

The Visitor

Rev. Karl J. Koeppen,
Senior Pastor

Rev. Roger A. Drinnon,
Associate Pastor

Mr. Richard Nordmeyer,
Interim Principal

Rev. David Baker,
Missionary to Mongolia

Mary Weber, LCPC,
Family Counselor

Aug / Sept
2023



ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

#changinglives

Worship & Bible Study Opportunities

Traditional Worship:

Saturday 5:00 pm @ the Downtown Church
located at 348 E. Merchant St., Kankakee, IL

Sunday 8:30 am @ the School
located 1780 Career Center Road, Bourbonnais, IL

Contemporary Worship:

Sunday 11:05 am @ the School

Adult & Youth Bible Class:

Sunday 9:50 am @ the School
Classes for Adults & 6th - 12th grade

Children's Sunday School:

Sunday 9:50 am @ the School
Classes for Pre-K through 5th grade

Church & School Office: 815-932-0312

Office Hours:

9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Monday-Friday
(through August 11th)

8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday
(beginning August 14th)

Church Website: www.stpaulslutheran.net

SPECIAL DATES

- Final Registration Day - August 11
- School Open House - August 21
- First Day of School - August 23
- 2nd Grade Bibles - August 27
- School Picture Day - September 1
- Labor Day - September 4
- Grandparents Day - September 10
- Patriot Day - September 11
- First Day of Autumn - September 23

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School will kick-off on **Sunday, September 10th**. More details will be available in the coming weeks.

SECOND GRADERS

RECEIVE BIBLES

On **Sunday, August 27th**, the second grade students will receive a Bible during the 11:05 service. We would like to honor parents and students during the Sunday School hour on this day with a breakfast and some activities. Please plan to meet at **9:50 a.m.** in the school cafeteria. This will be a fun way to meet other second grade students and parents while enjoying a warm breakfast and activities. Please look for a letter to come in the mail by mid-August. If you have any questions or do not receive a letter, please contact Christie in the church office at 815-932-0312.



A Voters' Assembly Meeting will be held on **Sunday, September 24th at 12:30 pm** at the school. Members of the congregation who are age 18 or older are eligible to become voting members and to participate in the decision making of the congregation. After attending at least two Voters' Assembly Meetings in a one-year time period, a member is accepted into voting membership.

We hope to be voting on a new principal in the future. If you have never attended a Voters' Meeting, please consider attending this one so that you are eligible to vote for the new principal.

CONFIRMATION STUDENTS

If you have a child who is planning to begin or finish the confirmation program this year (typically 7th and 8th graders) and they do NOT attend our school, please watch your mail for a letter concerning confirmation classes. They will be starting mid to late August. If you do not receive a letter by Aug 1st, please call Christie in the church office.



Next Newsletter Deadline Sept 15th



Greetings in the name of Jesus!

You haven't seen me for most of July as I have been blessed with a time of Sabbath rest from the Board of Lay Ministry.

It has been an interesting month and I look forward to sharing with you some thoughts from our time away.

Blessings in Jesus!
Pastor Koeppen



Keep Your Saltiness (First published on Pastor Drinnon's Facebook feed June 10th, 2023)

"You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet." Matthew 5:13

The value of the voice of confessional Lutheranism to the church is to remind the church that Christians of the past had an active and living faith. We are stewards of this active and living faith of the saints before us. The voice of the church fathers and Lutheran fathers continue to speak to us today reminding us the church is not a democracy or social justice institution but one that speaks eternal truths in the present.

Once we lose that voice, what we say is meaningless. The church loses her salt. One can speak all the shibboleths of confessional Lutheranism without actually holding onto anything the Lutheran fathers believed and taught. One can say they believe in the resurrection and deny the real bodily resurrection on the Last Day believing instead immortality comes through being remembered. One can say they believe in justification by faith alone and in the same breath say that salvation comes through restorative justice (works righteousness).

