

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

Aug / Sept
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 1780 Career Center Road, Bourbonnais, IL

Contemporary Worship:

Sunday 11:05 am @ the School

Adult & Youth Bible Class:

Sunday 9:45 am @ the School
Classes for Adults & 6th - 12th grade

Children's Sunday School:

Sunday 9:45 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 8th)

8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday
(beginning August 11th)

Church Website: www.stpaulslutheran.net



Next Newsletter Deadline Sept 15th

SPECIAL DATES

- Final Registration Day - August 8
- School Open House - August 18
- First Day of School - August 20
- Church Picnic - August 24
- Labor Day - September 1
- Grandparents Day - September 7
- Patriot Day - September 11
- First Day of Autumn - September 22

SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR CHURCH PICNIC!!

On **Sunday, August 24th**, we will have one consolidated worship service outside at the school at 10 am, followed by a potluck lunch, games, & more! All school and church families and alumni are encouraged to come and celebrate with us as we wrap up our 160th year as a school! If you are in touch with any alumni, please share this information with them!

Our incoming 2nd graders will be receiving their Bibles and our new staff members will be introduced at this service as well! There are so many reasons to join us!!! Please use the QR code to sign up or call the church office to RSVP.



SECOND GRADERS

RECEIVE BIBLES

On **Sunday, August 24th**, the second grade students will receive a Bible during the 10:00 worship service at the church picnic. We will be hosting a breakfast for the students and their parents beforehand. Please meet in the cafeteria at 9:15 am. This will be a fun way to meet other second grade students and parents while enjoying a breakfast and activities. Please look for a letter in the mail. If you have any questions or have not received a letter, please contact Christie in the church office at 815-932-0312.



A Voters' Assembly Meeting will be held on **Sunday, September 21st 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 24 months, a member may be accepted into voting membership.

SAFE HARBOR!!

I read a story about a ship captain and chaplain. Let me share it with you:

The captain of a large ship was a skeptic, a man who doubted the existence of heaven, the person of Christ, and many other doctrines of the Bible. After his retirement from active duty, he spent his declining years in a soldier's home. One day the chaplain, who was deeply concerned about this man's soul, surprised him with a challenge. Handing him a New Testament and a red pencil, he asked the man to mark everything that he could not believe.

Periodically, the chaplain would visit the man and would ask him if he had found anything to mark. The man never replied, only smiled. One morning the chaplain was informed that the captain had died suddenly during the night. The chaplain hurried to the room and found the Bible clutched in his hand, as he lay dead on his bed. The chaplain paged through the New Testament looking for red marks and found none.

Turning to John 3:16, he noted that the man had written in red pencil on the margin: "I have cast my anchor in a safe harbor; I am at peace, thank God." The truth of God's Word and the work of the Holy Spirit worked powerfully in his life. This captain, as he read, was given God's assurance of all that He had done for him in Jesus Christ. He knew those promises were his! It is no wonder that he could go to sleep in Jesus in true peace!

Those same blessings, and the same feeling of peace, can also belong to each one of us through faith in Jesus.

However, there are those who are at work against us. Our own sinful nature and the world seek to undermine our faith. The devil is hard at work as well.

- ✕ The devil works hard to convince you that you are not worthy of the blessings you read about in the Bible.
- ✕ He works hard at convincing you that God cannot forgive the multitude of sins that you have committed.



- ✕ He will try his best to get you to turn your back on all that God has done for you.

But we have a Safe Harbor, don't we? Like the captain, as we continue steadfast in God's Word (reading, studying and memorizing), we see the truth of everything that Jesus has done for us. That reality moves us to rejoice in the wonderful salvation that Jesus has accomplished for us.

The Bible is the one book necessary in life. It tells you about God and His love for you. It alone will prepare you for eternal life. I pray that each one of you might continue to study and remember God's Word so that your faith might remain strong.

May the anchor of God's Word keep you safe as you battle the trials and tribulations of life. And may you long for that day when you can join Jesus in that **"safe harbor"** for all eternity!

Rejoice in the gifts of your Savior!

Blessings in Him!
Pastor Karl Koeppen



PERSEVERE WITH THANKSGIVING

Please mark your calendars as we close our anniversary year here at St. Paul's.

160th School Anniversary - Our closing SCHOOL anniversary service will take place at the school site on Sunday, August 24th at 10:00am. There will be a picnic afterwards as we rejoice in God's blessings!

165th Church Anniversary - Our closing CHURCH anniversary service will take place at the downtown church on Sunday, December 14th at 10:00am. There will be a reception in the fellowship hall afterwards.



