

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

**NON-PROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE PAID
BEATRICE NE 68310
PERMIT 235**

**ADDRESS CORRECTION
REQUESTED**



PARISH NEWSLETTER

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

Stpaulbeatrice.org

September 2016

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>4</p> <p>8:00am Divine Service 9:15am Bible Class 10:30am Divine Service</p>	<p>5</p> <p>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 7:00pm Weekday Holy Communion Service</p>	<p>6</p> <p>12:00pm Ladies Quilting 1:30pm Ladies Aid 5:00pm LWML Ex. Board 6:15pm Topic Leaders 6:30pm Board for Parish Ed</p>	<p>7</p> <p>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 1:00pm Dorcas Society 2:30-4pm Catechism</p>	<p>1</p> <p>12:00pm Ladies Quilting 1:30pm Ruth Circle</p>	<p>2</p> <p>1:30pm Eunice Circle</p>	<p>3</p>
<p>11</p> <p>8:00am Divine Service 9:15am Bible Class & Sunday School 10:30am Divine Service</p>	<p>12</p> <p>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 7:00pm Weekday Holy Communion Service</p>	<p>13</p> <p>12:00pm Ladies Quilting 12:00pm Quilt Tying 7:00pm Elders</p>	<p>14</p> <p>1:30pm Naomi Circle 2:30-4pm Catechism</p>	<p>15</p> <p>12:00pm Ladies Quilting</p>	<p>16</p> <p>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>17</p> <p>10:00am Altar Guild</p>
<p>18</p> <p>8:00am Divine Service 9:15am Bible Class & Sunday School 10:30am Divine Service</p>	<p>19</p> <p>7:00pm Weekday Holy Communion Service</p>	<p>20</p> <p>12:00pm Ladies Quilting</p>	<p>21</p> <p>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 2:30-4pm Catechism</p>	<p>22</p> <p>12:00pm Ladies Quilting</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>
<p>25</p> <p>8:00am Divine Service 9:15am Bible Class & Sunday School 10:30am Divine Service</p>	<p>26</p> <p>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 7:00pm Weekday Holy Communion Service</p>	<p>27</p> <p>12:00pm Ladies Quilting 12:00pm Quilt Tying 6:30pm Social Club</p>	<p>28</p> <p>2:30-4pm Catechism</p>	<p>29</p> <p>12:00pm Ladies Quilting</p>	<p>30</p>	

SCHOOL NEWS

Psalm 18:2 "The Lord is my Rock, my fortress and my deliverer."

St. Paul's Lutheran School is once again filled with the sound of children's singing, laughter, and joy, as the school year is well under way. The first day of school was Tuesday, August 16th. The school year began with a Chapel service led by Pastor Irmer. We have a beginning enrollment of 130 students. The theme for our school year is "Upon This Rock". With Jesus as our Rock, our firm foundation, we look forward to a blessed school year. Our school staff for the 2016-2017 year is as follows:

Pre-School and Pre-Kindergarten	Ms. Melody Philippi-Aden
Kindergarten	Mrs. Shelley Eisele
1 st Grade	Mrs. Jonetta Hagemeyer
2 nd Grade	Miss Jessica Leseberg
3 rd Grade	Mrs. Lisa Oltmans
4 th Grade	Mrs. Joanna Gellermann-Long
Music & 5 th Grade morning	Mrs. Ruth Brisbois
Principal & 5 th Grade afternoon	Mrs. Amy Duever
Secretary	Mrs. Vanessa Smith
Teachers' Assistants	Mrs. Iris Hintz, Mrs. Shannon Burgess
Lunch Server	Miss Jane Oeltjen
Custodian	Mr. Thad Loomis

We have one new staff member at St. Paul this year. We welcome Mrs. Shannon Burgess as our teacher assistant. We ask God's blessings on Shannon and all our staff as we begin this new school year.

We celebrate our Savior, our Rock, each week on Wednesday mornings at Chapel, which begins at 8:30 AM. Everyone is invited to join us for Chapel. Our Chapel offerings for August and September will be sent to Our Savior's Lutheran, Odell, to assist with packaging of Mercy Meals. We are planning to have a meal packing event here at the school again this year. We will keep the congregation updated as plans are finalized, as we will need many hands to help!

