

ST PAUL LUTHERAN

NEWSLETTER

November 2023

www.stpaulsanford.org

Volume 77 No.10

Rendering to the Lord *Pastor Christopher P. Vossler*

“What shall I render to the Lord for all his benefits to me? I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord, I will pay my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people.” (Psalm 116:12-14)

As we celebrate Thanksgiving this month, our thoughts turn to all the great blessings which we have received: family and friends, health, safety, peace, clothing and other material possessions, work, leisure, and so many more. All of these gifts come to us from our gracious Heavenly Father! God is the One who creates us, who places us in this world and gives us the things that we need for this life! The skills that we use in our profession come to us from God, who uses them to provide for ourselves and our families. The friends and family who care for us come into our lives thanks to the gracious action of God. Even the very air we breathe, the food we eat, the water we drink, all have been created by God for our use.

It is a tendency of us Lutherans to reduce God down to Jesus and His great work for us on the cross, without considering all these other gifts that God has given to us. Yes, we have been saved from our sins by Jesus Christ, but we owe God thanks for so much more in addition to our salvation. He has made us His people through our Baptism. The Holy Spirit has taught us to know and love His Word and His Will. He created us as His people, made in His image, even before He recreated us through our Baptism to be His redeemed and chosen people.

With all of these great gifts, these blessings that we have received from our loving Heavenly Father, how are we to respond? What can we return to Him that could match even a fraction of what He has done for us? How could anything we do compare to what He has already done? It can't. Nothing we offer to God could possibly equal what He has already done for us! All we can do is to give thanks to Him for His blessings. Call upon Him in prayer, praising His mercy and grace in providing for all our needs of body and soul. Return to Him a portion of His provision to us for the benefit of His Church and His people. Not because we can equal His generosity, but because His generosity superabounds toward and in and through us.

Huntin' Season

Deacon Donald M. Barnard

Genesis 27:3 – *“Now then, take your weapons, your quiver and your bow, and go out to the field and hunt game for me”*

Our text is based on Isaac asking his son Esau to go and harvest some wild game, which apparently Isaac really enjoyed, then Esau would prepare a meal for Isaac with the game he harvested. Isaac is at a point in his life where he is old, he cannot see, and he anticipates death coming to him soon. He relies on his older son Esau to hunt for some game which Isaac refers to as “delicious food”.

Whether you favor getting your food from the local stores or include in your diet wildlife that we are blessed with here in Michigan, all of these are gifts from our loving, heavenly Father. When I am fortunate in collecting a deer, pheasant, or duck, I do not thank the animal for giving up their life for me, because they are not willing participants. I thank our God for blessing me with delivering the animal that He has given to me for my use.

Now, whether you choose to harvest an animal in the field, or go to Meijer's for a steak, hamburger meat, or pork chops, you have

still played a part in the death of an animal. That is ok because these were given to us from our heavenly Father. We learn in Genesis 9:3, “Every moving thing that lives shall be food for you. And as I gave you the green plants, I give you everything.”

November is the month that Michigan holds its firearm deer season, and many of us will join in this annual event. We are reminded that what we do daily, including hunting, we are to do the glory of God. We are ambassadors for Christ, and that is a full-time position: at home, work, or while sitting in the woods and waiting for a deer to walk by. You cannot glorify our heavenly Father while you are violating game and fish laws. Jacob thought that deceiving his father, Isaac, to achieve his birthright was acceptable to God, but it was not. It showed a lack of faith in our Father in heaven. Always live for Christ, “and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.” The reward does not necessarily mean that your hunting or fishing excursion will be successful; it just means that He will reward us for our good works, and that reward may either be in this life or the next. That reward will be according to His wisdom, and not necessarily any earthly need we think we have.