Give as You Are Blessed (Guided by the Tithe) is the theme of our Stewardship emphasis for this year. The emphasis will begin on the weekend of September 20-21 and continue through October 5. During this time, we will grow in our understanding of what it means to give proportionately from all the wonderful blessings that God entrusts to us. God wants His people to give faithfully and generously. When we do, we mirror His nature which is to give. **“For God so loved the world, that He gave...” (John 3:16).** God provides our resources to give, and, by His grace, He gives us the desire to support His Church, help those in need, and advance His kingdom.

As always, we look to God's Word for guidance and wisdom as to what is an appropriate response to God for His faithfulness, love, and goodness to us. In the Old Testament, God commanded His followers to tithe (give a tenth of all income). As New Covenant Christians, we are not commanded to tithe. However, Jesus affirms the tithe when He encourages the Pharisees to continue their tithing while not forgetting the vitally important heart issues of justice, mercy, and faith (Matthew 23:23). The tithe is a meaningful Biblical guide to determine the proportionate amount to give from God's blessings. Giving will often start with giving less than the tithe and move toward the tithe and beyond.

God calls us to give as He blesses us. (1 Corinthians 16:2). God works through us, as believers, to fund His Church, provide for the needs of others, and to support the extension of His kingdom financially. Much more than our money, God wants us to love Him with all our hearts, souls, minds, and strength (Matthew 22:37). If we could love God in that way, Christian ministries and causes would never lack funding.

At the end of three weeks of sermons on God's blessings and giving, you will be challenged to put into practice the principles that have been discussed. Starting the week of October 6th, there will be a **TEN for TEN Giving Challenge** (ten percent for ten weeks). **Our church families will be challenged to give a tithe (10 percent) OR to increase the portion of what they are giving for their weekly offerings for a period of ten weeks.** God not only provides us the resources to give, He gives us the desire to give. Generous giving is one of the ways that faith-filled hearts respond to the riches of Christ.

Surveys have shown that about one in every five Lutheran church goes tithe. How is it possible to tithe and do it so freely and joyfully? Christ's love empowers us to give generously. It flows freely ***“as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us” (Eph. 5:2).*** Our generous giving to God is a response to Christ's love and willing sacrifice for us.

We give as we are blessed. We are to engage in tithing freely rather than to be required to tithe. By God's grace, many of us will begin to tithe for the first time. Tithing is a big step forward as we place our trust in the Lord. At the current time, tithing may not be for everyone. What may be possible for you is to take a leap of faith and increase the proportionate amount of your giving by one or two percent or even more during the **TEN for TEN Giving Challenge**.

As stated previously, the emphasis will begin on the weekend of September 20-21. We will have three weeks of sermon messages and Bible studies followed by the TEN for TEN Giving Challenge (ten percent for ten weeks). When you receive the commitment form for this ten-week challenge, seek God's guidance as to what He wants you be giving now and in the future. Commitment Sunday is the weekend of October 4-5.

As we give, we will experience the joy of giving, and understand more fully why Jesus said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35).

Even with our giving, we can **“Persevere with Thanksgiving”!!**

Blessings in Him!
Pastor Karl Koeppen

GROWTH IN GOD'S GARDEN

My wife Katrina and I have a big garden. We grow everything from tomatoes and watermelon to strawberries and eggplant. And like any garden, it takes time, effort, and care to grow well.

Growth in a garden—and in our spiritual lives—requires three things:

1. Growth Has a Goal.

Each garden bed has a purpose. Wild, aimless growth hurts the garden. Spiritually, our goal is clear: *“We are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells”* (2 Peter 3:13). We grow toward that goal through the finished work of Christ. You are planted with purpose by God—where you are, as you are. He has a plan for you.

2. Growth Grasps the Word.

Growth means learning new things. Our garden has changed over the years—and so has our understanding of Scripture. Peter acknowledges that some parts of the Bible are hard to understand (2 Peter 3:16), but that shouldn't stop us. You don't need to know Greek to read your Bible! We have opportunities to grow in the Lord through divine service and Bible study. As we grow, God's Word takes on new depth and meaning in every season of life.

3. Growth Must Be Guarded.

Just like pests threaten a garden, false teaching and sin threaten our faith. Peter warns us to be on guard (2 Peter 3:17). We must protect our spiritual growth from the devil, the world, and our sinful flesh.

As Peter concludes: *“Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever!”* (2 Peter 3:18)

Let us grow in Christ—purposefully, faithfully, and with our eyes fixed on the goal. May your summer be fun and fruitful in the Lord.