Once each month we celebrate Baptism birthdays at Chapel. All students who were baptized that month come forward and receive a small gift in remembrance of their baptism. This year they will receive a small Para cord keychain with Psalm 18:2 printed on it. Our baptism chapel for September is on the 14th.

A special Christian Education Sunday is being planned for Sunday, September 11th at the 8:00 AM worship service. Students in Kindergarten through 5th Grade will sing during the service.

The first Parent Teacher League meeting of the school year will be held on Tuesday, September 13th at 7:00 PM.

Our All School Field Trip will be on Monday, September 19th. We will be traveling as a school community to Vala's Pumpkin Patch.

Student pictures will be taken on Tuesday, September 20th.

Fall Parent Teacher conferences will be held for students in grades PreK-5th on Tuesday, September 20th and Thursday, September 22nd from 4:00-8:00 p.m.

We are continuing the collection of SunMart cash register receipts, General Mills Box Tops for Education, Tyson Project A+ labels, Campbell's Labels for Education, and "Our Family" labels (including the UPC portion). All these may be turned in at the school office. Thanks to all who help with these projects.

We thank you for your continued support of our school ministry. Please keep the staff and students in your prayers throughout the coming year.

In Christ,

Mrs. Duever, Principal



September at St. Paul's Lutheran School:

- 5 – No School (Labor Day)
- 19 – All School Field Trip
- 20 – Student Pictures
- 20 – Parent Teacher Conferences
- 22 – Parent Teacher Conferences
- 30 – No School

Our St. Paul's students will be singing in church
on the following Sundays:
Sept. 11, Oct. 9, Nov. 13, Dec. 18,
Jan. 22, Feb. 26, Mar. 26, Apr. 23, May 14
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. Kelly will be out of the office September 5, 7, 12, 16, 21, and 26th. While Pastor will be around, the office may be closed on occasion, so please call ahead. For pastoral emergencies contact Pastor Irmer on his cell phone at 402-239-0283.

THANK YOU: I want to thank Pastor Irmer for everything from the prayers, visit and especially for giving the Memorial Service for my grandson, Jacob. Also, I want to thank all my Christian family for the prayers, phone calls, cards and acts of kindness during this time of grief and at the time of my stroke. You'll never know how much they meant to me. Nelda Guenther

THANK YOU to St. Paul's Lutheran Church and School: Thank you so much for the Beautiful Prayer Shawl. Every time I use it, I think of kindness and love that came with the shawl. Thanks again. Nelda Guenther

THANK YOU to everyone who has sent or expressed sympathy to myself and Jim in the loss of my mother, Fern Pitz. Your prayers, cards, memorials and expressions of sympathy have helped tremendously. May God Bless you all! Carolyn and Jim Nelson.

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.

Radio broadcasts are available for 2017. **Bulletin sponsorships** are available for October 9, October 16, October 30, November 27, December 4, December 18, and December 25. Radio sponsorship cost \$100 and bulletin sponsorship cost \$20. Please call Kelly in the church office if you are interested in sponsoring a date.



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Sunday School will resume on September 11th. Teachers this year include Dixie Johnson (Pre-S -K), Lacey Jurgens (1-3) and Robin Klaus (4-6). We are looking for substitute teachers, if you would like to be one or know of someone who may, contact Toree Lang.

Toree Lang, Sunday School Chairperson

BULLETINS RECEIVED

July 17	Pastor Irmer	Crown of Life Lutheran Church, Sun City West, AZ
July 17	Arlene Holtmeier	Spirit in the Hills Lutheran Church, Spicewood, TX
July 24	Pastor Irmer	Crown of Life Lutheran Church, Sun City West, AZ
July 24	Carolyn Brott	St. Mark Lutheran Church, Garrison, IA
July 24	Arlene Smith	Edison Christian Church, Edison, NE
July 24	Arch & Sarah Morris	University Presbyterian Church, Austin, TX
July 31	Arch & Sarah Morris	University Presbyterian Church, Austin, TX
August 7	Arvid & Althea Wiest	Hope Lutheran Church, Shawnee, KS
August 21	Olga Franzen	Gloria Dei Church, Des Moines, IA

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!



