

THE MASTHEAD

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL



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A MESSAGE FROM OUR MUSIC DIRECTOR - GREG PAUL

Here are some odds and ends to start this year of ministry.

1. I've been trying to do one of our old praise songs each week in worship. When the congregation filled out a survey as a requirement for calling a pastor, 40% of us wanted some sort of "contemporary" worship element. I'm starting to repeat some of the songs so those unfamiliar can get to know them. There is a "lead sheet" with notes for the songs with the ushers that can help you if you read music. I'm hoping even those that don't particularly desire that style will work on learning these songs and seeing their worth for their Christian life and our corporate worship.

2. I'm always excited to get going in the fall with the various music groups: those at the school, choirs and Jr. Bell Choir, and those at the church, Chancel Choir, Bell Choir, and praise group leaders. Let me know if you'd like to serve musically in some capacity. Do any of you play a woodwind or brass instrument? We need them from time to time.

3. Our pipe organ has not seen any major work since the mid 1990's and it is increasingly in need of some expensive overhaul, if anyone is looking for a place for a substantial gift that's an idea.

4. Finally, continue to pray for a shepherd for our congregation. It is a joy to work with a pastor in leading the congregation's worship.

VESTRY UPDATE

FROM OUR VESTRY PRESIDENT, CHRIS SCHULTZ

What Does It Mean To Be Voting Member of St. Paul?

In preparing for the Voters Meeting on Sunday, August 23, I reviewed our Constitution and Bylaws of St. Paul Royal Oak, more particularly the rights and duties of a Voter. When I started reading, I realized that these were not burdens or requirements but that these could be seen as privileges. Let me get more specific.

The Constitution outlines the rights of voting members- Article VI.B. states that the Voters' Assembly shall have the "ultimate authority in the external and internal administration and management" of church affairs. This includes the calling of a Pastor or professional staff, electing Vestry and administering church property. A right is a moral, legal or social claim to a freedom or power. Yes, we have the power to manage our church, but isn't it a privilege too? Only the Voters of our church can make change- not some outside influence. We follow the authority of Jesus Christ and His church. That's amazing!!

The Bylaws outline the duties of voting members- attending Voters Meetings, devoting time and talents for the good of and the extension of God's Kingdom, regularly attending divine services and contributing generously as God has prospered each individual. A duty is an obligation, but this is more of a privilege! These duties are a benefit to us. By attending Voters Meetings, the Holy Spirit can speak through each one, directing the service of our church. When we use our time and talents for our church, we are like the hands and feet of Jesus bringing His touch to our church, our community and beyond. When we attend divine services, we hear God's Word and through preaching, apply it to our lives. We also participate in the Lord's Supper, in which we are strengthened and preserved for this life and beyond. We also are given the opportunity to expand the reach of our church when we contribute financially to the operation of the church and school. Your dollars are used to pay school staff and expenses and ensure that our school is a place where families can receive an excellent education, but also the love and the Gospel of our Lord. Giving financially isn't something we HAVE to do...it's something we GET to do! When we offer what little we have to contribute, or even when we sacrificially tithe, God multiplies and expands that gift for His purposes and His Kingdom.

I want to encourage everyone to embrace the privilege that it is to be a Voter at St. Paul Lutheran Church and School. May God abundantly bless this church and His people!

FINANCE		Year-To-Date as of 7/31/26:	
Weekly contribution needed based on approved 2026-27 budget: \$14,500		Revenue = \$54,451 Expenses = \$84,919 Net deficit/surplus = (deficit) \$30,468	
Weekly Contributions Received		ELECTRONIC GIVING	
		St. Paul Royal Oak offers a convenient electronic giving option to help you keep up with your intended offerings. Please enroll on our website www.stpaulroyaloak.org or scan the QR code below. For questions, contact the church office.	
			
		2026 Vestry Members	
7/5/26		President	Chris Schultz
7/12/26		Vice President	Steven Carpenter
7/19/26		Financial Secretary	Vacant
7/26/26		Secretary	Lily Paul
8/2/26		Member At Large	Jeff Szerdi
8/9/26		Member At Large	Betsy Newton
8/16/26		Member At Large	Chay Smith
8/23/26		School Principal	Chris Francik

MEET THE STAFF ~ CLARE HANOSH

THIS MONTH WE ARE INTRODUCING OUR NEWEST TEACHER AT ST PAUL -

Miss Clare Hanosh!

Clare has her Associate's degree in Early Childhood Education from Oakland Community College. She is currently in the process of completing her Bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education. She has worked with children ranging from ages 8 weeks to 4 years & is so excited to join the St Paul family to provide a safe, nurturing and engaging environment where children feel loved, supported, and encouraged to explore & grow.

