

St. Paul Epistle



St. Paul Lutheran Church Our Vision:

We are broken and blessed followers of Christ,
providing a home for all who wander the weary road.

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2025 Jackson St.

Dubuque IA 52001

Office Hours: M-F, 9:30am - 1:30pm



stpauldbq.com

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Weekly Services:

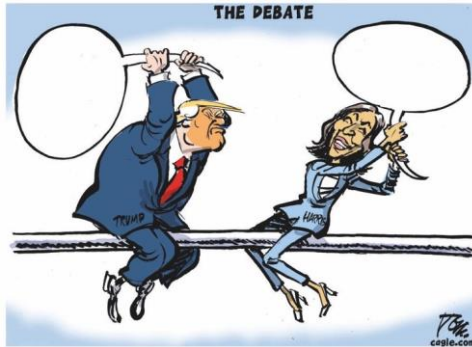
Saturday Worship: 5:30pm - Sunday Worship: 9:00am

Sunday School 10:30am - Bible Class 10:30am

DATES TO REMEMBER IN OCTOBER 2024

Oct 1	Cover Girls 9am - 11am
Oct 1	Grief Share Support Group 6pm - 8pm
Oct 2	Financial Peace University 5:45pm
Oct 3	Ruth Circle 10am
Oct 3	Confirmation (Year 3 & 4) 4pm - 5:30pm
Oct 5 & 6	LWML Weekend
Oct 8	Grief Share Support Group 6pm - 8pm
Oct 9	Confirmation (Year 1 & 2) 4pm - 5:30pm
Oct 9	Financial Peace University 5:45pm
Oct 10	Brown Bag Bible Study 12pm - 1:30pm
Oct 10	Confirmation (Year 3 & 4) 4pm - 5:30pm
Oct 14	Mission Circle Meeting 6pm
Oct 15	Grief Share Support Group 6pm - 8pm
Oct 16	Confirmation (Year 1 & 2) 4pm - 5:30pm
Oct 17	Confirmation (Year 3 & 4) 4pm - 5:30pm
Oct 22	Grief Share Support Group 6pm - 8pm
Oct 23	Confirmation (Year 1 & 2) 4pm - 5:30pm
Oct 23	Financial Peace University 5:45pm
Oct 24	Brown Bag Bible Study 12pm - 1:30pm
Oct 24	Confirmation (Year 3 & 4) 4pm - 5:30pm
Oct 28	Golden Age Euchre Club 1pm
Oct 29	Confirmation (Year 3 & 4) 4pm - 5:30pm
Oct 29	Grief Share Support Group 6pm - 8pm
Oct 30	Confirmation (Year 1 & 2) 4pm - 5:30pm
Oct 30	Financial Peace University 5:45pm

VOTE! (And Repent)



TOM JANSSEN / caglecartoons.com, the Netherlands

I decided to re-publish an article I wrote back in 2016. I edited it for this year's election but, remarkably, not much needed to be changed.

Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world." -John 18:36

"Whether or not the North American church and her people are ready to admit it, we are unquestionably in a season when what is expected of a "good American" cannot be reconciled with what is expected of a faithful follower of Christ. To be a good Christian inevitably makes one a bad American." - Rev. Dr. Joel Biermann, Professor of Systematic Theology, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, *Wholly Citizens* (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2017), 178.

If you will be 18 or older by November 8, you will sin this month (and I will too). Before you start writing me an angry letter, please read the whole article! How can I possibly know for sure whether you will sin? Because on Election Day, there is no choice you can make that will not involve sin.

The first decision you will have to make is *whether* you will vote. Voting is a right to be exercised, not an obligation. You may choose not to vote. But remember, the right to vote is one that God has given you by the governing authorities whose power comes from God (see Romans 13). So much is at stake in this election: the lives of the unborn, the institution of marriage, the free exercise of Christian faith in society, how we treat immigrants, how we go about healing a racial divide, and more. By not voting, you are being silent rather than advocating for devout rulers and good government (see Small Catechism, Lord's Prayer, Fourth Petition). By choosing to abstain from voting, you will be sinning, although you may determine that the sin of being silent has fewer consequences than actually voting!

If you decide to vote, you will also sin. No matter who you vote for, Democrat, Republican, Independent, or write-in, you will endorse a flawed human being who will make mistakes and lead our nation imperfectly. The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod has never endorsed any political party or candidate, and as Christ’s under-shepherd, neither do I but I will use names just to be clear about a few things.

