

**St. Paul's Lutheran Church and School**  
**Announcements - September 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>**

**ATTENDANCE CARDS**

Please locate the Attendance Cards in your row and fill one out when you arrive. They will be collected during the offering. If you are visiting, please feel free to include your address and phone number. You may also include any prayer requests on the attendance card.



**GIVE AS YOU ARE BLESSED**  
**(GUIDED BY THE TITHE)**

This is the second week of this year's stewardship emphasis, ***Give as You Are Blessed (Guided by the Tithe)***. This three-week series will help us to understand how important it is for God's people to acknowledge God's countless blessings and to express gratitude for them by giving faithfully and generously. The tithe (giving one-tenth of our incomes) helps us answer the question: "How much should I give?" Through faith, we can respond to God's love, grace, and mercy by giving generously from the first part of our incomes.

As part of this program, we are asking our members to prayerfully consider using

the tithe as a Biblical benchmark for their giving. In the Old Testament, God commanded His people to tithe, but even before it became a duty for the people to tithe, Abraham and Jacob tithed. As New Covenant Christians, we are not commanded to tithe, but we find that using the tithe serves us well as a Biblical guide for our giving. To help us grow in the grace of giving, there will be a **TEN for Ten Giving Challenge** (ten percent for ten weeks) following our three-week emphasis. Today you will be receiving a commitment form. Commitment Sunday is next week. We hope that you will go to God in prayer to seek His guidance as to what He wants you to give during the giving challenge and beyond. Blessings on your stewardship journey!

**STEWARDSHIP BIBLE STUDY**

Pastor Koeppen will be doing a Bible study between the church services this week and next week in Room 131 (Mrs. Stirnman's room) in the upper grade hallway. This Bible study aligns with the stewardship campaign, *Give As You Are Blessed (Guided by the Tithe)*. We pray you join us!

**PASTORAL WORD FOLLOW-UP**

My Dear Friends in Christ,

In my pastoral word last week, it has been brought to my attention that part of what I shared may be taken as me pitting right and left against each other. It was not my intent to further that divide. I apologize. I could have been more clear by making observations without quoting the political affiliations in the polls.

The truth is, that in the polls, at the end of each political spectrum there is a dangerous mentality that rejoices with and encourages the death of those whose views are different. That is what worries me and that is what moved me to write.

It is my prayer that as a church, and as Children of God, we can be united in bringing forth God's Word of life to the discussion regardless of political affiliation.

God's Blessings  
Pastor Koeppen

**AN INVITATION**  
**TO JOIN OUR CONGREGATION**

Have you been attending church here at St. Paul's but not yet become a member? We warmly invite you to join our congregation. There are a few ways that this can be accomplished. If you are:

- ▶ **A member in good standing of an LCMS congregation**, we simply need a letter of transfer from your home church
- ▶ **A member in good standing of another Lutheran church**, we need a letter of transfer from your home church and you need to attend our Faith and Membership Classes
- ▶ **A member in good standing of another denomination**, we need a release of membership from your church and you need to attend our Faith and Membership Classes
- ▶ **Not a member of another church**, you need to attend our Faith and Membership Classes

If you are interested in these classes, please check the box "Looking for a Church" on the attendance card along with your contact information or call the church office at 815-932-0312. We will be starting a new session THIS TUESDAY, September 30<sup>th</sup>. If you are undecided about becoming a member, consider taking the class so that you feel better equipped to decide.

**COME CHEER ON  
YOUR ST. PAUL'S  
TIGERS THIS WEEK!**



**Sept. 29<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 pm**

Girls Basketball Game

@ HOME vs. St. Anne

**Sept. 30<sup>th</sup> at 4:30**

Soccer Game

@ HOME vs. Illinois Lutheran

**Oct. 1<sup>st</sup> at 4:30 pm**

Girls Basketball Game

@ Momence

**CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Sunday School is back! All preschoolers through 5<sup>th</sup> graders are welcome and encouraged to come! Preschool and kindergartners meet in the extended care room at the end of the lower grade hallway. The 1<sup>st</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> graders meet in the music room by the doors to the back parking lot. Sunday School begins at 9:45 and ends at 10:45.

"Train children in the way they should go; when they grow old, they won't depart from it."

PROVERBS 22:6



**TRUNK OR TREAT**

SAVE THE DATE ~ **Sunday, October 19<sup>th</sup> from 3 to 6 pm.** This is a GREAT OPPORTUNITY for our school and church families to mingle and get to know each other. Please come!!

