to Northern Illinois to serve in God's kingdom. We have both felt the hand of Jesus throughout our time here and we are ready to walk the path that He has placed before us in the Chicagoland area.

But even though we are ready for this exciting next step in God's plan for us, there are a few things that need to be done here first. I need to complete my classes at Seminary. Jen needs to close out the school year at her school where she is a teacher, we need to pack up all of our things back into boxes, and we need to bid farewell to friends and family who have walked this road in St. Louis with us.

I especially want to thank you again for the love and support you have shown to both Jen and me over these past four years. Your prayers and financial support have made my education here possible. Because of you and others like you, working together to advance the kingdom of God, myself and my classmates are being sent out to do God's work. So from the bottom of my heart, thank you. You are evidence of the great things that the body of Christ can accomplish when we work together.

Now, I pray that God's blessings be upon you through our Lord, Jesus Christ.
Decreasing (John 3:30),

Micah & Jen Brown

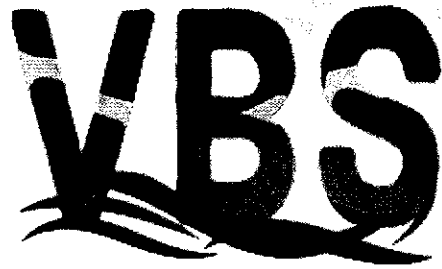


WDS Picnic About 50 people attended the annual Weekday Picnic on Wednesday, May 7. The Board of Education provided hot dogs and delicious finger foods. The program for the evening consisted of the kids singing, reciting their favorite Bible passages, and telling about their favorite Bible stories.

All four teachers stressed how good attendance had been this year. Maura Batson, Brenlee Orman, and Liam Orman all had perfect attendance with several other students missing only one or two classes. Missing only one or two classes were Harper Layton, Emalee Orman, Camden Layton, and Roxy Shelton. Absent only three or four times all year were Isley Wallin, Grady Smith, and Reed Smith. Pastor reported excellent attendance for all of his students. Then Supt. Diane Jack passed out certificates to all the children.

The evening ended with most of the kids participating in the annual kickball game with Max's team defeating Brenlee's.

A big thank you goes to Diane Jack and Troy Uphoff for organizing the evening and to our Weekday teachers, Courtney Orman, Susie Allen, Dee Dee Batson, and Rev. Whybrew.



Vacation Bible School Registration for St. Paul's/Grace Vacation Bible School is now open. VBS will be held June 16-20, from 9:00-11:30 a.m. The theme is "Epic Australian Adventure". VBS is for ages preschool to students entering 7th grade this fall. There will be a VBS adult class taught by Pastor Whybrew. This year's Mission Project is the Stew-Stras Blessings in a backpack. If you have any questions contact Diane Jack 217.565.3434 or the church office 217.644.2661.

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Congratulations Graduates Congratulation to our High School graduates, Samantha Hayes, Peyton Long, Dennon Stremming, Ellie Wittenberg, and Raegyn Wallin. We also want to congratulate our 8th graders Noah Vonderheide, Lorelei McCormick, and Bryce Rincker on their promotion to High School. Please keep all of these students in your thoughts and prayers as they navigate through the next chapter of their lives.



Thank you to everyone who donated to the Family Life Center at Shelbyville for the prayer walk. We walked to and prayed at four stations: Mothers, Fathers, unborn and the lost. We had a total of \$1210 to give to the center. If you did not get to donate, you can give to the baby bottle project. Thanks for caring for the unborn!

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.

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Baptisms

Baptism Beau Weber Bowers was baptized on Saturday, May 3, 2025. Beau is the son of Tanner and Caroline Bowers. His sponsors are Wade and Haley Culver. Grandparents are Chris & Sue Bowers and John & Eileen Janecki. God's blessings to Beau and his family.

Baptism Blair Ragan Ohnesorge, daughter of Dylan and Amelia Ohnesorge, will be baptized this morning. Blair's sponsors are Collin Ohnesorge and Stephanie McKinley. Grandparents are Joe & Linda Buscher, Barb Ohnesorge, Brad Ohnesorge. God's blessings to Blair and her family.

Baptism Hazel Jean Oller was baptized on Sunday, May 18, 2025. Hazel is the daughter of Nick and Brittani Oller. Her sponsors are Josh Tabbert and Makenna Durbin. God's blessings to Hazel and her family.



