

St. Paul Lutheran Church
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August
Volume 120, Issue 8



SAINT PAUL
Lutheran Church LCMS
Proclaiming Christ to Wisner and the World!

August 2023

New This Month:

- Sixth month budget report
- Article on Wiggly Children in Church
- Board Meeting dates
- Important SAVE THE DATES on page 8.

Worship Times

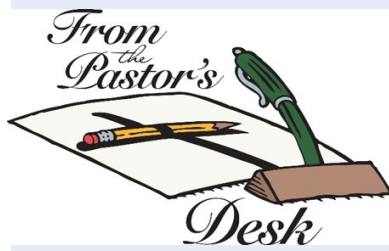
- Sundays at 10:30am
- Wednesdays at 6:00pm

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Special Articles

- What to do with Wiggly Children in Church.
- Budget Report.
- Board meetings



In June, Thrivent — a fraternal benefit society born of a merger of two Lutheran organizations — exhorted its Instagram followers, with a rainbow heart, to “Celebrate Pride Month.” Many folks who own Thrivent products have asked us for alternatives for life insurance and investments. I especially feel for the many faithful LCMS people who serve or have served as Thrivent agents whose consciences are burdened. I think of J.A.O. Preus I (father of former LCMS President Rev. Dr. J.A.O. “Jack” Preus II), who founded Lutheran Brotherhood. I think of the Lutherans (like my family) who served so well in these institutions for so long, and all the charitable dollars to worthy causes.

In other news, a congregation in Minnesota bearing the name “Lutheran” — though not one with which we are in fellowship — has gone viral for its use of the so-called “Sparkle Creed” at a Pride Sunday service in June. Again, our voicemails and inboxes lit up with those concerned that the Synod needed to issue a statement about this “creed,” which includes phrases such as “I believe in the non-binary God whose pronouns are plural. I believe in Jesus Christ, their son, who wore a fabulous tunic and had two dads.”

These are shocking developments, but not unexpected. Thrivent long ago shed “for Lutherans” from its name, and more recently dropped “for Christians.” In 2014, it stopped allowing Thrivent Choice donations to be directed to pro-life organizations (taking what they called a neutral position on the matter of abortion). And the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) has advocated for LGBTQ+ issues for decades. I pray for the many Christians in the ELCA. Thank God the dictum of the ancient church — “The ears of the hearers are more holy than the hearts of the priests” — remains true. God grant to all of us wretched sinners repentance and faith in Christ. By the way, I only mention the ELCA here because the national media, in its reporting on the “Sparkle Creed,” indiscriminately lumped all Lutherans together.

While once faithful church bodies in Australia and Japan have slipped away from historic, confessional Lutheran doctrine and practice, other churches — particularly in Africa, but also elsewhere — are throwing off their entanglements with the heterodox Lutheran World Federation and seeking LCMS pastors and professors to catechize them in more faithful doctrine and practice. This vital international role of our seminaries is often overlooked. We have more requests from around the world than we can meet.

This all raises the question: What is a Lutheran? Thrivent used to be “for Lutherans.” And as we can see, a church with “Lutheran” in its name can have its members confess, “I believe in the non-binary God whose pronouns are plural.”

Being a Lutheran does not mean being like Luther or believing everything he taught. Though God magnificently used the blessed reformer to restore the Gospel to its proper place in the church, we don’t confess everything Luther taught.

Being Lutheran is also not heritage or history. Churches descended from the Reformation are not necessarily Lutheran. And being Lutheran does not mean reinterpreting glorious and thoroughly biblical Lutheran words like “grace” to mean “tolerance,” or “vocation” to mean “service.”

Being Lutheran does mean subscribing to the specific teachings of the Lutheran Confessions because they accord with the doctrine revealed in Holy Scripture. You all know this confession, which is most simply put in Luther’s Small Catechism. The catechism sets forth the great basics of the faith: the Ten Commandments, the Creed, the Lord’s Prayer, Baptism, Confession and the Lord’s Supper.

At the core of the catechism are these words: “I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death.”

This — the doctrine of justification, on which the church stands or falls — is what it means to be Lutheran. Everything else flows from it. Original sin and the preaching of the Law (apart from Christ, all of us are “lost and condemned persons”) are about justification. Because we know that God justifies sinners, we aren’t afraid of man’s sinful condition, nor do our sins terrify and oppress us. God reckons us righteous, by grace, for Christ’s sake.

Baptism — even infant Baptism — is about justification because the font is one of the places God does His justifying work, apart from any participation of our own. The Office of the Keys is about justification because the pastor’s absolving words are God’s justifying work. The Lord’s Supper is about justification because God gathers His saints around His altar to feed them with the price paid for their justification: the very body and blood of Jesus. Even the authority of the Bible is tied to justification. Jesus says the Bible testifies about Him (John 5), and those who believe in Jesus listen to Him. “My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me” (John 10:27).

