

**ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
321 NORTH 10TH STREET
BEATRICE, NE 68310**

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PARISH NEWSLETTER

**St. Paul's Lutheran Church
Beatrice, Nebraska
MAY 2016**

Stpaulbeatrice.org

May 2016

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8:00am Divine Service 9:15am Bible Class & Sunday School 10:30am Divine Service	2 7:00pm Weekday Holy Communion Service	3 12:00pm Ladies Quilting 1:30pm Ladies Aid 5:00pm LWML Ex. Board 6:15pm Topic Leaders 6:30pm Board for Parish Ed	4 1:00pm Dorcas Society	5 12:00pm Ladies Quilting 1:30pm Ruth Circle 7:00pm Ascension Day Service	6	7 9:00am-12:00pm Organ Guild of America
8 8:00am Divine Service 9:15am Bible Class & Sunday School 10:30am Divine Service (High School Graduation)	9 7:00pm Weekday Holy Communion Service	10 12:00pm Ladies Quilting 12:00pm Quilt Tying 7:00pm Elders	11 1:30pm Naomi Circle	12 12:00pm Ladies Quilting 2:00pm Lydia/Mary Circle	13 1:30pm Eunice Circle	14
15 8:00am Divine Service 9:15am Bible Class & Sunday School 10:30am Divine Service (5th Grade Graduation)	16 7:00pm Weekday Holy Communion Service	17 12:00pm Ladies Quilting	18	19 12:00pm Ladies Quilting	20 8:00am Men's Bible Study Breakfast at Aunt Mary's	21 10:00am Altar Guild
22 8:00am Divine Service 9:15am Bible Class & Sunday School 10:30am Divine Service	23 7:00pm Weekday Holy Communion Service	24 12:00pm Ladies Quilting 12:00pm Quilt Tying	25	26 12:00pm Ladies Quilting	27	28
29 8:00am Divine Service 9:15am Bible Class & Sunday School 10:30am Divine Service	30 7:00pm Weekday Holy Communion Service	31 12:00pm Ladies Quilting 6:30pm Social Club				

SCHOOL NEWS

“But the fruit of the Spirit is Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, Self-Control, against such things there is no law.” Galatians 5:22

The St. Paul’s students sang the Fruits of the Spirit in their musical in April, and we are happy to see these fruits in action each day in our school. As we keep Jesus the focus of our day, the Holy Spirit works through our faculty and students to help them share these fruits with their classmates and families. How thankful we are to serve the Lord in this place and join together in a Christian community of believers! This month we will be celebrating the many blessings God has bestowed on us throughout the 2015-2016 year. We also ask for His continued blessing on the ministries of St. Paul’s Lutheran School to the children and families of Beatrice.

We have many fun field trips planned this month. The 1st grade will be traveling to Pioneers Park and the Lincoln Children’s Zoo. The 2nd Grade will be visiting Memorial Stadium and Morrill Hall. The 4th graders will be visiting the State Capitol and the Nebraska History Museum. These trips are wonderful learning opportunities and are very enjoyed by our school community!

On Friday, May 6th, we will be hosting the annual Field Day sponsored by St. Paul Lutheran School. It begins at 10:00 a.m., and four other Lutheran schools from the surrounding area will be joining us for the track and field events. We are excited to welcome St. Paul Plymouth, Good Shepherd Lincoln, Good Shepherd Marysville, and Linn Lutheran to our school for the day.

This year, Fifth Grade Graduation will take place on Sunday, May 15th, during the 10:30 a.m. worship service. There will be a reception beginning at 9:15 a.m. during the Bible class hour to honor our 5th grade graduates. Our 2016 Fifth Grade Graduates are:

Olivia Achtemeier	Preston Church	Adelaide Heard
Grace Ideus	Caryss Jurgens	Dawson Loomis
Brandon Scheer	Sam Wallman	

The last day of school will be Friday, May 20th. Chapel will begin at 11:15 a.m., and dismissal will be at 11:45 a.m. That evening, we will celebrate the close of the school year with the PTL Hot Dog Meal and School Carnival, beginning at 6:00 p.m. The Board of Education will be serving hotdogs and chips, and parents are encouraged to bring a side dish to share. The carnival will begin at 6:30 p.m., with carnival games and fun for the whole family. You are all invited to attend these special celebrations!

