St. Paul Lutheran Church and School

The Masthead

A Monthly News Edition

"Equip, Support, Serve, Witness Where God Calls Us!"

August 2022





Rev. Jakob Andrzejewski

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AUGUST SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

School Registration Drop-in

Aug 22	School Registration Drop-in
Aug 21	Commissioning of Staff- School & Sunday School Installation of Principal and Vicar
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Aug 19

Aug 28 Youth/Parent Confirmation Orientation

Aug 29 First Day of School



When God Feels Distant

It's hard to balance the two. The omniscient, omnipresent, omnipotent Lord of lords and King of Kings who with just a breath of his mouth spoke existence into existence... with Jesus, the Godman who needed to breathe to live, food to survive, water to be nourished, and sleep to be rested. It's hard. My advice? Try not to balance the two realities: you won't understand it. And so we are called to trust. "Trust in the Lord with all your heart," Proverbs 3 writes. "Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord," sings Jeremiah. "Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me," Jesus admonishes in John 14. And so we trust... to a point.

I love teaching confirmation classes. I learn so much about theology in a sitting of a few 13-year-olds asking questions that even the most seasoned theologian would have a hard time answering. And among the many topics we talk about, prayer seems to be one of the hardest to grasp. And while I can take the next 30 pages talking about prayer, I want to address just one very hard aspect of it: when God answers your prayer with a "no." You see, the Lord will answer your prayers in three ways: yes, no, or not right now. And, undoubtedly, no one likes hearing the word "no." But when it comes from God, for some reason we think his "no's" are likened to hate or ignorance or just uncaring. His "no's" hurt more than anyone else's, that I won't debate here. But being the God that he is, I also believe that his "no's" are more gracious and caring that everyone else's "yes" here. Because even those, as hurtful as they might feel on this side of heaven, are in our best interests. Especially when we can't see that or understand that. And that's when the biblical admonishment to trust in the Lord becomes real. Too real.

God wishes no evil on anyone. And his every action is made from a place of love that none of us has the capacity to measure. 1 Timothy 3 says that God desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For he does not desire the death of the sinner, but that all should be saved (Ezekiel 18). He will give you only those things that should draw you closer to him – yes, even when you experience the worst that this world has to offer. And this is when prayer is our best friend: when we draw close to God and God to us no matter the hour, the day, or the year. For any desire to be listened to by God, you will find a hearty "yes" from the ears of the Lord.

It's easy to think that prayers go unanswered. Impossible: "He knows what you need before you ask Him," (Matthew 6:8). It's easy to think that his "no's" means he doesn't care: impossible! "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope," (Jer. 29:11). So whether it be a yes, no, or not right now, God's only interests are in you. A prayer you'll always find answered.

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MINISTRY



SPOTLIGHT ON STEWARDSHIP—

New Testament Standard Giving

Whenever the topic of stewardship and giving comes up, the conversation inevitably turns to the question: "How much should I give?" Answers will vary because the motive behind such questions vary also.

Sometimes the motive behind asking this question is for self-justification. Even though as Lutherans, we know that we are not saved by our works but by grace through faith because of Jesus' substitutionary atonement. Yet the natural religion of fallen man is to earn God's favor by what we do.

Take for example the response of our Lord to the rich young ruler who asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus first tells him to keep the commandments. The rich young ruler responds by indicating that all this he has kept from his youth. But Jesus tells him that he lacks one thing: He must sell all that he has and give it to the poor and then follow him. This rich, young ruler went away sad because he was quite wealthy and could not part with his possessions.

Here we see that those who seek to justify themselves by their giving will hear a response that intensifies the duty that God places upon them. Indeed, they will hear a response that makes it impossible to win God's favor by their works.

But to those who genuinely desire to know what their duty is, as Christians, in the arena of giving, we look to the Bible for our answer. We believe that the Bible is the Word of God. And we know that the Word of God has been "breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work" (2 Tim. 3:16–17).

So, we begin to answer the question, "What should I give?" with the question, "What does the Bible say about how much we should give and to whom?"

