



THE PROCLAIMER

September 2022

The mission of St. Paul Lutheran Church is to hear, share, and proclaim the Word of God.

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

"Train children in the right way, and when old, they will not stray." Proverbs 22:6 (NRSV)

Dear friends in Christ,

I believe the above translation of Proverbs 22:6 capsulizes well in English the wisdom, meaning, and poetry of the original Hebrew. The training we give our children at young ages lasts and grows through childhood, adolescence, middle age, and throughout our older years.

Many of us who are older receive *The AARP Magazine*. The current August/September 2022 edition gives helpful and healthful hints toward living to age 100. Kathy and I especially found the following advice interesting and significant:

"Engage your spiritual side. Attending religious services four times per month has been linked with four to 14 years of increased life expectancy. In interviews conducted by National Geographic and the Blue Zones Organization, 258 out of 263 centenarians said they belonged to faith-based communities."

Surely all parents want their children to live good and healthy lives. If possible, all parents want their children to live **long** lives as well, although some die young for reasons which we do not comprehend and which cause us great tears and grief. It is at those times that the words of my favorite hymn bring our hearts together in empathy for one another:

Blest be the tie that binds, our hearts in Christian love, the unity of hearts and minds is like to that above.

We share our mutual woes, our mutual burdens bear, and often for each other flows, the sympathizing tear.

Most of the time, however, the above information from *The AARP Magazine* indicates that the more we practice and engage in the spiritual side of life, the more healthy and longer our lives generally will be. Being together in Sunday School and church with other believers is very important for each and every person. Regular attendance is also extremely

important for the growth and strengthening of the whole body of Christ in our mission together of grace, life, and love for all people through Jesus Christ our Lord!

At the wonderful culmination celebration of our St. Paul congregation's 150th anniversary on August 21, each of the ordained pastors who grew up in this congregation gave us accounts of their early childhood and adolescent faith in this congregation, ultimately resulting in their adulthood calls into the ministry. They expressed their deep gratitude for the Sunday School program, along with the worship, music, fellowship, and communal faith they experienced here. We all heard their heartfelt thoughts and emotions of why this body of Christ is still so important to their lives today.

Therefore, let's all heed their words. Let's come together for Sunday School and worship on **Rally Day** combined with **God's Work, Our Hands Sunday**, on **September 11**. Both the Parish Education Committee and the Evangelism/Social Ministries Committee have great blessings planned for the morning. Nice hardback copies of *The Small Catechism* will be given to our new 7th grade confirmation students: Kinsley Atchison, Anden King, Kylie Sparks, and Kinley Wenzel. Copies of *The Children's Bible* which we use in Sunday School will be presented to two or three St. Paul students who have not received one previously. Then there will be a special youth event in late afternoon with games and a film. The **Owls Class** continues to study the letters of St. Paul, and will likely still be studying *St. Paul's Letter to the Romans* throughout September.

Whatever our ages, we are all children of God through baptism and faith in the grace and love of our Lord Jesus Christ. Indeed, as the writer of the ancient *Book of Proverbs* reminds us, ***"Train children in the right way, and when old, they will not stray."*** (22:6) Remember also, by engaging your spiritual side regularly in worship and Sunday School, your earthly life may very well be extended by 4 to 14 years before being called into our Lord's eternal arms!

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Fred Krebs

JESUS CHRIST: YESTERDAY, TODAY, AND FOREVER

My Yesterdays: Many days over the years, I pick up the lovely gold rimmed cup with the majestic beauty of our house of worship, St. Paul on it and I ponder the scripture from Hebrews 13:8. I think of the meaning in my life of these Holy words from Hebrews: “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and for ever.” And as I fill my cup and sit in praise and thanksgiving over the meaning of these words, I am in AWE at HOW BIG and LONG LASTING the love of Jesus is. What a sweet blessing for my spiritual life this 150th anniversary year of 2022 has been. It takes me back with great love to remember the people and my Schmidt ancestors who bravely laid the foundation of worship that I am blessed to be a part of at St. Paul. Most of my yesterdays bring a smile, but 2 memories: the death of our daughter by a drunk driver and Bert’s life-changing accident at work just as I was retiring from my much-loved teaching, left me helpless and weak when I had to be strong. All I had to do was ask, and I was covered in the faith of my ancestors. That’s what the love of Jesus will do. As the song says, Jesus’ love makes the things of earth grow strangely dim in the light of HIS GLORY and GRACE. Thank you, Lord, for my yesterdays and the lessons learned.