If a church body rejects God’s Law, it cannot call sinners to repentance. It loses the fullness of justification and ceases to be truly Lutheran. That’s why we must always proclaim Law and Gospel. If a congregation rejects the church’s historic creeds in favor of something made up to fit the sexual mores of the culture, it rejects justification, since Christ suffered on the cross to pay for man’s sins, not to permit and celebrate them.

If that’s what a Lutheran is, must one be a Lutheran to be saved? No. As the doctrine of justification rightly teaches, God saves people solely out of His fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, through simple faith in Jesus as their Savior. Wherever His Word is preached — even if imperfectly — there is hope for sinners to be saved by the working of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 12:3).

One pastor I know is fond of telling his parishioners that there are no Lutheran insomniacs, at least when it comes to eternal life. No Lutheran should stay awake at night worrying about his salvation. If justification is God’s work alone (which it is), and if He works through tangible means (which He does), then a Christian can remind himself that he is baptized by God and go happily to sleep.

The point of being Lutheran is comfort, not pride. God intends His people to have full and complete confidence that they are His because of His perfect work. This is justification. This is why I am a Lutheran. This joyful confidence is the baptismal birthright of every Christian. And it’s why we won’t confess the Sparkle Creed with the “church of what’s happening now.”

Mission-of-the-Month Project August Project 2023: Direct Support of the Gospel Mission to the People of Wisner, Nebraska

The Mission of the Month for August 2023 is outreach to the people of Wisner. What does that mean? People who live in Wisner know where our church is. They know what time church is. If they want to come, they will come, right? While that might be partially true, there are many in Wisner who do not have a church home or have not been to their church home in months or years. There are a lot of children in our community who do not attend church.



There are many young people who do not receive communications from the church through traditional means of radio, newspaper, and newsletters. They will not necessarily go to the church website. Much of the communication is done through social media like Facebook and Instagram. These items are free to use, but not free for large groups, like churches or businesses, to communicate.

So, our Mission of the Month goal for August is two-pronged: First, we will provide school supplies and other fun items for kids branded with the St. Paul Lutheran Church logo, which will be distributed through our Wednesday midweek, Sunday School, Youth program, and trick-or-treat. Second, is to provide cash for a social media drive on a regular basis to ensure our announcements and events are seen in the community by all. The hope is that we are able to share the Gospel with our local neighbors too, so that they may enjoy the blessings of the Lord's Kingdom. We ask for your generous support!



Dear parents with wiggly children,

Oh, yes: I see you and your kids. I'm way up there in the pulpit and you're often way in the back, but I see you. I hear y'all, too. The dropped hymnals, the coos, the squeals and the cries — all those little distractions that rise above the sounds of worship.



You know who you are. The rest of us do, too. And since I see you and I hear you, I just wanted to say something:

Thank you.

Thanks for your ongoing efforts to include your children in worship. You could get more out of it for yourself if we had a nursery and you could park them there. You wouldn't have that feeling that everybody's looking at you when your kid does something out of order, and you wouldn't be waiting for the possible meltdown when the communion service goes long. You wouldn't have to beat that hasty retreat to the narthex because a little one has gotten a bit too restless or whacked his head on the pew.

Yup. Your life on Sunday could be so much less noisy and complicated.

But you're parents. You know that getting more out of things for *yourself* will be a luxury for the next several years. You know the value of your children getting used to worship at an early age, a habit that we pray they'll continue for the rest of their lives. You know that those little sponge-minds are picking up a lot of stuff, memorizing creeds and prayers and songs. You also know that as the Word of God bounces around the room from readings and sermons and hymns, it's going into the ears of the young to give grace and strengthen faith. And even when parenting duties mean you don't get to listen to much, you still receive Christ's body and blood — and so you know you're forgiven.

Dear parents with wiggly children,

So you keep girding your loins, setting your face and bringing your kids to church.

Bless you. We're pulling for you and praying for you. If sometimes we get a little cranky and forget that we had kids once and *were* kids once, we might forget for a moment what it means to be part of the family of God. But we remember Jesus' words, "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven" (Matt. 19:14).

As for me, I'm looking forward to teaching your kids in confirmation class. It's ten years away, give or take. That's not very long at all.

