



The Monthly Epistle

of St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Volume 69, Issue 9 • September 2023

Confirmation Classes Resume on Wednesdays at 7:30PM October 11TH

The Rymans and Clarks will be in St. Charles, Missouri, the first week of October for the 23rd Annual Gathering & Convention of Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ. Larry Clark is your lay delegate this year. We look forward to hearing his report to our congregation when he returns.

Also upon returning, there is finally a window in the calendar to resume youth Confirmation classes. We have three returning confirmands who will be finishing their final year. We also have letters out to potential first-year confirmands in our membership. Please pray for these young people and their baptismal vows to learn the Ten Commandments, the Creed, and the Lord's Prayer.

Update on Associate Pastor Search

Remember how hard it was to find a new pastor three years ago? This is harder. Your Call Committee has emailed hundreds of pastors and mailed postcards to twice as many in the LCMC *and* NALC. Pastor Ryman has been to the NALC Lutheran Week to talk with people about the position, and will do the same thing at the upcoming LCMC Annual Gathering. So far, we have not found the right person for the position. Please pray with us that God will guide to us the person he wants to be with us in ministry at St. Paul's.

Sundays in September

- Sunday School, each week at 9:30am
- Worship Service, each week at 10:30am
- Men's Choir practice, each Sunday at 4pm
- Hand Bell choir begins practice on Sept. 10, at 5pm. They will meet at this time each Sunday.
- Vespers at the parsonage—finger foods at 6pm; Vespers at 6:30pm are also live-streamed on our Facebook page.
- September 3 – Breakfast in the fellowship hall, 8:30am
- September 3 – Grace Ridenhour Circle in the parlor, 11:45am
- September 10 – Homecoming potluck, picnic shelter at Noon
- September 10 – Worship & Music Committee, after potluck
- September 10 – Kathy Ketchie Circle, 5pm
- September 17 – Finance Committee, 9am

Mondays

- Faith Academy after-school program, Mondays, 1–3pm
- September 4 – Church office closed for Labor Day
- September 11 – Hama Lingle Circle, 7pm
- September 18 – Council meeting, 6:30pm
- September 18 – Newsletter articles due this week
- September 25 – Lutheran Men, 6:30pm

Tuesdays

- Adult confirmation class meets Tuesdays, 6pm
- Girl Scouts meet each Tuesday, 6:45pm
- September 5 – Extension Club, 1pm
- September 12 – Bonnie Bost Circle, 7pm
- September 12 – Executive Committee, 7pm
- September 19 – Friendship Club day-trip to Altapass
- September 19 – Staff meeting, 5pm

Wednesdays

- Classical Conversations homeschool, Wednesdays, 8:30–3:30
- Adult Choir practice, Wednesdays, 6:30pm
- September 6 – Ellen Bumgarner Circle, 10am

Thursdays

- Bible Study, each week at 10am and 6pm

Saturdays

- September 23 – Lutheran Men's Fish Fry, picnic shelter, 6-8pm
- September 2 – Stephen Ministers, meeting and luncheon, 11am

Lutheran Women Circle Meetings

Grace Ridenhour – Sunday, September 3, after worship (parlor)

Ellen Bumgarner – Wednesday, September 6, 10am

Kathy Ketchie – Sunday, September 10, 5pm

Hama Lingle – Monday, September 11, 7pm

Bonnie Bost – Tuesday, September 12, at 7pm

Melissa Lura – To be determined

Binns-Counts Christmas

The Lutheran Women's Circles are collecting toys and gifts for Binns-Counts during September. Boxes for donations are located in the narthex and in the hallway by the conference room.

Gift cards are no longer being accepted by the center. If you would like to give a monetary gift instead of shopping, you may do so in the church offering, and mark your envelope "**Binns-Counts Christmas.**" John and Carolyn Canup will use this money to purchase gifts for the children.

Fun Bunch

The Fun Bunch is a group of ladies that meets for lunch once a month on the last Wednesday. This group was started to encourage members to get together, interact and to have a good time. We have a lot of fun and go to a different place each month.

