

THE MESSENGER



St. Paul's Lutheran Church
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OCTOBER 2024

Dear Friends in Christ:

I want to return to the topic of Election/Predestination, that due to circumstances we got away from. This is such an important topic, and I don't think that we can really ever talk about it too much. In the past we have defined our terms, we have looked at what it is and what it isn't. As well as dealing with some questions that come about because of it. Beginning this month, I want to look at eight truths about Election that the writers of the Formula of Concord thought were important enough to include in the teachings of the Lutheran Churches Book of Concord.

¹³ If we want to think or speak correctly and usefully about eternal election, or the predestination or preordination of God's children to eternal life, we should make it our custom to avoid speculating about God's bare, secret, concealed, mysterious foreknowledge. Instead, we should think or speak about how God's counsel, purpose, and ordination in Christ Jesus—who is the true Book of Life—is revealed to us through the Word. ¹⁴ In other words, the entire teaching about God's purpose, counsel, will, and ordination belongs to our redemption, call, justification, and salvation. They should be treated together the way Paul treats them and has explained this article (Romans 8:29–30; Ephesians 1:4–10) and as Christ treated it in the parable of Matthew 22:1–14; namely, that God in His purpose and counsel ordained the following: (Paul Timothy McCain, ed., Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions (St. Louis, MO: Concordia Publishing House, 2005), 604–605.)

After what we might call for this article this short introduction of the above portion of the Formula the authors continue with eight truths about Election from the Bible. I will be including one of the eight truths and why it is so important that we get the teaching of Election correct from the only source that gives it to us, not our feelings or emotions or intuition, but God's inspired and given Word.

¹⁵ 1. The human race is truly redeemed and reconciled with God through Christ. By His faultless obedience, suffering, and death, Christ merited for us the righteousness that helps us before God and also merits eternal life.

If we were to only be able to use one passage, not meaning that there is only one passage that proclaims this but for brevity of this article, if we are only to take one passage that would help us to consider God's election, we could choose Romans 5⁸ **but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.** ⁹ **Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God.** ¹⁰ **For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life.** ¹¹ **More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.** (ESV) It is fair to say that we will not understand why some are saved and others are not. It is imperative though that we do proclaim what the Bible does say that Jesus died for all sinners, meaning of course all humans. We tend to focus on the things that we don't have an answer to rather than the things that we do have clear truths from the Bible. All can come to faith in Jesus Christ because He died for all. How do we know that we are saved? Because Jesus died for us and reconciled us to the Father. Therefore, those that are not His are not because of their unbelief and not because God is showing favoritism, or He has something against them or any other "reason" that people have given for unbelief. It is hard for even some Christians to wrap their heads around the fact that people are responsible for their own actions of unbelief, but to blame God for people not believing in Him is utter foolishness and one could even say blasphemous from what we see from the Formula and this passage from Romans 5.

OCTOBER Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 1 - Karen Rentfro; Jim Rincker; Kathy Vogel*; William & Linda Orr (57)
 - 2 - Brandon Gunter; Gina Vonderheide
 - 3 - Marla Rincker; Zach* & Kelsey White (4)
 - 4 - Gary Brehmer*;
Gaylord & Dixie Stremming (60)
 - 6 - Kathy Gray; Karen* York
 - 7 - Jake Gilbert; Roy Reed III; Randy Stremming
 - 8 - John Cress; Joe Oakley
 - 9 - Holden Ashmore; Landon Wirth*; Jim Weiss
 - 10-Susan Hanfland; Dustin York
 - 11-Austin Rincker; Otto Rincker; Georgia Harley*; Gibson Harley*
 - 12- Kim Telgmann; Brea Moon-Wirth*
 - 13 -Arlene McCormick; Howard Dust*;
 - 14- Chris & Kevin Kramer (35)
 - 15- Noah & Rebekah* Prosser (2)
 - 16 - August McIlwain
 - 17 - Dylan Wetherell
 - 18 - Richard Reel
 - 20 - Dan Pfeiffer; Margaret Swank; Jacob* & Kathie Helmuth (6) ***
 - 21 - Barbara Ohnesorge; Ronda Schlechte; Allison McIlwain
 - 22 - Patsy Lenz; Wes Manhart
 - 23 - Betty Vogel
 - 24 - Dylan Ohnesorge; Delia Riley Jack; Brandon Beltz
 - 25- Gabby Vonderheide
 - 26- Aurora* Wirth
 - 27 - Dawn Schlechte; Everest Clark
 - 28 - Susie Allen
 - 29 - Heather Manhart; Judy Radloff; John E. & Judy Radloff (26)
 - 30 - Alecia Bocher
 - 31 - Sara Hayes; Ken* Hayes
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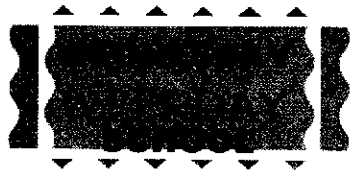