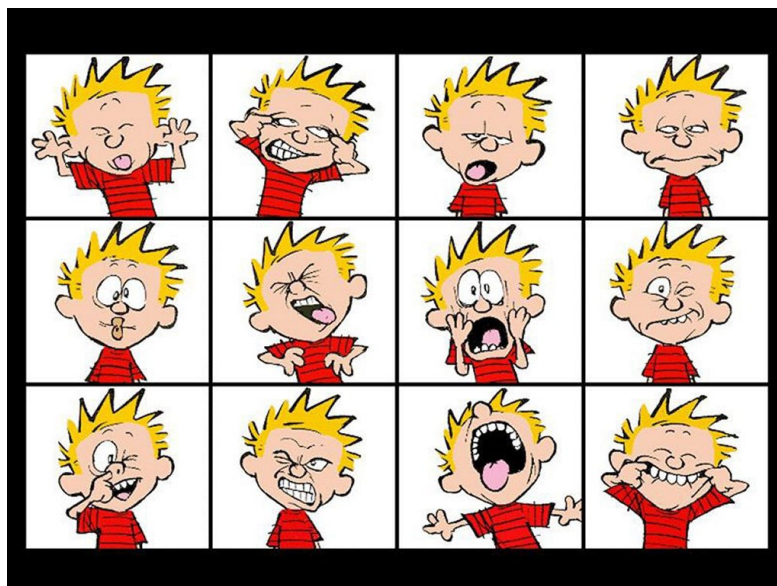
So thank you. God grant you every good gift needed in your holy calling of parenting.

Peace to you in Christ,

Pastor Pauls

by Tim Pauls

The Rev. Timothy Pauls serves as pastor at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Boise, Idaho, and is a collegium fellow for DOXOLOGY: The Lutheran Center for Spiritual Care and Counsel.



BOARD MEETINGS MONTH SCHEDULE

BOARD OF YOUTH—Sunday, August 6th

BOARD OF ELDERS—Monday, August 14th

BOARD TRUSTEES—Wednesday, August 16th

BOARD OF PARISH EDUCATION—Sunday, August 20th

BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP—Sunday, August 27th

COUNCIL COUNCIL— Wednesday, August 30th

Board meetings subject to change, please watch bulletin for updates for your board meetings. Thank you.



FYI

We Deliver
Meals on Wheels
on the week of
September 4th.

Please make sure to
sign up and help
deliver these meals
and maybe even
pray with them and
for them as you
deliver the meals.

Remember Our Homebound Wisner Care Center

Bob Albers; John & Judy Borgelt;
Bernice Grothe; Rose Kindschuh;
Lois Schmidt;

At Home:

Fred & Joan Groninger;
Donna Heller; Betty Jacobsen;



SAVE THE DATES:

Rally Day will be September 10th
starting at 9:15am.

*Parents' meeting for Confirmation during
regular Sunday School time on Rally Day.*

Celebration of Pastor Hartman's 10 years in the
ministry will be on September 10th.

Midweek Confirmation Classes will begin
on September 13th at 4:00pm.

We are looking for candy donations again this
year for the confirmation children and trunk or
treat bags.