In Christ, Pastor Drinnon



LCMS NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING, 160 YEARS OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION, AND A CHURCH PICNIC!

Every three years, the LCMS hosts a National Youth Gathering to provide thousands of high schoolers (including 15 of our own



this year) the opportunity to come together and be encouraged in their faith journey. Once again, I was blessed with the chance to volunteer at the event and here I am, sitting in one of the most amazing activity centers at NYG. The theme of the event is ENDURE and this center is called “Stations of the Cross”. It's like no other! As I watch the young people meditate their way through the stations, my thoughts go to our beloved school, where we have shared the most precious news of all times with our students for over 160 years now. Praise the Lord for His gracious protection through the years!

Because Jesus ENDURED and won the victory for us, we have been able to ENDURE and PERSEVERE with THANKSGIVING!

As we wrap up our 160th anniversary and prepare to continue our mission in Christian education for our 161st year, we will once again celebrate with one unified worship service followed by a church picnic on Sunday, August 24th at the school. So many people enjoyed this event last year and said, “we're doing this again in 2025, right?” And we are!! Please mark your calendars to share in this monumental celebration! Hamburgers and hot dogs will be provided and we ask that you please bring a dish or two to pass. To RSVP, you may either call the church office or use the QR code below. It would be helpful for us to know how many people to expect and what dishes are being brought so that we can plan accordingly.

We will have a tent and some folding chairs for the service but you are welcome to bring more comfortable lawn chairs and, if you wish, a canopy of your own. Tables will be set up for the meal inside and



outside. After the meal, there will be time to enjoy each other's company as well as games for all ages!

We have so much to celebrate!! Please plan to worship all together on Sunday, August 24th and share in the fun and fellowship at the church picnic with your church family! See you there!!

Nancy Eden



SPECIAL VOTERS’ MEETING SUMMARY

The Voters’ Assembly met on Wednesday, July 16, 2025, with 50 voters in attendance.

At this special Voters’ Meeting, there were a number of agenda items:

- **Matching Funds Fund Raising Request** - An anonymous individual has approached us with a matching fund challenge to help with our church and school ministry and our budget realities. Our generous donor has pledged to match up to \$100,000.00 of donations (\$50,000.00 for the General Fund and \$50,000.00 for the Building Fund) which will enable us to raise a total of \$200,000.00 to support St. Paul's Church and School.

As of the Voters' Meeting, we have already had several other generous offers of additional \$1000 matching gifts for both the General and Building Funds.

This fund raising opportunity was approved.

- **2025-2026 Budget** - The final item on the agenda was approval of the 2025-2026 budget which included the Matching Funds Fund Raiser as well as the Brinkmann Endowment Fund Transfer and the loan from the Organ Endowment Fund.
 - With the approval of these items, the budget is basically balanced. While these are all great blessings, we realize that these are one-time solutions.

The Budget and additional items were approved.



“ROAD TO CORONATION”

Teacher: Pastor Dave Bottorff
When: 4th Tuesday of the month, 7 pm
Where: Pastor Dave's home

BIBLE STUDY & SMALL GROUPS

Are you wanting to become more connected to St. Paul's or are you wanting to grow more spiritually? There are several Bible studies and small groups that would love for you to join. You can find a current listing of Bible studies and small groups on the back of the prayer sheet in the weekly bulletin or on St. Paul's website, stpaulslutheran.net. There will also be a couple of new ones starting in August and September. If someone asks you to join their group, please prayerfully consider it. It can make a huge difference in your life.

“WHO IS THE GREATEST? (IT'S NOT WHO YOU THINK)”

Teacher: Pastor Koeppen
When: Every Sunday, 9:50 am
Where: Room 131

This class will study Matthew 18 and consider the question: "Who is the greatest?" The study is presented in four separate video vignettes discussed by Dr. Jeffrey Gibbs with Dr. Jeffrey Kloha in a casual, fun setting. Join us as we look to God and His Word.

“Road to Coronation” takes you on a journey beside Jesus on His walk to the cross, examining the distinct passion narrative in each of the four Gospels. What emerges is a vivid encounter with a King who lived solely to serve rather than to be served - who welcomed outcasts as family, touched the "unclean," performed miracles that made astonishing theological declarations, and raised the dead - all the while challenging and confounding the spiritual authorities of His day.

Little wonder that five days after Jesus entered Jerusalem, Jesus' “coronation” as King took place - in the form of crucifixion on a cross. Vindicated in the resurrection and enthroned in the ascension, our forgiving Lord and Servant-King, Jesus the Messiah, calls us now to listen, believe and follow - in short, to find life by giving it away.

