

St. Paul's Lutheran Church and School
Announcements - May 23rd & 24th

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.



VBS 2026 OPEN FOR REGISTRATION!

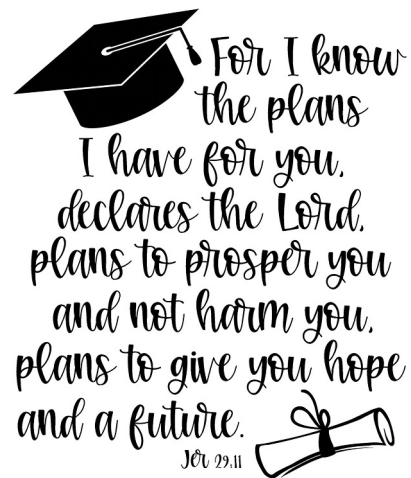
All children entering 4-year-old preschool through 6th grade are invited to spend a week with us at Vacation Bible School **Monday, June 15th through Friday, June 19th!**

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!



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2026!!

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! A special congratulations to Brody Brinkmann (Class Valedictorian and recipient of the Rotary Club Four-Way Test Award), Olivia Reardanz (Salutatorian and recipient of the Kiwanis Student Achievement Award), and Layna Rahn (recipient of the Rotary Club Four-Way Test Award)!



YOUTH MINISTRY SUMMER FUN - SAVE THE DATES!

Students entering 7th - 12th grade and their families are invited to join us for two fun summer fellowship activities! Please RSVP to katrinadrinnon@gmail.com if you plan to attend.

~ Mini Golf @ Adventure Commons - **Wednesday, June 10th at 6:30pm** - Bring \$9 cash for 18 holes of golf

~ Swim Party @ Splash Valley Aquatic Park - **Wednesday, July 22nd 4-8pm** - Bring \$12 cash for entrance + money for snacks. (Rain date: July 29th)

A PRAYER CENTER

I Thessalonians 5:16-18 says, "*Always be joyful. Never stop praying (pray without ceasing). Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you who belong to Jesus Christ.*"

Located on one of the tables in the coffee hour area before and after both services is a new "prayer center." There are directions along with two baskets and wristbands (which could also be used as bookmarks). One basket contains wristbands with specific prayer suggestions. These are designed for you to take one and pray for that person or situation this coming week. You may also write a prayer request for yourself or a friend using just first names and the reason for praying. Place your prayer request in the basket on the right side of the center.

THE SERVING CHRIST: GOSPEL OF MARK

When: Every Tuesday, 9:45 am
Where: Fellowship Hall
Leader: Roy W. Cordes

Jesus and His disciples arrived in Jerusalem and experienced His entry on what we now call Palm Sunday. The week we now call Holy Week becomes a week of a large amount of teaching by Jesus from Monday through Thursday evening when He is arrested. Ranging from the fig tree lesson to His authority being questioned and a few more parables, the Messiah doesn't just wait around for His crucifixion. He makes the most of His time to share the message of salvation in His final week of ministry here on earth before His death and resurrection.

Discussing a wide range of topics and applying them to our lives today, this class will continue to use God's Word to help our faith grow and mature. After Jesus goes back to heaven, the disciples began to follow His example with their preaching and teaching. Living in a free-to-worship nation, we have that same opportunity - to grow and mature in our faith. We are in the 11th chapter of Mark and will continue into the summer months. When we reach the end of Mark 16, we will take a break and resume with a new course in September. Why not give it a try as we move into the summer months? Join us!

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.



GRADUATE RECOGNITION

If your son or daughter is graduating from 8th grade, high school, or college this spring (or they graduated in December), please email the church office at crahn@stpaulslutheran.net with their name, grade, and school by June 1st so that we can pray for them! If you have an 8th grader that graduated from St. Paul's, there is no need to send an email. :)

**UNDERSTANDING ISLAM
BIBLE STUDY**

***When: Every Sunday, 9:45 am
Leader: Pastor Drinnon***

In a world where Christianity regularly encounters Islam, it is important for Christians to understand what Muslims believe and how we can faithfully bear witness to Christ. This Bible study has been 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).

SHOP WITH SCRIP (a/k/a T.R.I.P.)

Don't forget about T.R.I.P. (Tuition Reduction Incentive Program) as we head into spring! It's easy to make money for your child's or grandchild's school account *and* St. Paul's while paying face value for gift cards. Planning a vacation? Doing some home improvements? Starting your child in a new sport? Planning a graduation party or summer get-together? Think TRIP! Choose from over 750 retailers including Bass Pro, Dick's Sporting Goods, Disney, DQ, Royal Carribean, Menards, Lowe's, Amazon, Walmart, lots of hotels and airlines, and so much more! TRIP cards also make fabulous graduation gifts! Stop by the church office or call or text Julie Dummer at 815-530-7320 to place your order. You can also order gift cards and download e-cards from the Raise Right app.



SPECIAL VOTERS MEETING

Please mark your calendars for **June 28th**. We will be having a special voters meeting at **12:30 pm** in the school gym to finish the discussions started at the regular voters meeting on May 17th.

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S LOVE

May 16th & 17th

<u>Worship Attendance:</u>	
Saturday, 5:00 pm	60
Sunday, 8:30 am	169
Sunday, 11:05 am	64
WEEKEND TOTAL	293
Adult Bible Study	12
Youth Bible Study	4
Children's Sunday School	16
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<u>Offerings Given</u>	
General	\$13,835.81
Building	\$1,225.00
School Ops.	\$405.00



DO YOU SHOP AT MENARD'S?