Some individuals meet at the church at 11:15am to ride with Louise, and others prefer to go directly to the restaurant. Any ladies interested may call Louise Eller (704-870-9176), and she will add you to the list to either be called or emailed about the date and time each month.

August Blood Drive

The August blood drive turned out to be one of the most unusual drives held at our church. Only 39 persons registered to donate. The usual deferred rate is 15–20%, or 8–9 of those registered. But at this drive only two people were deferred. Even though seven scheduled donors did not show, eight new persons came to donate at our church.

There were 37 donors who gave a unit of blood, and two that gave double red blood cells giving our church a total collection of 39 units! Unbelievable that 39 registered to donate and 39 units of blood were collected!

Although our church has averaged collecting 35 units of blood at each drive over the years, there are areas which can be improved. “No shows” are a major concern because they take an appointment time that others may want. The community still provides over 50% of the donors; of the 39 who registered, only 18 were members of our church. The church is in constant need of new donors since many of our previous donors are no longer able to give. If you are not a donor, please consider donating at our November 13th blood drive.

The church is always grateful for those who donate, but many volunteers help make each drive a success. These volunteers work canteen, help with check-in, set up the fellowship hall before and after drives, and handle signage. **A special thanks goes to those who kept the A/C going for the August blood drive!**

Income for July, 2023

Income: \$31,624

Year-to-Date Income as of July 31: \$254,937

August income report will be in the October Newsletter.

Online Giving is accessible at StPaulsLutheran.Church/give.

There is a minimal fee for each transaction—about 2.9% for using cards, or about 1.3% for bank draft (routing/account number.)

St. Paul's Helping Hands

The goal of the St. Paul's Helping Hands Committee is to fairly and confidentially assist those who really need help, and to guide them appropriately to agencies experienced in handling a variety of needs.

Going forward, the Helping Hands Committee will focus our efforts on the needs of St. Paul's members and referrals from St. Paul's members. To be considered, please complete the Helping Hands Application which is available on St. Paul's website, stpaulslutheran.church.

Rowan Helping Ministries

St. Paul's volunteers delivered 76 pounds of items to RHM on August 28. Thank you to all who continue to donate. For volunteer information and other needs, visit their website at www.rowanhelpingministries.org.

Lutheran Men's Fish Fry Saturday, September 23RD 6:00PM in the Picnic Shelter

Our Lutheran Men are at it again, serving up fried fish, slaw, hush puppies, and fries. Proceeds from this year's fish fry will benefit Binns-Counts Community Center. A minimum donation of \$12 for adults, and \$6 for those under 12 is requested. Under the age of 3 is free. There will be no drive-thru pick up available this year, though takeout boxes will be available. This is a great opportunity for you to invite friends and family to come and experience our St. Paul's church family. Tickets will be available on the lawn after services on Sundays.

I Am with You

Find the 24 bold words from Jeremiah 1:17–19.

H Y F C D T A Y F M W K X U K
D N I B N D J D K K R I K I D
G B G W A E I A C N W A N L P
I N H S T Q E S I N O G N A V
W O T E S P V Z M D S R P N S
D H Z I S C O M M A N D I D F
L R O S J F Y I P C Y R X O S
S X O L N R C Q L K T E R R L
T A U L E I H A D U J T D A A
W A L L S G O P Y T I C E L I
Q T H I G H A L E F K Z Y L C
P R I E S T S T I O N G Q I I
D E L I V E R E D O P R B P F
G E Q D F N D K R P H L R Q F
L I A V E R P B V X Z Y E J O

“Therefore, **bind** up your **loins**; **stand** and **speak** to them everything that I **command** you. Do not be **dismayed** by them, lest I **frighten** you before them. For, behold, I have made you this day a **fortified city**, an **iron pillar**, and **bronze walls**, against the **whole land**, against the **kings** of **Judah**, its **officials**, **priests**, and **people** of the land. They will **fight** against you, but they will not **prevail** against you, for I am with you,” says the **LORD**, “to **deliver** you.”

