ST PAUL LUTHERAN NEWSLETTER

September 2023 Volume 77 No.8

Teaching and Learning

Pastor Christopher P. Vossler

"These words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates." (Deuteronomy 6:6-9)

This month in worship, we will have two very exciting Sundays, both of which connect with the theme of training in the faith. First, on September 10 we will celebrate Rally Day, when we kick off our Sunday School year – as well as begin the new Youth Sunday Bible Study, Confirmation, and the new Lifelight class for the fall. What a blessing it is to have these opportunities available for young and old to learn more about their faith! What a privilege it is for those who are given the responsibility of teaching! Second, on September 24 we will have a guest preacher, Rev. Dr. Theodore Hopkins from Concordia University Ann Arbor, who will bring us a message about the university and about the opportunities available for students there, especially those preparing to enter churchwork vocations. What a blessing we have, to have a Concordia University in our District!

These two events help to highlight just how important Christian education is, the training of not just children but teens and adults to know God, to understand their faith and its role in their lives. As with anything, training,

study, and experience are valuable and important parts of our Christian life. One cannot know who God is without being taught. One cannot know the blessings that come to us from Him without learning about them and receiving them. That is one of the goals of our congregation: teach those entrusted to our care – especially the youngest – who Jesus is and what He has done for them. This happens in Sunday School when our teachers begin to go through the Bible with the children and explain God's actions. It continues in Confirmation class as our confirmands learn the chief parts of our faith from Luther's Small Catechism. In our various youth activities and Bible studies, teens grow in their faith and work to apply what they believe to their daily lives. As adults, we never stop learning; we need to continue reading and studying the Bible – there's always more to learn! And every step of the way, the Church seeks to help and encourage and teach.

However, this teaching and learning doesn't *only* happen in and through the activities of the congregation. It starts at home, as parents model God's love and forgiveness to your children. As you read the Bible together and pray together. As you bring God's Word to bear on your children's daily lives. It is there that the teaching and learning begins.

St. Paul Stephen Ministry Corner

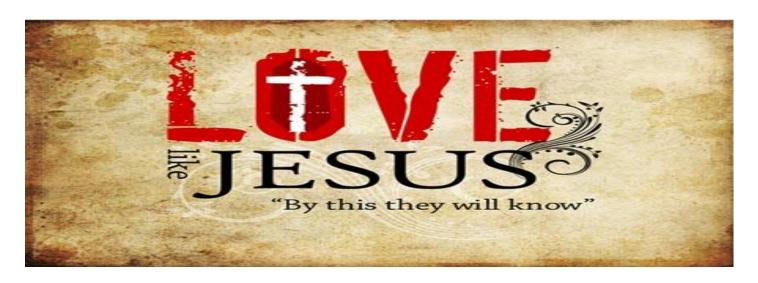
"Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ" (Galatians 6:2, NRSV)

Stephen Ministries is in training. Please check with Michelle



for information. Michelle DeCoe has completed the training for the leadership role for Stephen Ministry. There needs to be at least two people in the leadership role. Marilyn Bowen has graciously accepted the position for the second leader. She began training for position in July. After completion of the leadership program, Michelle and Marilyn will be offering classes for other members of the congregation to become

knowledgeable and supported components of the team. The classes will be teaching members how to support others through difficult times. This includes everything from death, divorce, medical crisis, moving, life changes and so much more. The struggles of life are ever changing as we evolve through life. We in Stephen Ministry would like to promote a supportive church environment that nurtures our members in need. You are the CHURCH; and we would appreciate support and evolvement by the congregation. We never know what is in store for us as we navigate through this world. We are hoping to develop preparedness in our church for the call. Will you love your neighbors as yourself? Will you be the Good Samaritan that stopped to help another in time of need? This ministry is centered around God being the main healer. The caregiver is a vessel for healing to begin. We are not looking for people to fix others. We are looking for people to be open to hearing each other in a supportive way. There are skills that need to be learned so you are prepared and not overwhelmed. Once you have completed the courses, you may be paired with someone in the congregation that needs emotional support, while going through a rough time. This would take approximately one hour a week, until they are feeling more secure regarding their matter in question. Confidentiality is one of the main foundations of this work and is stressed throughout Stephen Ministry. If you are interested in becoming a part of this ministry, please contact Michelle DeCoe 989-513-1736. I am taking down names of interested parties. I would like to know what would work for class times in the future; evening, day, weekend or retreat style....also, be sure to visit stephenministries.org to learn more.