Springtime.....synonymous with home improvement projects, deep cleaning, and landscaping! If you make purchases at Menards and do not intend to mail in the rebate slip, please consider donating your rebate receipts to the church. Simply drop them off at the church office or put them in the collection plate. Our custodians and trustees shop at Menards regularly and your rebates would go to great use!

MAY VOTERS MEETING SUMMARY

The Voters Assembly met on Sunday, May 17, 2026, with 32 voters in attendance the following actions were taken:

- **Treasurer's Report** accepted - (as of 4/30/2026)
Budgeted Income to date: \$1,876,829.21
Budgeted Expenses to date: \$1,972,059.33
Deficit: (\$95,230.12)

Agenda actions items as follows:

- **Income report** - *Over the past five years, our country has experienced a great deal of inflation (25% to 29%) which reaches into all aspects of our lives. Our congregation has also experienced the reality and effects of inflation, however, our income through weekly giving has remained steady over these many years. This difference has been helped by the "matching funds" giving as well as other external income opportunities. But those are one-time situations and we need a longer term solution. (See "Stewardship Challenges" later in this summary)*
- **Lay Ministry Member changes** were approved (Confirmation students and New members were accepted and those being released from membership and transferring to another church).
- **Elections** - All nominated Board Members, Directors, and Church Officers were elected to their positions. We thank all of these people for their service to St. Paul's. ***We currently do not have any new people to serve as Executive Director. While individuals are considering serving in this role, Brent Eden will serve as Assistant Executive Director until those decisions are made.***
- **Endowment Fund Appointments** - Chris Curtis and Elizabeth Kubal were re-appointed to serve a two-year term on the Endowment Fund Committee. Marianne Stevenson and Sheila Rennewanz are also serving on the committee. The Treasurer, Scott Styck, is also part of this committee.

- **Endowment Fund Distribution** - Endowment Fund earnings distribution approved for 2026-2027. \$82,944.00 was allocated to various ministry requests.
- **Budget** - Much of the discussion at the meeting centered around the proposed budget for next fiscal year (2026-2027). At this time, the budget is still not ready to be considered. Based on what we believe we need to perform all the ministry we have here at St. Paul's, we will fall short by over \$300,000.00. This is partly due to the previous note concerning inflation and our static giving over the last number of years. More work is to be done to help refine these numbers and we are planning a special Voter's meeting to approve the 2026-2027 budget on **Sunday, June 28, 2026 at 12:30 pm** in the School Gym. (***PLEASE read the insert prepared by our Treasurer to explain our challenges***)
- **Stewardship Challenges** - The work of guiding our congregation to see the importance of faithful stewardship was helped slightly with our last Stewardship campaign on tithing. We are extremely grateful to our members that made and have faithfully continued their commitments. But there is still more work to do. Another stewardship emphasis is scheduled for this fall. But in the mean time, one suggestion was to ask everyone who gives to prayerfully consider increasing their current weekly contribution by 30%. (ex. If you are giving \$10.00 per week, to give \$13.00. If you give \$50.00 per week, to give \$65.00.) However, if that is too difficult, please consider increasing your weekly giving by 20% or even 10%. As we have learned in our stewardship campaigns over the years, we give, because of all that God has given to us. We give in response to HIS gifts. We give in joyful response to God's goodness and mercy. In Christ, our giving becomes intentional, regular, cheerful, and proportionate.

There were many more discussions during the meeting than cannot be covered in this brief summary. This would be an encouragement for all members to participate in the three meetings each year to hear of the joys and struggles of our leadership as we lead our church and school. A reminder that the next Voter's Meeting is scheduled for **Sunday, June 28, 2026 at 12:30 pm** in the School Gym. 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: 5:00 Aaron Heldt 8:30: Nadine Engel

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

Lay Readers: 5:00: Ken Ebert
 8:30: Roy Cordes
 11:05: Deb Turrell

Acolytes: 8:30: Ty Luhman, George Morocho Loja
 11:05: Kaden McDonald, Annie Schneider

Trustees: 5:00: Jeff Johnson
 8:30: Mike Regas
 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: Ben Kubal, Ellana Turrell
Extra Measure Band: Matt Callan, Bill Dyché, Duane & Gail Ferrebee, Greg Ronchetto, Cindy Rubin, Jim Stone

THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

Sun, May 24	8:30 am 9:45 am 11:05 am	Worship - Traditional (Bourb) Adult Bible Study (Bourb) Worship - Contemporary (Bourb)
Mon, May 25		NO SCHOOL / OFFICE CLOSED in observance of Memorial Day
Tue, May 26	9:45 am 7:00 pm	<i>The Serving Christ: Gospel of Mark (Downtown)</i> <i>Seven Principles of Prayer (1573 Surrey, Bourb)</i>
Wed, May 27	9:30 am	<i>The Patriarchs & Their Journeys (Downtown)</i>
Thur, May 28	6:00 pm	LAST DAY OF SCHOOL Phil's Friends Walk-In (Downtown)
Fri, May 29		
Sat, May 30	5:00 pm	Worship - Traditional - Communion (Downtown)
Sun, May 31	8:30 am 9:45 am 11:05 am	Worship - Traditional - Communion (Bourb) Adult Bible Study (Bourb) Worship - Contemporary - Communion (Bourb)



Beginning Monday, June 1st, the church office will be open
9:00am to 3:30pm.