What have you enjoyed so far working at SPRO? I have enjoyed getting to know everyone! This has been such a kind and welcoming environment, and I am so grateful to be a part of it!

What interests you most about working at SPRO? I'm so excited to get to know the children and build strong relationships with them! I'm excited to see them learn new things, become more independent, and grow in their confidence throughout the year! I'm also looking forward to making lots of fun memories with them along the way!

Tell us a fun fact about you. I love animals! I have a cat named Milo and a tortoise named Franklin!



Bible Study Opportunities at St. Paul

What	Where	When
Sunday Morning Bible Study	Church Lounge	Sunday ~ 8:30am
Women's Bible Study	Church Meeting Room	Monday ~ 9am
Mid-Week Bible Study	Church Lounge	Wednesday ~ 10am
Men's Bible Study	The Avenue Restaurant (Woodward north of 13 Mile)	Thursday ~ 8:30am
Men's Monthly Breakfast & Bible Study	Church Lounge	3 rd Saturday of the Month ~ 7:30am



DO YOU HAVE A PASSION FOR LEADING OR BEING PART OF A SMALL BIBLE STUDY GROUP? WE ARE LOOKING TO BUILD OUR SMALL GROUP MINISTRY HERE AT ST. PAUL AND WE NEED LEADERS WILLING TO CREATE AND LEAD GROUPS. SOME IDEAS FOR SMALL GROUPS:

- MOMS/DADS GROUP
- YOUTH
- YOUNG ADULT
- EMPTY NESTERS
- SCHOOL AGE PARENTS
- SENIORS
- MENS GROUP

REACH OUT TO CHRIS FRANCICK IF YOU ARE INTERESTED OR HAVE QUESTIONS:
C^{FRANCICK}@STPAULROYALOK.ORG

UPCOMING EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

FUNNY TOGETHER TOUR PRESENTS
Clean Comedy Show

ST PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH
 202 E FIFTH ST.
 ROYAL OAK, MI

THURSDAY, SEPT. 10
 DOORS @ 6:30 PM
 SHOW @ 7:00 PM



ANDY BENINGO RHONDA COREY

EARLY BIRD & GROUP
 PRICING AVAILABLE

Tickets @funnytogethertour.com

SPOOKTACULAR
 Royal Oak's 43rd annual "Spooktacular"
 trunk or treat event is Sunday, October
 18th 2-5pm. More details to come!

School Events Happening in September

September 15th is our annual "Back to School Night" and PTL Meeting at 6:30pm. We encourage every St. Paul school Family to join us for this important evening! Back-to-School Night is more than just an update—it's your chance to connect, learn, and take an active role in your child's school year. By attending, you will meet your PTL Board and see how the PTL directly supports our school. You will get the inside information on this year's events, activities, and fundraisers. This is also an opportunity to visit your child's classroom and talk with teachers, preview expectations for the year, and ask questions.

September 25th is Family Fun Night, From 6pm - 8pm

This special evening, sponsored by our PTL, is all about bringing our Preschool - 8th Grade Families together for Fellowship, connection, and Fun! It is a wonderful opportunity for new Families to meet others, build Friendships, and learn more about our St. Paul Family. Join us for an evening Filled with bounce houses, music, crafts, games, food, refreshments, and much more! We look forward to gathering together and celebrating the joy of being part of the St. Paul school Family!

Many, many thanks to all members who make our church and school AMAZING! Specifically, we'd like to acknowledge the individuals who have helped in the following areas recently:

- Volunteers who have faithfully served over the summer months by helping with painting the school hallways, VBS, ushering, counting donations, elder duties, reading scripture during worship, assisting with altar guild, cleaning the sanctuary, assisting with communications/AV & helping many ways during our pastoral vacancy.

If there is an area that you'd love to help with at SPRO, please reach out!

MONTHLY BIBLE READINGS

LCMS Three Years - Series A

Sept. 6	15th Sunday after Pentecost	Ezek. 33:7-9	Psalms 32:1-7	Rom. 13:1-10	Matt. 18:1-20
Sept. 13	16th Sunday after Pentecost	Gen. 50:15-21	Psalms 103:1-12	Rom. 14:1-12	Matt. 18:21-35
Sept. 20	17th Sunday after Pentecost	Isaiah 55:6-9	Psalms 27:1-9	Phil. 1:12-14, 19-30	Matt. 20:1-16
Sept. 27	18th Sunday after Pentecost	Ezek. 18:1-4, 25-32	Psalms 25:1-10	Phil. 2:1-4 (5-13) 14-18	Matt. 21:23-27 (28-32)

SCHOOL MINISTRY

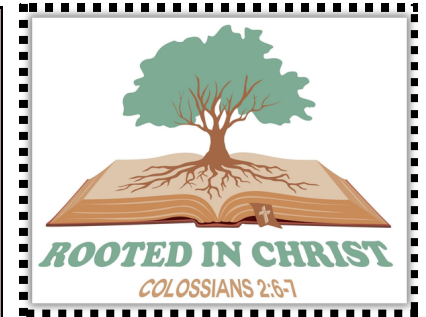
St. Paul Lutheran School - Over 100 years of God's Grace!
Nationally Accredited by NSLA

Our Mission

Serve, Support & Share Where God Calls Us!

