

The Visitor

Rev. Karl J. Koeppen,
Senior Pastor

Rev. Roger A. Drinnon,
Associate Pastor

Mr. Brian P. Porter,
Principal

Rev. David Baker,
Missionary to Mongolia

Rev. Ross Engel,
Adopt-A-Chaplain

June/July 2025



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 at 1780 Career Center Road, Bourbonnais, IL*

Contemporary Worship:

Sunday 11:05 am @ the School

Adult Bible Class:

Sunday 9:45 am @ the School

Church & School Office: 815-932-0312

Church Website: www.stpaulslutheran.net



Next Newsletter Deadline July 15th

SPECIAL DATES

- D-Day - June 6
- Flag Day - June 14
- Father's Day - June 15
- First Day of Summer - June 20
- Independence Day - July 4

2025 Confirmation Class





**Summer Office
Hours**
starting June 2nd

Monday - Friday
9:00 am - 3:30 pm



VBS 2025

St. Paul's will be hosting VBS this summer from **Monday, June 16th through Thursday, June 19th**. We will be guiding kids on the ultimate Alaskan adventure where northern lights glow over majestic mountains, racing rivers, and glistening glaciers. As kids trek the tundra, they'll explore how easy it is to lose sight of what's true in our wild world today. Pointing them toward Jesus, True North VBS shows them that he is a faithful friend we can always trust. He's our True North!

Use the QR code below or go to vbspro.events/p/stpauls2025 to register your child for VBS or to volunteer. Anyone who is registered prior to June 8th will be guaranteed a free VBS t-shirt!



CHERISH YOUR FREEDOM

*It is for freedom that Christ has set you free
(Galatians 5:1)*

How will you celebrate Independence Day this year? Maybe you can wave a flag, watch fireworks or attend a family reunion. Typically, we all enjoy some free time on the Fourth of July holiday.

But have you thought about some of the more important freedoms you enjoy as a citizen of the United States of America? Freedoms like the right to gather for a church service, elect your government's representatives, own a firearm and speak freely in public? These are freedoms that we sometimes take for granted.

And yet, not one of these freedoms has come to us without a cost. Men and women have given their lives to win and protect the freedoms we enjoy as a nation. Did you know that of the 56 men who signed the Declaration of Independence, 5 of them were captured and tortured by the British army, 12 of them lost their homes and 9 of them died of wounds sustained in battle? It only further proves the timeless truth: **Freedom is never completely free.**

Well, if that's true of political freedom, it is even more true of spiritual freedom.

As Christians, we have been given by Christ freedom from sin - freedom from the guilt of our sins, freedom from the power of our sins and freedom from the eternal punishment of our sins. And yet, these freedoms did not come without a cost. **Our freedom cost Jesus his life.**



The question is, what will we do with our freedom?

- ✗ Will we use our freedom as a license to disobey God's will for our lives?
- ✗ Will we use our freedom to serve our own desires?
- ✗ Will we stubbornly regard our freedom as a right that God owes to us?

If not, then what shall we do?

- ✓ Will we cherish our spiritual freedom as the precious gift it is?
- ✓ Will we daily thank our Savior for the freedom we enjoy - and then act accordingly?

St. Paul offers this wise counsel:

Using our freedom appropriately means serving God and others, rather than serving "self." Christ's loving sacrifice gives us both the model and the motivation to properly use the freedom we've been given.

The 4th of July is a day to celebrate the freedom that God has given us here in the United States. But it's just one of 365 days a year for us to live the real freedom that God has given us as redeemed, forgiven, Spirit-filled children of God.

May God bless your celebration of true freedom this month and always!

Blessings in Jesus!!!

Pastor Koeppen



Time With God This Summer

“Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.” Matthew 11:28

Summer is a busy time. We have family gatherings throughout the summer, Family reunions, as well as other opportunities to get together. These are wonderful times and we also know what it's like when members of the family can't make it to these gatherings. You know what it's like when a beloved family member doesn't show up for the family gathering and meal at Christmas, Thanksgiving, or Easter: There's a hole, a gap, a pain that everyone feels. We miss that person in our midst. Their absence diminishes the joy of the whole family.

The same is true of God's children. Every Sunday is a gathering of the family: The family of God. We gather to hear the Word of our Heavenly Father and to join together in eating our family meal - the Sacrament of Holy Communion when it is offered.

When you choose to pass on weekend worship, when you don't come together with your church family to join in offering the sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving and to receive the gifts your Lord has for you; it's not just you who misses out. Your extended family, the church, misses out. All of us are diminished by your decision to take a summer break from church. The singing is that much quieter. The “amens” are that much softer. The spot where you usually sit and stand reminds us all of your absence.



I read a comment recently from a church leader who said, *“Christian discipleship should begin with a very simple commitment that any given Lord's day will find you in the assembly of God's people, singing His praise, offering your prayers, receiving His gifts.”*

It's simply what it means to be a Christian. It's who we are and what we do as God's people. As a pastor, it grieves me, as well as the rest of God's family, to see people missing from worship.