Unscramble the verse:

Obdehl I evha utp ym sdwro ni oyru htumo.

Thank you for your gift to the ministry of Samaritan's Purse. Your gifts and prayers equip us to send medical professionals, provide ongoing relief in Ukraine, and respond to other crises at home and abroad. Thank you, and God bless you.

Franklin Graham
President, Samaritan's Purse

Thank you for your generous donations. Through your support of Radical, we can see the nations reached for the glory of Jesus' name, together. We are grateful to God for you.

The Radical Team

A warm greeting to you, and many thanks for your recent donation to Focus on the Family. Your generous, supportive interest in our work is deeply appreciated. Grace and peace to you.

Sincerely,
Jim Daly, President

Lutheran Services Carolinas (LSC) greatly appreciates your contribution. Compassionate giving truly makes a difference in the lives of each person LSC serves. Your gift ensures that LSC can provide loving, life-changing services to others right when they need them most. Thank you for partnering with us in this important work.

Yours in Christ,
Ted W Goins, Jr.
President

And whatever you do, in word or deed,
do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus,
giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Colossians 3:17 (RSV)

Thanks to all who donated school supplies for St. Paul's Lutheran Women's collection. The supplies were divided between Koontz Elementary School and Faith Academy Charter School. Over 700 items (many being multiple packs) were sent to the schools the week of August 7.

I'd like to thank all that have called, texted, dropped by, included me in their prayers, and sent cards during my ongoing recovery. I still have quite a ways to go but all of the above sure has helped. I returned to the surgeon on August 10 for a follow up with x-rays and to see if I had healed enough to gradually get me back to walking on two feet.

Lisa Phelps

Thank you so much for your prayers, kind words, cards, messages, love, and support during the illness and homegoing of my Mom. Thanks also to those who made contributions to various funds in Mom's memory. You are a great group of caring people and I'm glad to be a part of this family of believers.

Laura Brock

I would like to thank everyone for their prayers, well wishes, and cards. Mom and I are healing but it will take time.

Vicki Sanders

Thank you to everyone who sent cards and said prayers for me while I have been recovering from surgery. Also, thank you for all the prayers for my brother, Tommy Rabon, while he has been sick. I appreciate all the thoughtfulness and prayers.

Sandy Corley

Condolences

We extend our love and sympathy to Laura and John Brock on the death of Laura's mother, Dott Abernethy. Ms. Abernethy died Friday, August 4, 2023. Please remember Laura's family in prayer.

We extend our prayers, love, and sympathy to the family of Louise Cornelison, wife of John Cornelison, and mother of Lisa Earnhardt. Louise died Saturday, August 5, 2023. A graveside service was held on August 8, 2023, at Westlawn Cemetery in China Grove.

We extend our love and sympathy to Susan Ryman and family on the death of Susan's sister, Beth Kalbfus. Mrs. Kalbfus died on Tuesday, August 22, 2023. Please keep Susan and her family in your prayers.



Baptisms

We are happy to welcome into the St. Paul's Church family Lorelei Marie Funderburk, by the sacrament of Holy Baptism on August 20, 2023. Lorelei is the daughter of Grace Funderburk. Grandparents are Katie and Dan Funderburk. Great-grandparents are Mary Lee and Jimmy Earnhardt.

We are happy to welcome into the St. Paul's Church family Oliver Herbert Newsome and Otto William Newsome by the sacrament of Holy Baptism on August 27, 2023. Oliver and Otto are the sons of Cindy and Spencer Newsome, and the grandsons of Gay Newsome.