We thank you for your continued support of our school with your thoughts, prayers and gifts. Have a blessed summer!

In Christ,
Amy Duever

Our St. Paul’s students will be singing
in church on the following Sundays:
May 15 - Dates are subject to change.



Notes and Reminders...

Every Sunday

8:00am & 10:30am - Divine Services
9:00am - Coffee & Snacks served in the basement
9:15am - Adult & Youth Bible Class and Sunday School

Every Monday

7:00pm - Divine Service

Church Office: Office hours are 8:30am to 1:30pm, Monday through Friday. The office may be closed on occasion, so please call ahead.

GRADUATING HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS You will be recognized at the 10:30am service on Sunday, May 8th. Graduates are to meet in the church basement at 10:15am. At 9:15am there will be a reception in the church basement. We hope you and your family will be able to attend.

GRADUATING 5th GRADERS You will be recognized at the 10:30am service on Sunday, May 15th. Graduates are to meet in the church basement at 10:15am. At 9:15am there will be a reception in the church basement. We hope you and your family will be able to attend.



Thank You to the gracious people at the BSDC for preparing our monthly newsletters for mailing this month. We sincerely appreciate their volunteer work and a job well done.



May at St. Paul's Lutheran School:

6 – Field Day 10:00am – 3:00pm
15 – 5th Grade Graduation 10:30am
Reception at 9:15am
18 – Last day of school for Pre-Kindergarten
19 – Last day of school for Pre-School
19 – Dismiss at 11:45am – Teacher Work Day
20 End of Fourth Quarter – Dismiss at 11:45am

*Visit our website for the latest updates at
stpaulbeatrice.org*

MARK YOUR CALENDARS VOLUNTEERS NEEDED at SCHOOL

On Friday, May 6th we will have our School Field Day at St. Paul's Lutheran School, and we are seeking volunteers to help run the concession stand from 10:00a.m. - 1:30p.m. If any church members can help, we would really appreciate it! Please let us know by calling the school office.



Saturday, May 7th is our Planting Day for the Butterfly Gardens at the school. Lunch will be provided through a Thrivent Action Grant! Please come out and help if you are available, we really appreciate it. A special thanks to Duane Delozier and Bob Frerking for all of their help at our last Outdoor Classroom workday.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS



Each week the children have been making a quilt block about the theme for that day. Each child's quilt blocks are going to be made into a quilt for them to take home or to donate to someone in need. In order to complete the quilts, we are looking for people to help sew them together. If you like to sew and have some extra time and would be willing to help, please contact the church office or Toree Lang.

We are currently looking for someone to teach grades 1-3 on Sunday mornings. If you are interested contact the church office or Toree Lang.

Toree Lang, Sunday School Chairperson

Do You Have Some Free Time?

St. Paul's is always looking for volunteers to serve on the various Boards, to help out with the Turkey Supper in the fall, to help the Trustees with various cleanup activities throughout the year, to volunteer at Vacation Bible School in the summer, to help with funeral dinners, to teach Sunday School, or to help out in some other way. Volunteers are such an important part of St. Paul's! Contact the church office or a board member if you can help!



The Voters Assembly voted to hire an outside firm to do a complete audit of the church books. If you would like to contribute to help defray the cost of this audit, please mark your contributions accordingly. We have collected \$1,950.00 so far.

Teacher Aide Position Available:

St. Paul's Lutheran School is seeking a Teacher Aide to begin working this Fall. This will be a part-time, paid position, and will include working with young children and leading small group classroom learning activities, assisting the teacher with preparation of classroom materials, and supervising children at recess and indoor play times. If interested, please contact the school office.



BULLETINS RECEIVED

March 20	Louis Oltmans	St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Manhattan, KS
March 27	Merle & Lora Kuhlmann	First Congregational Church of Weeping Water
March 27	Carline Mencl	First Presbyterian Church, Hutchinson, KS
March 27	Arthur & Sarah Morris	University Presbyterian Church, Austin, TX
March 27	Dorothy Nickels	Holy Savior Lutheran Church, Lincoln, NE
March 27	Charlie & Barb Rose	Divine Shepherd Lutheran Church, Omaha, NE
March 27	Arvid & Althea Wiest	Hope Lutheran Church, Shawnee, KS
March 27	Doretta Wiegand	Ebenezer Lutheran Church at Manheim, Paige, TX
March 27	Lyndon Wiegand	Ebenezer Lutheran Church at Manheim, Paige, TX

We're updating our church records!