My Todays: Because Jesus was a part of my yesterdays, I learned the truth from Philippians 4: 13, “I can do ALL THINGS through CHRIST who strengthens me.” This was my reason for choosing the locker magnets with this scripture to give Confirmation and High School students as they go back to school and enter a new Sunday School Year in September because my yesterdays are proof that these words are true. I spend many glorious days with young children and youth and it is my prayer that they will say “yes” to the love of Jesus and let God direct their paths each and every day. Children of all ages and books are my passion and I want each one to embrace the greatest book ever written, the Bible, equipping themselves to face whatever their tomorrows bring. The world is filled with blessing and sadness, but in each of our todays, God offers us the gift of a profound opportunity to participate in Kingdom Building and living as His children. How exciting is it to feast on the Bread of Life and know the Living Water! The last few years of hardship, including the days of drought we live in, have made me SO AWARE that I need to spend each of my todays filling my cup of faith and sharing it with others. That’s what we do in the 150-year-old church, St. Paul! Thank you, Lord, for the lessons taught and learned and the opportunity to serve and teach others.

Our Tomorrows: The last part of the scripture, Jesus Christ, for ever, may seem far away, but is part of the tapestry that makes us “Kids of the Kingdom”. What is going on at St. Paul that you can be a part of to add Jesus to your life in the days ahead?

1. Rally Day is on September 11th where we gather to get “FIRED UP” about a new Sunday School year! Justin McFarland will lead our time together. Come and be blessed by the amazing witness of Mr. McFarland. Confirmation and High School students come back at 5 p. m. to fellowship and feast on

pizza. Our theme will be “The Importance of Education” by Tammy Parrish, our youth leader for the evening. We will focus on academic and spiritual growth. The evening will conclude with a movie “American Underdog”. On Wednesday, September 7th, younger St. Paul kiddos will gather at 4:30 for a lesson, game, and food!

2. Start the new year off right by committing to good Sunday School attendance. High schoolers, come and check out your new class! Let’s all make a commitment to putting our faith lives first and let God direct our paths! Then watch the “Showers of Blessing” that will fall on our drought weary lives!

In His Love, Ann Mahnken

MORNING BIBLE STUDY

In September we once again begin the Morning Bible Study meeting on the 7th at 10:00am at the home of Alberta Birk, 1597 Old Mill Creek Rd. Pastor Fred will be the leader as we study Ecclesiastes. This is a new series of study and all women of St. Paul are invited. Study booklets will be available.

FOOD PANTRY MINISTRY UPDATE

September and February are the months for St. Paul Lutheran volunteers to serve at the food pantry. For September, distribution will be on Monday afternoon, September 12 from 4PM to 5:30PM and on Monday afternoon, September 26 from 4PM to 5:30PM.

We are in need of volunteers from St. Paul to assist in food distribution on one or both Mondays. If you feel called to serve in this manner contact Mark Lehmberg at 347-2400 for further information and details. A sign-up sheet will be available in the church narthex and rear entrance.

MASON MINISTERIAL ALLIANCE CYCLE OF PRAYER

The Mason Ministerial Alliance is asking congregations and faith-based organizations to pray for each other during the year, on a rotating basis monthly. For August 2022, we are all asked to pray focused prayers for the Hilda United Methodist Church.

150th ANNIVERSARY NEWS

Our 150th Anniversary Worship and Fish Fry was a success! I’m afraid to list names because I may miss someone. The worship service was so meaningful and the pastors singing was heart-warming. Then, on to the meal and fellowship. So, if you planned, fried fish and hushpuppies, loaded and unloaded, set up, decorated, made drinks, prepared delicious desserts, got ice, provided music, took out trash, kept the food going in the serving line, washed dishes, wiped or put away tables and chairs or did anything else to help: Thank you so very much! -LeEster Burch

GREETINGS

We want to extend greetings on behalf of our parents, Rev. Robert & Elaine Cordes and wish you a joyous celebration of the congregation’s 150th anniversary! We pray your ministry will continue to be a blessing to many as you share the Gospel message of Love & Grace! - The Cordes Family