We have entered that time of the year when the things that compete for our time and attention are even greater. When people decide that camping, four wheeling, baseball, or whatever else are more important than gathering together with their brothers and sisters in Christ.

We miss seeing many of you throughout the summer. I know many are traveling on vacations and family reunions which keeps you from joining us in worship. But all too often, I see posts online about someone keeping busy on a Saturday or Sunday only to realize that I did not see you in church.

We miss you. Don't forget to join us for worship if you are in town.

If you are out of town and traveling, don't forget to find somewhere to go for worship! **Here are few things you can do to make your vacation spiritually uplifting (and pleasing to God):**

1. Determine the location of an LCMS congregation nearest your vacation destination. To find it, go to <https://locator.lcms.org/church>, put in the town and/or the zip code and search, or you can talk to me. Visiting a church while away can create fond memories and connect you with the larger body of believers.
2. If there are no congregations near you, consider having your own personal worship service. You can join our livestream worship during the 8:30am worship service at <https://stpaulslutheran.net/live-stream-services/>.

3. Don't forget to support the Lord's work while you're on vacation. Whether you're giving your gift to the church you're visiting, or you're saving up your offering envelopes to put in the basket when you return, or giving online, remember that the need for God's gifts to us don't stop when we're on vacation. Therefore, neither should our gifts to Him.

It is my prayer that as we enter the summer months, and all the months of the year, that you will not neglect your need for spiritual rest. You have the privilege of gathering together with the rest of your family to have the burden of your sin lifted off from you and to be refreshed and strengthened in your faith in Jesus Christ. I hope that you will take advantage of that privilege each and every weekend.

Blessings in Jesus!!!

Pastor Koeppen

ELECTRONIC GIVING



Have you considered signing up to give to St. Paul's using our electronic giving? Contributions can now be debited automatically from



our account. Our electronic giving program offers convenience for you and much-needed donation consistency for our congregation. If you are currently giving on a weekly basis, you will no longer need to write out 52 checks a year or prepare 52 envelopes. And, when travel, illness or other circumstances prevent you from attending services, this program will allow your weekly offerings to continue on an uninterrupted basis. To sign up click on the "Online Giving" tab on the church website www.stpaulslutheran.net or scan the QR code here.

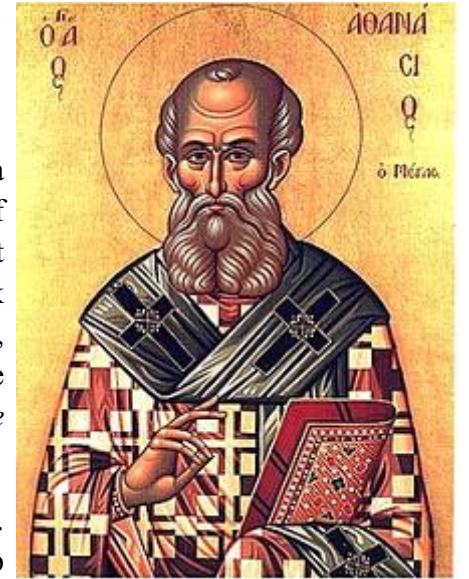
Athanasius and the Nicene Creed: A Legacy for Confessional Lutherans 1700 Years Later

In 325 A.D., the Church gathered at the Council of Nicaea to address a growing division caused by the teachings of Arius, a priest from Alexandria. Arius claimed that Christ was not fully divine but a created being—an idea that struck at the heart of Christian faith. Presiding over the council, Emperor Constantine recognized the seriousness of the moment, famously stating, *"Division in the Church is more dangerous than war or battle."*

For Confessional Lutherans, the Council of Nicaea is vital. We commemorate the courageous stand of Bishop Alexander of Alexandria and his deacon Athanasius—later a bishop himself—who boldly defended the full divinity of Christ. For 1700 years, the Nicene Creed has united the Church in the confession of the Trinity and the saving truth of Jesus Christ as true God and true man. In our own age of confusion and compromise, Athanasius remains a model of faithful conviction under pressure to conform to the world.

To understand the significance of Nicaea, we must also recall the trials that preceded it. In the 3rd century, the Roman Empire was torn apart during the Crisis of the Third Century, when political instability led to two widespread persecutions of Christians—under Decius (c. 250) and Diocletian (303). Christians were scapegoated for the Empire's troubles, mocked as atheists, and targeted for rejecting Rome's traditional gods. No one could have foreseen that only a decade after Diocletian's persecution, Christianity would receive legal protection under the Edict of Milan (313) through Emperor Constantine.

With persecution ended, new internal challenges arose. The Church, once persecuted from without, now faced heresy from within. Arius taught that the Son of God was a created being—*"There was when He was not."* His Christ was not coequal with the Father, but more like an apprentice to the Creator. The controversy demanded a response, and Constantine—at first dismissive—came to see that the very truth of Christianity was on the line.



