

THE MASTHEAD

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL



Serve.
Support.
Share.

Where God Calls Us



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A MESSAGE FROM OUR MUSIC DIRECTOR - GREG PAUL

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God.

The logical hymn to elaborate on for October would be the “battle hymn of the Reformation,” Luther’s hymn, “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God.” In Luther’s day however it was not a hymn of “battle” for the Gospel, but instead listed under the heading of “A Hymn of Comfort” in the 1929 Wittenberg Hymnal, “Geistliche Lieder auff’s new gebessert” (The literal English translation of is “Spiritual Songs, newly revised”). During the period between 1527 and 1529 the group of “Lutherans” in Wittenberg faced many threats: Luther was seriously ill, Turkish forces were threatening Germany, and Catholicism and radical Protestants were ripe with theological attacks against the theology of Sola Fide, Sola Gratia, and Sola Scripture: Faith, Grace, and Scripture alone. Luther penned the lyrics as a paraphrase of Psalm 46, “God is our Refuge and Strength.” Luther also composed the melody (LSB 656, rhythmic version) to which we sing the hymn. The energy that the melody’s rhythm creates fits well with the text that does battle with the devil, and the sinful world. Ultimately our victory is won through Jesus’ defeat of the devil, and the Kingdom remains ours forever.

Most of the rest of Christendom sings this hymn with the isorhythmic melody (an even and steady beat), not the one that Luther composed. The thought is that given the echo-prone acoustics of the large cathedrals, the singing was slowed way down for the sake of the clarity of the text, which gradually removed the rhythmic drive of Luther’s version (and eventually caused a decline in energetic congregational singing). In the early nineteenth century Luther’s rhythmic melody was revived by the Missouri-Synod’s first president, C.F. W. Walther, who as an accomplished organist and musician supported a movement in Germany to revive hymn singing among the people by returning to the quicker pulse and greater energy of the rhythmic hymn versions. Most Missouri-Synod churches sing the rhythmic version of “A Mighty Fortress”.

VESTRY UPDATE

FROM OUR VESTRY VICE-PRESIDENT, STEVEN CARPENTER

THE RHYTHM OF OUR BUSY SEASON

EVERY COMMUNITY HAS ITS OWN DISTINCT RHYTHM. A CPA BRACES FOR THE SPRINT TO TAX DAY, LANDSCAPERS RACE TO BEAT THE MICHIGAN WINTER, AND RETAIL TEAMS STEEL THEMSELVES FOR THE HOLIDAY RUSH.

FOR US AT ST. PAUL, OUR BUSY SEASON HAS OFFICIALLY BEGUN, AND IF YOU'VE NOTICED OUR WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS GETTING LONGER AND LONGER, YOU AREN'T IMAGINING THINGS.

WHEN YOU LOOK AT WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING AROUND OUR CAMPUS LATELY, THIS "BUSYNESS" IS SO MUCH MORE THAN A PACKED CALENDAR. IT'S A VIBRANT SNAPSHOT OF OUR COMMUNITY IN MOTION:

- **LABOR DAY:** OVER LABOR DAY WEEKEND, OUR VOLUNTEERS POURED IN MORE THAN 250 HOURS OF SERVICE DEDICATED ENTIRELY TO PARKING. THAT MEANT WELCOMING THE DRIVERS OF OVER 1,300 VEHICLES ONTO OUR CAMPUS WITH A WARM SMILE AND A HOSPITABLE PRESENCE.
- **OPENING OUR DOORS:** THE FOLLOWING WEEK, WE HOSTED THE *FUNNY TOGETHER TOUR* IN OUR LOUNGE, DRAWING 130 ATTENDEES—ROUGHLY 80 PERCENT OF WHOM CAME FROM OUTSIDE OUR CHURCH WALLS.
- **GATHERING AROUND THE WORD:** WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY KICKED BACK OFF, WHERE A FAITHFUL GROUP HAS EAGERLY RETURNED TO FELLOWSHIP AND BEGUN DIVING INTO OUR RICH ST. PAUL ARCHIVES.
- **A CAMPUS ALIVE:** FROM THE START OF A NEW SCHOOL YEAR AND BUSTLING FAMILY FUN NIGHT TO THE STEADY SOUNDS OF CHOIR AND BELL PRACTICES, OUR HALLS ARE FILLED WITH LIFE EVERY SINGLE WEEK.