**INVITATION TO THE CROSS TRAILS
MINISTRY FALL FESTIVAL**

Cross Trail Ministry Fall Festival will be held in Fredericksburg on September 17th from 9am – 3pm! Come to picturesque Fredericksburg to... Admire and bid on quilts at our Quilt Auction, or contribute one! Enjoy Music as you visit the food booths and trucks! Visit the Craft Booths and choose your favorite items! Spin the wheel at the Gift Card Pull for your chance to win! Eat something tasty from one of our Food Trucks! Enjoy Kids Carnival Games for the whole family! And sign up for our second annual Cornhole Tournament that is great for any age! Or Participate Virtually by... Running or walking in the Fall Festival 5K! Bidding on quilts through our Online Quilt Auction! Hosting your very own Fundraiser in your congregation and collecting an offering to give to camp!

Know that you are supporting a great cause! Cross Trails Ministry holds a few fundraising events each year. The Fall Festival funds help keep camp affordable by being used toward capital improvements, such as the new dam at Chrysalis and the new entrance road at Ebert Ranch.

It is even more fun if you are involved! We would love for you to have your members attend the event; however it is even more fun if you are involved. Get your men’s, women’s, youth, family or congregational groups together and sign up! Groups have a great time bonding as they serve. Here are some ways you can be involved:

Encourage members to participate in the 5K for all ages! Donate a chain store gift card valued at a minimum of \$10 or more to the “Gift Card Pull”. Participate in our Cornhole Tournament or sponsor a team to play. Donate a quilt to the Quilt Show and Auction. Volunteer at our Day Event in Fredericksburg--Help with set up and take down and enjoy the day in between. Be a sponsor of this year’s event. For more information, visit

<https://crosstrails.org/ways-to-give/fall-festival/> .

**ST. PAUL CELEBRATES SEPTEMBER
BIRTHDAYS**

- 1 Debbie Nebgen
Danny Gierisch
- 2 Lori Allen
Diane Pence
- 5 Scott Zesch
- 6 Harold Albers
Beverly Marek
- 7 Minnie Schmidt
- 9 Gene Geistweidt
Chad Schmidt
- 17 Holly Eckert
- 18 Janice Bartlett
- 21 Walton Grote
Bob Vacek
- 24 Bricio Balderas
- 27 Caeleb Carter
- 29 Jerry Bearden

If your birthday or a family member’s birthday is not listed or is listed incorrectly, please let Deb Probst know @ 325-597-2832 or dcprobst@hotmail.com. Thank you for helping us with this project.

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR JULY

Congregational Giving: \$18,803.05

Expenditures: \$20,033.79

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

- 150th Anniversary Service and Fish Fry Luncheon were discussed.
- Reparations of the auditorium chair-lift were reported.
- Approved the installation of WIFI in the Fellowship Hall building when funds become available.
- The purchase of AED devices for the property were discussed and will be addressed at a future meeting.
- Parsonage windows installation has been completed. Approved closure of Parsonage Account and transfer of remaining Stained Glass Windows/Christmas Lights Project Funds to General Fund.

**STEWARDSHIP DIRECTORY
FOR SEPTEMBER**

Lay Reader: Merlina Gamel

Communion Assistants: Hunter Wenzel & Lynn Reichenau

Council Rep. on Duty: Joe Keller

Bell Ringers: Mark Lehmborg & Mike Goff

Speaker System: Bob Vacek and Mark Lehmborg

Ushers: John Gillespie, Chad Schmidt,

Cynthia Bauer, and Nancy Brown

Property Person on Duty: Mark Lehmborg

Acolytes:

(9/4)

(9/11) Elizabeth McFarland

(9/18) Reece Evans

(9/25) Camille Schmidt

Altar Guild:

Flower Chairman: Sherie Clarkson

Parament Chairman: Connie Smith

Communion Chairman: Bonnie Schmidt

Women’s Bible Study:

Morning Bible Study (10:00 AM)

(First Wed. of Month)

Bible Study Leader: Pastor Fred

Hostess: Alberta Birk

Evening Bible Study (5 PM – Third Tues. of

Month) in the Fellowship Hall

Memorials: Church Office 347-5582

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Rev. Fred Krebs

Pastor

Mrs. Heather McFarland

Church Administrator

Mrs. Ann Mahnken

Youth Coordinator

Church Office Hours:

Mon.-Thurs. 8:30 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.

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