

**St. Paul's Lutheran Church and School**  
**Announcements - May 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<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.

**FELLOWSHIP DINNER**

Everyone is invited to our monthly fellowship dinners. No commitment is expected and these evenings are very casual – just come as you are when you are able. We will be meeting on **Friday, May 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm at Beans & Barley Brews in Ashkum.** Please join us! RSVP to Nancy Eden at 248-842-2837.

**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 share our ministry over a meal. Don't worry about whether or not you have the skills; we will train you. Our next meeting will be at Monical's Pizza in Bourbonnais on **Wednesday, May 13<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm.** Anyone interested in becoming a visitor or caller is welcome to attend.

 If you have an announcement or article that you would like to have published in the June/July newsletter, please submit it to [crahn@stpaulslutheran.net](mailto:crahn@stpaulslutheran.net) no later than **Friday, May 15<sup>th</sup>.** Thank you!

**ANNUAL BENEFIT CAR SHOW**



**Caleb's Prayer Foundation** was formed 12 years ago in memory of Caleb Hoggins, who lost his battle with cancer at 15. The mission of the foundation is to provide financial assistance to families in Kankakee and Iroquois counties that are coping with the effects of cancer. Since its inception, **Caleb's Prayer** has distributed over \$119,000 to local families, helping with groceries, transportation, utilities, housing, insurance, medical bills, and funeral expenses. The main source of income is an annual car show at Phillips Auto Group, Bourbonnais. This year's event is **Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup>** (rain date May 24<sup>th</sup>).

There are a multitude of ways you can help if you feel so inclined.

- Become a sponsor
- Donate a door prize
- Register your car or truck (see below)
- Simply show your support by coming to this FREE event to browse the beautiful cars



Registration for car entries is from 9 to 11 am and the entry fee is \$20. This event opens to the viewing public at noon and is FREE. Grilled burgers and hot dogs, chips, and drinks are available for purchase. 100% of the profit goes to local families. For more information, please contact Christie at 815-932-0312 or [crahn@stpaulslutheran.net](mailto:crahn@stpaulslutheran.net) We hope to see you there!

**WE'RE GETTING THE BAND TOGETHER!**

All band and orchestra musicians 6<sup>th</sup> grade and older are invited to join the Worship Ensemble on Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup> during the 8:30 am worship service. We will provide music for pre-service, offertory, and post-service. **We will have a rehearsal on Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am in the school gym.** Donuts will be provided after rehearsal. Please contact Bill Dyche by texting 815-592-0870 or emailing [bill.dyche66@gmail.com](mailto:bill.dyche66@gmail.com) if you would like to participate. Please include the name of the musician, instrument, email, and cell number.

**SENIOR SEND-OFF NIGHT**

To make sure all of our graduating seniors can attend, our 2026 Senior Send-Off has been rescheduled for **Tuesday May 19<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.** You are invited to join us to celebrate and pray for our seniors! RSVP here: <https://forms.gle/d7nfFiMu3xNkKxyE8>

 For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.  
  
Jer 29:11

**VOLUNTEER FOR VBS:  
JOIN OUR RAINFOREST CREW!**

Station Leaders: Help lead Rooted Bible Adventure, Treetop Treats, Wild Games, or Imagination Station.

Crew Leaders: Help lead a crew of PreK-6th grade kids through each of the stations, guiding them through the activities and lessons to explore the nature of God and how we can watch for God in our lives.

Spotlight VBS Creator: Walk around between all of the stations and groups taking pictures. Put together a slide show for everyone to look at as we are coming together for closing each day.

Sing & Play Lagoon: Help lead the songs by learning the dance ahead of time and performing them on stage during opening and closing each day.

Play Dr. Flutterby in the Opening Skits



All volunteers are asked to complete the VBS Volunteer Application by scanning the QR code. Please also mark the following dates on your calendar and plan to attend:

**Volunteer Training:** Please plan to attend either Sunday, May 31<sup>st</sup> or Sunday, June 7<sup>th</sup> from 9:45-10:45 pm.

**Volunteer Orientation:** Sunday June 14<sup>th</sup> 12:30-2pm (lunch included) & 2-4pm set-up

**VBS Week:** Monday June 15<sup>th</sup> through Friday June 19<sup>th</sup>, 5:30-8:00pm (VBS Staff devotions will begin at 4:45pm)

If you have questions, please contact Liz Lesch at 815-263-0537.

**MEN'S BIBLE BREAKFAST**

Pastor Koeppen will be leading the Bible Study "Life Lessons from Acts" on **May 23<sup>rd</sup>**. You are invited to join him at **7:30 am in the Riverside cafeteria** to study God's Word over coffee and breakfast.



**VBS 2026 OPEN FOR REGISTRATION!**

All children entering 4-year-old preschool through 6<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to spend a week with us at Vacation Bible School **Monday, June 15<sup>th</sup> through Friday, June 19<sup>th</sup>!**

**Rainforest Falls** promises a week of wonder as kids explore the powerful nature of God! Through life-changing Bible stories, the coolest animal buddies, and joyful worship, they'll discover who God is and how to stay rooted in His love. Scan the QR code to register your kids!