November is also the month we celebrate Thanksgiving. Instead of observing Thanksgiving as the day before Black Friday, we should use November as a month of thanks to properly prepare our hearts to celebrate Christmas for what it is about, the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ. We have a lot to be thankful for, whether the blessing of spending time in God’s creation hunting or spending time with our friends and family in this month of Thanksgiving. Be safe and courteous this hunting season and, when successful, remember to protect your wildlife by using freezer bags. Always being mindful of the greatest blessing of all, the gift of God’s grace, through His Son, Jesus. Amen

St. Paul Stephen Ministry Corner

“Bear one another’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ”
(Galatians 6:2, NRSV)

“You must understand this, my beloved: Let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak” (James 1:19a)



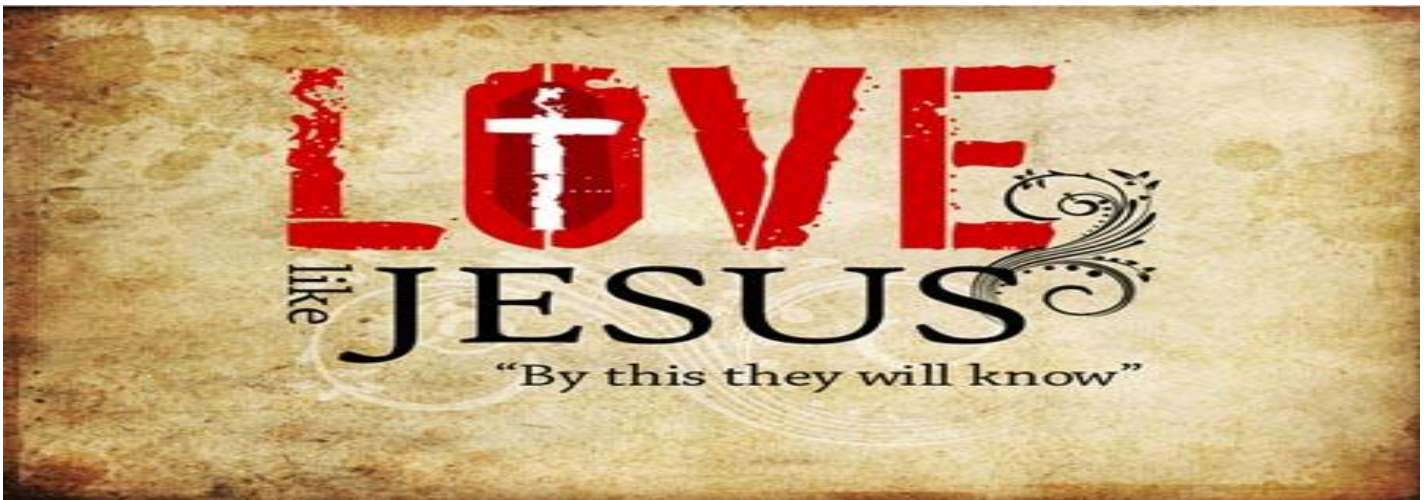
We in Stephen Ministry are striving to create a safe, non-judgemental, caring visit that will allow for a compassionate walk with Jesus to a healing outcome of a personal situation.

Your Stephen Minister will be actively listening to your thoughts, fears, and feelings of anxiety as you explain your situation to better understand the challenges you are facing and validate those feelings.

Throughout the bible, God listens to His people. He hears our prayers, praise, sorrow, grief, request and complaints. He hears the words in our hearts and minds that we speak and don't speak, and responds! He sent His Son, Jesus, to share our suffering and to guide us to a new life in Him. As Stephen Ministers, we are trained to put aside our personal concerns and focus on the other person's needs. We actively listen to the situation the other person is facing and walk with Jesus to a satisfactory outcome. Jesus is listening, we are listening, let us help.

“Before they call, I will answer; while they are still speaking, I will hear”
Isaiah 65:24

Confidentiality is the main foundations of this work and is stressed throughout Stephen Ministry. If you would like to contact a Stephen Minister or are interested in becoming a part of this ministry, please contact Michelle DeCoe 989-513-1736, or speak with Pastor....also, be sure to visit stephenministries.org to learn more.