The Nicene Creed, forged in this fire, remains our enduring confession. It echoes in our sanctuaries today—unchanged, unwavering, and still proclaiming Christ as “*God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God.*” Athanasius would work tirelessly to ensure that the confession of the true faith would endure.

The Council of Nicaea did not end Arianism. Arius’ teachings resurged and spread so widely that Jerome once said, “*The whole world groaned and was astonished to find itself Arian.*” Amid this storm, Athanasius stood firm for Christ’s full divinity, earning the title *contra mundum*—“**against the world.**” He was exiled five times and spent only a decade in peace, during which he wrote works like *On the Incarnation* and *The Life of Anthony*.

Athanasius fought for a crucial truth: **only God can save.** As he taught, “**What is not assumed is not redeemed.**” If Christ were not fully God, He could not restore the divine image or rescue creation from sin, death, and chaos. Later, Martin Luther would echo this truth in his teaching of the Great Exchange: Christ takes our sin and death, and gives us His righteousness and life (1 Peter 3:18).

Athanasius remained faithful under intense pressure and persecution, a model of steadfast confession in a hostile world. As heirs of this legacy, we stand with him every time we confess the Nicene Creed—one of the three Ecumenical Creeds in the Book of Concord. The Creed unites us with the Church across time, for “*Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever*” (Hebrews 13:8).

Athanasius reminds us that faithfulness to Christ’s person and work is faithfulness to the Gospel. His clear confession protects the doctrine of justification by grace through faith. In *On the Incarnation*, he writes, “**The Word of God came in His own person, because it was He alone, the image of the Father, who could recreate man made after the image.**” Salvation is God’s work alone.

This 1700th anniversary of the Nicene Creed is a time for gratitude and reflection. God has preserved His Gospel through the faithful witness of the Church. For deeper study, see the latest *Lutheran Witness* or attend the Nicene Creed symposium hosted by Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. We recently celebrated this milestone (May 17–18), which also coincides with the celebration of the 165th anniversary of St. Paul’s Lutheran Church and the 160th of our school.

The Nicene faith is not just history—it lives in the Church today. We proclaim it every Communion Sunday, joining the confession handed down through generations. Athanasius’

example reminds us that the Truth is worth contending for. The Truth is worth suffering for because Christ is worth suffering for. As Christians we have nothing to fear because, “**By his death, He has destroyed death, and by his Resurrection, He has restored life.**” (On the Incarnation Section 10.5; paraphrased for clarity) The church for centuries has persevered with thanksgiving under persecution and hardship. We ought me the challenges of the day with the same zeal and joy as our forefathers and foremothers in the faith had.

“*We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ...*”—words we share with St. Paul (1 Corinthians 8:6) and with Athanasius. As Confessional Lutherans, we remain heirs of his confession and stewards of the same saving truth.





BE THE CHURCH:

St. Paul's At Work in our Community

June 19th - 22nd

Each summer, the Board of Youth Ministry sponsors opportunities for our youth and adults in the congregation to serve our greater community. This summer, we will be helping with the VBS finale, sharing the love of Jesus with our shut-in members, hosting a community awareness event and project work day for Phil's Friends, collecting and bundling diapers for the local pregnancy resource centers, and more. Everyone of all ages is invited to join us in serving our community. Students entering grades 7-12 in the fall can be dropped off each day; younger students are welcome but must be accompanied by a parent or responsible adult. Lunch is provided for registered volunteers. Sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0B44AFAC28A0FECE9-56929532-2025>

ENDURE: LCMS Youth Gathering & Culver's Fundraiser

This July 19th - 23rd, fifteen youth and five supportive adults will be attending the LCMS Youth Gathering in New Orleans. We have almost reached our fundraising goal for the trip, but we need your help to close the final gap! Join us **Tuesday, June 24th from 5 to 8 pm** at the Bourbonnais Culver's location. 10% of your purchase will go directly towards supporting our trip. No flyer is necessary. Thank you for supporting our youth and this formational opportunity to attend the gathering! If you are unable to attend the Culvers Share Night and would like to financially support the gathering trip in other ways, please contact Pastor Drinnon. Please also keep this group of 20 youth and adults, as well as 4 Team Flex volunteers, traveling to New Orleans in your prayers this summer.



PHIL'S FRIENDS UPDATE

Phil's Friends ministry continues to go and evolve with the goal of being open weekly, year-round for people to come into the center to make items and/or pack care packages for people going through cancer treatment. As more people in our church circuit and community learn about the ministry, our donations grow and help increases. That is a wonderful blessing. If you would like to donate or help with the Phil's Friends ministry, please see the summer schedule and know that we have ongoing needs for box items. If you would like to donate directly to our Kankakee Area Phil's Friends Center, you can make checks payable to St. Paul's with Phil's Friends in the memo line or put cash in an envelope clearly marked for Phil's Friends and put it in the offering plate or send it to the church office.