Call Pastor Dave Bottorff, the leader for this Bible study, at 815-304-4553 to come to this Bible study at his home on the fourth Tuesdays of September, October and November.

“LECTURES IN GENESIS”

Teacher: Pastor Drinnon
When: 2nd & 4th Thursdays, 6:00 pm
Where: Room 132

This study on the book of Genesis offers a profound opportunity to deepen our understanding of God's creation, His covenant with His people, and the foundational truths of our Christian faith.

Why study Genesis? Genesis is the first book of the Bible and holds a unique place in both the Old and New Testaments. It is filled with profound theological insights, rich narratives, and timeless lessons. From the creation of the world, to the fall of humanity, to God's promises to Abraham and the patriarchs, Genesis sets the stage for the entire biblical account. It is here that we first encounter God's sovereignty, His justice, and His mercy—elements that are essential to understanding the Gospel.

All are welcome! Whether you're new to Bible study or have been studying the Scriptures for years, this study is for you. Come, engage with us as we explore the ancient truths of Genesis that continue to shape our faith and our understanding of God.

“COME AND BE FILLED”

Teacher: Deb Turrell
When: 2nd & 4th Mondays, 6:30 pm
Where: Deb's home

Beginning in September, our ladies' Bible study will begin a new study by Kristopher Whitby. Listen along with the disciples as Jesus teaches them about welcoming others and seeking the lost. Sit with God's people as they eat His Passover meal each year, remembering God's promises to rescue them. Learn anew at the Last Supper to what lengths your Lord will go to bring you to His Table, shoulder to shoulder with believers of all time. Your Lord invites you to come and be filled with His good gifts. Experience the joy of gathering around the table with His people, sharing together in the blessings of Christ. Through Jesus, your meals will mean more.

If you are interested in joining this study, please call Deb at 815-325-4518.





“PETER’S JOYFUL PERSEVERANCE”

Teacher: Roy W. Cordes

When: Every Tuesday at 9:50 am in Fellowship Hall and again every Sunday at 9:50 am at the school

Early in I Peter writing to the persecuted, martyred church, Peter wrote in I Peter 1:6-7, “So be truly glad. There is wonderful joy ahead, even though you must endure many trials for a little while. These trials will show that your faith is genuine. It is being tested as fire tests and purifies gold - though your faith is far more precious than mere gold. So when your faith remains strong through many trials, it will bring you much praise and glory and honor on the day when Jesus Christ is revealed to the whole world.”

This was true in the 1st century and it is still true in the 21st century. A sinful

world challenges our faith every day and Christians suffer for the sake of knowing Jesus. So Peter hasn’t changed his message and God’s Word can help us understand why this world has reached a precarious position. Peter says that suffering makes our faith grow and mature.

In addition to studying I & II Peter, we will look at impulsive Peter’s New Testament life - he is always the first to volunteer, the one to walk on water, the one suggesting that they build three shelters for the Transfiguration participants.

Roy will be teaching the lesson new on Tuesdays and then repeat it on Sundays. Class will start on Tuesday, August 12th in Fellowship Hall and on Sunday, August 17th at the school. The course will meet in its first half from August to Sunday, November 23rd and then resume on Tuesday, January 6th until Sunday April 26th.

Please bring your Bible or have access to the Bible on your cell phone. There will be just a few special study handouts, but no regulars ones, no videos, no tapes, just a straight through study of I & II Peter verse by verse, chapter by chapter. Sidetracks to Peter’s life as a disciple will be a part of each week’s discussion. You can’t make it on Tuesday? Come on Sunday. You don’t want to stay for Bible study on Sunday? Join us on Tuesday!

MEN’S BIBLE BREAKFAST



Pastor Koeppen is leading a new Bible Study entitled “Know Thy Enemy”. Using clips from the movie, *Nefarious*, we will consider the work and influence of Satan. The movie has been described as “The Screwtape Letters on steroids.” In that momentous work on demonic influence, author C.S. Lewis warned about the twin traps we fall into when it comes to acknowledging evil: “There are two equal and opposite errors into which our race can fall about the devils. One is to disbelieve in their existence. The other is to believe, and to feel an excessive and unhealthy interest in them.”

We live in a world in which there is more danger in underestimating the influence of evil in our culture than over-emphasizing it. Evidence of the spiritual battle is everywhere. Let’s face it, few people want to be in a battle. As followers of Christ, however, we’re in the middle of a conflict that has been raging for thousands of years - whether we know it or not. Thus, it is critical for us to know the eternal stakes.