“On this Reformation weekend, let’s rekindle our commitment to be faithful to the God who both preserves and redeems this world in His ways. And let’s remind ourselves of the blessings that come from following Him in all things, now and forever.”

Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz, Executive Director of the Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org

Hurting from abortion? Word of Hope can help. Word-of-hope.org; 888-217-8679

Important Dates for upcoming Ladies Aid activities. We will request volunteers and provide details closer to the dates.

Nov 4, 2023 Craft Show 9am-4pm

Dec 16, 2023 Holiday Cookie & Gingerbread Decorating

Thank you!

Thank you to all who helped with Sunday School clean-up/clean-out ☺

Thank you to Randy Enblade, Mike Schweigert, Don Retzloff for the craftsmanship of the 3 crosses that will go on display 2/11/24.

Thank you to Ladies Aid for the peanut brittle and pies. ☺

Thank you to all who helped with yard clean up ☺

SOCIAL MEDIA

We are on the web: www.stpaulsanford.org

Social Media and Website-In a continuing effort to keep our church website current and interesting, we are going to begin posting pictures of our members engaged in the various activities held at the Church and elsewhere on google and Facebook. Children will require special permission. If you would prefer not to have any pictures of you posted, please let Linda Mitchell know.

MIDLAND COUNTY NEWSLETTER ONLINE – Subscribe here (very informative):

<https://www.co.midland.mi.us> and search Midland County Newsletter.

MICHIGAN MINUTE: Weekly E-news & Events of the Michigan District, LCMS

<http://www.michigandistrict.org/connect/publications/michiganminute>

SMART PHONE USERS: There are two free apps available for your devices that pertain to your Lutheran Beliefs? LCMS app is free and provides great information including a Daily Devotion. The other is Luther's Small Catechism app which is also free. If you have questions or would like to check it out and need assistance please contact the church office.

The Lutheran Witness is now a free digital app. Once subscribers download the free *Lutheran Witness* magazine app, each new issue automatically will be sent to their newsstands for convenient viewing. Note: While the app itself is free, you will need a paid subscription to the magazine in order to receive it via the app. If you have any questions or would like to see whether the magazine is available for your device, visit www.cph.org/witness to learn more or to download the app. You may also call Concordia Publishing House at 800-325-3040.

Lutheran Service Book - EBook Edition at enews@cph.org **OTHER SOCIAL MEDIA:**

www.facebook.com/thelcms

www.twitter.com/thelcms

www.youtube.com/thelcms

www.lcms.org/socialmedia

KITCHEN GARBAGE Bags: ALL garbage bags removed from the Kitchen **MUST** be placed in dumpster and **NOT** left outside the back kitchen door.
RECYCLING: A large bin for recycling only has been placed outside the back kitchen door ... THIS IS FOR RECYCLING ONLY! We also have smaller recycling receptacles around the church which are marked with a recycling symbol.



LADIES AID

The third Wednesday of every month is set aside for our monthly meetings at 9:00am

Ladies Aid Board

Christy Martin-President / Carolyn Sutton-Vice President
Pam Kastl-Secretary / Vicki Barnard-Treasurer

Questions may be directed to: Christy Martin
817.757.9577 email CKM57@me.com or
Carolyn Sutton 989.631-3953.

BULLETIN / NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

If you have information you would like placed into any upcoming bulletins or newsletters, please submit to the church office via email at stpaul Luther@tds.net, calling 687-2824 or by placing it in the church office mailbox located between the restrooms downstairs. Don't forget to state the date(s) you'd like your information to run.

DEADLINES

Newsletters 20th (monthly)
Bulletins Wednesday's by
Noon

Voter's Meeting is 11/12 @ 11am.

Men's Breakfast: 2nd Saturday of the month

Ladies' Bible Study: 4th Saturday of the Month

Euchre Night: 3rd Saturday of Month 7pm

LifeLight Bible Study: Tuesdays @ 7pm and Wednesday @ 1pm

Confirmation Classes: on Tuesday Nights 5-6:30pm.