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.



Welcome Back!

As you read this article, St. Paul Lutheran School is back in session. I am excited to begin another school year full of opportunities to model Jesus' love, compassion, forgiveness, and guidance to the students, families, staff, and congregation stakeholders of St. Paul Lutheran Church and School along with providing an excellent academic education. God's blessings to each child of God who is part of the St. Paul Royal Oak family!

This school year we will be proclaiming God's Word from Colossians 2:6-7, "Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving." May we rejoice by the Holy Spirit's guidance in God the Father's plan of salvation through the death and resurrection of His Son, Jesus. Please contact Chris Francik, St. Paul principal, at cfrancik@stpaulroyaloak.org or Julie Hansen, St. Paul administrative assistant, at jhansen@stpaulroyaloak.org, for more information about the ministries of St. Paul Lutheran School. Chris Francik

Our AMAZING staff for the 26/27 School Year:

Char Fuchs – Preschool 3-Year Old Classroom Teacher
 Clare Hanosh – Preschool Prekindergarten Great Start Readiness Program Classroom Teacher
 Carole Brower – Preschool Aide
 Sara Jarvey – Preschool Aide
 Meredith Sanislo – Preschool Aide
 Josh Priehs – Extended Care Provider
 Julia Paul – Extended Care Provider
 Courtney Woodward - Extended Care Provider
 Faith Frederick – Extended Care Provider
 Miranda Lorence – Kindergarten Teacher
 Tina Eising – 1st & 2nd Grade Teacher and Resource Room Teacher
 Jaclyn Moelich – 3rd & 4th Grade Teacher & coach
 Kurt Schmidt – Middle School Grammar and Band, 6th Grade Religion Teacher
 Julie Thomas – Middle School Language Arts & Social Studies Teacher
 Greg Paul – All School Music & Third through Eighth Grade Science Teacher
 Julie Hansen – Administrative Assistant & Admissions Counselor
 Chris Francik – Principal, Preschool Director, Middle School Math Teacher & 7th / 8th Grade Confirmation Teacher

Our 1st Quarter Chapel Earnings will help support Camp Restore Detroit ~ www.detroitcamprestore.org. Please help us raise funds for this crucial organization in our local area!

SCHOOL CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER		OCTOBER	
9/4/26	NO SCHOOL - ARTS, BEATS & EATS	10/15/26	FALL BREAK - NO SCHOOL
9/7/26	NO SCHOOL - LABOR DAY	10/16/26	FALL BREAK - NO SCHOOL
9/15/26	BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT	10/30/26	HALF DAY
9/25/26	FAMILY FUN NIGHT	10/30/26	END OF 1 ST QUARTER

CHURCH NOTES

COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY

1st Thursday of Month (drive-thru).

11:00AM - 1:00PM

2nd & 4th Mondays of Month (walk-in).

9:00AM - 12:00PM

Our community food pantry is always accepting donations.

We are currently low on:

Canned chicken/tuna or meat in pouches

Spaghetti sauce

Canned fruit

Peanut butter

If you have any questions or want to assist, please reach out to:

- Lee Ann Miillinger - (248)-417-9526
- Cathy Greener - (248)-953-1567
- Barb Stefan - (248)-219-7469

Thank you for supporting our community!

Official Acts

Baptisms:

7/26/26 - Nolan Mendez &

Danielle Hutchens

8/9/26 - Charlotte Kaczmarek

Funerals:

8/22/26 - Al Manteuffel

8/28/26 - Mike Hammon

Memorials

St. Paul Lutheran School:

Gifts given in Memory of Al Manteuffel:

Jim & Karen Charnawskas

Clara Lichtenberg

Sunday Worship

Sunday Bible Class: 8:30AM

Traditional Worship: 9:30AM

This unified schedule will remain in place until
St. Paul calls its next pastor.