OUR MOMENTUM CONTINUES STRAIGHT THROUGH OCTOBER. WE ARE ROLLING UP OUR SLEEVES TO SERVE TOGETHER AT THE WELCOME INN DAY SHELTER, CELEBRATING OUR MAIN STREET PRESENCE AT THE SPOOKTACULAR AND TRUNK OR TREAT, AND SOON LAUNCHING NEW MEMBER CLASSES AND FRESH SMALL GROUP OPPORTUNITIES.

I AM UNDOUBTEDLY MISSING A FEW THINGS IN THIS SNAPSHOT, AND WE ARE ONLY IN THE *PRE-ADVENT STRETCH*—SO BUCKLE UP! LET'S EMBRACE THIS SEASON FOR WHAT IT TRULY IS: AN INVITATION. TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO GATHER TOGETHER, DIVE INTO THE MANY ACTIVITIES HAPPENING ON CAMPUS, AND DEEPLY ENGAGE YOUR FELLOW ST. PAUL-ANS.

LET'S CELEBRATE THE BEAUTIFUL, BUSTLING LIFE OF OUR CONGREGATION.

Financials:

Fiscal Year-To-Date as of 8/31/26:

Revenue = \$124,334

Expenses = \$173,512

Net deficit/surplus = (deficit) \$49,178



FINANCE

Weekly contribution needed based on approved 2026-27 budget: **\$14,500**

Weekly Contributions Received

8/30/26	\$10,318
9/6/26	\$10,029
9/13/26	\$11,204
9/20/26	\$8,976
9/27/26	TBA

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

President	Chris Schultz
Vice President	Steven Carpenter
Financial Secretary	Vacant
Secretary	Lily Paul
Member At Large	Jeff Szerdi
Member At Large	Betsy Newton
Member At Large	Chay Smith
School Principal	Chris Francik

MEET THE STAFF ~ CAROLE BROWER ~ PRESCHOOL AIDE

My name is Carole Brower. I went to a Detroit public high school, graduated, and married at 19.

I have three sons who attended Lutheran schools - one lives in Phoenix, one in Chicago, and one in Michigan. I have two wonderful grandsons and one spunky granddaughter.

To help support my family, I worked as a sous chef, elder home care nurse, and Certified Nursing Assistant at a geriatric health campus.

I attended St. Paul Lutheran church and volunteered in the nursery for many years. I have also been a teaching assistant at St. Paul Lutheran Pre-School for the last eight years.

I have enjoyed working with the children, especially teaching them about Jesus. My favorite things to do with the children include art and singing. It is very satisfying to see the children grow from being shy and unsure to being outgoing and comfortable with their new friends.

Outside of work, I enjoy singing in my church's choir, walking with my husband Bill and our German Shepherd, travelling, taking care of my flowers and gardens, and going to Greenfield Village. A fun fact about me: I look forward to going to Maine every year, where I used to make sand castles with my Dad.



Thank you,
Carole, for
caring for &
sharing Jesus
with our
littlest
students
everyday!

Bible Study Opportunites 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	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:

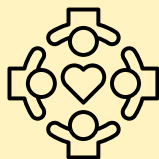
- moms/dads group
- youth
- young adult
- empty nesters
- school age parents
- seniors
- men’s group

Reach out to Chris Francik if you are interested or have questions:
cfrancik@stpaulroyaloak.org

UPCOMING EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES



Royal Oak's 43rd annual "Spooktacular" trunk or treat event is Sunday, October 18th 1-3pm. Please consider signing up your trunk to pass out candy! We are also collecting LOTS of candy to hand out. Details and donation box are located in the Welcome Center.



Are you interesting in becoming a member of St. Paul? We will be offering a new member class this fall! Whether you are interested in transferring your membership from another church or are new to the Lutheran Church ~ Missouri Synod (LCMS), this is for you! Please email or call the church office for more details or you can sign up in the Welcome Center.



Operation Christmas Child is coming soon!

Thank you to Rachel Carpenter for taking on this project! We'll have more information and details soon in the bulletin and Welcome Center!

Friday, October 23rd 7pm

It's going to be a fun night of trivia while also helping to support our school scholarship fund! Come with a team or by yourself & we'll put teams together. Free will donations will be accepted by cash, check or online (\$10 increments using QR code). If you cannot attend, please consider making a donation. Thank you for supporting the students of our school!