The Old Testament is explicit. The expectation is that the people of God would give a tithe, that is 10 percent, of the first fruits of their labor to support the full-time ministry of the Levites. This is what the Lord gave Moses to teach the people:

"You shall tithe all the yield of your seed that comes from the field year by year. And before the Lord your God, in the place that he will choose, to make his name dwell there, you shall eat the tithe of your grain, of your wine, and of your oil, and the firstborn of your herd and flock, that you may learn to fear the Lord your God always. And if the way is too long for you, so that you are not able to carry the tithe, when the Lord your God blesses you, because the place is too far from you, which the Lord your God chooses, to set his name there, then you shall turn it into money and bind up the money in your hand and go to the place that the Lord your God chooses and spend the money for whatever you desire—oxen or sheep or wine or strong drink, whatever your appetite craves. And you shall eat there before the Lord your God and rejoice, you and your household. And you shall not neglect the Levite who is within your towns, for he has no portion or inheritance with you.

"At the end of every three years you shall bring out all the tithe of your produce in the same year and lay it up within your towns. And the Levite, because he has no portion or inheritance with you, and the sojourner, the fatherless, and the widow, who are within your towns, shall come and eat and be filled, that the Lord your God may bless you in all the work of your hands that you do." (Deuteronomy 14:22–29)

This principle of tithing is carried over into the New Testament, though not explicitly by calling it a tithe. St. Paul teaches the Church at Corinth this: We are to give to the church regularly (1 Cor. 16:1–2), proportionally (1 Cor. 16:1–2; 2 Cor. 8:12), and generously (2 Cor. 8:20) of our first fruits (1 Cor. 16:1–2; Gen. 4:4; Prov. 3:9; Lev. 27:30) with a spirit of eagerness (2 Cor. 9:2), earnestness (2 Cor. 8:7), cheerfulness (2 Cor. 9:7), and love (2 Cor. 8:23). And all of this is because the "Lord has ordained that those who preach the Gospel should make their living by the Gospel" (1 Cor. 9:14), just as the Levites did.

This our New Testament standard. Since Christ became poor for us in order to make us rich in Him – blessing us with the riches of heaven – so we also have been so blessed to follow the example of our Lord and Savior and give of ourselves and the work of our hands to bless others with the same.

If we have been lax in this, let us – like our Lord, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross and scorned its shame – likewise begin to work toward this goal of regular giving of a generous proportion of the first fruits of God's giving to us. And let us do so not begrudgingly, but for the joy set before us—with a spirit of eagerness, cheerfulness, and love—to share the blessings of God with those placed into our care.

- LCMS Stewardship Ministry: lcms.org/stewardship

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MINISTRY

UPCOMING EVENTS & PROGRAMS

AUGUST 'Operation Christmas Child' Collection

We are collecting a different item each month needed for the shoebox Christmas gifts distributed to children around the world through the organization, Samaritan Purse. Items are collected through October then we pack and mail. This month **Toothbrushes** are now accepted. These items may be placed in the wood box located in the coatroom in the lobby. You may also wrap shoeboxes in Christmas paper and drop off. Please wrap lid separate from box bottom. Thank you.

Wednesday Morning Bible Class Begins on Wednesday, September 7 at 10:00 a.m. Join us in the lounge with Pastor Andrzejewski for this weekly mid-week study on various topics from the Bible throughout the year. For questions contact the church office.

Commissioning of our Staff for School and Sunday School to be on held Sunday August 21 at 9:30 a.m. service. And the installation of our Vicar Zachary Staehr



Youth Confirmation Classes are available for all 7th and 8th grade students during the 2022-2023 academic year. Students will have the opportunity to be confirmed in May 2023 through these classes. First class will start Sunday, Sep-

tember 11. These are taught during Sunday mornings from 9:45am-10:45am by Pastor and Mr. Craig Rinkus. An informational meeting for all interested <u>parents</u> will be held on **Sunday**, **August 28** following the service, about 10:30ish in the lounge, led by Pastor Andrzejewski. If you would like your child to be confirmed in the church, please contact the church office, 248-541-0613.