At the NID Shine Service day in early April, thanks to many volunteers, we were able to clean out years of long forgotten

treasures - relocating them to the Rummage sale, recycling, or trash. We hauled away 7 truck loads and upcycled as much as we could. The building is less cluttered and ready for a good cleaning and painting. The NID LWML grant has allowed us to put in a new floor in one classroom that will serve at a multipurpose space in the building. The need for air conditioning in the Phil's Friends space is great as summer approaches to continue using the space comfortably. So we are in the process of applying for grants from the NID and the synod and hope to hear in the fall if we qualify to receive funds for this and other major projects needed to bring the Mission and Ministry Center into a usable, comfortable year round facility. Please pray that the grant applications are well received.



SAVE THE DATE FOR YOUTH

MINISTRY SUMMER FUN!

Youth entering grades 7-12, recent graduates, and friends are invited to join us for summer fun and fellowship:

† **Sunday, June 22nd, 6 - 9 pm:** Be the Church Finale Celebration: Game Night!

- Video games, yard games, board games – you name it!
- St. Paul's Lutheran School, Youth Room
- Cost: \$10 for pizza & snacks

† **Thursday, July 10th, 6:15-10pm:** Musical & Ice Cream Field Trip

- Meet at St. Paul's Lutheran School at 6:15 and we will carpool to BBCHS to see our friends in the summer production of Charlie & the Chocolate Factory. We will stop for ice cream after the show and then return to school by 10pm.
- Please RSVP to Mrs. Drinnon by July 7th to reserve your ticket.
- Cost: \$10 ticket + ice cream money

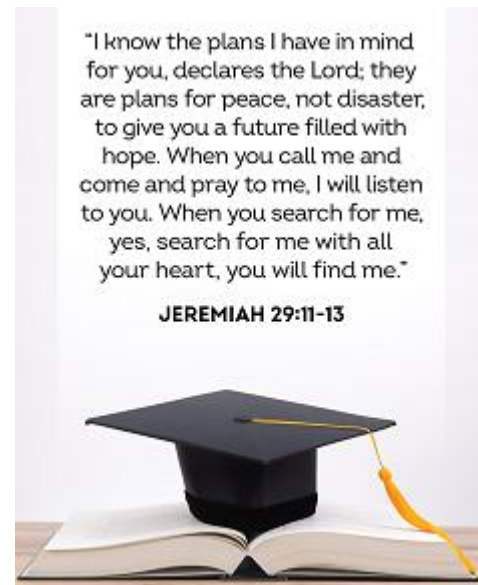
† **Tuesday, August 5th:** Field Trip Adventure TBD

- Watch GroupMe and the weekly announcements for more information and how to sign-up.



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2025!!

We pray God's blessings on all of our 8th grade graduates as they say goodbye to St. Paul's and embark on their new adventures! Congratulations to Grace West (Class Valedictorian and recipient of the Kiwanis Student Achievement Award), Mo Macari and Mason Raloff (Co-Salutatorians), and Norah Callan and Brooks Wonder (recipients of the Bradley-Bourbonnais Rotary Four-Way Test Award)!



MEN'S BIBLE BREAKFAST

Please join Pastor Koeppen on **Saturday, June 28th & July 26th at 7:30 am** in the Riverside cafeteria to study God's Word over coffee and breakfast.



FELLOWSHIP DINNER

Leave the cooking and cleaning to someone else and join us for some food and fellowship! Everyone is invited to our monthly fellowship dinners. Each month, we visit a different restaurant and share a great couple of hours eating and getting to know each other better. No special commitment is expected and these evenings are very casual – just come as you are when you are able. Anyone who has come at least once will tell you how much fun we have! Our next fellowship dinner will be on **Friday, June 20th at 6:00 pm at Hoppy Pig**. There will be no Fellowship Dinner in July.

INSTALLATION WEEKEND

All new Board Members and Directors will be installed on **Saturday, May 31st and Sunday, June 1st** at the worship service they attend. Present officers and board members will be rededicated.

THE GOD WHO SPEAKS

A new Bible class **begins on Sunday, June 1st**. "The God Who Speaks" challenges the church to live as if God truly does speak.

There is a war raging around us – in society, in our churches, and in our homes. It is not a battle over marriage, race, or the sexual revolution. Rather, it is a battle for the truth. Is God real? Does He speak, and if so, how would we know? While many churches are faithfully proclaiming the truths found in Scripture, others have lost confidence in the Bible's divine authorship.

This Bible Study will take sections from a documentary that traces the evidence of the Bible's authority through interviews with some of the world's most respected biblical scholars. This film answers common objections about the Bible's reliability and equips believers to confidently base their lives on the power of God's Word. We hope you are able to join us as Pastor Koeppen begins this class.