**T.R.I.P. ORDERING**

**What is the Tuition Reduction Incentive Program?**

- Raise money by using gift cards to pay for everyday purchases. Choose from over 750 of your favorite retailers!
- Pay face value for gift cards. A portion of what you spend will be credited to St. Paul's and a portion will be applied to your school account to be used for tuition, lunch or extended care.
- If you do not have children at St. Paul's, you may donate your share to a school family or to the school.

**How do I order?**

- Call or text Julie Dummer at 815-530-7320.
- Install the RaiseRight app and order your gift cards electronically.



**OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD**

On **Saturday, October 4<sup>th</sup>**, LWML will be hosting their annual Operation Christmas Child Packing Party at our school (details to follow). Please plan to come and help share the love of Jesus with the children who will receive these gifts.



**PETER'S JOYFUL PERSEVERANCE**

Tuesdays 9:45 am - Fellowship Hall

*\* We will resume the Sunday Bible Study on October 12<sup>th</sup>, once the Stewardship Bible Study series has finished*

Peter's challenge to his readers covered three arenas in 1 Peter 2 - living a Christian life while waiting for our eternal inheritance, obeying government authorities even if you don't agree with them, and living a life of serving others even if your life is like that of a bond servant.

If we study God's Word and commit our lives to follow the example of Jesus, our Bible class discussions will help you live in the center of God's will. Peter reminds us that will result in a heavenly reward even if we have to suffer to maintain our faith.

Join us as we learn to persevere joyfully.

**OKTOBERFEST**

Save the date! On **October 18<sup>th</sup>**, 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. To RSVP, scan the QR code below, find the link on our home page at [stpaulslutheran.net](http://stpaulslutheran.net), or contact the church office at 815-932-0312.



**MEDICAL EQUIPMENT & SUPPLIES**



Crutches, walkers with and without seats, wheelchairs, bathroom & shower equipment, etc. - all of these items are available in our medical assistance room in the basement of the Ministry & Mission Center (former downtown school). If you need to borrow something, call Christie in the church office (815-932-0312) or call Roy Cordes (815-573-5085) who will meet you at the alley entrance of the church. There is no charge and no deadline on returning borrowed items. You do not have to be a member - if you have a friend who needs medical help, invite them to use the donations we have received from others. ***At this time, we are out of canes and/or walking sticks. If you have any to donate, please call Christie or Roy to arrange a pick-up.***

**SUPPORT OUR YOUTH!**

**Faith Friends** - Faith Friends is a ministry at St. Paul's, where an adult prays for a youth of our congregation for a whole school year. We are looking for adults who are willing to pray for students and their families, greet them in church, and send cards of encouragement throughout the school year. If you were part of the ministry last year, watch for an email about the new year. If you would like to start now, please contact Sarah Cherry at 815-651-6864 (text is best) or sarahcherry30@yahoo.com. All confirmation students and active high schoolers will be partnered with an adult, unless a parent chooses to opt out of the prayer ministry.

Faith Friends Prayer Ministry will be starting again in mid-October. Adults and youth pairings will be sent out in October and there will be a Meet and Greet on **October 26<sup>th</sup>** between services. If you signed up to pray for a student, watch the mail and email for updates. Families with a 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grader, please mark your calendar for the Meet and Greet so you can meet your Prayer Partner.

**Butterbraids** will be available for pre-order October 5<sup>th</sup> through October 19<sup>th</sup>. They will be delivered on Wednesday, November 19<sup>th</sup>. We will be taking orders between church services or you may contact a youth family or Liz Lesch (815-263-0537) to place an order.

**OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S LOVE**

**September 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>**

**Worship Attendance:**

<b>Saturday, 5:00 pm</b>	<b>52</b>
<b>Sunday, 8:30 am</b>	<b>113</b>
<b>Sunday, 11:05 am</b>	<b>81</b>
<b>WEEKEND TOTAL</b>	<b>246</b>

<b>Adult Bible Class</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Youth Bible Class</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Children's Sunday School</b>	<b>29</b>

**Offerings Given**

<b>General</b>	<b>\$11,913.21</b>
<b>Building</b>	<b>\$1,782.00</b>
<b>School Ops</b>	<b>\$345.00</b>
<b>Matching (General)</b>	<b>\$4,905.00</b>
<b>Matching (Building)</b>	<b>\$4,115.00</b>

**YOUTH BIBLE STUDY**

Youth Bible Study with Mr. Eden has resumed on Sunday mornings at 9:45 in Room 132. All students in grades 7-12 are invited to join us.