LUTHERAN ADULT GATHERING You are invited to be renewed, encouraged, and equipped at the **LUTHERAN** ADULT GATHERING on Mackinac Island, October 14–16, 2022, at the beautiful Grand Hotel. Since 1981, the Lutheran Adult Gathering has brought together believers in this spectacular setting to be spiritually strengthened for service to Christ in this world. The theme for the 2022 Lutheran Adult Gathering is "In His Presence: Throughout All Generations," based on Psalm 90:1: "Lord, You have been our dwelling place throughout all generations." Each generation is loved by God and called by God to love Him and love others. Nationally renowned speakers will inspire and encourage us to connect with the next generation of believers with the hope-filled and unchanging message of the Gospel. Registration is now open online at michigandistrict.org/lag22. Deadline to register August 15, 2022

Women's Monday Morning Bible Study — We will begin a study of the Letter to the Hebrews on September 12 from 9:00-10:30AM. We are again using the CPH Life-Light materials, which provide for individual preparation and group discussion. If you have any questions or would like to order a book, contact Janet Dunker at 248-459-9156.



LABOR DAY WEEKEND September 2—September 5, 2022

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

We will be looking for your help to volunteer with this year's Arts, Beats & Eats. Some recycling, work our Drink Booth and Parking attendants are needed. We appreciate everyone's help in the past and look forward to working with you this year.

Help us on **September 2nd throughSeptember 5th.** Watch for a sign-up coming soon in the lobby. This is a great fund-raiser for our church and many people are needed to help with this program. Please consider helping a few hours.

The festival offers various performances on different stages, a highly ranked Juried Fine Arts Show, and local restaurants with some of the finest cuisine. Please contact Tony or Jeanne Valdes at 248-505-0925 for event help.

St. Paul Parking For Arts, Beats & Eats—2022 If you have questions or wish to schedule your parking shift time, contact Steve Carpenter at scarpenter@stpaulroyal.org.

Arts, Eats and Beats EVENT HOURS

Fri Sept 2 11a - 11p Sat Sept 3 11a - 11p Sun Sept 4 11a - 11p Mon Sept 5 11a - 9:00p

ONE WORSHIP 9:30 A.M. September 4, 2021 No Bible Class

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Camp Arcadia Men's Retreat

MEN OF St. Paul! Since 1946, laymen of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod have gathered annually at Camp Arcadia for fellowship, recreation, relaxation, and most importantly praising God and growing their faith. Whether you are a first timer or returning, you are invited to this multigenerational retreat. Special contributions as well as Sunday's worship offering will be sent to Lutheran Hour Ministries. 'Moving from Dissatisfaction to Holy **Discontent'** This year's theme. We're all aware the world is changing rapidly. Once shared cultural values seem to have evaporated. Churches are shrinking and dying. Young people are walking away from the faith at alarming rates. No one is happy about this. We're dissatisfied. But, what if we changed that dissatisfaction with "the way things are" to a holy discontent for what God could do? During our time together we'll explore practical ways we can move from a posture of dissatisfaction to a heart on fire with holy discontent. This years Guest Speakers: **Rev. Gabe Kasper** is Lead Pastor of University Lutheran Chapel in Ann Arbor, MI. and Rev. Dr. Robert **Kasper** is the Assistant to the President of the Michigan District, LCMS, in Congregation Ministries & Ministry Support. Activities begin at check-in Thursday night with a Welcome reception and continue through the weekend including a golf game on Friday and the annual Softball game on Saturday. For more information on the weekend contact Camp Arcadia @ 231-889-4361 or go online to camp-arcadia.com or watch the news & notes and upcoming mastheads for further information. Date of weekend retreat: September 8—11, 2022.

Our House, His Throne

Consider Alternate Forms of Giving

Thank you again to the many members and friends of St. Paul that made generous pledges to support our capital campaign. We continue to receive pledges and contributions and now have over \$520,000 in pledges.

In addition to pledges of cash contributions, some members are also pledging and donating through alternate means. For example, we have received stock that can be sold to support the campaign. Another member has created an estate plan with a bequest that will benefit our campaign in the future when their estate is settled.

If you would like to give a gift to St. Paul and our capital campaign after you are called home to Heaven, there are many ways to accomplish that. If you have non-cash assets like retirement accounts, stock, your home, land, or life insurance, consider a gift plan structured to direct how you'll leave a portion of those assets to benefit St. Paul Lutheran Church and School.

Many people don't think they have the wealth to leave a significant bequest to their church or other ministry, but gift plans can work for almost anyone and even the smallest gift can make an impact. Other people feel they need to wait until they are closer to retirement age to plan their estate but planning early has its advantages.