*Joy to the World, The Lord has
come!*

*The Reith's invite the ladies of
St. Paul to celebrate an
afternoon of Christmas fellowship
Thursday, December 7th @
1pm, 2152 Lynn Rd. Sanford.
Please RSVP to Ann Reith, or
use the sign up sheet on the
bulletin board ☺*

*Youth Movie Night- Saturday,
November 11th at 6pm
Pizza/Popcorn/Campfire S'mores for
movie
discussion. ☺*



*Youth Arcade
trip to Valley Plaza- Sunday,
November 12th at 1pm leaving the church
for Midland. All youth welcome ☺
Pizza Lunch during Arcade
visit. ☺*

We are forming a **Youth Ministry Board** that will focus on the planning of education/activities designed for our congregation's youth. Please let Gerianne or Pastor know if you can help.

For more information about youth group, Sunday School, youth bible study and events, please use the QR code to get to the form.



“BECAUSE WE CARE”

Prayer Request: If you or someone you know are in need of prayers please call Edna Rottiers at 989-687-9687. **Those** with additional prayer request please complete a prayer slip and give to one of our Elders before the service or to one of the Ushers during the offering. Your prayers are important and our Lord does promise to answer.

Pastoral Care: Please contact the Pastor @ cell 973-303-8252, office 989-687-2209, or email stpaulrev@tds.net. The Church Office (989-687-2824) / cell (989 859-9300) email stpaulutheran@tds.net, or Deacon Don Barnard (989-751-7726) email: esocidnator01@gmail.com. Or stpauldeacon@tds.net if you or anyone you know are in need of a visit from the Pastor or Deacon whether it's an illness, hospitalization, nursing home or shut-in. It is important to us that we receive these communications to plan a call or visitation. May God's blessings be upon you today and every day!

Our florist is, **HANNAH'S FLOWERS**, in Midland. She will be making us a \$25 arrangement. Please continue to return the vases back to the church to help keep the price lower. All other florist prices were higher. You will continue to make your flower payment to the church. Any questions, please talk with Carolyn.

Thank you,
Carolyn 631-3953

November Altar Guild representative is Carolyn Sutton-989.631.3953

To our families with small children: Relax! You and your children are welcome to our worship service! Being in worship with you to observe and participate in the service will help them to learn how to behave in church – and they will learn that best by watching you worship on a regular basis! Sit anywhere in the sanctuary that you wish. The last two rows of pews are set aside for families with small children, but you don't *have* to sit there. In fact, sitting close to the front so your children can see what's happening may help them to feel more involved in the service. If they need something to keep



their hands occupied, please ask one of the ushers for a copy of the children's bulletins for them to color. If for any reason you need to take your children out of the sanctuary so they can calm down, feel free to bring them into the bathroom at the back of the church. In addition, at the bottom of the stairs we have a cry room to the right, as well as the fellowship hall to the left. With the speakers in the basement, you will be able to hear the service while your child calms down. If your children don't want to sit still or be quiet through the whole service, there is absolutely nothing wrong with them: they are young and learning. The sound of children in worship is the sound of the Church's future.

Please be on the lookout for “phishing” emails and Texts that look like they were sent from Pastor. If you get an email or text asking for something from Pastor, read the from line at the top to see that it was sent from “stpaulrev”, **or the Pastor's phone #, or ask Pastor.**

The bad guys are searching trying to scam people.

If you are interested in private Communion

...for whatever the reason. Pastor Vossler and Deacon Barnard are willing to share the Body and Blood of our Lord and Savior in a private setting. Please contact at their listing for Pastoral care.

THRIVENT

Thrivent Action Team Dollars: St. Paul Members who belong to Thrivent Financial have a unique opportunity to provide financial help for a project here at St. Paul. Each Thrivent member is eligible to receive \$250 twice per year from Thrivent to contribute to a St. Paul project. Examples of projects include: parades, Wild Game Dinner, Easter Breakfast, Harvest Dinner and many others. If you are a Thrivent Member that would like to help us with Thrivent Action Team Dollars on future projects please contact the church office to be placed on a list. Your help is greatly appreciated!