**Update your
contact info!**

The church office is working on keeping our records up to date. We are not deleting anyone from the roster, but rather wanting to gather current information on everyone. So if you have moved, changed your home or cell phone number, children have gone to college or have moved out on their own, etc. please let the church office know. Information the church office collects is names, addresses, phone numbers, email addresses, birthdays, baptism dates, confirmation dates & verses, and wedding dates.

Listed below is a list of people currently on our church roster for whom we have **NO** contact information. If you know any of them could you give the church office their information.

Jennifer Allington
Children: Parker & Preston
Dallas Burroughs
Erick Fricke
Kathleen Gonderinger
Ashley Hersel
Rochelle Hirschler
Andrew Korte
Lois Lampe

Tamara Little
Children: Brooke & Madison
Stacey Peters
Edith Ray
Anastasia Riley
Clayton Schwisow
Child: Balinda
Travis & Megan Spilker
Child: Beau
Stacy Wallman

The LYF continues to collect gently worn sneakers. They are also selling Super Wash car wash tokens – 5 for \$20!! They are available in the church office. Thank you for your support in spirit, prayer, encouraging words, and monetarily. – Youth attending the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans. (The Gathering is less than 100 days away!!)



Mother/Daughter Salad Supper

Wednesday, May 4 6:30pm

Theme: Once Upon an Apron

St. Paul's Lutheran Church Basement

Bring a friend along

&

Your favorite apron.

A time for sharing about your apron will be provided

Sponsored by the LWML

Stewardship Article

Do we Christians really have to tithe? Are we really under a compulsion to give? Aren't we free? Don't we have a freedom from the law that was purchased for us by Jesus Christ's death and resurrection?

The problem is that our sinful flesh uses our freedom for selfishness. Christ did not die and rise so that we could give less and do less good work in the world. He died and rose to free us from the compulsion of the Law, to free us from a burden we could not bear.

We are missing the point completely if we use the freedom from the Law that Christ won by His passion, crucifixion, and resurrection to give less, or to do less of any good work. Christ set us free to live in His image of faithfulness, generosity, and kindness. We are free from the Law's condemnation so that we can walk in the good works the Lord has prepared for us.

Our freedom is not given to indulge our sinful and selfish flesh. Our freedom was purchased and won by Christ so that we could serve our neighbors — our family, our society, our church.

As a result, much of your freedom is not a freedom from, but a freedom *to* and *for*. You are not free *from* serving your neighbor. You are free *for* service toward your neighbor—willingly and without compulsion. You are not free *from* giving to your church; you are freed *to* give to your local congregation in joy, willingly, and without compulsion.

The reason you are free to serve, the reason you are free to give is because of Jesus Christ and the forgiveness of sin He won for you on the cross, which He delivers to you in the Gospel and the sacraments. That is our motivation. “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16). And since God loves us in this way, by giving us His only-begotten Son so that we do not perish, we also love one another in this way, by giving what we have so that our neighbor does not perish.

If the God who has provided the sacrifice for your eternal salvation, the God who delivers that salvation to you in Holy Baptism, the God who continues to forgive you and show you His faithfulness, if that same God is the one who also promises to give you daily bread and take care of your earthly life, you can trust in Him, even in giving. After all, Jesus Christ is proof that God loves you and will take care of you.



Congratulations to those confirmed on April 24: : **Olivia Aden**, daughter of Rod and Melody Aden; **Shelbi Ankersen**, daughter of Kevin and Brooke Ankersen; **Noah Hagemeyer**, son of Dale and Jonetta Hagemeyer; **Faith Kelley**, daughter of Ann Kelley and Bill Kelley, guardians are Dale and Rhonda Rickers; **Billy Kelley**, son of Ann Kelley and Bill Kelley, guardians are Dale and Rhonda Rickers; **Natalie Klaus**, daughter of Eric and Robin Klaus; **Aaron Meyer**, son of Shawn and Rhonda Meyer; **Dillon Siebe**, son of Angie Hooks and Michael Siebe; **Sydney Southwick**, daughter of Mike and Amy Southwick; **David Wright**, son of Helen Wright and Robert Wright.