September Visiting Pastor Schedule:

Sept. 6th - Rev. Evan Gaertner

Sept. 13th - Rev. Doug Francik

Sept. 20th - Rev. Richard Hillenbrand

Sept. 27th - Rev. Richard Hillenbrand

ELDERS

(alphabetically by last name)

- A, B + D: Tony Valdes
(248)-505-0925
- C, E, F, G: Chip Eising
(248)-763-0314
- L, M: Chuck Brewer
(586)-822-8619
- H-K: Kevin Calhoun
(248)-343-8643
- N-R: Mike Rasmussen
(248)-515-4605
- S: Jim Schultz
(248)-302-6435
- T-Z: Brian Hermann
(248)-875-1979

DIRECTORY

CHURCH OFFICE

(248)-541-0613

MON-THURS: 8AM - 4PM

FRI: By Appointment Only

Sue Francik

Office Manager

(502)-381-3597

office@stpaulroyaloak.org

Greg Paul

Director of Music

(248)-765-0316

gpaul@stpaulroyaloak.org

SCHOOL OFFICE

(248)-546-65555

school@stpaulroyaloak.org

Chris Francik

Principal

(502)-381-3643

cfrancik@stpaulroyaloak.org

SERVING US IN WORSHIP ~ SEPTEMBER 2026

Altar Guild	Amie Szerdi & Meredith Sanislo
Ushers	Mike Boyd, Zack Lorence, Erik Olsen, Brian Charlton
Counters	• 9/6/16: Andre Sanislo + Amie Szerdi • 9/13/26: Carrie Smith + Carolyn Kubinski • 9/20/26: Ben Schultz + Carol Zimnie • 9/27/26: Jeff Szerdi + Jennifer Rabideau
Readers	• 9/6/16: Lee Anne Millinger • 9/13/26: Barb Costakes • 9/20/26: Chris Schultz • 9/27/26: Kevin Calhoun

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

9/01

Julia Paul

9/02

Janet Ruszkowski

9/03

Tim Snell

9/05

Ethel Storck

Ola Martin

9/06

Aryx Lopez

William Aufdemberge

9/08

Grace Hammond

Kirt Fickel-Hutcheson

Jason Bock

9/09

Lauren Brewer

9/11

Dave Chutorash

9/12

Deanna Petri

9/13

Kathy Eifert

Lee Anne Millinger

Jaclyn Moelich

9/14

Dave Hemming

9/15

John Aufdemberge

9/17

Lisa Kokko

9/18

Eric McClatchey

9/19

Kathy Kast

Amie Szerdi

Russell Keller

Melissa Snell

9/20

Anthony Smith

Kelly Kneisel

Amanda Brandt

Maverick Long

9/22

Rick Thomas

Caleb Charlton

9/23

Patricia Brown

9/24

Chuck Brewer

9/26

Kyle Harris

9/28

Penny Sidick

Griffin Schley-Pierce

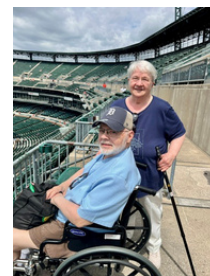
9/30

Brett Haney



September 2026

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
August 30 8:30am - Bible Study 9:30am - Worship (C)	31 9am - Trustees	1	2 8:30am - Chapel 6pm - Garden Club	3 8:30am - Men's Breakfast	4 ARTS BEATS & EATS	5
6 8:30am - Bible Study 9:30am - Worship (C)	7 Labor Day Offices Closed No School	8	9 8:30am - Chapel 10am - Adult Bible Study - "Brews, News & Views" 6pm - Garden Club	10 8:30am - Men's Breakfast 7pm - Funny Together Tour	11	12
13 8:30am - Bible Study 9:30am - Worship (C)	14 9am - Trustees 9am - Food Pantry 9am - Women's Bible Study 7pm Vestry Mtg.	15 6pm - Back to School Night	16 8:30am - Chapel 6pm - Garden Club	17 8:30am - Men's Breakfast 7pm - Choir 8:30pm - Bell Choir	18	19 7:30am - Men's Saturday Breakfast (Church Lounge)
20 8:30am - Bible Study 9:30am - Worship (C)	21 9am - Trustees 9am - Women's Bible Study	22	23 8:30am - Chapel 6pm - Garden Club	24 8:30am - Men's Breakfast 7pm - Choir 8:30pm - Bell Choir	25 6pm - Family Fun Night	26
27 8:30am - Bible Study 9:30am - Worship (C)	28 9am Trustees 9am - Food Pantry 9am - Women's Bible Study	29	30 8:30am - Chapel 6pm - Garden Club	October 1 8:30am - Men's Breakfast 7pm - Choir 8:30pm - Bell Choir	2	3





St. Paul Lutheran Church and School • Royal Oak, MI

St. Paul Lutheran

Church: 202 E Fifth St. Royal Oak, MI 48067 ~ 248.541.0613

School: 508 S Williams Royal Oak, MI 48067 ~ 248.546.6555



Church



School



Facebook



YouTube

Church: stpaulroyaloak.org

School: sproschool.org