**THE SERVING CHRIST:  
GOSPEL OF MARK**

**When: Every Tuesday, 9:45 am**

**Where: Fellowship Hall**

**Leader: Roy W. Cordes**

Shouts of "Hosanna!" welcomed Jesus to Jerusalem on Palm Sunday and by Friday it had turned to "Crucify Him! Crucify Him!" When Mark wrote his Gospel he moved from one incident to another very briefly and rapidly. However, he slows down with the emphasis on the Passion History in his last 8 chapters - one half of the Gospel of Mark.

We have just experienced another Lenten season, Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday. Studying these days again shortly after experiencing them in our worship could be beneficial in establishing our relationship with the Lord. We will have a chance to read through each chapter and verse, discuss it and apply it to our life today.

Group Bible study can be very helpful as we walk and talk with God every day. Our discussions, prayers and encouragement to study God's Word can be a fruitful experience, but we have to attend to take advantage of those benefits. One hour a day with other Christians in the Word of God once a week can be very enlightening and encouraging as we grow our faith. Join us!

**YOUTH MINISTRY SUMMER FUN -  
SAVE THE DATES!**

Students entering grades 7<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> and their families are invited to join us for two fun summer fellowship activities! Please RSVP to Katrina Drinnon at [katrinadrinnon@gmail.com](mailto:katrinadrinnon@gmail.com) if you plan to attend.



- Mini Golf @ Adventure Commons - **Wednesday, June 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm** - Bring \$9 cash for 18 holes of golf
- Swim Party @ Splash Valley Aquatic Park - **Wednesday, July 22<sup>nd</sup> 4-8pm** - Bring \$12 cash for entrance + money for snacks. (Rain date: July 29<sup>th</sup>)



**NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER**

Thank you for joining our Christian community by participating in the National Day of Prayer at our church last Thursday. Prayer support can work miracles as the Lord blesses us with a life of compassion for others. Being an example to the next generation will help Christians spread the Gospel. If only takes a spark to get a fire going. Because of God's mercy and grace we can show others that God loves everyone and wants everybody to join Him eternally.

**BE THE CHURCH 2026**  
**MISSION: BEST VBS EVER!**

This year for our *Be the Church* local mission project, we will be working together as a congregation to support the St. Paul's Vacation Bible School program, **Rainforest Falls**. VBS is far more than just a week in June. Lots of work goes into preparing for the week, and each of the students and volunteers involved in VBS need your prayers and support. Over the next few months, there are many ways to get involved and BE THE CHURCH! To sign up, scan the QR code below or register via Sign-Up Genius at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0B44AFAC28A0FECE9-62976668-bethechurch>.

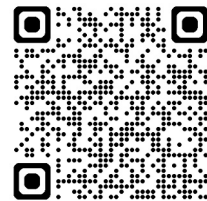
**VBS Giving Tree** - As a way for the congregation to support our VBS mission, we will be setting up a giving tree with leaves each containing an item needed for VBS.

**Be a VBS Prayer Buddy & Sponsor a Book of Psalms for a student!** - This year's VBS curriculum includes a Book of Psalms for students to mark our Sticky Scripture messages throughout the week and take home to share with their family. Prayer Buddies will help cover the cost of the books (\$3.99 each), write a message in the book to the student they sponsor, and pray for that student during VBS week and beyond.

**Help Design & Build the Set** - Join us on one of the following evenings at the St. Paul's Mission and Ministry Center VBS Prop room to design, build, and paint set elements including rocks, bridges, fallen logs, waterfalls, and more for our rainforest.  
**May 13<sup>th</sup> 6-8pm**

**Family Fun Movie & Service Day: Friday, June 5<sup>th</sup> - 2-8pm** - Youth and adults of all ages, join us at the Bourbonnais School campus for a fun day of watching movies and creating our rainforest leaves, vines, flowers, and more! Come when you can and leave when you must. Pizza will be available at 5:30pm.

**Join the decorating crew!** - Help us transform the school into a rainforest adventure  
**Saturday, June 6<sup>th</sup>, 9-noon** - Decorate entryway & lobby  
**Sunday, June 7<sup>th</sup>, 1-3pm** - Decorate hallways  
**Sunday, June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2-4pm** - Set-up gym & classrooms  
**Saturday, June 20<sup>th</sup>, 9-noon** - Post-VBS clean-up



**UNDERSTANDING ISLAM**  
**BIBLE STUDY**

In a world where Christianity regularly encounters Islam—both globally and in our own communities—it is important for Christians to understand what Muslims believe and how we can faithfully bear witness to Christ. Beginning **April 19<sup>th</sup>**, we will offer a **six-week Bible study on Islam** designed to help Christians think carefully, historically, and biblically about this major world religion.