September Birthdays & Anniversaries - 2016

Happy Birthday to...

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <p>1 Maxine Kyles
Tiffanie Street</p> <p>2 Patricia Nave</p> <p>3 Brenda Greenwood</p> <p>4 Kerrienne Berry</p> <p>5 Rachel Huls
Glenda Naaf</p> <p>6 Sheena Hammond
Blake Lofing</p> <p>7 Sue Carrel
Connie Janssen
Kevin Kimmerling
Rebecca Reedy
Ivan Stohs</p> <p>8 Greg Holle
Darlene Scheideler
Jadrian Yates</p> <p>10 Isaiah May</p> <p>11 Roger Itzen
Kaela Meyer
Mark Seckel</p> <p>12 Beulah Mae Riekenberg</p> <p>14 Gerald Hulse
Wayne Kaeding
Tyler Snyder</p> | <p>15 Dawn Crosier
Olivia Crosier
Dalton Heard
Gerald Johnson
Peggy Loseman</p> <p>16 Genial Heist
James Thavenet
Richard Weishahn
Deryl Wergin</p> <p>17 Duane Delozier
Jessica Franzen
Julie Glover
Sharon Naaf</p> <p>18 Britney Hoadley
Tanya Malchow</p> <p>19 Loren Daubendiek
Annette Kimmerling
Patricia Krecklow
Chelsea Meints
Megan Rix
Josiah Wallman</p> <p>20 Crystal Gerdes
Benjamin Koenig
Shawn Meyer</p> | <p>Phillip Reinke</p> <p>21 Kelsie Hinz
Joyce Neumann
Dianne Springer</p> <p>22 Samantha Keuten</p> <p>23 Tammy Lofing
Norman Tegtmeier</p> <p>24 Randy Frerking
Richard Hartman
Tori Oestreich</p> <p>25 Pamela Norton</p> <p>26 Sharon Adam
Jackson Aden
Chelsea Amundson
Charles Ellis
Marjorie Hartig</p> <p>27 Dalton Blythe
Sarah Scheer</p> <p>28 Kathryn Robinson
Althea Wiest</p> <p>29 Hunter Glover</p> <p>30 Benjamin Crosier
Eunice Oltmans</p> |
|--|--|--|

Happy Anniversary to...

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>4 Larry & Beverly Weishahn, 18 yrs.</p> <p>5 Ronald & Glenda Naaf, 18 yrs.</p> <p>6 Eldean & Sharon Adam, 46 yrs.</p> <p>8 Leon & Marie Zimmerman, 27 yrs.</p> <p>9 Eldon & Dorothy Brott, 27 yrs.
Elmer & Patricia Sunderland, 49 yrs.</p> | <p>17 Wayne & Christine Huls, 28 yrs.</p> <p>19 Darren & Kathy Smith, 29 yrs.</p> <p>20 Leonard & Eleanor Esch, 57 yrs.</p> <p>21 Vernon & Linda Minge, 20 yrs.</p> <p>26 David & Christine Morris, 36 yrs.</p> <p>27 Travis & Toree Lang, 13 yrs.</p> |
|--|--|

If your information is missing or incorrect, please contact Kelly in the church office as work continues in order to keep our records up to date. We apologize for any errors.

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

Stewardship Article

The devil, though defeated by the death, resurrection, and ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ, remains a very capable and clever foe. He is smarter than we are. He's been watching us and taking notes for a very long time. He knows what we want, and he knows how to lure us away. And he does this by telling us what we want to hear. That's what makes it so difficult.

To us who are greedy, he says: "You are not greedy. You are prudent. You are frugal. You are a good steward with your money. God doesn't want you not to have all the things you want. He wants you to be happy. He wants you to have the latest and greatest toys for both young and old." So if you consider yourself to be wise in the way of money and finances, beware of who just might be telling you these things.

Satan is a liar. He tells us what we want to hear. He lures us away from repentance and confession and faith, so that we harden our consciences and place our souls in peril. We must not underestimate the enemy. We have all taken his bait. We have all failed in this. None of us can say that we have fought this temptation to hold back with everything we have and won.

And we must repent. Yes, God wants us to be happy. But this happiness is never at the expense of faithfulness. We have a calling. We are a member of His family, the church. That relationship places a duty upon us: to give a generous proportion of the first fruits of the income He provides.