- Tues. Oct. 1 7:00p.m. Choir Rehearsal
- Tues. Oct. 15 7:00p.m. Choir Rehearsal
- Sun. Oct. 20 Choir Sings-
"How Can I Keep from Singing": (Arr. McDonald)
- Wed. Oct. 23 7:30p.m. Choir Rehearsal
- Sun. Oct. 27 Choir Sings-
"God is Our Refuge" (Pote)

LOCAL LINKS

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

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.



WDS CLASSES 6:30-7:30 PM
 Grade 1st - 8th

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Prayer Chain



If you know of anyone needing prayer because of an accident, sudden onset of illness, or critical illness, please call **The Church Office 217.644.2661**. If you wish to volunteer to be a member of the prayer chain, let the office know. James 5:16....**"and pray for one another that you may be healed."**



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.

OCTOBER SCHEDULE

Greeters-

- Oct. 6- Rick & Susie Allen
- Oct. 13- Kay & Howard Dust
- Oct. 20- Dennis & Kenna Wirth
- Oct. 27- Brandon & Shelby Beitz

NOVEMBER SCHEDULE

Greeters-

- Nov. 3- Jim & Phyliss Weiss
- Nov. 10- Bob & Yvonne Pfeiffer
- Nov. 17- Mark & Melissa Luce
- Nov. 24- John & Judy Wittenberg



High School Fellowship

LYF Join us for our next LYF meeting on Sunday, October 6 at 6:30 pm, St. Paul's Lutheran Church. We will enjoy Pizza, games, and fellowship! Paperwork will be sent by mail, but if you have questions, please contact Sarah Luce. We look forward to the year ahead.

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Sympathy Please keep the family of Floyd Storm in your thoughts and prayers. Floyd passed away on Tuesday, August 28, 2024.

Baptism

Baptism Receiving the Sacrament of Baptism on Sunday, September 15, 2024 was Tate Jacob McIlwain, son of Jake and Allison McIlwain. Sponsors are Olivia Telgmann, Jessica Bloemer and Jared McIlwain. God's blessings to Tate and his family.

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Congratulations Blessings to Jesse and Mariah Williams who welcomed a son, Truett Dean, on Thursday, September 19. Grandparents are Mary Tabbert, Dale Tabbert, Mickey and JoAnn Williams. God's blessings to Tate and his family

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Walking for St. Paul's We are looking for members who are willing to walk. Starting in September, members can keep track of the number of miles they have walked in a month on tally sheets located on the church office door. Once the tally sheet is completed you can turn it back in to the church office or put it in the envelope on the office door. Once we have amassed 5000 miles collectively we can apply for a \$250 debit card from Thrivent to be used at the choosing of the participants. Please watch for more details.



Notes of THANKS



Dear Friends in Christ,
Thank you for your continued prayers and financial support during my time at the seminary. At the time of my writing I am just beginning the second week of classes and they are all going very well. I am always happy to be back into a routine of prayer and the study of God's Word with my professors and my brothers in the seminary.