"When God tells us He knew us before we were born in our mother's womb, we can hardly say life doesn't begin at fertilization. When God tells our days are numbered and He will decide when our life is over, we can hardly ask for our life to be taken prematurely rather than dying a natural death. As you ponder God's Word and stand up For Life, your witness will have remarkable power and you, only you, will be impactful in your response. So, even if you are going it alone, you can and should contribute to the message For Life, and God will bless your efforts."

Virginia Flo, Lutherans For Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org *Hurting from abortion? Word of Hope can help. Word-of-hope.org;* 888-217-8679

Prayers and Hymns for all Families

We put together a list of prayers to be used for families. God Himself chose these human relationships to describe the depth of His love for His people. Even God's great plan of salvation is expressed not in individual terms but according to the ancient promise to Abraham: "in you all the *families* of the earth shall be blessed" (Genesis 12:3, emphasis added). Whether families are big or small, rejoicing or mourning, our Father embraces the cares of His children.

Prayers for all Families

For our families, that the God of tenderness and Lord of all compassion draw us ever closer to Him and to one another as His family, the Church, and send us forth to live lives of love and charity to all the world, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For those who grieve the loss of children and for those who have been unable to have children, that they be comforted in their sorrow and longing and that they find support and love in the family of God, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For our families, that our heavenly Father endow all of us with a fuller appreciation of the gift of the families in which He has placed us and that He guide us day by day that we may truly be a family of faith where love is demonstrated at all times, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

Hymns for All Families

- These Are the Holy Ten Commands (LSB 581)
- In Holy Conversation (LSB 772)
- Our Father, by Whose Name (LSB 863)
- Go, My Children, with My Blessing (LSB 922

.Blog post excerpted from *Lutheran Service Book: Companion to the Services*, pages xxxv, xlii, 663, 666–67, 690–91, 697, 699, 701, 703, 708, 712, 716, © 2022 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved.

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

Oct 6, 2023 Harvest Dinner
Oct 10, 2023 First Day of the Peanut Brittle Season
Nov 4, 2023 Craft Show
Holiday Cookie & Gingerbread Decorating



Thank you to all who worked on the Rummage Sale. @

Thank you to Randy Engblade, Mike Schweigert, Bob Burnison for all the lawn mowing being done.

Thank you to Ladies Aid for the new tables in the Fellowship Hall. @

Thank you Julie VanKuiken for her work in the hosta garden

SOCIAL MEDIA

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.

<u>The Lutheran Witness</u> is now a free digital app. Once subscribers download the free <u>Lutheran Witness</u> 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 <u>www.cph.org/witness</u> to learn more or to download the app. You may also call Concordia Publishing House at 800-325-3040.

<u>Lutheran Service Book</u> - EBook Edition at <u>enews@cph.org</u> OTHER SOCIAL MEDIA:

<u>www.facebook.com/thelcms</u> <u>www.twitter.com/thelcms</u> 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.



St. Paul Lutheran Church

Please Join Us September 10, 2023! Celebrating Rally Day

9:30 - Worship Service

10:30 – Fellowship/Bible Class

First Day of Sunday School with an Escape
Room

11:30 – Concluding Devotion followed by Hot Dog Lunch

If you are interested in more information please fill out the form here:





Welcome to St. Paul Lutheran Sunday School!