If you would like to learn more about alternate giving or see if it makes sense for you, please contact anyone on the OHHT Executive Committee or Julie Burgess at (713) 822-5284. Julie is the Gift Planning Counselor in Michigan representing Michigan Church Extension Fund and the LCMS Foundation. Her planned giving services are free to members of St. Paul and all Lutheran congregations

If you have not yet made a pledge to the Our House His Throne campaign, please consider doing so now. Your support will allow St. Paul to make many improvements and upgrades that are needed to ensure that we are able to "Equip, Support, Serve, Witness Where God Calls Us", for generations to come.

Please continue to pray for the *Our House, His Throne* campaign, and the ministry of St. Paul.

In Christ, The *Our House, His Throne* Executive Committee

Pastor Jakob Andrzejewski Darren Sipila Steve Baker Ken Ruszkowski Art Steiber



Monthly Bible Readings

LCMS 3 Year Series C



Date	Festival	Old Testament	Psalm	Epistle	Gospel
Aug. 7 (Prop. 14)	Ninth S. a. Pentecost	Gen. 15:1–6	Psalm 33:12–22	Heb. 11:1–16	Luke 12:22–34 (35–40)
Aug. 14 (Prop. 15)	Tenth S. a. Pentecost	Jer. 23:16–29	Psalm 119:81–88	Heb. 11:17–31 (32–40); 12:1–3	Luke 12:49–53 (54– 56)
Aug. 21 (Prop. 16)	Eleventh S. a. Pentecost	ls. 66:18–23	Psalm 50:1–15	Heb. 12:4–24 (25– 29)	Luke 13:22–30
Aug. 28 (Prop. 17)	Twelfth S. a. Pentecost	Prov. 25:2–10	Psalm 131	Heb. 13:1–17	Luke 14:1–14

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SCHOOL MINISTRY



St. Paul Lutheran School

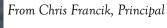
100+ Years of God's Grace

Our Mission

"Equip, Support, Serve, Witness Where God Calls Us!"

Our Statement of Purpose

St. Paul Lutheran School equips children for a life of service with a foundation of academic, physical, spiritual, and social maturity centered around Christ Jesus.



TRANSTIONS

Transitions can be challenging. They are times of excitement and growth, yet I often feel unsettled as my life changes. Throughout the Bible, transitions occurred numerous times. The Israelites experienced significant transitions when Moses died, and Joshua

was granted leadership of the nation by God while a similar transition occurred from David to Solomon.

I am thankful for Mrs. McClatchey's and Mr. Pittman's leadership of St. Paul last year. These two previous St. Paul principals have made my transition as principal exceedingly smooth. Their graciousness to me and willingness to answer my multitude of questions is a blessing from God.

As we transition to the end of summer and into a new school year at the end of August, I am thrilled to meet each child and their parents at St. Paul Lutheran School. The teachers and I will continue our preparations in earnest beginning Monday, August 15. God has already blessed me with the opportunity to meet and talk with many of the leaders within St. Paul Lutheran Church and School. I look forward to many years of partnership with Pastor Andrzejewski and the rest of the St. Paul's leadership.

As I, along with my wife, Sue, and my sons, Ben and Sam, acclimate to life in southeast Michigan, I am thankful for this year's school theme, Matthew 28:19-20. Jesus' words energize and comfort me for the school year ahead. "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."



MEET THE PRINCIPAL

Opening school chapel will begin at 8:45 a.m. on August 29 and will end approximately 9:15 a.m. The kids will resume back to their classrooms. Parents, Got Questions? Come and meet our principal, Mr. Chris Francik following the service in the church lounge. Refreshments served.

CALENDAR August/September

Registration Days/Classroom Drop-in's Friday, August 19 (6-8:00 p.m.) Monday, August 22 (9:00 a.m.-Noon) Registration Fees (non refundable):

K-6 \$350 and Pk \$130

First Day of School (School Dismissed at Noon) Tuesday, August 29 Opening Service at 8:45 a.m. Meet and Greet the Principal after the service

Labor Day Weekend (No School) Friday, September 2- Monday, September 5

PTL Back to School Night Tuesday, September 13 at 6:30 p.m.