Memorial Gifts

Gifts were received in memory of Brenda Thomason for the Capital Building Fund from
Tim and Karen Deal
Grady and Jenny Earnhardt
D.W. and Judi Honbarger
Terri and Alan Powlas

A gift was received in memory of Brenda Thomason for the Choir Fund from
Myra Jane and Terry Eller

A gift was received in memory of Brenda Thomason for the General Fund from
Shirlene Potts, and son Brian

A gift was received in memory of Frankie Raymer for the General Fund from
Franda Raymer

A gift was received in memory of Harriet Gordon Goad for the Capital Building Fund from
Terri and Alan Powlas

A gift was received in memory of Linda Lyerly for the General Fund from
Shirlene Potts and son, Brian

A gift was received in memory of Linda Lyerly for the Capital Building Fund from
Friendship Club

A gift was received in memory of Jim Bass for the Choir Fund from

Myra Jane and Terry Eller

A gift was received in memory of Jim Bass for the Capital Building Fund from
Friendship Club

A gift was received in memory of Peggy Deal Hall for the Capital Building Fund from
Helen Gordon

Gifts were received in memory of Dott Abernethy for the Capital Building Fund from
Perry and Lori Bernhardt
Dana and Crystal Bost
Alice Davis
Karen and Tim Deal
Jenny and Grady Earnhardt
Friendship Club
Helen Gordon
Bonnie and Wayne Hinson
Judi and D.W. Honbarger

A gift was received in memory of Dott Abernethy for the Choir Fund from
Myra Jane and Terry Eller

A gift was received in memory of Dott Abernethy for the Helping Hands Fund from
Dot and Harold Goodman

A gift was received in memory
of Dott Abernethy for the
Improvement Fund from
Ben and Susan Bernhardt

Gifts were received in memory
of Louise Cornelison for the
Capital Building Fund from
Crystal and Dana Bost
Jenny and Grady Earnhardt
Friendship Club
Bonnie and Wayne Hinson
Judi and D.W. Honbarger
Sunday School Class #5

A gift was received in memory
of Louise Cornelison for the
Improvement Fund from
Susan and Ben Bernhardt

Gifts were recieved in memory
of Beth Kalbfus for the Capital
Building Fund from
Crystal and Dana Bost
Alice Davis
Helen Gordon
Judi and D.W. Honbarger
Terri and Alan Powlas

A gift was received in memory
of Beth Kalbfus for the General
Fund from
Susan and Ben Bernhardt

A gift was received in memory
of Beth Kalbfus for the Carillon
Fund from
Karen and Tim Deal

To Honor

An anonymous gift was given
in honor of Paul Canup for the
Improvement Fund.

A gift was received in honor of
Ben and Susan Bernhardt for
the Helping Hands Fund from
Tony Heilig

A gift was received in honor
of the baptism of Lorelei
Funderburk for the Carillon
Fund from
Tim and Karen Deal

A gift was received in honor
of the baptism of Lorelei
Funderburk for the Capital
Building Fund from
Grady and Jenny Earnhardt

A gift was received in honor
of the baptisms of Oliver
Newsome and Otto Newsome
for the Carillon Fund from
Tim and Karen Deal

A gift was received in honor
of the baptisms of Oliver
Newsome and Otto Newsome
for the Capital Building Fund
from
Grady and Jenny Earnhardt



St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC)

OUR MISSION

A family of faith sharing the gospel and love of Christ

Phone: 704-633-0922

Email: secretary@stpaulslutheran.church

Website: StPaulsLutheran.Church

Facebook: www.facebook.com/StPaulsLCMC

OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Thursday 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Friday 8:30 a.m. – 12 Noon

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St. Paul's newsletter, the "Monthly Epistle," is intended to keep everyone informed about happenings within the congregation that effect and contribute to our ministry together. In order to maximize reach and minimize cost, the preferred methods of distribution are by email, and posting on our St. Paul's website (www.StPaulsLutheran.Church). All members are encouraged to use the newsletter as a resource to help you consider how God is calling you to be involved in the life of his church. If you are unable to access the newsletter online, or would just like to have a printed copy to refer to, the most cost-effective way to receive it is to pick up a copy from the narthex or church office. We mail copies to those members whom we know don't have online access, are shut-in, or live out of town. If you want to be added to our mailing or email list, please contact the church office.