And so, you need to know your enemy. Together, we will take a deeper look

at the truth about Satan, demons, and the pervasive evil from the unseen realm that has manifested in our culture today. Yes, those are dark subjects, but they’re also critical for us as children of God.

This study will help you to understand the times and to examine everything we’ve been given in Christ to stand courageous and firm against the forces of evil. As the Scriptures tell us 365 times, “fear not.” In fact, through the truth of who we are in Christ and the armor He has made available to us, we can stand confidently against the Enemy’s snares and schemes.

YES, SATAN IS MIGHTY, BUT OUR GOD IS ALMIGHTY!

Please join Pastor Koeppen on **Saturday, August 23rd and September 27th at 7:30 am** in the Riverside cafeteria to study God’s Word over coffee and breakfast.

WOMEN’S RETREAT

Save the date! Our next Women’s Retreat will be **September 13th from 9am to 2:30pm** at the school. Lunch is included and there will be beverages and snacks available in the morning. The topic will be: Women in the Bible. Look for a sign-up sheet between services starting in August or contact the church office if you plan to attend.

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 5th, please call the church office.

YOUTH SUMMER FUN!

Youth entering grades 7-12, recent graduates, and friends are invited to join us for summer fun and fellowship at Adventure Commons on **Tuesday, August 5th at 6:30 pm.** Bring money for mini golf (\$9) and snacks. RSVP on GroupMe or contact Mrs. Drinnon at 618-975-8361 or katrinadrinnon@gmail.com.

YOUTH MINISTRY BACK-TO-SCHOOL BASH!

Summer is coming to a close. Come join us on **Sunday, August 17th** at the school to celebrate another successful year of youth ministry, a summer of Be the Church mission opportunities, and the upcoming year. From 4:00 to 5:30, we will celebrate with last year's youth group. From 5:30 to 8:00, we will welcome our new youth, including the incoming 7th graders and their parents!

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School will kick-off on **Sunday, September 7th**. More details will be available in the coming weeks.



2025-2026 YOUTH NIGHTS: BATTLING SATAN'S LIES WITH GOD'S TRUTH

This year, the St. Paul's Youth will learn how God prepares us to fight the good fight and battle Satan's lies with God's truth. We invite youth entering 7th through 12th grade to join us on the dates listed below from 6 to 8pm at the school for fun, fellowship, & devotions. Bring your bible and a friend!

Sunday, August 17th:

Back to School Bash

Sunday, September 7th & 21st

Sunday, October 5th & 19th

Sunday, November 2nd & 16th

Friday, December 5th:

Christmas Party

Note: Parents, please attend the August 17th Back to School Bash or come inside with your youth to the first youth night to complete this year's youth ministry information form.



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. Our next quarterly meeting will be at Monical's Pizza in Bourbonnais on **Wednesday, August 13th at 6 p.m.** Anyone interested in becoming a visitor or caller is welcome to attend.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

On **October 4th**, LWML will be hosting an Operation Christmas Child workshop, where adults and children will be invited to help assemble shoe boxes 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!!





PRAIRIEVIEW FALL FESTIVAL

On **Friday, September 5th & Saturday, September 6th**, Prairieview Lutheran Homes in Danforth will be hosting their annual Fall Festival! There is truly something for everyone at this event, including a fish fry on Friday night, pork burger lunch and pork chop dinner on Saturday, bounce houses, kids games, tractor show, live music, quilt auction, variety show, car show, craft vendors, baked goods, ice cream, silent auction, St. Paul's used book booth, pumpkins, mums, produce, live plant sale & more!

Be sure to put this event on your calendar and check out their Facebook page (Prairieview Lutheran Homes) for more details and a chance to sign up for the variety show.

We are still accepting book donations at both sites. If you have any questions or need a pick up from your home, call Jeanne Vilt at 815-932-9855 or text her at 815-216-0240 or call or text Nancy Campbell at 815-592-4273.

TABEA NOW ACCEPTING DONATIONS!

Our semi-annual rummage sale will be **Thursday and Friday, September 18th & 19th** 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!



FELLOWSHIP DINNER

Everyone is invited to join us for our monthly fellowship dinners. No special commitment is expected and these evenings are very casual – just come as you are when you are able. Our next two fellowship dinners will be on **Friday, August 15th at 6:00 pm at Chicago Dough and Friday, September 19th at Tucci's**. If you would like to join us, please call or text Nancy Eden at 248-842-2837.