Only God is true to His Word. Only God is true to His promises. His promises never fail. His Word endures forever. His mercies are new every morning. He is faithful. He provides everything that we need. He provides food and clothes, house and home, everything that we pray for in the fourth petition of the Lord's Prayer.

There are a whole host of things that we have that we do not need. The question that we need to ask ourselves is whether these have come at the expense of our faithful, generous proportion of the first fruits of our income. If they have, then we must repent, turning away from our selfishness to Him who is faithful by giving His Son into death so that we are reconciled to Him and justified in His sight.

The devil will always tell you what you want to hear. But God tells us and gives us what we need to hear. With law and gospel, he cuts us to the heart, so that we will repent and believe His Word and promises. He is faithful. He is good. He will not forsake you, or leave you destitute. So believe and trust in Him. And you will not only be happy. You will be blessed.

From Chad Bird

Chad Bird is composer of two hymns in our Lutheran Service Book and a former seminary professor.

The church is an old pro at discovering new and creative ways to avoid preaching the cross. Each generation is like a sneaky cleaning lady. While dusting the cross atop the altar, she glances left and right, and, seeing no one looking, replaces the true cross with something else. No radical change. The replica is a near lookalike. You have to look closely. But it's not the cross. It's a cross-like idol.

Sitting atop the church's altar today is the idol of victimhood.

This change is especially sinister, not only because it's hard to spot, but because to question it is to invite scorn and hatred from its worshipers. The new sin has become questioning anyone's self-identification as victim. So here I go, sinning boldly.

PULLING THE TAILS OF CATS

If my child comes crying to me, with bloody scratches on his face, my first reaction is to hold him, check his wounds, and comfort him until he calms down enough to explain what happened. He needs my acceptance, sympathy, and love. And when he tells me, finally, that he was pulling the tail of the neighbor's cat when she turned on him, he needs something else, too. He needs me to remind him that actions have consequences. Cats have claws and aren't afraid of using them. That doesn't mean I shove him away, tell him I don't care, and that he should have known better. It simply means that I don't allow my sympathy-giving to mute my truth-telling. He needs love, and he needs the truth spoken in love. He's not a victim; he's a tail-puller.

With rare and notable exceptions, most of the people who come crying to the church, with bloody scratches on their face, have been pulling (or chasing) one tail or another. It doesn't matter. The church is there to welcome them, without exception. Whoever they are, whatever they've done, they need our acceptance, sympathy, love. They also need to hear that cats have claws. God has laws that we have broken, and continue to break, and suffer the consequences. We are not victims of the Ten Commandments. We are not victims of our cheating, lying, sexing, coveting, and other foolish actions.

We are—to use that old-fashioned word—sinners. And sinners don't need sentimentality; they need salvation.

JESUS DIDN'T DIE FOR VICTIMS

But this is where the church often fails. And I suspect, in most cases, that the church doesn't even realize it's doing so. Like little kids cooking breakfast, we mean well, but we end up making more of a mess than a meal.

Rather than calling sinners to repentance, we call them to a Christ who identifies with us when cats claw us. You suffer? He too suffered. You are hurting? He too hurt. You are weeping? Even Jesus shed tears.

While all of this is true, it is not all of the truth. And when we present the partial truth as if it's the whole truth, we make a mess of the Gospel. We confuse the results of the cross with its cause.

Why was Jesus crucified? Not to save victims, but to save sinners. Indeed, he was killed by sinners for sinners to save sinners. The religious and the irreligious, the Jew and the Gentile, the nursing infant and the old geezer—all needed saving, for all were sinful from the time their mother conceived them (Psalm 51:5).

If we forget this, instead offering sinners salvation we offer victims therapy. Instead of preaching Christ as the sacrifice for our evil deeds, we preach him as a vulnerable God who offers merely affirmation, support, and compassion. In a worst case scenario, where everyone is a victim, and someone else is always to blame, we transform the cross into a pacifier.

The cross of Jesus is the revelation of the love of God. But it's not a Hallmark love. It's a love that calls a thing what it is. You are the sinner who must die. And on this cross you do. You die here in God, with God. He is crucified not for your victimhood but for your sins. Here you get what you need: death followed by life, Good Friday followed by Easter, wounding that leads to healing.