Confessional Lutheranism has so much to offer in conversations with other Christians. The emphasis on the objective person of Christ is a uniquely Lutheran emphasis. There are many other treasures found in Lutheran Christology that we leave sitting like fine china - it looks impressive, but we never bring it out and take hold of it. This creates a hollow orthodoxy that never grasps the amazing treasures found in our confessional documents.

My prayer is for a confessional renewal. This renewal will require the church to repent of the idolatry of this age. It will mean that we will not be popular. It will mean that we transgress against the secular taboo code. It will mean that to be a good Christian one will be ideologically a "bad American" (though we will continue to be the best citizens). Only God can help us do this. He will bless His church as long as we remain faithful to Him.

In Christ,
Pastor Drinnon



BIBLE STUDY & FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

“SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY”

When: Every Sunday at 9:50 am

Location: Room 131

Teacher: Pastor Drinnon

Nearly 50 years ago, the majority faculty of Concordia Seminary St. Louis, “walked out” of the campus cancelling classes and creating a new seminary – Christ Seminary in Exile – later abbreviated as “Seminex” after President John Tietjen was suspended by Synod. The clash between the modernist majority faculty and the confessional wing of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, called the “Battle for the Bible,” was a long time coming. The seeds of The Walkout were laid decades before after World War II and matured in the late 1960s and early 1970s. The issues at stake were the inerrancy and inspiration of Scripture, the nature of the Gospel in relation to Scripture, use of the Law in the life of a Christian, etc. The issues at the heart of the Seminex controversy still linger with us today.

Pastor Drinnon will be leading a Bible Study on the Walkout on Sundays at 9:50 am where we will be exploring both the history leading up to The Walkout and the biblical and theological positions of the modernists and how the Missouri Synod responded to challenges regarding the authority of Scripture, inerrancy, and the nature of the Gospel itself. The issues created by The Walkout continue to be relevant

in the 21 st century. As Christians, we are called to, “to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect” (1 Peter 3:15). The purpose of this Bible study is to equip you to confess the truth in love (Ephesians 4:15). All are invited to attend.

“FIRST THINGS FIRST”

This prayer ministry, led by Pastor Dave Bottorff, meets on the first Tuesday of each month from 6:00 to 7:00 pm in the school work room. **We will pray together again on August 1st & September 5th.**

“THE PARABLES OF JESUS” HOME BIBLE STUDY

Jesus’ parables are timeless and powerful. Their characters are memorable. Here are extraordinary insights and illustrations explaining 11 parables Jesus told on His way from Galilee to His death in Jerusalem. You will “see” the stories come alive through Middle Eastern eyes. **Pastor David Bottorff will continue this Bible study on September 26th and again on the fourth Tuesday of October and November at 7pm at his and Marilyn’s home at 1573 Surrey Drive in Bourbonnais with food served afterwards.** Please call 815-304-4553 if you would like to come to this home Bible study for 12 participants.

MEN'S BIBLE BREAKFAST



Pastor Koeppen is leading a Bible Study entitled “Jesus: Legend or Lord?”. Please join him on **Saturday, August 26th and September 23rd at 7:30 am** in the Riverside cafeteria to study God’s Word over coffee and breakfast.

CHURCH-WIDE BIBLE STUDY

Oct. 8 through Nov. 19

Beginning the week of October 8th, St. Paul's will be doing a 7-session Bible study called "Seamless" by Angie Smith. Whether you've grown up hearing Bible stories or you're exploring Scripture for the first time, the full story of the Bible can be overwhelming. The 66 books may seem disconnected at first glance. In this study, Angie Smith shows you how the whole Bible—from Genesis through Revelation—connects as one beautiful, seamless thread. Look for more information to come on the small groups that are available for joining.



CASTING CROWNS COMING TO ONU!