FAMILY FUN NIGHT

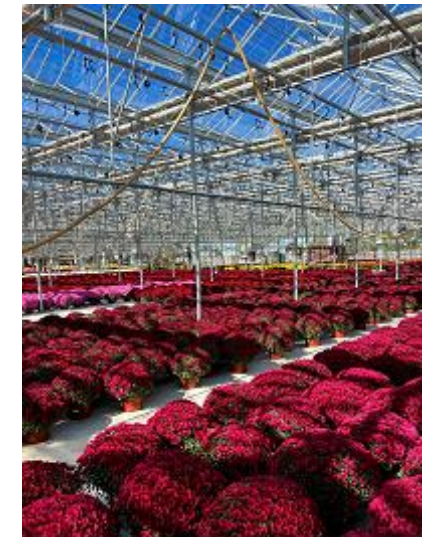
Enjoy a back-to-school celebration outside on the grounds of St. Paul's Lutheran School from **6pm to 8pm on Friday, Sept 12th**. All school families, church members and alumni are invited!! Watch for more details as the event approaches. This free evening of fun is brought to you by St. Paul's PTL and Thrivent Financial.

STAFF DEDICATION

Please join us on Sunday, **September 14th during the 8:30 am service** when our church and school staff will be recognized for their years of dedicated service. A reception will be held in the cafeteria following the service. Please come and express your appreciation.

MUM SALES

The Athletic Department will be selling big beautiful mums from Woldhuis (Sunrise) Greenhouse again this fall. They may be ordered between August 16th and August 24th for \$10 each. Mums will be delivered to the school on September 4th and may be picked up that afternoon between 3:30 and 5:00 pm. The plants are in 9" pots and have an 18" flower head. Choose from red, orange, yellow, white, pink, and purple. If you know a student athlete, feel free to place your order through him or her. Otherwise, you may order mums by calling the church office. Thank you for supporting our sports!



NEWSLETTER VIA EMAIL?

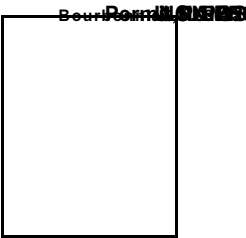
If you would rather receive the church newsletter electronically, please send your e-mail address to crahn@stpaulslutheran.net. The newsletter is also posted on St. Paul's website at www.stpaulslutheran.net.



















COLLEGE & MILITARY ADDRESSES

If you have a child going to college in the fall or enlisting in the military, please send their address to crahn@stpaulslutheran.net so that we may stay connected to them as they continue their journey. Thank you!

<u>JUNE MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS</u>	
Baptized	1796
Communicant	1326
Communing	432
 <u>Attendance Avg. Weekend Worship:</u>	
Month	232
Year-to-date	273

<u>YTD FINANCES (through 6/29/25)</u>	
<u>Thankofferings</u>	
Receipts:	\$762,213.52
Total Needed:	\$833,000.00
% of Need:	91.50%
 <u>Building Fund</u>	
Receipts:	\$141,323.94
Total Needed:	\$175,000.00
% of need:	80.76%



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 Communion is celebrated the 1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays of the month					1	2 5:00pm Worship (D) 
3 8:30am Worship (B) 9:45am Adult Bible Study (B) 11:05am Worship (B) 	4 7:00pm Lay Ministry Meeting (B) 	5 6:30pm Youth Ministry Field Trip (Adv Commons) 	6	7	8 FINAL REGISTRATION DAY	9 9:30am Phil's Friends Work Day (D) 5:00pm Worship (D) 
10 8:30am Worship (B) 9:50am Adult Bible Study (B) 11:05am Worship (B) 	11	12 9:50am Peter's Joyful Perseverance (D) 6:30pm School Board Meeting (B) 	13 6:00pm Project Compassion & Gabriel's Callers Quarterly Meeting (Monical's, Bourb) 	14 6:00pm Lectures in Genesis (B) 	15 6:00pm Fellowship Dinner (Chicago Dough)	16 5:00pm Worship (D) 
17 8:30am Worship (B) 9:50am Adult Bible Study (B) 11:05am Worship (B) 4:00pm Back To School Bash (B)	18 5:00pm BACK TO SCHOOL use OPEN HOUSE 7:00pm Church Council Meeting (B)	19 9:50am Peter's Joyful Perseverance (D) 	20 FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL (11:15 / 11:30 EARLY DISMISSAL)	21	22	23 7:30am Men's Bible Breakfast (Riverside) 9:30am Phil's Friends Pack Party (D) 
24  9:15am 2nd Grade Bible Breakfast (B) 10:00am Outdoor Worship / 2nd Grade Bible Distribution / New Staff Introduction (B) 12:30am Church Picnic (B) 6:00pm Youth Night (B)	25	26 9:50am Peter's Joyful Perseverance (D) 	27	28 6:00pm Lectures in Genesis (B)	29	30 5:00pm Worship (D) 
31 8:30am Worship (B) 9:50am `Adult Bible Study (S) 11:05am Worship (B) 						