You may find Donald Trump hard to stomach and so you may decide to vote for Kamala Harris. Keep in mind that she very clearly advocates for abortion rights. She talks about it as “a woman’s right to choose what happens to her own body.” To be fair, I think Christians should be the first to stand up for the rights of women. Jesus held women in high regard even when it did not align with first century Jewish norms. However, in this issue, we need to also acknowledge that when a woman is pregnant, we are not just talking about “her body.” There is another “body” inside her, which God has fearfully and wonderfully made in his image. That person is a neighbor who needs our care as much as the mother does – and yes, the mother’s life absolutely does matter, and I contend that exceptions *should* be allowed in those tragic situations where a choice must be made between saving the mother or her unborn child. I would add that the right to life is not just a belief for Christians to hold privately. If God alone is the author of every life, then abortion should be regarded with the same seriousness as any other murder (see Psalm 139:13-16). There are many other points on Vice President Harris’ platform that Christians may raise legitimate concerns over but I’m going to limit my comments to this one, since life is arguably the point that Scripture speaks to most clearly. By voting for Harris, you would be endorsing her entire platform, whether you personally agree with her or not.

On the other hand, maybe you think Donald Trump is the obvious choice for faithful Christians. After all, of the two, he is the candidate who claims to represent Evangelical Christians. Even if we believe that he was innocent of fomenting the insurrectionist events of Jan. 6, 2021, and even if we believe that his felony conviction was unjustly rigged, we still have to come to terms with the things that are indisputable. No matter how hard certain conservatives try to defend his words and actions, it is clear that the man is not a role model we would want our children to emulate. He is volatile and rude. He has made disgusting remarks about women. His words and some of his policies can certainly be construed as racist. Some leaders in the pro-life movement (e.g., Lila Rose) suggest that his pro-life stance only goes as far as it is to his political advantage. And while “America First” may make for good economic policy, it cuts against the grain of so much of Jesus’ teaching and life (think of the parable of the Good Samaritan, or the fact that he is the kind of Messiah who laid down his life for sinners rather than acting in the national interest of the Jewish people). What I’m saying is Trump should not by any means be the “clear choice” for Christians.



So, being disgusted with these options, you may decide to vote for a third party or write-in candidate. At least then your conscience will be clear! Or...maybe not. There is something to be said for the argument that voting "on principle" for a third party candidate will only take votes away from one of the two major parties. In some ways, voting third party *can* be an exercise in self-righteousness. Rather than making a difficult decision

between two seemingly incompetent candidates, you choose someone else just to ease your conscience. In the end though, one of the two major candidates will more than likely take the election.

So what should you do? Consider all the issues. Pray for wisdom. Use your conscience to make what you believe to be the best decision. Don't sweat it. Vote (or don't) and then repent! Ask God to forgive you for endorsing a sinful candidate for President (or for being silent). Thank Him that in Christ, you are forgiven! Let the love and forgiveness of Christ also influence the way you treat your fellow believer who may not have voted the same way you did. We will also celebrate the Feast of Christ the King in November; a fitting reminder that at the end of the age, only One will be acknowledged "*King of kings and Lord of lords*" (Revelation 19:16).

See you in Church,

Pastor Jon





WITNESS

WOMEN OF ST. PAUL

The Mission Circle will be having our monthly meeting on **Monday, October 14th at 6pm**. All women of St. Paul are welcome. Hope to see you then.

Turkey Day Update: Turkey Day is Saturday, November 2nd. We will be having our famous turkey and dressing sandwiches, bake sale and rummage sale. You can bring down your rummage items anytime and stack them neatly in the old kitchen. **NO ELECTRONICS, SUMMER CLOTHES OR SUMMER SHOES!** We will take fall and winter clothing, household items, shoes, books, home decor and Christmas items. We encourage you to bring your items down Before October 30th as we get very busy setting up after that. Thank you all for your donations, they are greatly appreciated.