Naomi and I are also settling into our new home well and are getting used to life as husband and wife. While I am in classes she has been working very hard to make our house a home and has been doing some babysitting for some other seminary families. I am very blessed to have her.

I would like to share with you, also, a stanza from one of my favorite hymns:

"Now I will cling forever
To Christ, my Savior true;
My Lord will leave me never,
Whate'er He passes through
He rends death's iron chain;
He breaks through sin and pain;
He shatters hell's grim thrall;
I follow Him through all." (LSB 467:6)

Yours in the peace of Christ,
Sem. Hunter Kinnison

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Thank you Thank you all so much for the cards and prayers since my hospitalization and procedure. Special thank you to Pastor Whybrew for his visits. God is good! Thanks again! Shirley Stremming

Thank you Many thanks to each person who helped the Polk family move into Neoga Friday, August 30. The 15 people who worked, did so with dedication. Special thanks to those who brought trucks, trailers, and SUV's to make the move possible. All that you did to help members of our church family was appreciated. Echoing what the apostle Paul says in 1 Thessalonians 2a: We always thank God for all of you. Virginia Vogel

Thank you We would like to express our deepest gratitude for the love and support shown to our family during this incredibly difficult time. Thank you to Pastor Whybrew and the Ladies Aid for all they provided for our family. We are truly grateful to be part of such a caring and supportive church family. Luke, Lauren, Tyler, Dylan, Wyatt Wetherell.

Thank you Thank you to Pastor Whybrew and to everyone at church for the kindness and sympathy during Floyd's passing. God is good. The family of Floyd Storm

Thank you Thank you to all of the wonderful church members that helped us move. Thank you for the lunch that was provided also. We are forever grateful for all of you. Carol, Caroline, Emily, and Elizabeth Polk

Thank you Thank you to those that have completed and turned in the "Time and Gifts Inventory". We appreciate your time and willingness to serve our church! If you could please complete them before Oct. 1st we would appreciate it. They can be placed in the box in the Narthex, the collection plate or if you'd prefer, place in a sealed envelope in the office door.

THANK YOU from Abby Warden family Walker's chemo treatments will continue until we say we want to move forward with the bone marrow transplant because going to St. Louis every month for a week becomes difficult for us or if his body tells us we need to move forward with it. It's so day by day. I'm trusting the Lord will make the decision very apparent. I've been doing a lot of reflecting lately on God's faithfulness and graciousness over our lives. I just want to really praise St. Paul's for the generous financial donations that the people there have provided our family. We have been blessed in many ways with the money that's been given to our family to support us with Walker's treatments. Sometimes it was used for the Airbnb's, sometimes it was to buy a special toy from the gift shop or target or crumble cookies when we were in St. Louis. We were able to go and stay in a cabin when we took our kids to holiday world. We truly couldn't have done these things over the last 8 months without the Lord inclining people to give to us in the ways have they. Not that these things were necessary, they were all just added blessings!

Christian Education

St. Paul's is blessed to be able to offer Christian education opportunities for our youth. Sunday School is offered after the worship service on Sundays for all ages (youth and adults). We also offer a Wednesday evening instruction program for grades 1-8. There are 20 students in the 2024-25 Weekday School/Confirmation program at St. Paul's. Attending are -

1st/2nd Courtney Orman

St. Paul – Harper Layton
Grace – Emmalee Orman
St. Paul – Maurina Batson
St. Paul – Collins Logue
Trinity – Owen Pruemer
St. Paul – Isley Wallin

3rd/4th Susie Allen

St. Paul – Camden Layton
Grace – Grady Smith
St. Paul – Walter Kessler
St. Paul – Casen Logue
Grace – Liam Orman
Trinity – Eli Pruemer

5th/6th Dee Dee Batson

St. Paul – Roxy Shelton
Grace – Reed Smith
Grace – Brenlee Orman

7th/8th Pastor Whybrew

St. Paul – Max Kull
St. Paul – Lorelei McCormick
Grace – Libby Musson
St. Paul – Bryce Rincker
St. Paul – Noah Vonderheide

Christian education is also offered at Trinity Lutheran School in Stewardson. Members from St. Paul's who attend are the following: Noah Vonderheide, Izzy Manhart, Crosby Ashmore, Ali Manhart, and Everest Clark.