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Communion is celebrated the 1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays of the month 	1  NO SCHOOL / OFFICE CLOSED	2 9:50am Peter's Joyful Perseverance (D) 	3	4 3:30pm Mum Pick-Up (B) 	5 PRAIRIEVIEW FALL FESTIVAL	6 PRAIRIEVIEW FALL FESTIVAL 9:00am Phil's Friends Work Day (D) 5:00pm Worship (D)
7 8:30am 1 Worship (B) 9:45am Sunday School Kickoff (B) 9:50am Youth & Adult Bible Study (B) 11:05am Worship (B) 6:00pm Youth Night (B)	8 7:00pm Lay Ministry Meeting (B) 	9 9:50am Peter's Joyful Perseverance (D) 6:30pm School Board Meeting (B) 	10	11 6:00pm Lectures in Genesis (B) 	12 6:00pm Family Fun Night (B) 	13 9:00am Women's Retreat (B) 5:00pm Worship (D) 
14 8:30am Worship/Staff Dedication (B) 9:30am Staff Reception (B) 9:45am Children's Sunday School (B) 9:50am Youth & Adult Bible Study (B) 11:05am Worship (B)	15 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 7:00pm Church Council Meeting (B) 	16 9:50am Peter's Joyful Perseverance (D) 	17	18 8:00am Rummage Sale (D) 	19 11:15 / 11:30 EARLY DISMISSAL 8:00am Rummage Sale (D) 6:00pm Fellowship Dinner (Tucci's) 	20 11:00am Phil's Friends Dedication (D) 5:00pm Worship (D)
21 8:30am Worship (B) 9:45am Children's Sunday School (B) 9:50am Youth & Adult Bible Study (B) 11:05am Worship (B) 12:30pm Voters Meeting (B) 6:00pm Youth Night (B)	22 	23 9:50am Peter's Joyful Perseverance (D) 7:00pm Road to Coronation (1573 Surrey, Bourb) 	24	25 6:00pm Lectures in Genesis (B) 	26	27 7:30am 1 Men's Bible Breakfast (Riverside) 5:00pm Worship (D) 
28 8:30am Worship (B) 9:45am Children's Sunday School (B) 9:50am Youth & Adult Bible Study (B) 11:05am Worship (B)	29	30 9:50am Peter's Joyful Perseverance (D) 6:30pm New Member Class (B) 				



Serving our Lord in August

ACOLYTE SCHEDULE

Sun., August 3	8:30 am 11:05 am	Ava & Jackson Veasey Audrey Nordmeyer, Layna Rahn
Sun., August 10	8:30 am 11:05 am	Micah Lundmark, Mo Macari Trenton Stephens, Miles Truax
Sun., August 17	8:30 am 11:05 am	Brody Brinkmann, Olivia Reardanz Maddie Billingsley, Claire Wilson
Sun., August 24	10:00 am	This is an outdoor service, so there will be no candles.
Sun., August 31	8:30 am 11:05 am	Aidan & Nolan LaVoie Norah Callan, Emma Davis

LAY READERS SCHEDULE

Sat., August 2 Sun., August 3	5:00 pm 8:30 am 11:05 am	Pat Hatch John Veers Tammie Mesebring	Sat., August 9 Sun., August 10	5:00 pm 8:30 am 11:05 am	Rich Nordmeyer Ruth Fabbro Melody Trudeau
Sat., August 16 Sun., August 17	5:00 pm 8:30 am 11:05 am	Karen Beatty Bill Balgeman Dave Bottorff	Sun., August 24	10:00 am	Audra Taylor
Sat., August 30 Sun., August 31	5:00 pm 8:30 am 11:05 am	Jennifer Richardson Nancy Eden Sharla Ronchetto			

TRUSTEE SCHEDULES

Sat & Sun., August 2 & 3 5:00 pm - Rob Wood 8:30 am - Barry Gadbois 11:05 am - Jim Trudeau	Sat. & Sun., August 9 & 10 5:00 pm - Jeff Johnson 8:30 am - Tom Stirnaman 11:05 am - Greg Wheeler	Sat & Sun., August 16 & 17 5:00 pm - Rob Wood 8:30 am - Mike Regas 11:05 am - Jim Trudeau
Sun., August 24 10:00 am - Jeff Johnson	Sat. & Sun., August 30 & 31 5:00 pm - Rob Wood 8:30 am - Tom Stirnaman 11:05 am - Greg Wheeler	



