

THE MESSENGER



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

MAY 2024

Dear Friends in Christ:

Ephesians 1:3-14 ³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love ⁵he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, ⁶to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.

Beginning this month, we will be looking at the teaching of predestination. I see this shaping up as a multiple month project keeping each article within a reasonable length yet conveying information and teaching on the topic. This month we are going to begin by defining our terms, which goes a long way in understanding what it is we are talking about when it comes to predestination. Now you would think since this is a Biblical teaching that it should be pretty straight forward and understandable, I would say that you would be right if we allowed God's word to merely say what it says rather than us trying to make it say what we think it ought to say. Yes, that is the main problem with many of the heresies and challenges that have arisen in the life of the church.

So that being said let's define our terms, Predestination, Election and Foreknowledge. That right there is enough to fill many pages, but we are going for brevity with substance so here we go.

Predestination, or predestined as we see it in verse like that above from Ephesians is the Greek word *proorizo*, this is the English transliteration, but the word means to "decide upon beforehand." In the Bible, it is always God who is doing the deciding.

Now we also must look at two other terms, one that is used as a synonym of predestined, and one that is used in "helping" to understand predestination and when not used correctly can sometimes cause more confusion in the the discussion, which is our fault not the Lords. The first one would be elect or election, a good, solid, Biblical word *ekloge*, this is the English transliteration, which means "the act of choosing out."

The next and last word that we are going to look at is foreknowledge, the transliteration of the Greek word is *prognosis*, which means to know beforehand. I have included this at this time because it inevitably comes out in the discussion about predestination, and it will be no different for us in the articles to come.

So now that we have our terms defined up coming articles will deal with understanding what we are talking about as well as why there has been such controversies over the topic of predestination and what it is all about and what it means for us who are the people of God. My prayer is that this will be fruitful in our continued understanding as the Church, the people of God.

Upcoming Important Dates in May

May 2nd – National Day of Prayer

May 9th – Ascension 10:30 AM at Grace and 6:30 PM at St. Paul's

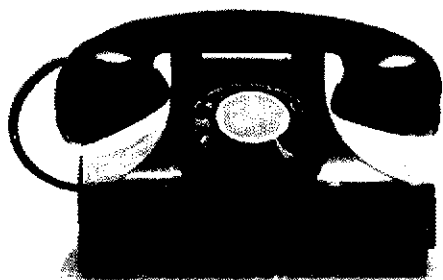
May 19th - Pentecost

May 26th – Trinity Sunday

MAY

Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 2 - Troy Salazar
- 3 - Claire Logue; Caroline Polk
- 4 - Jocelyn Schultz
- 5 - Angela & Jason Edwards (23)
- 6 - Rick* Vonderheide; Jacob Schultz; Maxwell Bowers
- 10- Gerry Schlechte; Carolyn Boldt; Lorelei McCormick
- 11- Brenton Pieper; Cody* Bushue
- 13- Brendon Bowers; Daniel Vogel; Casen Logue; Lennon Booher; Kalei* Rincker
- 14- Carol Salazar; Gaylord Stremming; Laura Dollarhide
- 15- Amanda Doehring; Ron Sporleder; Gabe* & Marcaill Allen (3)
- 16- Brandon Doehring; Alex Allen; Liam Booher
- 17- Kayla Duncan; Jessica Bloemer
- 18- Adrienne & Cody* Bushue (5)
- 19- Jonathan & Abby* Luce (6); Jesse* Wallin
- 20- Allison Vonderheide
- 22- Dianna Gibson; Lois Ogle
- 25- Josh Tabbert
- 26- Jonathon Schultz; Brandon & Shelby Beltz (6)
- 27- Travis Pieper; Darrell & Molly Gilbert (35)
- 28- Steve & Sharon Weber (36)
- 29- Debbie* Stremming
- 30- Sharon Stremming; Stephanie & Jared* Petri (15); Maxine Ruff; Harper* Hoene
- 31 Jonathon Luce; Rachel Wallin; Ellie Wittenberg; Chris & Jennifer Ashmore(16)



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.

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.



Weekday School Kids Schedule

Wed. May 1 5:30-7:00 PM WDS Picnic



Invitation to Attend WDS picnic There will be a Weekday School picnic on Wed., May 1, from 5:30-7 p.m., to celebrate the end of the 2023-24 school year for the children attending St. Paul's Wednesday evening Christian education classes in grades 1-6, and also the confirmation students in grades 7 and 8. St. Paul's Education team would like to invite the parents, grandparents, family and members of Grace and St. Paul's to attend the picnic May 1. The evening will begin with a hotdog meal from 5:30-6:00 p.m. in St. Paul's Social Hall. Hot dogs, buns, condiments, table service and drinks will be provided. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share. At 6 p.m. students in grades 1 & 2 (Courtney Orman, teacher), grades 3 & 4 (Susie Allen, teacher), and grades 5 & 6 (Dee Dee Batson, teacher) will give a brief program to demonstrate what the children have learned throughout the year. After the program, children may play games behind the church or in the gym. Please RSVP on the signup sheet in the back of church at St. Paul's or Grace by April 28 if you plan to attend. Contact Karen Kull if you have any questions 217.549.3141.