NEW BIBLE STUDY!

Join us as we dive into David Lawrence Coe's *Provoking Proverbs: Wisdom and the Ten Commandments*, a thought-provoking study that connects the timeless truths of Proverbs with God's Law for daily life. Explore how the wisdom of Scripture guides us in honoring God and loving our neighbor.

Beginning June 1st, we will meet in the school library between church services. Books will be provided. All are welcome—come grow in wisdom and grace! For more info or to register for the class, email Pastor Drinnon at rdrinnon@stpaulslutheran.net.

NEW BIBLE STUDY:

PETER'S JOYFUL PERSEVERANCE

Writing to early Christians who were being persecuted for their faith, I & II Peter offer an answer to them and to us during times of distress. The Lord graciously uses trials to strengthen the weaknesses we don't know we have. Our Christian joy, in spite of problems, and our joyful perseverance demonstrated by Peter's life as a disciple of Jesus demonstrates a sinner, but also a forgiven Christian who could endure all things to achieve heavenly joy and eternal salvation.

Yes, Peter is different from the other

eleven, always expressing his opinion, bragging about his faith, quick to action, and making sure the other disciples knew that he was their self-appointed leader.

Roy Cordes will begin this new class on **Tuesday, August 12th at 9:50 am and on Sunday, August 17th at 9:50 am**. Tuesday mornings will be held in Fellowship Hall at the downtown church campus, and Sunday mornings will be held between worship services on the Bourbonnais campus. Tuesdays lesson will be repeated on Sundays.

Revelations 2: 2, 7 “² I know all the things you do. I have seen your hard work and your patient endurance (perseverance). ⁷ Anyone with ears to hear must listen to the Spirit and understand what he is saying.” Plan to join us as we listen to God's Word!



LWML CONVENTION



The LWML 41st Biennial Convention will be in Omaha, Nebraska **June 26th through June 29th**. The theme of the convention is “Growing in God's Grace” and each convention attendee will be inspired to dig deeper in God's Word, nurtured to share the love of Christ with enthusiasm, and encouraged to support missions with joy. For more information on the event and a link to register, please visit the LWML website. Registration is open now!

LWML SERVANT EVENT

LWML will once again be collecting used eyeglasses, sunglasses and eyeglass cases for MOST Ministries. The glasses will be cleaned, sorted and used at vision clinics on various mission trips. Please bring your contributions to the school site and drop them in the box marked “LWML Donations”. There will also be a box by the elevator at the church outside the sanctuary. Glasses will be collected from June 1st - June 30th. Thank you for your generosity and your willingness to "Serve the Lord with Gladness"!

PRAIRIEVIEW FALL FESTIVAL

St. Paul's will once again be doing a used book booth at Prairieview's Fall Festival on **September 5th & 6th** and **we are in need of books**. We take hard covers, paperbacks, children's, fiction and nonfiction. Please, no textbooks. There are collection bins at both locations. At the school, you may leave your books in the labeled red donation box. At the church, there are labeled containers just inside the alley doors. If you have any questions, would like to arrange a time to drop off, or need to schedule a pick-up, please call Jeanne Vilt at 815-932-9855, call or text her at 815-216-0240, or call or text Nancy Campbell at 815-592-4273.

There will be sign-up sheets at both sites later in the summer to volunteer to work at the book booth, help set up, and help pack up at the end. We will also need homemade pies.



SUMMER TRIP ORDERING

What is TRIP (Tuition Reduction Incentive Program)?

* Raise money by using gift cards to pay for everyday purchases. Choose from 750+ retailers, like Bass Pro, Dick's, Disney, DQ, Starbucks, Groupon, Royal Caribbean, Carnival, hotels, airlines, gas stations & more!

* Pay face value for gift cards. A portion of what you spend will go to St. Paul's and a portion will be applied to your school account for tuition, lunch or extended care. If you do not have children that attend St. Paul's, you may donate your share to a school family or to St. Paul's.

How do I order?

* Contact Julie Salzman at 815-530-7320 or juliesalzman@stpaulslutheran.net. She will place

orders weekly. Submit your request to her by Thursday for delivery no later than the following Friday.

* Install the RaiseRight app to order your gift cards or use it to download e-cards while you're waiting in line at your favorite stores.