CHOICE DOLLARS

I WOULD LIKE TO THANK EVERYONE WHO TOOK THE TIME AND MADE A PHONE CALL TO THRIVENT FOR THE CHOICE DOLLARS. I'M ASKING EVERYONE WHO HAS A THRIVENT POLICY TO CALL, EVEN IF IN DOUBT REGARDING YOUR POLICY ELIGIBILITY. CALL 1-800-847-4836 THEN PUSH 1. THIS IS A PHONE CALL, NOT A COMPUTER GENERATED VOICE. THEY EVEN SPEAK ENGLISH AS THEY ARE BASED IN APPLETON, WISC. CALL IN APRIL 2023, JULY, OCTOBER, AND THEN AGAIN IN JANUARY 2024. THESE FUNDS ARE DIRECT DEPOSITED INTO THE CHURCH'S BANK ACCOUNT, SO YOU DON'T HAVE TO HANDLE THEM. THESE ARE 2022 EARNED DOLLARS BEING GIVEN IN 2023. NEXT YEAR MAY BE MORE OR LESS DEPENDING ON THE ECONOMY.

-WILLIAM P. MITCHELL



St. Paul Coffee Mugs are available for \$5.00. If interested, please see Linda

Mitchell or Margie Dittmer

Mission of the Month: In November is the **Rajek Missionary family.** Pray for Cory and Jennifer as they serve in Riga. Ask God to watch over them as they adapt to a new country and serve people from around the world. Also, pray for the work of the Luther Academy in Latvia, as well as the students who study there. Give thanks that the Rajek's are serving God's people in this part of the world.

LWML 2024 Michigan District Convention- June 28-30, 2024 at Amway, Grand Rapids

LWML Prayer Day/Spring Rally 2024 at St Paul, Sanford. Date to be determined. For more LWML information, Please contact Diana Kausch.

Sanford Food Pantry – Please continue your support of this very worthwhile local ministry. There are refillable canvas bags from the Midland County Emergency Food Pantry available on the food pantry table in the fellowship hall. The bags have a suggested list of items and instructions. You may take these bags home and place the purchased items in the bag and return it to the church. The bags will be delivered to the Sanford Food Pantry the last week of the month. The empty bags will be returned to the church to be used again. Thank you for all of the items and monetary donations. *Your donations are appreciated, but please note that the Food Pantry does not accept: 1) weight-loss products; nor 2) food items with an expired date. If you prefer to make a monetary donation, please put in the Public Relations Mailbox. Thank you for your consideration in helping those less fortunate. Please make the check payable to Sanford Food Pantry*

Current needs are: Boxed Potatoes- Scalloped, AuGratin, Mashed.

Pictorial directory- Please check with Linda, Margie, Ruth or Kathy to help retrieve yours from the office. ☺

Has your contact info changed? If so, please contact the church office (687-2824) or stpaulutheran@tds.net and provide us with the changed information (address, phone, email or any other information).

BlackTop Project-We are accepting donations for the parking lot work needing to be done. Please make your donation out to the church and note that the amount should be directed to parking lot.

Social Media and Website-In a continuing effort to keep our church website current and interesting, we are going to begin posting pictures of our members engaged in the various activities held at the Church and elsewhere on google and Facebook. Children will require special permission. If you would prefer not to have any pictures of you posted, please let Linda Mitchell know.