Tue. May 14- Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm
 Wed. May 22- Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm
 Sun. May 26- Choir Sings "Here I Am, Lord"



Thank You Thank you to Kay Dust for supplying delicious treats for Weekday School students and teachers in March!

Thank You Thank you to all who helped with the Melba Storm funeral. Your help and support are greatly appreciated. Lutheran Ladies Aid of Strasburg

Thank You Thank you to Autumn McCormick for organizing Palm Sunday and the children's Easter egg hunt.

Thank You Thank you to the elders and their families and the McCormick's who organized the Easter breakfast. They served approximately 100 people.

Thank You Thank you for the use of the church for the Weber/Bailey wedding. Zach & Charley Weber, Steve & Sharon Weber, and Chuck & Gloria Bailey

Thank You We would like to thank everyone for the cards and prayers and expressions of sympathy at the passing of our Mom, Grandma and Great Grandma, Norma Rose Huddleston. Thank you also to all who brought food, sent flowers and gave memorials. We are blessed to have so many wonderful friends in our church family. God's Blessings to you! Karen and Dean Rentfro & family and Alan and Diane Crutcher and family.



LYF LYF would like to thank everyone that supported our Pancake & Sausage breakfast! Thanks to your generous support, we served around 100 people and made \$1200. We enjoyed serving you and appreciate your support of our activities.

LYF LYF will host their last meeting of the school year on Wednesday, May 1 at Trinity. We will meet at 7:00 pm for food and games!



Confirmation Sunday was April 28, 2024
 Those being confirmed are:

Eddie Wittenberg,
 daughter of Barry & Courtney Wittenberg
Karly Wetherell,
 daughter of Luke & Lauren Wetherell

The Oral Exam, public profession of faith prepared for by long and careful instruction, was at 7:00 p.m. on Sunday, April 23rd.



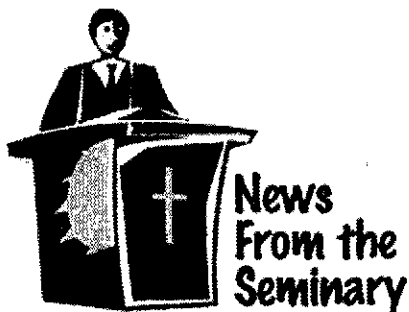
May Greeters

May 5- Darin & Colleen Storm
 May 12- Diane Jack
 May 19- Rick & Susie Allen
 May 26- Howard & Kay Dust

June Greeters

June 2- Dennis & Kenna Wirth
 June 9- Brandon & Shelby Beltz
 June 16- Jim & Phylliss Weiss
 June 23- Bob & Yvonne Pfeiffer
 June 30- Mark & Melissa Luce

***** If you would like to be a greeter, please contact the church office 217.644.2661.**



Dear friends in Christ,
As always, thank you for your continued financial support, your encouragement, and your prayers. My Spring quarter is heading quickly to an end on May 16th. I am enjoying all of my classes and the wonderful warm weather here. This summer I will be doing a summer fieldwork ("internship") at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Wichita, Kansas. This fieldwork will begin the week after classes end and run until the end of June. At Immanuel I will be studying the weekly readings with the pastors, preaching regularly, learning about sacred art, and studying some languages and classical literature with the pastors.

I would also like to invite you all to a fundraiser my home church, St. John's in Dieterich, is hosting. The fundraiser is a free will offering meal consisting of pulled pork, pork burgers, hotdogs, and various sides. It is on Sunday, May 19 from 4-7p.m in the parish hall at St. John's in Dieterich. I will be there and would be delighted to get to meet you!
Yours in Christ, our risen and ascended Lord,
Seminarian Hunter Kinnison

Call Day The Vicarage Internship Assignment Day Service at Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne will be Tuesday, April 23, at 6 p.m. CST. Seminarian Joshua Gerken will receive his vicarage assignment at this service which he will fulfill for his third year of seminary training. If you would like to watch the service live, you may do so on the seminary's website. Go to <https://www.ctsfw.edu/> and click on "Events". We pray God's blessings upon all the students receiving a call.

Seminary Student St. Paul's was able to send \$1,000 of financial assistance in April to each of our adopted seminary students, Joshua Gerken and Hunter Kinnison. Thank you for your contributions to help support our students. The students also appreciate your prayers, notes, cards and encouragement.

Congratulations Congratulations to Zachary Weber and Charley Bailey, who were married on Saturday, April 6, 2024 at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Strasburg, IL. Parents of the couple are Chuck and Gloria Bailey and Steve and Sharon Weber. God's blessings to the new couple.



Sympathy Please keep the family of Norma Rose Huddleston in your thoughts and prayers. Norma passed away on Saturday, April 13. Funeral was held at St. Paul's Lutheran church on Friday, April 19 with the Rev. Kene Whybrew officiating. Burial was in Grace Cemetery, Strasburg.