Congratulations, to those high school seniors graduating this spring. They will be recognized at the 10:30 service on May 8: Carter Aden, Brock Ankersen, Taylor Easley, Christopher Glover, Helen Grupe, Kaylin Hagemeyer, Carter Holthus, Kayla Meyer, Austin Oestreich, Sarah Riekenberg, Dillon Rudder, Marissa Sandman, Brandon Thomas, Mitchell Trout, and Jacob Wright.

And finally, congratulations to those graduating from fifth grade at our St. Paul's Lutheran School. They will be recognized during the 10:30 service on May 15 and are listed in Mrs. Duever's article elsewhere in this newsletter.

God bless you all.

Please read and ponder this excellent devotion and a reading from Martin Luther's Large Catechism.

God's peace,
Pr. Irmer

A reflection from Higher Things, Friday of the Fourth Week of Easter

In the Name + of Jesus. Amen.

Jesus annoyed many of his listeners. He made it sound all so easy. The blind see. The lame walk. Lepers are cleansed. The deaf hear. Dead people are raised up. Poor people receive good news. Losers have inherited the kingdom of God. That's what the Savior does. He comes to do what He's promised to do all along. He gives, the riffraff receive. He does it all. The world's losers will just receive all He does as gift. And there's the offense. We know it. We understand. We're just offended by it. It's outrageous news Jesus announces. And, when we look closer at whom He applies that good news to, it also turns out to be really unfair.

But God isn't fair. If He were fair, we'd all be thrown into a heap--left to rot with the rest of the world's garbage. God isn't fair. God is good. He's the Gift-giver God who just loves to hand out free gifts to all whom He calls "My children."

According to Gift-giver God, the wise virgins are rewarded for being a bunch of snot-nosed brats. The rotten prodigal son is given more of a party than his do-right brother.

The workers in the vineyard are given a full day's pay for next to no work. But, why does God turn a blind eye to such unfairness? Why do the crummy ones get the biggest rewards?

God wants us in a place where we will receive what Jesus gives only as a free gift. He doesn't care about whether we can claim to have worked our way to a reward. He doesn't look first to see whether we're in the right place. Is it the right time? Are we doing the right stuff? Jesus doesn't ask. That's why, in the parables, Jesus goes out of His way to reward those whose only upside is being in the right place at the right time, like the tax collector in the parable of the tax collector and the Pharisee. And usually, Jesus gives them pretty shabby reasons for being there just to make sure we won't have any stray good works to keep track of.

What did the blind do to receive back their sight? What did the lame do to earn their legs? What about the lepers and the deaf? What kind of rehab did they have to undergo before Jesus would cleanse and heal them? What about the dead? Truly, everyone who receives Him as gift receives God as Savior. He only asks us to trust the work He's done for us in Jesus. To receive it and say, "Amen."

From Martin Luther

"Every Christian has enough in baptism to learn and to do all his life. For he has always enough to do by believing firmly what baptism promises and brings: victory over death and the devil (Romans 6:3-6), forgiveness of sin (Acts 2:38), God's grace (Titus 3:5-6), the entire Christ, and the Holy Spirit with His gifts (1Corinthians 6:11). In short, baptism is so far beyond us that if timid nature could realize this, it might well doubt whether it could be true. Think about it. Imagine there were a doctor somewhere who understood the art of saving people from death or, even though they died, could restore them quickly to life so that they would afterward live forever. Oh, how the world would pour in money like snow and rain. No one could find access to him because of the throng of the rich! But here in baptism there is freely brought to everyone's door such a treasure and medicine that it utterly destroys death and preserves all people alive.

"We must think this way about baptism and make it profitable for ourselves. So when our sins and conscience oppress us, we strengthen ourselves and take comfort and say, 'Nevertheless, I am baptized. And if I am baptized, it is promised to me that I shall be saved and have eternal life, both in soul and body.' For that is the reason why these two things are done in baptism: the body-which can grasp nothing but the water-is sprinkled and, in addition, the Word is spoken for the soul to grasp. Now, since both, the water and the Word, make one baptism, therefore, body and soul must be saved and live forever (1Corinthians 15:53). The soul lives through the Word, which it believes, but the body lives because it is united with the soul and also holds on to baptism as it is able to grasp it. We have, therefore, no greater jewel in body and soul. For by baptism we are made holy and are saved (1Corinthians 6:11). No other kind of life, no other work upon earth, can do this."

Martin Luther, *Large Catechism*, 4.41-46