MERCY



The Salvation Army - For the month of **October** we are collecting the following items for the Food Pantry:

Hot Chocolate
Canned Fruit

Soup
Shampoo

Coffee
Jelly

Paper Towels
Salt & Pepper



LIFE TOGETHER

UPCOMING BIBLE STUDY TOPICS

- **Lutheranism 101** - Saturdays 3pm - 4:30pm This is open to everyone. A great way to get a refresher on the core teachings of the faith.
- **Sunday Adult Class** - Exploring Lutheran Worship

- **Brown Bag Bible Study** – Brown Bag Bible Study will be October 10th and October 24th at 12:00pm bring a lunch. Coffee and dessert provided.

PRAYER CHAIN: Need “Links” for prayer chain – simple as phoning a friend to continue prayers. Please call 563-588-1076 ASAP! God Bless!
Karen Paar

PASTOR’S SCHEDULE FOR SEPTEMBER

Please Note: Pastor’s day off will be **Fridays**
 Oct 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th

Pastor will be out of the Office on **October 7th & 8th**

OFFICIAL ACTS – September 2024

Baptisms: None	Junior Confirmation: None
Adult Confirmation: None	Weddings:
Transfer In: None	Transferred Out: None
Funeral/Memorial: None	



ALTAR FLOWERS UPDATE: The 2024 Flower chart is now full. Thanks to everyone who had/has flowers on the altar. The new flower chart will be out soon. Cost remains at \$30 with payment made to St Paul and ear-marked "flowers" at the time of sign up. Put the payment in envelopes provided with necessary information filled in, and place in the offering plate. Please check if you will take after Sunday service or leave for shut ins. We continue to ask you to return the glass bowls for reuse. Questions-Charlotte Tigges 563 599 2745



ALTAR GUILD! There is currently a great need for altar guild helpers. If you are willing to help clean the communion vessels after services or polish metalware twice a year, please call the church office or send an email to the church secretary.

NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER info is due by **FRIDAY OCTOBER 18TH**

RUTH CIRCLE: We want to remind all our church members of the greeting cards we have for sale. The proceeds from the card sales go to cleaning the Pastor’s vestments and purchasing the altar linen. We have the following boxes of cards available: Graduation, Confirmation, Birthday, Anniversary, Thinking of You, Get Well, Sympathy, Wedding, and Christmas. The next meeting will be Thursday, September 5th at 10:00am.

BOARD OF MISSION & MINISTRY

Good Neighbor Fund: Please feel free to designate an offering to the Good Neighbor Fund to help meet the needs of our church family and neighbors in their time of challenge.

Financial Peace University: First Session began Wednesday, September 18th at 5:45pm; registration online for non-church members is already open. If you are a church member and would like to register contact Misty Lutz for materials prior to the first class. Cost is \$110 per book and includes book, classes, online videos and budget calculator.

Grief Share Support Group: This 13-week grief support group program focuses on important grief topics associated with the death of a loved one. The weekly videos feature nationally respected grief experts and real-life stories of people, and the video is followed by a small group discussion about what is viewed. Whether your bereavement experience is recent or not so recent, you will find encouragement, comfort, and the sure hope of the Gospel in grieving the death of a spouse, child, parent, sibling, other family member, or friend. Grief Share will be held **September 10, 2024 - December 3 at St. Paul's Lutheran Church** from: **6pm to 8pm**. Cost **\$10 per participant**. Child Care: **No**. Any questions contact: **Ruth Barz 563-500-7893**. To register, go to: **griefshare.org/findagroup** and search for St. Paul Lutheran group.

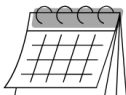
Notes + News from the **Board of Christian Education**

Sunday School

Sundays | 10:30-11:30 am | age 3-8th grade



If you are interested in being on a **sub list**, please contact Katy Crawford!



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

- **Intergenerational Advent Event**
November 23, 2024 at 9:30 am
- **St. Paul Family Christmas Celebration Rehearsal** | Saturday, December 7 at 9:30 am
- **St. Paul Family Christmas Celebration** | Saturday, December 14 at 5:30 pm (hearty hors d'œuvres to follow)



If you have any questions or would like to be involved with the board of Christian education, connect with Katy Crawford (katy.munson@gmail.com, 815.876.6426) or Kendra Lafrenz (kendrag897@gmail.com)!