APRIL MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

Baptized	1790
Communicant	1317
Communing	405
Attendance Avg. Weekend Worship (as of the end of the month):	
Month*	289
Year-to-date	279

* Excludes Easter

FISCAL YEAR-TO-DATE FINANCES

(through 5/4/25)

Thankofferings

Receipts: (Envelopes, Plate, Sunday
School + Electronic) \$628,014.82
Needed To Date: \$704,846.12
% of Need To Date: 89.10%

Building Fund

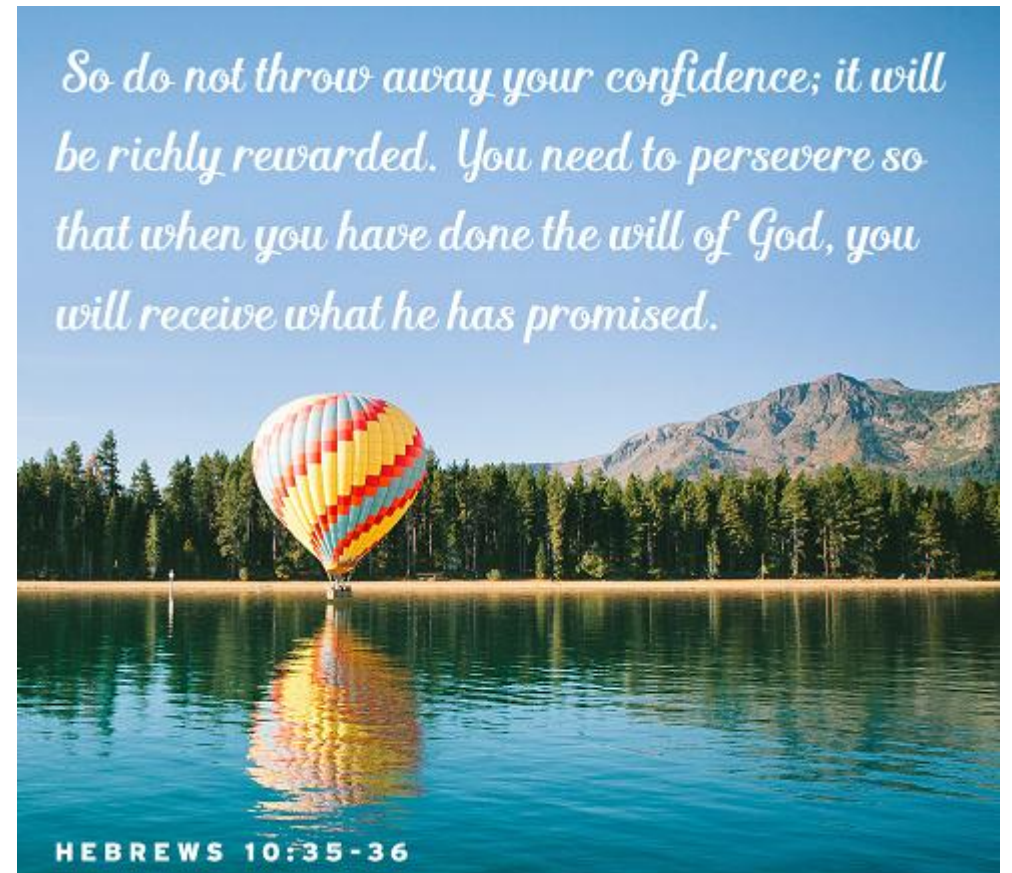
Receipts:(Envelopes+Electronic)
\$127,970.94
Needed To Date: \$148,076.72
% of Need To Date: 86.42%

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 St. Paul's bi-monthly newsletter via e-mail, please provide your e-mail address to Christie at crahn@stpaulslutheran.net or call the church office at 932-0312. The newsletter is also posted on St. Paul's website at stpaulslutheran.net.




















WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Traditional SAT 5:00 pm - Downtown Campus (D)
 Traditional SUN 8:30 am - Bourbonnais Campus (B)
 Contemporary SUN 11:05 am - Bourbonnais Campus (B)



June

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8:30am Worship (B) 9:45am Adult Bible Study (B) 11:05am Worship (B) 	2 7:00pm Lay Ministry Meeting (B) 	3	4	5	6	7 9:00am Phil's Friends Work Day (D) 5:00pm Worship (D) 
8 8:30am Worship (B) 9:50am Adult Bible Study (B) 11:05am Worship (B) 	9	10 6:30pm School Board Meeting (B) 	11	12 6:00pm Lectures in Genesis (B) 	13	14 5:00pm Worship (D) 
15 8:30am Worship (B) 9:50am Adult Bible Study (B) 11:05am Worship (B) 	16 7:00pm Church Council Meeting (B)	17 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL	18	19 BE THE CHURCH	20 6:00pm Fellowship Dinner (Hoppy Pig)	21 9:30am Phil's Friends Pack Party (D) 5:00pm Worship (D) 
22 BE THE CHURCH 8:30am Worship (B) 9:50am Adult Bible Study (B) 11:05am Worship (B) 6:00pm Be The Church Finale (B)	23	24 5:00pm Culver's Share Night for Youth Ministry (Culver's) 	25	26 6:00pm Lectures in Genesis (B) 	27 LWML CONVENTION	28 7:30am Men's Bible Breakfast (Riverside) 5:00pm Worship (D) 
29 LWML CONVENTION 8:30am Worship (B) 9:50am Adult Bible Study (B) 11:05am Worship (B) 	30				Communion is celebrated the 1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays of the month 	


















WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Traditional SAT 5:00 pm - Downtown Site (C)
 Traditional SUN 8:30 am - School Site (S)
 Contemporary SUN 11:05 am - School Site (S)



July

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Communion is celebrated the 1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays of the month 		1	2	3  Church & School Offices Closed	4	5 5:00pm Worship (D) 
6 8:30am Worship (B) 9:50am Adult Bible Study (B) 11:05am Worship (B) 	7 7:00pm Lay Ministry Meeting (B)  MEETING	8 6:30pm School Board Meeting (B)  MEETING	9	10 6:00pm Lectures in Genesis (B) 6:15am Youth Ministry Musical & Ice Cream Field Trip (B)	11	12 9:00am Phil's Friends Work Day (D) 5:00pm Worship (D) 
13 8:30am Worship (B) 9:50am Adult Bible Study (B) 11:05am Worship (B) 	14	15 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	16	17	18	19 LCMS NYG 2025 5:00pm Worship (D) 
LCMS NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING 2025						
20 8:30am Worship (B) 9:50am Adult Bible Study (B) 11:05am Worship (B) 	21 7:00pm Church Council Meeting (B)  MEETING	22	23	24 6:00pm Lectures in Genesis (B) 	25	26 7:30am Men's Bible Breakfast (Riverside) 9:30am Phil's Friends Work Day (D) 5:00pm Worship (D) 
27 8:30am Worship (B) 9:50am Adult Bible Study (B) 11:05am Worship (B) 	28	29	30	31		



Serving our Lord in June

ACOLYTE SCHEDULE

Sun., June 1	8:30 am 11:05 am	Dain & Dylan Blair Norah Callan, Audrey Nordmeyer
Sun., June 8	8:30 am 11:05 am	Brody Brinkmann, Olivia Reardanz Layna Rahn, Annie Schneider
Sun., June 15	8:30 am 11:05 am	Micah Lundmark, Gloria Morocho Loja Jacob Kubal, Ty Luhman
Sun., June 22	8:30 am 11:05 am	Gavin & J.P. Woods Norah Callan, Claire Wilson
Sun., June 29	8:30 am 11:05 am	Ava & Jackson Veasey Ryleigh Reiniche, Trenton Stephens

LAY READERS SCHEDULE

Sat., May 31 Sun., June 1	5:00 pm 8:30 am 11:05 am	Pat Hatch Lauren Lundmark Karen Beatty	Sat., June 7 Sun., June 8	5:00 pm 8:30 am 11:05 am	Dennis Hess John Veers Melody Trudeau
Sat., June 14 Sun., June 15	5:00 pm 8:30 am 11:05 am	Georgia Hess Mark Hess Deb Turrell	Sat., June 21 Sun., June 22	5:00 pm 8:30 am 11:05 am	Rich Nordmeyer Bill Balgeman Sharla Ronchetto
Sat., June 28 Sun., June 29	5:00 pm 8:30 am 11:05 am	Rich Engel Ruth Fabbro Tammie Mesenbring			

TRUSTEE SCHEDULES

Sat. & Sun., May 31 & June 1 5:00 pm - Jeff Johnson 8:30 am - Tom Stirnaman 11:05 am - Greg Wheeler	Sat. & Sun., June 7 & 8 5:00 pm - Rob Wood 8:30 am - 11:05 am - Jim Trudeau	Sat. & Sun., June 14 & 15 5:00 pm - Jeff Johnson 8:30 am - Tom Stirnaman 11:05 am - Greg Wheeler
Sat. & Sun., June 21 & 22 5:00 pm - Jeff Johnson 8:30 am - 11:05 am - Jim Trudeau	Sat. & Sun., June 28 & 29 5:00 pm - Rob Wood 8:30 am - Tom Stirnaman 11:05 am - Greg Wheeler	



Serving our Lord in July

ACOLYTE SCHEDULE

Sun., July 6	8:30 am 11:05 am	Brody Brinkmann, Mo Macari Emma Davis, Ty Luhman
Sun., July 13	8:30 am 11:05 am	Dain & Dylan Blair Lucas Porter, Luke Stirnaman
Sun., July 20	8:30 am 11:05 am	Mason Raloff, Quinn Styck Jacob Kubal, Miles Truax
Sun., July 27	8:30 am 11:05 am	Nolan Freitas, Nora McHugh Maddie Billingsley, Layna Rahn

LAY READERS SCHEDULE

Sat., July 5 Sun., July 6	5:00 pm 8:30 am 11:05 am	Loree Yoakum JoAnn Hess Deb Turrell	Sat., July 12 Sun., July 13	5:00 pm 8:30 am 11:05 am	Rich Nordmeyer Nancy Eden Karen Beatty
Sat., July 19 Sun., July 20	5:00 pm 8:30 am 11:05 am	Dennis Hess Bill Balgeman Mellody McDonald	Sat., July 26 Sun., July 27	5:00 pm 8:30 am 11:05 am	Georgia Hess Loree Yoakum Sharla Ronchetto