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Advent Services

Sunday Services 9:30 am-Midweek Service 7 pm (Dinner @ 6 pm)

First Sunday in Advent 12/03-

Midweek Service Wednesday, 12/6-

Second Sunday in Advent 12/10-

Midweek Service Wednesday 12/13-

Third Sunday in Advent 12/17-

Children's Program 12/17 4 pm-

Midweek Service Wednesday 12/20-

Fourth Sunday in Advent 12/24-

Christmas Eve Caroling/Service 12/24 6:30pm

Christmas Day 12/25-9:30am

November Birthdays and Anniversaries



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
			Lifelight 1pm Stephen Ministry 5:30pm Choir 7pm	Pastor Hoogerhyde Bible Study 2:30pm Bob & Kim Hill-Annv Madeline Sasse	Mike & Lisa Hulbert-Annv	Craft Show 9am-4pm
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Worship Service 9:30am Sunday School/Youth Bible Study/Fellowship 10:30am/Adult Bible Study 11am	Stephen Leader 12pm	Peanut Brittle 9am Confirmation Class 5pm Lifelight 7pm	Public Relations 10am Lifelight 1pm Stephen Ministry 5:30pm Choir 7pm	Pastor Hoogerhyde Bible Study 2:30pm Elder's Meeting 6pm	Adam Heilig	Men's Breakfast 8am Peanut Brittle 9am Movie Night 6pm
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Worship Service 9:30am Sunday School/Youth Bible Study/Fellowship 10:30am/Adult Bible Study 11am Youth Arcade Trip 1pm Cora Bell	Warren Draves Jill Hurley	Peanut Brittle 9am Confirmation Class 5pm Lifelight 7pm	Ladies Aid 9am Lifelight 1pm Stephen Ministry 5:30pm Choir 7pm	Pastor Hoogerhyde Bible Study 2:30pm	Lucas Miller Edna Rottiers	Game Night 7pm Autumn Grubaugh
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Worship Service 9:30am Sunday School/Youth Bible Study/Fellowship 10:30am/Adult Bible Study 11am		Peanut Brittle 9am Confirmation Class 5pm Lifelight 7pm	Lifelight 1pm Stephen Ministry 5:30pm Choir 7pm Brittany Gowing	Thanksgiving Day		Ladies Bible 9am Kristina Brawt
26	27	28	29	30	1	
Worship Service 9:30am Sunday School/Youth Bible Study/Fellowship 10:30am/Adult Bible Study 11am		Peanut Brittle 9am Confirmation Class 5pm Lifelight 7pm	Lifelight 1pm Choir 7pm	Pastor Hoogerhyde Bible Study 2:30pm Patricia VanHorn	Sanford Shines 6pm	

November Volunteer Schedule

	5-Nov	12-Nov	19-Nov	26-Nov	3-Dec
ACOLYTES	Madison & Natalie	Sam & Garrett	Jackson & Bradyn	Madison & Natalie	Jeffrey & Sam
ALTAR FLOWERS	Edna Rottiers & Madeline Sasse	Donna Piper	Altar Guild	Jack Moeller	Open
ALTAR GUILD	Carolyn Sutton 989.631.3953				
GREETERS	Mae L. & Donna P.	Lynn & Mark B. & Madison G.	Lynn & Mark B. & Natalie G.	Carolyn Sutton	Laura Juengel & Marilyn Bowen
FELLOWSHIP	PR Committee	Open	Kathy E./Julie V./Jan O.	Open	Open
ORGANIST	Kris Erkkila	Heidi Stecker	Sara Glynn-Dishaw	Sara Glynn-Dishaw	Sara Glynn-Dishaw
PROCLAIMER	Pastor Christopher Vossler	Pastor Christopher Vossler	Pastor Christopher Vossler	Pastor Christopher Vossler	Pastor Christopher Vossler
SUNDAY SCHOOL STAFF	Gerianne Barnard	Gerianne Barnard	Gerianne Barnard	Gerianne Barnard	Gerianne Barnard
USHERS	Gerianne Barnard & Bill Draves	Gerianne Barnard & Bill Draves	Jack Moellar & Duane Grubaugh	Elders	Jack Moellar & Duane Grubaugh
ELDERS	Mark Sprenger, Bob Burnison, Deacon Donald Barnard, Deno O'Connor, Bill Mitchell, Larry Terbush & Mark Burns				