Text Messages from St. Paul's We now have the ability to notify members with text messages from the Church360 software. To sign up, please write your name and email address on the sign-up sheet in the narthex. An email message will be sent to you from the Church360 software and will include a link that will ask for your cell number. After you enter your cell phone number a confirmation text message will then be sent to you. You will need to reply "Yes" to that message and will then be enrolled to receive important text messages from the church. Questions? Ask Mike Pfeiffer.

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LYF would like to thank everyone that supported our Pancake & Sausage breakfast! Thanks to your generous support, we served around 100 people and made \$1400. We enjoyed serving you and appreciate your support of our activities.

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

The May 2nd meeting was called to order by President Muriel Merriman. Sixteen members were present. Roll call and reading of the minutes was conducted by Secretary Tammy Sentel. Treasure's report and collection of dues was conducted by Treasure Charlene Telgmann.

Muriel read a thank you note from LCMS for last month's project donation to the Disaster Relief fund. Judy Wittenberg gave a report on the bookmarks that they personalized for the Confirmands this year. Plans for the Joy Shop at St John's Dietrich was reviewed. Eight members signed up to attend. The group will meet at 5pm at St Paul's to car pool. Items gathered for the ingathering will be taken for donation. The June 5th meeting will be at 10am. The group will then car pool to Windsor Pub for lunch.

The group decided that this month's project will be divided between Patsy Lenz for the Family Life center "Walk for Life" event and the Vacation Bible School program next month at St Paul. Upcoming events include the National LWML convention in Omaha, Nebraska June 26th-29th and Vacation Bible School at St Paul's on June 16th through the 20th.

Muriel thanked the retiring flower committee: Kathy Yakey for Grace and Judy Wittenberg for St Paul. The June flower committee will be Cindy Roley for Grace and Sharon Rincker for St Paul. Muriel thanked today's hostesses Charlene Telgmann and Connie Wirth for the lovely decorations and refreshments. The meeting closed with the memory verse: Fear not, for I am with you. Isaiah 41:10, the Doxology, the Lord's Prayer and the Table Prayer. The group sang Happy Birthday to Carolyn Boldt before breaking for refreshments.

Secretary, Tammy Sentel



You are invited to Vacation Bible School

June 16-20, 2025

9:00-11:30 AM

Hosted by: St. Paul's & Grace Lutheran Churches

Held at: St. Paul's Lutheran Church

511 S Walnut St., Strasburg, IL

For ages 3 to those who will enter 7th grade in the fall

An Adult Class is also available

Adult class led by Pastor Kene Whybrew

Closing Program-Friday, June 20 at 11:00 AM

Please register by June 2, 2025

***Learn about Jesus, Our Savior**

***Meet new Friends**

***Make Crafts**

***Play Games**

***Do fun Activities**

***Sing Great Songs**

***Eat Snacks**

***** This year's Mission Project is Stew-Stras Blessings in a Backpack**

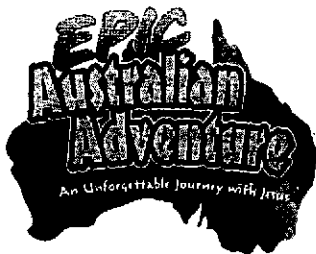
For Information or to Register:

1. Call the church 217.644.2661

2. Email stpaulsstrasburg@gmail.com

3. Facebook-St. Paul's Lutheran

Church Strasburg IL



ST. PAUL'S & GRACE DUAL PARISH VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL REGISTRATION FORM
ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, 511 S. WALNUT, STRASBURG, IL 62465
JUNE 16-20, 2025 9:00 – 11:30 A.M.

#1 Child's Name: _____ DOB: _____ Grade entering Fall 25: _____

Allergies or Medical Condition: _____

#2 Child's Name: _____ DOB: _____ Grade entering Fall 25: _____

Allergies or Medical Condition: _____

#3 Child's Name: _____ DOB: _____ Grade entering Fall 25: _____

Allergies or Medical Condition: _____

May we use your child's (children's) picture (or video) for church purposes only? ☐ yes ☐ no

Parent(s): _____ Addr: _____ City: _____

Phone: (cell) _____ (work) _____ In case of emergency: _____

Check if interested in Adult VBS class _____ Name _____

Please return by June 1: St. Paul's Lutheran Church Office, 511 S. Walnut St., Strasburg, IL 62465

Questions: Contact St. Paul's at 217.644.2661 or Diane Jack 217.565.3434



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