Casting Crowns is returning to Centennial Chapel on **Saturday, October 7th**. Tickets are on sale now at:

brushfire.com/olivet/shinefm/555665

Multi-platinum selling Grammy winners Casting Crowns will take their powerful live performances on the road this fall with The Casting Crowns 20th Anniversary Tour: A Live Symphony Experience. Featuring “Scars In Heaven” and “Crazy People” from the band’s current chart-topping album, concert goers will also experience a night of worship like no other celebrating an incredible repertoire of songs like “Only Jesus,” “Nobody,” “Praise You In This Storm,” “East To West”. Casting Crowns will be joined by a live symphony on this special anniversary tour.

FELLOWSHIP DINNER

Leave the cooking and cleaning to someone else and join us for some food and fellowship! Our next two fellowship dinners will be on **Friday, August 11th at 6:00 pm at Tucci’s** and **Friday, September 8th at Chicago Dough.**

WOMEN'S RETREAT

Saturday, Sept. 16

In Pastor Robert Morris' insightful video series, "More Than Words," he'll dive into how you can read the Bible, experience the miracles within it, discover the answers you need, and refresh your hunger for the Word of God. Get ready to fall in love with God and His Word all over again and experience His promises and truths in a new way. There will be small group opportunities to talk with one another about what you hear.

There will be a continental breakfast at 8:30am and the presentation will begin at 9am and end at 2pm. Lunch will be included. There will be no cost for the retreat. Look for a link to register soon.

BONFIRE & SING-ALONG

Our Youth Group will be hosting a back-to-school bonfire and sing-along at the school on **Saturday night, August 19th at 7 pm.** We will sing worship songs and hymns and spend time in prayer for St. Paul's school, all school children and teachers in our congregation wherever they may go to school, and the upcoming school year. It will be a time of seeking God's will for the coming school year.



PRAYER WALK

Please join us for a Prayer Walk between the church services on **Sunday, August 20th** as we bless the school, the students, teachers, and staff.



OKTOBERFEST

Save the date! On **October 7th**, we will once again be hosting OktoberFest at the school. The event will feature delicious German fare and live entertainment by *Die Musikmeisters*, a renowned German polka band.

PROJECT COMPASSION & GABRIEL'S CALLERS

Would you consider joining? Our only agenda is to share God's love and to care for the well-being of our members, especially our shut-ins, those grieving, or anyone with special needs. We meet quarterly, at which time we have devotions and prayer and we share our ministry over a meal. Don't worry about whether or not you have the skills; we will train you.

Project Compassion Visitors & Gabriel's Callers will have their quarterly meeting at Chicago Dough on **Wednesday, August 9th at 6 p.m.** Anyone interested in becoming a visitor or caller is welcome to attend.



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

In October, LWML will be hosting an Operation Christmas Child workshop, where adults and children will be invited to help assemble shoeboxes that will be shipped to remote areas of the world as a witness of Jesus and his love. If you are interested in contributing, now would be a great time to stock up on some extra school supplies to include in the boxes! We could use spiral notebooks, pencils, erasers, scissors, construction paper, crayons, pens, colored pencils, pencil sharpeners, pencil bags, and solar calculators. See the enclosed insert for a complete list of needs. There is a red box in the school lobby where you may put your donations. Thank you so much!!

SINGLE MOM SATURDAY

Attention all single moms! Single Mom Saturday will be held at Court Street Ford on **September 23rd**. Each single mom who signs up will receive an oil change at Court Street Ford and a car wash. St. Paul's Lutheran Church and School together with Court Street Ford make this event happen; this is our 10th year for honoring single moms in the community and remembering how special they are. If you know a single mom who could use this service, please share this information. Watch the weekly announcements for details on how to sign up.

PRAIRIEVIEW FALL FESTIVAL

The Fall Festival has been restructured. Rather than being on two consecutive days, it will be split into two events. On Friday, September 8th, there will be a fish fry, live entertainment, and booths selling mums, produce, honey, kettle corn, baked goods and pumpkins at Prairieview. We will have our annual used book sale at this event as well. We will still set up the bookshelves on Thursday but will haul down fewer books since it is only a one-day sale. Sign-up sheets will be available soon at the church and school sites to set up and work the book sale.