Hi, I'm Gerianne Barnard and I will be the Sunday School Superintendent starting this fall.

We're kicking off the '23-'24 school year on September 10th with our Rally Day Celebration. We will be having fun activities for the kids in class followed by a hot dog lunch.

This fall we are going to try something new: memorizing Bible verses. This isn't just busy work. Memorization is a great skill that can help children in other aspects of their lives, like at school. However, memorizing Scriptures in particular helps make it more readily accessible to us. Did you know that Jesus also memorized Scripture?

We are going to continue taking attendance, with children being rewarded for their attendance every 12 weeks. Like this past year, this attendance does not need to be consecutive.

Besides Sunday School we will also be having several youth events this fall, such as the trip to Frankenmuth Aerial Park on September 17th and Movie Night Bible Studies, on the second Saturday of every month.

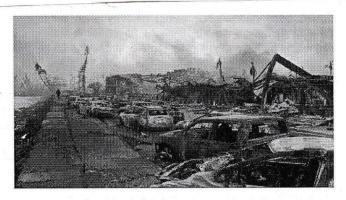
I would love to get more input from parents about Sunday School and the youth activities we have here at St. Paul. Every fourth Thursday of the month, we will have a Youth Ministry Board meeting at 6pm. Parents are always welcome.

I want to collect contact information for all the students attending Sunday School. While one of the main purposes of this is for emergencies, I will also use it to inform you of future youth events at St. Paul and keep you updated on what we are studying in Sunday School. Please fill out the form available here:



Aid for Maui Victims via OGT

The Maui wildfires have taken more then 110 lives with many more missing as this is the largest fire in more than a century in the U.S. Orphan Grain Train is working swiftly to get our first air-cargo container of requested food, water, wheelchairs and other items to Maui early next week. Rev. Ralph Schmidt, OGT's Director of Donor Advising and Chris Singer; Lutheran Church Charities, is in Maui working with Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Kahului, Maui and will help distribute OGT's relief aid to those in need. The church was not harmed by the fires but several members lost their homes and some are possibly missing.



We ask first for your prayers for the many families still looking for loved ones, for first responders fighting this wildfire and those searching through debris. We also ask that if you are able to give toward this need to help with expenses of purchasing \$40,000.00 worth of food and aid along with air-cargo costs to Maui, would very-much be appreciated. A second shipment is already being planned. This disaster will be costly and we plan to be there for the long-term, as OGT is with most disasters. Thank you for your continued support of this ministry. To donate online, scan the QR code with your smartphone's camera and follow the link to the website. If you prefer to mail in a check, please earmark it "Maui" and send to:

OGT PO Box 1466 Norfolk, NE 68702

Festival Service for St. Michael and All Angels -

On Sunday, October 1 at 4:00 p.m. St. Michael Lutheran Church in Richville, Michigan will be hosting a festival Evening Prayer Service for St. Michael and All Angels. The preacher for this service will be Michigan District President Rev. David A. Davis. Kantors for the service will be Jon Eifert, Nathan Beethe, and Brian Heinlein. There will be a Mass Choir comprised of members from area congregations, instrumentalists, and pipe organ. Anyone who wishes to participate in the mass choir should contact Nathan Beethe at kantor.graceauburn@gmail.com. Please mark your calendars for this exciting event! We hope you will join us!



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 stpaullutheran@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

HARVEST DINNER

St. Paul Lutheran Church 2045 Lynn Street - Sanford Friday, October 6, 2023 4-7pm

Sponsored by Ladies Aid

September 9th we will be hosting the Founder's Day parade kick off from our parking lot. Round up will begin in

our lot at 11am and leaving out for Noon. Please show for 9am set up and ride on the trailer (or walk with) to pass out flyers

September 17th- Youth Group trip to Frankenmuth Aerial Park for Zip



Line Adventure. Please contact Gerianne Barnard, Larry Terbush, Mark Burns, or Pastor if

interested. We will be departing church parking lot at 12:45pm for Frankenmuth.