Christ realizes that the cat and its tail are not our problem. Our hand is. We are. Yes, he shows compassion to us, as the church is called to do toward all sinners. But that compassion is a crucifixion compassion. It is a love drenched not in hot, wet tears for victims but sacrificial blood for sinners. He draws us into his death. And he draws us out of our own self-pity. We die with God. And in that death we experience true, divine, unlimited compassion.

What needs to sit atop the altar is a cross. A cross where God died for our sins, where we die in baptism in him, and where new life is given to us.

Dear church, preach that.

Higher Things Reflections

Wednesday of the 11th Week after Trinity

In the Name + of Jesus. Amen. The Sacrament of the Altar is one of those things that Christians can't seem to agree on. The truth is, problems in the teaching of a church about the Sacrament of the Altar can all be solved and answered by Jesus' words.

First of all, some churches give the Lord's Supper to everyone. But the Words of Institution remind us that it was first given to Jesus' disciples. Disciples are those who hear and learn God's Word, not just anyone who walks in off the street. Some churches don't give the Blood of Christ to everyone, just the minister. But Jesus' words answer that, too: "Drink of it, ALL of you." Both His Body and His Blood are given to be eaten and drunk by ALL the people.

Some churches claim that the Lord's Supper is merely a memorial meal in which we think about Jesus; the bread and wine are merely symbols of Jesus in some way. The Words of Jesus put that to rest: "This IS my body; this IS my blood." That's what it is because it is the Lord who says it.

But the one thing in common with many of these various false teachings of the Sacrament is that the Lord's Supper is something we do. It's our sacrifice offered to God. It's an obligation we must fulfill. The Lord's Words answer that, too. "Given and shed for you for the FORGIVENESS OF SINS." The Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood is a gift from the Savior who was crucified and risen for you. His Words make it clear that this holy gift is given for your forgiveness, life and salvation. In the Name + of Jesus. Amen.

Lord Jesus Christ, You have prepared This feast for our salvation; It is Your body and Your blood, And at Your invitation As weary souls, with sin oppressed, We come to You for needed rest, for comfort and for pardon. (Lord Jesus Christ, You Have Prepared, LSB 622:1)



When I was young, August and September were the worst of the months. Because school started in late August or early September, gone were sleeping in, trips to the swimming pool and middle of the week sleep-overs with friends. Because school started in late August or early September, gone were shorts and t-shirts and flip flops (in those long-gone-by years we were required to wear long pants and shoes to school, no matter how hot it was; and in those days, button-up-the-front shirts with collars were the norm for boys).

It didn't take long until the school routines were established. Long, hot days in a building that didn't have air conditioning were dreaded and the relief of time outside at recess was sweet. Penmanship, addition, subtraction, paying attention and "getting along with others" all became daily, primary concerns.

Year after year the calendar didn't change much, but expectations continued to grow. Printing gave way to cursive. Addition and subtraction gave way to multiplication, division and eventually geometry and algebra. Staying in one class room all day gave way to moving through the school, upstairs and downstairs and along hallways to different classes. Recess disappeared and gym class and sports came along.

The rhythms of life and the predictable cycles were important and became almost automatic as the years went by. For more than twenty years (Kindergarten through Seminary), these schedules didn't vary very much for me. Then when my own children came along they were reestablished as our lives conformed to their schedules.

It is very easy to chafe under these outside forces that seem to have such control of our lives. It's easy to resent this kind of repetition, yet we also tend to get upset when the most basic of things change.

The church year stays on the same course through the years. In December we begin with Advent and move through Christmas. Epiphany precedes the Lenten season and Easter. Then the "long green" Trinity season comes along. In these repetitions we find comfort and assurance that Jesus Christ is the same, yesterday, today and forever.

This sameness of Jesus Christ is our chief comfort. Christ became flesh, was born and lived a perfect life. He suffered and died on the cross to forgive our sins, and our sins are forgiven. Jesus arose from the dead which makes clear that God the Father has accepted Christ's sacrifice for our sins and we are His forgiven children.

God bless and keep us as His truth is continually proclaimed and our sins forgiven.

God's peace.

Pr. Irmer