Lutheran Ladies of Strasburg Minutes – April 4, 2024

The Lutheran Ladies of Strasburg met in St. Paul's Social Hall on April 4, 2024. Pastor Whybrew opened the meeting with a devotion, Acts 4:32 "Now the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul." Pastor then led us in prayer.

Cindy Roley led the information for our Mite box offerings on Mental Health.

President Muriel Merriman called the meeting to order. Sixteen members answered roll call. The March 7th minutes were read and approved. Our members sent many cards, including Easter, and made visits to members of our congregations. The Treasurer's report was read and approved.

We received thank you cards from the Melba Storm family, Marilyn Montgomery, and Family Life Center.

Shelbyville Family Life Center Walk is April 13th.

Members were again requested to think of interesting projects that we can work on in the coming months.

Our Project for April is to collect items for the El Shaddai Home in Effingham to coordinate with the Joy Shop event at St. Paul's, Wheeler and also for Disaster Relief in the U.S.

The upcoming events are: Joy Shop, April 16th at St. Paul's, Wheeler. LWML-CID, April 26-27 at Rock Island. Zone Officers Meeting July, no date, at St Paul's, Strasburg. Fall Rally, September 18th at Sigel.

Six members plan to attend the Joy Workshop at Wheeler in April. If you would like to attend the LWML CID meeting, please let Muriel know.

The May Flower committees will be Shary Yakey from Grace and Judy Wittenberg from St. Paul's. Muriel thanked the retiring committees of Tynia and Muriel for flowers and our March hostesses Kay and Leigha. The hostesses for May will be Judy Wittenberg and Lori Pieper.

Our verse for the day was "Be kind to one another; tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you." Eph. 4:32.

We closed with the Doxology, Lord's Prayer and Table Prayer. Happy Anniversary to Bob and Yvonne Pfeiffer.

Our next meeting will be held on Thursday, May 2nd, 1:30 p.m. at GRACE Social Hall. We would love to have you join us. Please note the meeting in July will be July 3rd.

Vivian Granat, Secretary

CRADLE ROLL

May 2024

As a parent of young children this God-ordained time with your children will make a difference—a tremendous difference—in their lives. Teach them and train them. It's crucial and something you're uniquely qualified to do. Talk to God about them. Do spiritual battle on their behalf. The world is tugging at our children's hearts, pulling them down and away from God. So take the time to be with them. Share the Bible—children love to hear the stories of heroes and people who love God. Tell them about Jesus...about how He loves them and came to help them. Teach your sons and daughters to pray. And try your best—with the Lords help—to model godliness. The most valuable gift you can give your family is a good example.

Father, help me show my spouse and my children my enthusiasm for You. Through the joy I have in You, I want to draw them in...to spark in their hearts a passion for loving and worshipping You. Amen.

Taken from A Woman After God's Own Heart by Elizabeth George, Harvest House Publishers, 2007, p.102.



ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH PICNIC

SUNDAY, JUNE 23RD

Ballard Nature Center - Allentown
(www.ballardnaturecenter.org)

Meal at 12:30 pm (free will donation)
Catered by Kirby's in Effingham

Please bring: Your BEST dessert to be shared

Activities: 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.

RSVP TO: Sign-up in the Narthex by Sunday, June 16th

You're Invited to Celebrate with Us!



CELEBRATE

the Savior

Jesus Gives Us Joy

You are invited to Vacation Bible School
June 17-21, 2024
9-11:30 a.m.

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

Mission Project: The family of Walker Warden

Please register by June 2

- * Learn About Jesus, Our Savior
- * Meet New Friends
- * Make Crafts
- * Play Games
- * Do Fun Activities
- * Sing Great Songs
- * Eat Snacks

For Information or To Register:

1. Call the church 217.644.2661
2. Email stpaulcms@consolidated.net
3. Facebook—St. Paul's Lutheran Church Strasburg IL



YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND
ST. PAUL'S & GRACE DUAL PARISH
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Hosted by St. Paul's Lutheran Church
JUNE 17-21, 2024 9:00-11:30 A.M.

For Ages 3 to those who will enter 7th grade in the Fall

There is also an Adult Class led by Pastor Kene Whybrew – Plan to attend!
Mission Project: The family of Walker Walden

Mail or drop off the completed registration form below to:
ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, 511 S. WALNUT, STRASBURG, IL 62465
Please register by June 2



ST. PAUL'S & GRACE DUAL PARISH VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL REGISTRATION FORM
ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, 511 S. WALNUT, STRASBURG, IL 62465
JUNE 17-21, 2024 9:00 – 11:30 A.M.

#1 Child's Name: _____ DOB: _____ Grade entering Fall 24: _____

Allergies or Medical Condition: _____

#2 Child's Name: _____ DOB: _____ Grade entering Fall 24: _____

Allergies or Medical Condition: _____

#3 Child's Name: _____ DOB: _____ Grade entering Fall 24: _____

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 2: St. Paul's Lutheran Church Office, 511 S. Walnut St., Strasburg, IL 62465
Contact St. Paul's at 217.644.2661 or Karen Kull 217.549.3141*