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Church NOTES

DIRECTORY

Pastor Jakob Andrzejewski (cell) 734-644-0059 reviski@stpaulroyaloak.org

Church Office 248-541-0613

School Office 248-546-6555

Church Fax 248-541-6965

School Fax 248-546-8096

Church E-Mail: prodway@ stpaulroyaloak.org

School E-Mail: slutheranscho113880@ comcast.net

Facebook: facebook.com/stpaulroyaloak

Web: www.stpaulroyaloak.org

PRAYERS

Church Boards
Board of Education

Board of Elders

Board of Evangelism

Fund Operating Music Ministry

Board of Stewardship

Board of Trustees Women's Guild Board of Youth

Communications & Technology

Prayers for our Homebound

Bill Fortner
Marion Havrilla
Leona Jackson
Margaret Kuhlmann
Donna McMinn
Art Peludat
Irma Pope
Charlette/Ralph Schroeder
Jeanette Till
Kathleen Ulrich
Don Whitbeck

Prayer for our MissionaryRev. Garv & Stephanie Schulte

Prayers for Military

Eric Banker
Mark Bowdich
Paul Bowdich
Sam Eskew
Ryan Espinoza
Trevor Guilmette
Brandon Newton
Brendan Sharp
Hayden Sharp
Joe VanDamme
Tirzah VanDamme
Jason Zuniga
Gabrielle Zuniga



To Add/Remove a prayer, please email the office at prodway@stpaulroyaloak.org.

Church & School News
"The Masthead" &
"The Viking"
or Visit our website

www.stpaulroyaloak.org



St. Paul Church & School Follow us on FACEBOOK at: facebook.com/stpaullutheranroyaloak

GIFTS GIVEN

St. Paul Church

In memory or *Eyla Russ* by M/M Mark Olsen, Jeanette Till, M\M Greg Paul

In memory of *Barbara Snell* by Jeanette Till, Gay Eskew, M\M Greg Paul, M/M Mark Olsen, Margaret Burns

In memory of *Marilyn Guettler* by M/M Mark Olsen, M/M Richard Peludat

In memory of *Will Lichtenberg* & *Mary Lichtenberg* by Roderick Pope

In memory of *Rev. Ray Scherbarth* by M/M Bob Rutledge

St. Paul School

In memory or *Eyla Russ* by M/M William Carpenter, M/M Gary Scott, Carole Brower, Susan Beyerlein,

Edna Lentner

Trustees

In memory or Eyla Russ by Terri Brockmiller

Women's Guild

In memory of Ann Pfiefle by Clara Lichtenberg

MEMBER CHANGES

Debbie Rauvala, 30513 Whittier, Madison Heights, MI 48071

Joyce Zeleji, 8350 Plumbrook Rd. #219, Sterling Heights, MI 48313

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August 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	9:00 AM Trustees 7:00 PM Bd of Stw 7:00 PM Elders Mtg	2	3 6:00 PM Garden Club	8:00 AM Merls Breakfast-The Avenue	5	6 CareNet Walk for Life-Detroit Zoo
7 8:30 AM Bible Class 9:30 AM Worship c	8 9:00 AM Trustees 7:00 PM All Boards	9 7:00 PM Lounge-Girl Scouts	6:00 PM Garden Club	8:00 AM Men's Breakfast-The Avenue 1:00 PM Finance Mtg	12	13
14 8:30 AM Bible Class 9:30 AM Worship c	9:00 AM Trustees 7:00 PM Council Mtg	16	6:00 PM Garden Club	18 8:00 AM Me rls Breakfast-The Avenue	19 6:00 PM -8:00 PM School Registration	20
8:30 AM Bible Class 9:30 AM Worship c Commissioning of SS & School Staff Installation-Vicar & Principal Reception follows	9:00 AM -12:00 PM School Registration 9:00 AM Trustees	23	6:00 PM Garden Club	25 8:00 AM Merls Breakfast-The Avenue	26	27
28 8:30 AM Bible Class 9:30 AM Worship c	8:15 AM 1st Day of School Dismissed 12:00 PM 8:45 AM Opening Chapel 9:00 AM Trustees	30	6:00 PM Garden Club	Jul 2022 S M T W T 3 4 5 6 7 10 11 12 13 14 17 18 19 20 21 2 24 25 26 27 28 2 31	F S S M T S	Sep 2022 T W T F S 1 2 3 6 7 8 9 10 3 14 15 16 17 0 21 22 23 24 7 28 29 30