On a Saturday in early November, there will be a second event at an indoor venue (exact date and place to be determined). The quilt auction and silent auction will happen at this time, along with a dinner and live entertainment.

If you have any questions, call Jeanne Vilt at 815-932-9855 or 815-216-0240.

TABEA ALTAR GUILD RUMMAGE SALE



We are now accepting donations for our semi-annual rummage sale. The fall sale will be **Thursday and Friday, September**

21st and 22nd from 8 am to 4 pm in the gym at the downtown church. You may leave your treasures by the gym doors on Saturdays before the 5 pm service or you may schedule a time to drop off or pick up with Carol Ginger (815-922-5525) or Pat Baker (708-772-0933). Please DO NOT bring items to the school location. We respectfully ask that all donated clothing is clean. We cannot accept TVs or computers. The proceeds from our sales help purchase much needed supplies such as candles, wine, wafers, robes and other necessities that help enhance all church services. We thank you for your donations! May God bless you and your families for helping so faithfully.

COLLEGE & MILITARY ADDRESSES

Please use the enclosed form to update the church office on military members and college student addresses for the fall so that we may stay connected to them as they continue their journey. Thank you!



OPENING CHAPEL SERVICE

School begins on **Wednesday, August 23rd**! Pastor Koeppen will lead the first chapel service of the year at 10:00 am. Everyone is invited to attend as we celebrate our lives together and pray for God's blessing over our students, teachers, staff, and school year.

FAMILY FUN NIGHT

Enjoy a back-to-school celebration outside on the grounds of St. Paul's Lutheran School from **6pm to 8pm on Friday, Sept 8th**. All school families, church members and alumni are invited!! Watch for more details as the event approaches. This free evening of fun is brought to you by St. Paul's PTL and Thrivent Financial.

STAFF RECOGNITION

Please join us on Sunday, **September 10th during the 8:30 am service** when our church/school staff will be recognized for their years of dedicated service. A reception will be held in the cafeteria following the service. Please plan to come and express your appreciation.

CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE REPORT

At the September 22, 2022 Voters Meeting a motion was made and passed to form a committee for the purpose of reviewing the current constitution to suggest needed changes and to update the document with past approved changes.

The committee has been meeting, collecting various documents, completed the update and developed the following tentative schedule with respect to Voters meetings:

- June 4 2023 - status report and presentation of draft/outline
- September 24 2023 - 1st reading for approval
- January 2024 - 2nd reading for approval and adoption

Input was asked of current boards, staff and the congregation along with NID representative. Should you wish a copy of the proposed updated Constitution, annotated Constitution or the Cliff Notes of the proposed changes please contact the church office. The Cliff notes will also be made available the third and fourth weekends of August in the downtown elevator lobby and in the school lobby.

LAWNMOWER FUNDRAISING

With almost 20 acres to mow and a lawn mower with only a 6-foot cut, the board of trustees has purchased a used tractor and mower with a 17-foot cut. This purchase brings the mowing time down from 18 hours to 4 hours. If you would like to make a contribution to help defray the cost of this tractor, please put your gift in an envelope marked "mower" and place it in the offering plate or give it to the church office. Thank you

BAKER BULLETIN

The latest Baker Bulletin is enclosed and posted in the entryway at the school. Rev. David Baker and his family are doing missionary work across the globe and love to share their stories. Please note that because of the nature of their ministry, we cannot post the bulletin online.

NEWSLETTER VIA EMAIL?

If you would rather receive church newsletter electronically, please provide your e-mail address to Christie at crahn@stpaulslutheran.net. The newsletter is also posted on St. Paul's website at www.stpaulslutheran.net.

JUNE MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

Baptized	1819
Communicant	1338
Communing	418
Attendance Avg. Weekend Worship:	
Month	240
Year-to-date	266

YTD FINANCES (through 6/30/23)

Thankofferings

Receipts: \$744,285.38
Total Needed: \$877,950.00
% of Need: 84.77%

Building Fund

Receipts: \$120,610.79
Total Needed: \$165,000.00
% of need: 73.10%