We praise God for parents who value and support Christian education.

Thank you to Melissa Luce, Diane Jack, Arlene McCormick and Karen Kull for supplying treats to the Weekday School children during September.

WDS Treats

The Education Team is looking for members who could supply treats for the Weekday School children one week during the month of November. If you are interested, please contact Karen Kull at 217.549.3141.

Thank you.



Shoe Boxes

SHOE BOXES: Good news! Great joy! the power of a simple gift can transform the world. When children open their shoe box gifts, the harsh world around them fades and their hearts fill with wonder and joy as they see the treasures within. Yet, the impact of Operation Christmas Child goes far beyond smiles and laughter. These simple gifts become Gospel opportunities, opening hurting hearts to experience the transforming power of Jesus Christ. Be a part of this amazing ministry. Start now to collect items for your shoe box. You can also help us collect items to be packed at the church. There is a box in the narthex where you can put items to be packed. You will be hearing more about this project that will be collected by November 17.

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Script Order Forms I will have Script order forms and some cards from Trinity available the 1st/3rd Sundays of the month at Grace and on the 2nd/4th Sundays at St. Paul's,

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The next Council meeting will be held at 6:30 PM on October 7th.

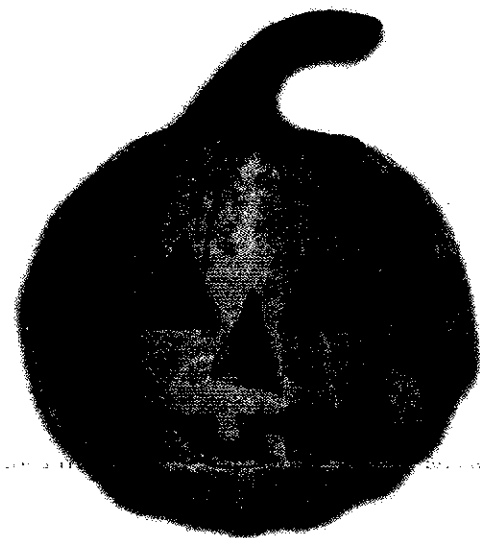
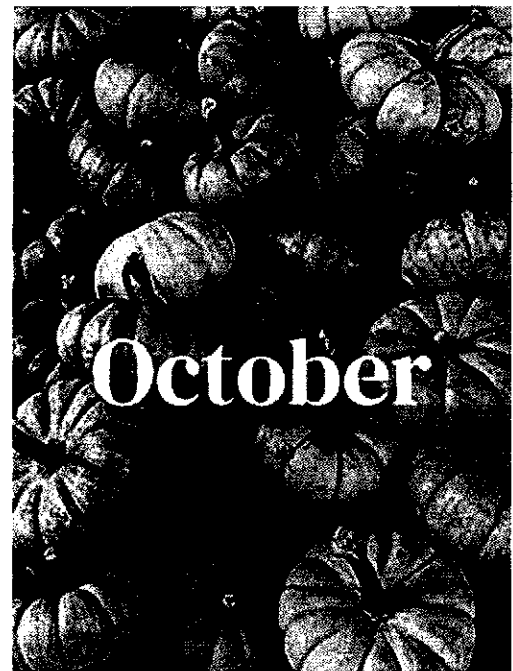
Currently the next voter's meeting is scheduled for October 20th after church.

Lutherans for Life

The 4-S Chapter Lutherans for Life order and receive "**Life Date**" magazines quarterly. With this small magazine we share with congregation's in our area to inform them on the issue's effecting life.