Voter's Meeting is 9/10 @ 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: Begins Tuesday 9/12 @ 7pm and Wednesday 9/13 @ 1pm

Confirmation Classes: Begin again on 9/12, Tuesday Nights 5-6:30pm.

We are looking to form a **Youth Ministry Board** that will focus on the planning of education/activities designed for our congregation's youth. Next meeting is September 28th @ 6pm. Please let

Gerianne or Pastor know if you can help.

Youth Movie Night-Saturday,
September 9th at 6pm "The Sandlot"
Pizza|Popcorn|Campfire Smores for
movie discussion. ©

September 10th Rally Day kicking off
Sunday School, LifeLight,
and Confirmation classes.

"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 stpaullutheran@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

September Altar Guild representative is Diana Kausch 989.687.2457

LWML District Board Meeting – September 23rd

LWML Rally Day-October 21st at Zion in Mt. Pleasant

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 THIRVENT 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 September, we are receiving offerings to help support Concordia University-Ann Arbor, CU, Ann Arbor is a campus of Concordia University Wisconsin, a 187 Acre site on the banks of the Huron River. Concordia is committed to helping students develop in mind, body and spirit for service to Christ in the church and the world.

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 Jello and Pudding Mixes; Hamburger, Chicken, or Tuna Helpers.

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 stpaullutheran@tds.net and provide us with the changed information (address, phone, email or any other information).

Nativity Project-We are accepting donations to the Nativity as we work toward the purchase of a set. Please make your donation out to the church and note that the amount should be directed to the Nativity. Any ?'s please check with Gerianne.

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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Dear friends;

Thank you for your kindness towards us over the past few weeks. Thank you to Pastor Vossler and those who organized the celebration recognizing my retirement and 40th anniversary of my ordination. Thank you also for honoring us with a generous gift on the occasion of our 40th wedding anniversary.

Those in attendance on such a busy Sunday made it a very memorable day for us. And thank you for all of your prayers that have sustained us over the last four years. Medically my condition has been considered stable over the last 18 months.

The scripture says that "The prayer of a righteous man availeth much." God does answer prayer. We consider ourselves blessed to have been able to enjoy these events with all of you.

Sincerely, Sam & Ann Reith

September Birthdays

and Anniversaries





September Volunteer Schedule					
	3-Sep	10-Sep	17-Sep	24-Sep	1-Oct
ACOLYTES	Garrett & Lucas	Jace & Deklan	Garrett & Sam	Jeffrey & Madison	Deklan & Bradyn
ALTAR FLOWERS	Charlene Burnison	Don & Nancy Retzloff	Open	Open	Open
ALTAR GUILD	Carolyn Sutton 989.631.3953				
GREETERS	Randy & Kathy Engblade	Margie & Jim Dittmer	Christy Martin	Richard & Sandy Hoogerhyde	John & Sharon Kress
FELLOWSHIP	Deklan Finney & Sandy Hoogerhyde	Open	Open	Lynn & Mark Burns	Open
ORGANIST	Heidi Stecker	Heidi Stecker	Sara Glynn-Dishaw	Sara Glynn-Dishaw	Heidi Stecker
PROCLAIMER	Pastor Christopher Vossler	Pastor Christopher Vossler	Pastor Christopher Vossler	Dr. Hopkins	Pastor Christopher Vossler
SUNDAY SCHOOL STAFF	*	Gerianne Barnard	Gerianne Barnard	Gerianne Barnard	Gerianne Barnard
USHERS	Elders	Duane Grubaugh & Bill Draves	Duane Grubaugh & Bill Draves	Stacy & Gary Smith	Stacy & Gary Smith
ELDERS	Mark Sprenger, Bob Burnison, Deacon Donald Barnard, Deno O'Connor, Bill Mitchell, Larry Terbush & Mark Burns				