TRUSTEE SCHEDULE

Sat. & Sun., July 5 & 6 5:00 pm - Rob Wood 8:30 am - 11:05 am - Jim Trudeau	Sat. & Sun., July 12 & 13 5:00 pm - Jeff Johnson 8:30 am - Tom Stirnaman 11:05 am - Greg Wheeler
Sat. & Sun., July 19 & 20 5:00 pm - Rob Wood 8:30 am - 11:05 am - Jim Trudeau	Sat. & Sun., July 26 & 27 5:00 pm - Jeff Johnson 8:30 am - Tom Stirnaman 11:05 am - Greg Wheeler



phil's friends

cancer is strong. **hope is stronger.**

KANKAKEE AREA CENTER EVENTS



June
21

Pack Party

St. Paul's Mission &
Ministry Center

9:30-11 AM

July
12

Work Day

St. Paul's Mission &
Ministry Center

9:00 AM - Noon

July
26

Pack Party

St. Paul's Mission &
Ministry Center

9:30-11 AM

August
9

Work Day

St. Paul's Mission &
Ministry Center

9:00 AM - Noon

August
23

Pack Party

St. Paul's Mission &
Ministry Center

9:30-11 AM

Sept
6

Work Day

St. Paul's Mission &
Ministry Center

9:00 AM - Noon

**St. Paul's Lutheran Church Mission and Ministry Center
348 E Merchant St. Kankakee, IL - Use Alley Entrance**

Persevere with Thanksgiving

Hopefully you are aware that “**Persevere with Thanksgiving**” is the 18th month long theme for our anniversary celebration of 160 years of our beloved school and 165 years of our beloved congregation, St. Paul’s Lutheran Church. We have been sharing our history from the very beginning through bulletin inserts, Facebook posts, but most thoroughly in the Timeline that is on the cafeteria wall at School. PLEASE take time to visit the timeline and soak in our history. It is so much fun to visually see our history!!

I was never interested in history much when I was in school. To me, it was a bunch of names and dates that didn’t have a whole lot of relevance in my life, but I was a KID! As an ADULT, I see things much differently, and this year, working on St. Paul’s history and sharing that with you, has brought our—St. Paul’s congregation’s—history to “life”! I pray that the same is true for you!! Not only our history, but **most importantly, God’s grace, mercy and faithfulness to us here at St. Paul’s**. The Lord has seen this congregation through SO many hard times!! His Word does not fail. And it is the ONLY source of eternal LIFE.

So, what does it mean to PERSEVERE? Our St. Paul’s ancestors PERSEVERED!! Daily life was HARD!! They had to keep going and push through the temptations to give up when the going got tough. And what kept them going more than anything else?? Their LOVE and TRUST and FAITH in the Lord.

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will direct your path. Proverbs 3:5-6

In this day and age, “daily life” is so different. We don’t have to cut wood in order to build a house or have heat to cook our dinner. We don’t have to go out and hunt for our food. We have cars for transportation, grocery stores for food, fast food and sit-down restaurants where we are served. We have electricity and in-door toilets!! We have running water in an instant. Warm showers. We are SO used to all of these, that we take them for granted without **one** thought of how we are SO blessed to have all of them or even who is providing them.

So how do **we** need to PERSEVERE with THANKSGIVING? From my perspective, we need to **push through the onslaught of Satan and his lies**...his lies of instant gratification, of winning at all costs, etc., etc., and most importantly, the lie that knowing Jesus as your Savior is not that important right now. He convinces us that we have plenty of time for that. And yet...we never know when our last breath will be. It could be years from now, tomorrow, or even in the next hour! Knowing Jesus as your Lord and Savior IS the most important “THING” in our life and in the lives of those we love. AND for EVERYONE! There is NO second chance to know Him as our Savior once we leave this life.

Our mission here at St. Paul’s is changing lives through worship, compassion and Christian education. Sharing the GREAT news that Jesus loves everyone, paid the price for everyone’s sins, and rose from the dead in victory over Satan and his lies is the center of everything we do here at St. Paul’s. We receive and are assured of God’s forgiveness and mercy in Worship. We share each other’s pain and burdens by listening to and caring for each other. And we share the GREAT News of eternal life through Jesus with our students and their families, many of whom do not know Him as their Savior when they first come to St. Paul’s.

One very tangible way for us to show our thankfulness for God’s precious gift of eternal life for us is through our monetary gifts, supporting the sharing of this GREAT news. Have you considered using the special envelopes that are available on the wall at the school or on the easels at the downtown campus? OR...have you considered raising your weekly thank offering to St. Paul’s? Please pray for God to lead you. He will bless your faithfulness in your serving Him in this way.

In His service,

Nancy Eden

160/165th Anniversary Thanksgiving Committee chairman