~Welcome Inn~



Help us get involved in our community! Please consider joining a team from St Paul to work at our area homeless shelter (Welcome Inn) on October 17th 8:30am-12pm. If you cannot attend, consider donating needed supplies. You can purchase and drop them off or donate online through their Amazon wish list. Details, QR codes and sign ups are in the Welcome Center by the coffee station. www.sochwi.org

MONTHLY BIBLE READINGS

LCMS Three Years - Series A

Oct. 4	19th Sunday after Pentecost	Isaiah 5:1-7	Psalm 80:7-19	Phil. 3:4b-14	Matt. 21:33-46
Oct. 11	20th Sunday after Pentecost	Isaiah 25:6-9	Psalm 23	Phil. 4:4-13	Matt. 22:1-14
Oct. 18	21st Sunday after Pentecost	Isaiah 45:1-7	Psalm 96:1-9 (10-13)	1 Thess. 1:1-10	Matt. 22:15-22
Oct. 25	Reformation Day	Revelation 14:6-7	Psalm 46	Rom. 3:19-28	Matt. 11:12-19

SCHOOL MINISTRY

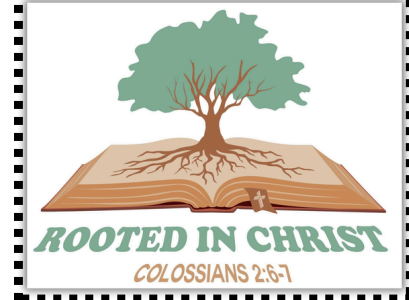
St. Paul Lutheran School - Over 100 years of God's Grace!
Nationally Accredited by NSLA

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.



**From our AMAZING middle school grammar and band & 6th grade religion teacher
 Mr. Kurt Schmidt:**

As you may have heard and even seen, our 7th and 8th Graders create a weekly St. Paul news broadcast. We call these students the Channel V News Crew (the Roman numeral V standing for Vikings, of course).

This year's crew has fourteen members, and they present several new features this year. Our new categories spotlight:

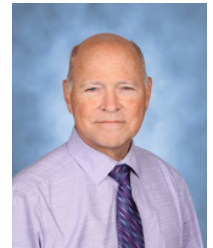
Wondering with Wyatt: Wyatt is a young man who takes us to places of interest around the globe as requested by students or teachers. Later this month, he will be presenting Wartburg Castle in Eisenach, Germany.

Hannah's Home for History: Our 7th Grader named Hannah celebrates moments of history that happen during the current week.

Mastering Math: Another 7th Grader, Evan, reveals interesting Math trivia and tricks that marvel viewers of all ages.

Classroom Character: Asheri, a 7th Grader in Ms. Thomas' homeroom, picks a class to highlight each time, and they attempt a unique physical activity and exhibit supportive & encouraging enthusiasm to each other in the process.

You catch all the news episodes of the new school year at the CVNC Website. Scan the QR code or enter this address in your browser: <https://sites.google.com/view/cvncepisodes>



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!

All-School Fun Run!
 Please look for more details soon about our PTL-sponsored FUN RUN on October 23rd.

SCHOOL CALENDAR

10/14/26	PICTURE DAY	10/30/26	½ DAY-END OF 1ST QUARTER
10/15 & 10/16	FALL BREAK - NO SCHOOL	11/5/26	½ DAY - PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES
10/23/26	SCHOOL FUN RUN	11/6/26	NO SCHOOL - PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES
10/29/26	ALL SCHOOL FIELD TRIP - BLAKES BIG APPLE	11/25-11/27	THANKSGIVING BREAK - NO SCHOOL

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.

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

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

Thank you for supporting our community!

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.

ALTAR FLOWERS

Altar flowers are available to purchase in honor or memory of a loved one or for a special occasion. Sign-up details are located to the left of our Welcome Center on the board. All bouquets may be ordered for \$30 each. Fill out an envelope and make a check out to St. Paul Lutheran.

Memorials

St. Paul Lutheran Church:

Gifts given in memory of Al Manteuffel:

Dennis & Rita McClatchey

Gifts given in memory of Mike Hammon:

Bob & Denise Rutledge

Mila Jackson

Jeanette Till

Dorothy Ainsworth

Mr. & Mrs. Richard Baker

The Limbaugh Family

Dennis & Rita McClatchey

Marie Buerger

Clara Lichtenberg

David & Kathy Hemming

Tony & Jeanne Valdes

Rev. Ronald Guettler

Jim & Karen Charnawskas

Art & Chris Steiber

Organ Fund:

The Robert & Bess Cook Foundation

Organ gift given in memory of Judy Roessler:

Clara Lichtenberg

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

October Visiting Pastor Schedule:

Oct. 4th - Rev. Stephen Woodfin

Oct. 11th - Rev. Doug Francik

Oct. 18th - Rev. Richard Hillenbrand

Oct. 25th - Rev. Richard Hillenbrand

Sue Francik

Office Manager

(502)-381-3597

office@stpaulroyaloak.org

Greg Paul

Director of Music

(248)-765-0316

gpaul@stpaulroyaloak.org

SCHOOL OFFICE

(248)-546-6555

school@stpaulroyaloak.org

Chris Francik

Principal

(502)-381-3643

cfrancik@stpaulroyaloak.org

SERVING US IN WORSHIP ~ OCTOBER 2026

Altar Guild	Kathleen Prukner + Betsy Newton
Ushers	Chuck Brewer, Dave Hemming, Roger Pierce, Steve Snell, Dave Owens, Tony Valdes
Counters	• 10/4/16: Chay Smith + Rick Thomas • 10/11/26: Julie Hansen + Julie Thomas • 10/18/26: Libby Walker + Jennifer Rabideau • 10/25/26: Randy Walker + Chris Francik
Readers	• 10/4/16: Lily Wilson • 10/11/26: David Newton • 10/18/26: John Aufdemberge • 10/25/26: Chris Francik

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

10/1/2026	Kelly Burch
10/2/2026	Jeanne Valdes
10/3/2026	Henry Miller
10/4/2026	Terri Brockmiller Steven Baker Billy Gordon Zoei Keck
10/6/2026	Timothy Ulrich
10/8/2026	Kevin Calhoun
10/9/2026	Nancy Pyykkonen Esther Bowdich
10/10/2026	Darlene Baker
10/11/2026	Anthony Valdes Viktor Sagan Molly Newell
10/12/2026	Brett Hansen
10/13/2026	Gerald Thiem
10/15/2026	Ben Francik

10/17/2026	Peter Walsh David Newton
10/19/2026	Cheryl Beyerlein
10/21/2026	Kenneth Ruszkowski
10/22/2026	Andrew Keeble
10/24/2026	Gayle Carpenter Anne Sagan
10/25/2026	Mark Costakes Jennifer Louwers Jeremy Newell Ellie Ohngren Garrett Sanislo
10/28/2026	Chase Burgess
10/30/2026	Garel Rice Rick Kilbourn
10/31/2026	Dennis Walker Debbie Hill Jaxtyn Jarvey



October 2026

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
Sept. 27 8:30am - Bible Study 9:30am - Worship (C)	28 9am - Trustees 9am - Women's Bible Study	29	30 8:30am - Chapel 10am - Adult Bible Study 6pm - Garden Club	1 8:30am - Men's Breakfast 11am - Food Pantry 7pm - Choir 8:30pm - Bell Choir	2	3
4 8:30am - Bible Study 9:30am - Worship (C)	5 9am - Trustees 9am - Women's Bible Study	6	7 8:30am - Chapel 10am - Adult Bible Study 6pm - Garden Club	8 8:30am - Men's Breakfast 7pm - Choir 8:30pm - Bell Choir	9	10
11 8:30am - Bible Study 9:30am - Worship (C)	12 9am - Trustees 9am - Food Pantry 9am - Women's Bible Study	13	14 8:30am - Chapel 10am - Adult Bible Study 6pm - Garden Club School Picture Day	15 Fall Break - No School 8:30am - Men's Breakfast 7pm - Choir 8:30pm - Bell Choir	16 Fall Break - No School	17 7:30am - Men's Saturday Breakfast (Church Lounge) 8:30am - Welcome Inn Volunteer day
18 8:30am - Bible Study 9:30am - Worship (C) 1pm - RO Spooktacular	19 9am - Trustees 9am - Women's Bible Study	20	21 8:30am - Chapel 10am - Adult Bible Study 6pm - Garden Club	22 8:30am - Men's Breakfast 7pm - Choir 8:30pm - Bell Choir	23 All school FUN RUN 7pm - Quiz Night	24
25 Reformation Sunday 8:30am - Bible Study 9:30am - Worship (C)	26 9am Trustees 9am - Food Pantry 9am - Women's Bible Study	27	28 8:30am - Chapel 10am - Adult Bible Study	29 8:30am - Men's Breakfast All-School Field Trip 7pm - Choir 8:30pm - Bell Choir	30 School - ½ Day	31

Happenings Around St. Paul

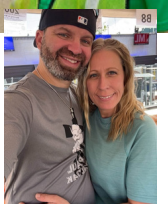
School Happenings



Funny Together Tour



Arts, Beats & Eats



**Serve
Support
Share**



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

St. Paul Lutheran School

Premier Parent Choice Award Winner 2025–26



Recognized Among the
Top 5% of Schools
Nationwide in Parent
Satisfaction

**Find out why at
www.sproschool.org**



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