We would like to encourage you to pick up a copy in the narthex and give us your feed back.

We also continue to meet in members homes on a monthly basis. Sharon Beldon Secretary



Lutheran Ladies of Strasburg Minutes – September 5, 2024

Lutheran Ladies of Strasburg met in St. Paul's Social Hall on September 5, 2024. Pastor Whybrew opened the meeting with a devotion, Colossians 4:5-6, "Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best of the time. Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person."

President Muriel Merriman called the meeting to order. Nineteen members answered roll call. The August Minutes and Treasurer's reports were read and approved. Our members continue to remember our congregations by sending cards and making visits.

We received a thank you card and donation from the Edie Wittenberg family.

The upcoming events are: Fall Rally, September 18th at Sigel. CID Fall Retreat at Camp Cilca, October 4-5. The LWML National Convention will be June 26-29, 2025 in Omaha, Nebraska. Several members will attend the Fall Rally at Sigel.

Our project for August is "In His Hands Orphans Outreach" Mission Night on September 26th at St. Paul's Lutheran Church at 7:00 pm. All members of the Churches are invited.

The Committee that was formed to explore our finances gave their report.

The October Flower committees will be Vivian Granat from Grace and Muriel Merriman from St. Paul's. Muriel thanked the retiring committees of Spring and Lisa for flowers and our September Hostesses Holly and Tammy. Our October Hostesses will be Charlene Telgmann and Connie Wirth.

Our verse for the day was "Cast all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you." 1 Peter 5:7.

We closed with the Doxology, Lord's Prayer and Table Prayer. Happy Birthday to Charlene Telgmann and Donna Pfeiffer.

Our next meeting will be held on Thursday, October 3rd at **St. Paul's Social Hall**. Remember: October is Mite Collection Month

Vivian Granat, Secretary

CRADLE ROLL
October 2024

Many parents today feel overwhelmed. What is it that makes parents feel overwhelmed? It can be a combination of stressors, some little and some big, i.e. orange peels left on the floor, sassing back when a child doesn't want to go to bed, bills piling up on the counter (money stuff), relationship issues, sickness, child issues, etc. Parents are overwhelmed by the endless tasks that need their attention. Parents today experience these challenges, and God has created grandparents to help.

Grandparents have a golden opportunity. God created grandparents to point their children to him and to share the weight of raising the next generation to know Him. Whether the grandparents live next door or several states away, they can provide help. Grandparents are concerned about their children as much as about their grandchildren. Consider the investment made in adult children vs. grandchildren. How much time and energy is devoted to each generation? Interacting with and encouraging adult children in their parenting role can be challenging. It is easy to make the mistake of parenting an adult child as if he/she were a younger child. To avoid this, Josh Mulvihill has identified five phases of parenting.

- Caregiver
- Commander
- Coach
- Counselor
- Consultant

These phases will be explained in the November Cradle Roll article.

In summary, overwhelmed parents of young children can utilize their parents to obtain help, advise and support in rearing young children. Grandparenting is a most important role established by God. Children are a blessing. So are grandparents.

Taken from Grandparenting by Dr Josh Mulvihill, Bethany House, pp. 78-84.



Trinity Lutheran School in Stewardson is hosting its annual hog roast and silent auction, and we would love to have you join us! Mark your calendars for **Sunday, October 27, from 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.** Auction items will start closing at 12:15pm.

A free-will donation lunch will be held in the gym, and carryouts are available in the church basement. The menu includes pulled pork, rope sausage, potato salad, baked beans, coleslaw, applesauce, chips, bread, and Texas sheet cake.

If you or your business wish to donate an item, a basket, or cash for the silent auction, please drop it off in the school office by Monday, October 21. You may also contact Ammon Probst at 309-255-2898 or Michelle Goen at 217-343-9921 if you have an item to donate.

Proceeds will be used toward gym improvements and school educational expenses. Join us for fun, fellowship, and fundraising!