**SEPTEMBER VOTERS MEETING SUMMARY**

The Voters Assembly met on Sunday, September 21, 2025. Business and information items were light.

- Treasurer's Report accepted - (as of 8/31/2025)  
Budgeted Income to date: ..... \$367,215.48  
Budgeted Expenses to date: ..... \$365,436.35  
Balance: ..... (\$1,779.13)

Agenda actions items as follows:

- Lay Ministry Membership changes were approved.
- The Treasurer also discussed the summary of the School Financial Review with the Voters.
- Mission and Ministry Update. Sarah Cherry gave an update of the Grant process for help with repairs at the downtown Mission and Ministry Center. They have submitted the grant to the Northern Illinois District (NID) to help update the Mission and Ministry Center. They will hopefully receive an answer in December. They are also getting ready to apply for Synodical grants for the Mission and Ministry Center.
- NEW BUSINESS
  - Forum Delegates - Pastor Drinnon and Brent Eden were approved as Pastoral and Lay Delegates to the Circuit Forum where the circuit will elect Pastoral and Lay Delegates to attend the Synodical Convention in 2026.
  - Housing Allowance approval for our Called Workers. The voters approved an amended 2025 Housing allowance. Total for 2025 is \$176,998.76 (an increase of \$3,000.00) The voters also approved the 2026 housing allowances for a total of \$179,870.00.

If you have any questions, you can talk to one of the pastors or church leaders.

**SERVING IN GOD’S HOUSE TODAY**

**Preacher:** Rev. Karl Koeppen

**Liturgist:** Rev. Roger Drinnon

**Organist:** Nadine Engel

**A/V:** 8:30: Todd Engel                      11:05: Josh Cherry

**Live Streaming/Recording:** Matt Callan, Todd Engel, Layna Rahn

**Lay Ministers:**    5:00:     Kevin Kurtz  
                             8:30:     Bob Carruthers, Greg Deck, Rich Engel  
                             11:05:     Bruce Clark

**Lay Readers:**     5:00:     Dennis Hess  
                             8:30:     Rich Engel  
                             11:05:     Deb Turrell

**Acolytes:**          8:30:     Nora McHugh, Quinn Styck  
                             11:05:     Dain & Dylan Blair

**Trustees:**          5:00:     Jeff Johnson  
                             8:30:     Tom Stirnaman  
                             11:05:     Greg Wheeler

**Ushers:**            5:00:     Jim Sharper, Mary & Rob Wood  
                             8:30:     Dain Blair, Dylan Blair, Chris Tomblin, Steve Weith  
                             11:05:     Bill Burger, Mike Callan

**Contemporary Service Song Leaders:** Mellody McDonald, Sharla Ronchetto  
**Extra Measure Band:** Matt Callan, Bill & Diane Dyche, Duane Ferrebee, Greg Ronchetto, Cindy Rubin, Jim Stone

**THIS WEEK’S SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES**

<b>Sun, Sept. 28</b>	8:30 am 9:45 am 9:45 am 9:45 am 11:05 am	Worship - Traditional (Bourb) Adult Bible Study (Bourb) Children’s Sunday School (Bourb) Youth Bible Study (Bourb) Worship - Contemporary (Bourb)
<b>Mon, Sep. 29</b>	4:00 pm	Girls Basketball Game (Bourb)
<b>Tue, Sep. 30</b>	9:45 am 4:00 pm 4:30 pm 6:30 pm	Peter’s Joyful Perseverance (Downtown) Jr. Confirmation Class (Bourb) Soccer Game (Bourb) New Member Class (Bourb)
<b>Wed, Oct. 1</b>	4:30 pm	Girls Basketball Game (Momence)
<b>Thur, Oct. 2</b>		<b>NO SCHOOL</b> <b>(LEA Teachers’s Conference)</b>
<b>Fri, Oct. 3</b>		<b>NO SCHOOL</b> <b>(LEA Teachers’s Conference)</b>
<b>Sat, Oct. 4</b>	8:30 am 10:00 am 5:00 pm	LWML Fall Workshop (Bourb) Operation Christmas Child Pack Party (Bourb) Worship - Traditional - Communion (Downtown)
<b>Sun, Oct. 5</b>	8:30 am 9:45 am 9:45 am 9:45 am 11:05 am 6:00 pm	Worship - Traditional - Communion (Bourb) Adult Bible Study (Bourb) Children’s Sunday School (Bourb) Youth Bible Study (Bourb) Worship - Contemporary - Communion (Bourb) Youth Night (Bourb)