Serving our Lord in September

ACOLYTE SCHEDULE

Sun., September 7	8:30 am 11:05 am	Gavin & J.P. Woods Daphne & Delilah Sexton
Sun., September 14	8:30 am 11:05 am	Lucas Porter, Mason Raloff Jacob Kubal, Luke Stirnaman
Sun., September 21	8:30 am 11:05 am	Gloria Morocho Loja, Ryleigh Reiniche Annie Schneider, Beth Schreurs
Sun., September 28	8:30 am 11:05 am	Nora McHugh, Quinn Styck Dain & Dylan Blair

LAY READERS SCHEDULE

Sat., Sept. 6 Sun., Sept. 7	5:00 pm 8:30 am 11:05 am	Diane Barber Samuel Bottorff Sharla Ronchetto	Sat., Sept. 13 Sun., Sept. 14	5:00 pm 8:30 am 11:05 am	Rich Nordmeyer Lauren Lundmark Karen Beatty
Sat., Sept. 20 Sun., Sept. 21	5:00 pm 8:30 am 11:05 am	Audra Taylor Bill Balgeman Tammie Mesenbring	Sat., Sept. 27 Sun., Sept. 28	5:00 pm 8:30 am 11:05 am	Dennis Hess Rich Engel Deb Turrell

TRUSTEE SCHEDULE

Sat. & Sun., September 6 & 7 5:00 pm - Jeff Johnson 8:30 am - Mike Regas 11:05 am - Jim Trudeau	Sat. & Sun., September 13 & 14 5:00 pm - Rob Wood 8:30 am - Barry Gadbois 11:05 am - Greg Wheeler
Sat. & Sun., September 20 & 21 5:00 pm - Jeff Johnson 8:30 am - Tom Stirnaman 11:05 am - Jim Trudeau	Sat. & Sun., September 27 & 28 5:00 pm - Rob Wood 8:30 am - Tom Stirnaman 11:05 am - Greg Wheeler



phil's friends

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

KANKAKEE AREA CENTER EVENTS

FALL 2025



September

20

Grand
Opening

St. Pauls' Mission &
Ministry Center
11am - 2pm

October

11

Work Day

St. Pauls' Mission &
Ministry Center

9:00 AM - Noon

October

25

Pack Party

St. Pauls' Mission &
Ministry Center

9:30-11 AM

November

8

Work Day

St. Pauls' Mission &
Ministry Center

9:00 AM - Noon

November

22

Pack Party

St. Pauls' Mission &
Ministry Center

9:30-11 AM

December

6

Work Day

St. Pauls' Mission &
Ministry Center

9:00 AM - Noon

December

20

Pack Party

St. Pauls' Mission &
Ministry Center

9:30-11 AM

January

10

Work Day

St. Pauls' 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



Suggestions and Ideas

Good basics to include:

- | | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| * Washcloth | * Scissors | * Pencil bag |
| * Spiral notebooks | * Construction paper | * Drawing tablets |
| * Coloring books | * Crayons | * Colored pencils |
| * Pencils | * Pens | * Pencil sharpener |
| * Erasers | * Stickers | * Solar calculator |

For fun:

- | | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|--------------|--------------|
| * Plastic animals | * Balls | * Cars | * Baby dolls |
| * Stuffed animals | * Yoyos | * Whistles | * Jacks |
| * Musical instruments | * Building sets | * Jump ropes | |
| * Picture books | * Colorful card games | | |

Also good ideas:

- | | | | |
|-------------------|------------|----------------|----------|
| * Sunglasses | * Socks | * Hats | * Gloves |
| * Hair ties/clips | * T-shirts | * Kids jewelry | |

WHATEVER WILL BRING A CHILD JOY!

Each box needs one special WOW item to catch the child's attention as soon as they open the box and let them know they are special.

NOT Allowed

- | | | | |
|-----------------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|
| * Candy/food | * Medications | * Toothpaste | * Liquids |
| * Violent toys | * Lotions | * Soap | * Used items |
| * Easily broken items | | | |

NOT recommended

- | | | |
|-----------|-----------------|---------------------------|
| * Playdoh | * Reading books | * Superhero books or toys |
|-----------|-----------------|---------------------------|

Monetary gifts are very welcome as each box costs \$10 to ship.