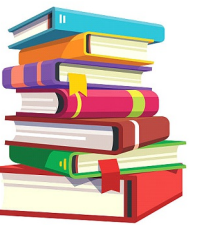
This study will explore **the origins of Islam in pre-Islamic Arabia**, where a mixture of tribal religions, Judaism, and Christianity existed prior to the rise of Muhammad in the 7th century. From there we will trace the development of Islam through key historical moments including the early expansion of Islam, the Crusades, and the continuing interactions between Christianity and the Muslim world.

We will also examine **major theological expressions of Islam today**, including Sunni and Shiite Islam, reform movements such as Wahhabism, and the influence of modern political and religious movements in places such as Iran.

Most importantly, we will consider **how Christians have historically responded to Islam** and how we can **lovingly and faithfully witness to Muslims today**, always confessing the truth that salvation is found in Christ alone (John 14:6; Acts 4:12).

**BOOK COLLECTION REMINDER**

St. Paul's will once again be doing a used book booth at Prairieview's Fall Festival on September 11th & 12th and we are in need of books. There are collection bins at both locations. At the school, you may place your books in the labeled red donation box. At the church, there are labeled containers in the atrium to the right of gym doors. If you have any questions, if you would like to arrange a time to drop off, or if you 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.



<b>OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S LOVE</b>	
<b>May 2<sup>nd</sup> &amp; 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	
<b>Worship Attendance:</b>	
<b>Saturday, 5:00 pm</b> .....	<b>60</b>
<b>Sunday, 8:30 am</b> .....	<b>77</b>
<b>Sunday, 11:05 am</b> .....	<b>284</b>
<b>WEEKEND TOTAL</b> .....	<b>421</b>
<b>Offerings Given</b>	
<b>General</b> .....	<b>\$11,557.31</b>
<b>Building</b> .....	<b>\$3,025.00</b>
<b>School Ops.</b> .....	<b>\$300.00</b>

**SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE TODAY**

**Preacher:** Rev. Karl Koeppen  
**Liturgist:** Rev. Roger Drinnon  
**Organist:** Nadine Engel

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

**Lay Readers:** 5:00: Rich Nordmeyer  
 8:30: Nancy Eden  
 11:05: Karen Beatty

**Acolytes:** 8:30: Lana McHugh, Quinn Styck  
 11:05: Hudson Bade, Luke Stirnaman

**Trustees:** 5:00: Terry Treece  
 8:30: Tom Stirnaman  
 11:05: Greg Wheeler

**Ushers:** 5:00: Diana Hinderer, Jim Sharper, Rob & Mary Wood  
 8:30: Manuel Morocho Loja, Chris Tomblin, Steve Weith  
 11:05: Bill Burger, Mike Callan, Aric Turrell, Sean Turrell

**Contemporary Service Song Leaders:** Sarah Cherry, Deb Turrell  
**Extra Measure Band:** Matt Callan, Bill Dyché, Duane & Gail Ferrebee, Greg Ronchetto, Jim Stone, Ellana Turrell

**THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES**

<b>Sun, May 10</b>	8:30 am 9:45 am 9:45 am 9:45 am 11:05 am	<b>MOTHER'S DAY</b> Worship - Traditional (Bourb) Adult Bible Study (Bourb) Youth Bible Study (Bourb) Children's Sunday School (Bourb) Worship - Contemporary (Bourb)
<b>Mon, May 11</b>	7:00 pm	Church Council Meeting (Bourb)
<b>Tue, May 12</b>	9:45 am 6:30 pm 6:30 pm	<i>The Serving Christ: Gospel of Mark</i> (Downtown) School Board Meeting (Bourb) Preschool Spring Program (Bourb)
<b>Wed, May 13</b>	9:30 am 6:00 pm 6:00 pm	<i>The Patriarchs &amp; Their Journeys</i> (Downtown) Project Compassion / Gabriel's Callers Quarterly Meeting (Monical's, Bourb) VBS Set Design (Downtown)
<b>Thur, May 14</b>	6:00 pm 6:00 pm	Phil's Friends Walk-In (Downtown) 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Banquet (Bourb)
<b>Fri, May 15</b>	6:00 pm	<b>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</b> Fellowship Dinner (Beans & Barley, Ashkum)
<b>Sat, May 16</b>	5:00 pm	Worship - Traditional - Communion (Downtown)
<b>Sun, May 17</b>	8:30 am 9:30 am 9:45 am 9:45 am 9:45 am 11:05 am 12:30 pm	Worship - Traditional - Communion (Bourb) New Member Reception (Bourb) Adult Bible Study (Bourb) Final Youth Bible Study (Bourb) Final Children's Sunday School (Bourb) Worship - Contemporary - Communion (Bourb) Voters Meeting (Bourb)



Beginning Monday, June 1<sup>st</sup>, the church office will be open from **9:00am to 3:30pm.**