OCTOBER

Anniversaries

2-Joe & Tammy Henry 9-Eric & Diane Schultz
 12-Brandon & Trista Zasada 22-Ray & Wendy Schickel
 24-Kip & Tamra Weland



october

BAPTISMS

1-Tatum Worden	2-Ray Schickel	3-Barb Waugh
3-Ryan Weber	4-Dennis Fry	4-Lisa Miller
5-Colt Key	5-Gage Mitchell	5-Dennis Waugh
8-Sandi Heller	9-Janet Smith	10-Joe Henry
10-Natasha Pergande	12-Teona Bailey	12-Na'zayhia Franklin
13-Jim Crowe	16-Charlotte Kelley	16-William Kelley
20-Dixie Hassler	21-Tammy Henry	21-Teri Riechmann
21-Charlotte Tigges	22-Elaine Rohde	25-Annabelle Schaal
28-Sara Hirs	29-Cindy Hass	29-Josie Wilant
29-Jeff Zasada	30-Arlene Elliott	30-Toni Thumser



OCTOBER

Birthdays

1-Greg Kittle	1-Charlotte Tigges	3-Kayla Budewitz
3-Cael Jorgensen	4-Kaitlyn Miller	5-Teri Riechmann
6-Gage Mitchell	7-Bryn Kelly	7-Josie Wilant
8-Danny Thumser	9-Tammy Henry	10-Lydia Weland
12-Elaine Rohde	13-Ron Cathey	13-Damaris Eichman
22-Alex Calonder	23-Jon Lutz	25-Annette Purnhage
27-Natalie Fox	28-Jon Barz	28-Sebastian Fox
28-Erin Hassler		

WE REMEMBER THOSE WHO HAVE DIED IN OCTOBER

Sandy Ranson

PRAYER LIST FOR OCTOBER 2024

Mindful of the Father's great mercy shown to us in Jesus, we pray on behalf of those who are in need.

For those undergoing cancer treatment:

Roger Riechmann (father of Teri Riechmann & Sheila Zasada)
Jayme Niemeier (nephew of Dave & Sue Krause)
Raymond Kruser (brother-in-law of Dave & Sue Krause)
Zeke Pergande (son of Dan & Doris Pergande)
Martha (godmother of Will Wehrspann)
Mark Geothschius (brother of A.J. Osterkamp)
Toni Jo Stelpflug (niece of Doris Pergande)
Tiffany Crowe (daughter of Jim & Marion Crowe)
Brittni Strege (niece to Richard & Kim Weed)
Rhonda Kittle (sister-in-law to Greg Kittle)
Matthew Kittle (brother of Greg Kittle)
Jerry (family friend of Richard & Kim Weed)
Rocco DiMaggio (relative of Pastor Crawford)
Kenny Stelpflug (brother of Doris Pergande)
Annie Horn (mother of Nick Horn)
Dan Pergande, Debra Spear, Richard Weed

For our members who are homebound:

Laverne Ball (Ennoble Manor), Nancy Clark, Jean Henningsen (Sunnycrest Manor), Doris Pergande, Anne Prisk (Care Initiatives), Dusty Colby, Judy Pergande, Jayson Eichman (Care Initiatives), Jan Anderson

Additional Prayer Requests

- Lori Ollendick (daughter of Charlotte Tigges)
- The Walker family
- Donetta Spohr
- Diane Schultz

**Note: The "additional" section of the prayer list will be cleared at the beginning of each month. If you would like a name to remain on the list into the next month, please contact the church office and we would be happy to continue praying for your intention.*

WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR OCTOBER 2024

	Sat, Oct 5, 5:30pm	Sun, Oct 6, 9:00am
Head Usher:	Dennis Fry	Mark Litka
Altar Guild:	Kristie Fry	N/A
Organist:	Dr. David Pitt	Dr. David Pitt
	Sat, Oct 12, 5:30pm	Sun, Oct 13, 9:00am
Head Usher:	Dave Kelley	Adam Hill
Altar Guild:	N/A	N/A
Organist:	Dr. David Pitt	Dr. David Pitt
	Sat, Oct 19, 5:30pm	Sun, Oct 20, 9:00am
Head Usher:	Jon Barz	Greg Kittle
Altar Guild:	N/A	N/A
Organist:	Dr. David Pitt	Dr. David Pitt
	Sat, Oct 26, 5:30pm	Sun Oct 27, 9:00am
Head Usher:	Dennis Fry	Jon Lutz
Altar Guild:	N/A	A.J. & Angela Osterkamp
Organist:	Dr. David Pitt	Dr. David Pitt