**More information will be in next
month's newsletter.**

St. Paul Lutheran Church
Financial Report
7/31/23

Received		Mission Outreach, Budget	
Home	\$55,246.44	Synodical Support	\$1,000.00
Misc. Income (*)	\$0.00	District Support	\$1,500.00
Mission Outreach	\$12,959.73	Winnebago School	\$4,000.00
Total	\$68,206.17	Winnebago Mission	\$2,000.00
Home Expenses		Seminarians Support	\$9,000.00
Pastor Hartman Salary	\$28,000.00	Russian Orphanage	\$3,500.00
Pastor Hartman Car Allowance	\$937.73	Russian Orphanage, Christmas	<u>\$0.00</u>
Pastor Hartman Housing Equity	\$875.00		\$21,000.00
Pastor Hartman Concordia Plan Pl:	\$16,449.32	Nonbudget Expenses	
Pastor Hartman Offset	\$408.32	Annual Project	\$0.00
Continuing Education	\$1,047.58	Replace Door & Windows	\$0.00
Pastor 403-b	\$740.00	Sound system (Thrivent)	\$0.00
Secretary Salary	\$10,500.00	School	\$0.00
Convention Expense	\$911.76	Missionary of the Month, 1st Quart	\$0.00
Organist Salary	\$1,800.00	Missionary of the Month, 2nd Quar	\$0.00
Treasurer Salary	\$2,683.31	Missionary of the Month, 3rd Quar	\$0.00
Guest Speaker	\$350.00	Missionary of the Month, 4th Quar	<u>\$0.00</u>
Port. Of Pray & Lutheran Wit.	\$607.69		\$0.00
Church Service Support	\$1,619.96	Budget Scholarship CD	
Trustees		Winnebago Fee	\$500.00
Custodial Salary	\$3,424.00	Lutheran High Fee	\$0.00
Custodial Supplies	\$232.57	NACC	<u>\$2,064.83</u>
Floor Care	\$0.00		\$2,564.83
Grounds Care	\$2,674.04	Nonbudget Savings Account	
Elevator Maintenance	\$910.23	Building Fund	\$410.89
Repairs	\$27,275.47	Choir	\$121.35
Utilities	\$11,730.95	Church Cleaning	\$0.00
Telephone	\$1,740.96	Camp Luther	\$1,000.00
Office Supplies	\$2,264.02	Christian Education	\$1,526.10
Office Equipment	\$6,292.88	Defib. Fund	\$747.04
Church Insurance	\$6,432.85	General Memorial	\$5,875.49
Medicare	\$336.82	Library Fund	\$205.37
FICA	\$1,440.24	Stain glass windows	\$8,665.29
Miscellaneous Exp.	\$120.00	Wisner Outreach	\$2,439.04
Choir Exp.	\$0.00	Yearly Project	\$3,382.00
Bank Fees	\$248.52	Youth Assistance Fund	\$756.02
Software Subscriptions	\$1,611.25	Interest Income	\$244.30
Board of Education		Bank Fees	-\$20.00
Sunday School	\$495.19	Total Funds	\$25,352.89
Midweek	\$269.37	Bank CD'S	<u>Terms</u>
Vacation Bible School	\$0.00	Restricted General CD	\$1,408.67 3 Mo - 1%
Adult Instructional Material	\$0.00	Scholarship CD	\$34,467.19 13 Mo - 4.15%
Library	\$0.00	Mission CD #1	\$10,879.16 1 Mo -
Camp Luther	\$0.00	Mission CD #2	\$10,984.89 10 Mo - 4.05%
Board of Social Ministry	\$0.00	Greta Roth Memorial	<u>\$10,110.90 10 Mo - 4.40%</u>
Board of Youth	\$246.29	Total CD'S	\$67,850.81
Board of Stewardship	\$0.00		30 Wks 2023
Total Home Expenses	\$134,676.32	Mission Outreach Budget	\$12,115.50
		Received	<u>\$16,526.19</u>
		Over	\$4,410.69
		Home Budget	\$111,699.60
		Received	<u>\$126,373.33</u>
		Short	\$14,673.73
<u>Sewer Repairs</u>		General Checkbook Balance 7/31/23	\$27,188.98
Total to Roto Rooter	\$39,172.95	Non-Budget Checkbook Balance 7/31/23	\$25,352.89
Invoice #507-2449878 Sales Tax Chg Refund	-\$115.14	Thrivent Checkbook Balance 7/31/23	\$277.75
5/3/23 Check From North Star Ins	-\$5,000.00		
	\$34,057.81		
Sewer Fund Receipts	-\$19,284.00		
Remaining Challenge	<u>\$14,773.81</u>		

St. Paul Lutheran Church
7/31/2023

	2023 Budget	Expenses	% Total
A. Board of Elders			
1. Pastors Hartman Salary			
A. Salary	\$48,000.00	\$28,000.00	58.33%
B. Car Allowance	\$4,000.00	\$937.73	23.44%
C. Concordia Plan	\$36,988.56	\$16,449.32	44.47%
D. Pastor Offset	\$700.00	\$408.32	58.33%
E. Housing Equity	\$1,500.00	\$875.00	58.33%
F.403b	\$1,200.00	\$740.00	61.67%
2. Secretary Salary	\$18,000.00	\$10,500.00	58.33%
3. Treasurer Salary	\$4,600.00	\$2,683.31	58.33%
4. Continuing Education	\$1,000.00	\$1,047.58	104.76%
5. Organists	\$5,000.00	\$1,800.00	36.00%
6. Church Service Support	\$3,500.00	\$1,619.96	46.28%
7. Guest speakers	\$1,500.00	\$350.00	23.33%
8. Convention Expenses	\$1,500.00	\$911.76	60.78%
9. Port. Of Pray & Lutheran Wit.	\$800.00	\$607.69	75.96%
10. Choir	\$100.00	\$0.00	0.00%
B. Board of Trustees			
1. Custodian Salary	\$5,824.00	\$3,424.00	58.79%
2. Custodian supplies & Equipment	\$700.00	\$232.57	33.22%
3. Floor Care	\$0.00	\$0.00	
4. Miscellaneous Expense	\$500.00	\$120.00	24.00%
5. Utilities			
A. Fuel, Electricity, Water	\$16,000.00	\$11,730.95	73.32%
B. Telephone	\$3,000.00	\$1,740.96	58.03%
6. Church Insurance	\$11,000.00	\$6,432.85	58.48%
7. Repairs & Improvements	\$4,500.00	\$27,275.47	606.12%
8. Grounds Care	\$4,000.00	\$2,674.04	66.85%
9. Office Supplies	\$6,000.00	\$2,264.02	37.73%
10. Office Equipment	\$6,000.00	\$6,292.88	104.88%
11. Elevator Maintenance	\$1,800.00	\$910.23	50.57%
C. Board of Education			
1. Sunday School	\$1,800.00	\$495.19	27.51%
2. Vacation Bible School	\$600.00	\$0.00	0.00%
3. Midweek School	\$0.00	\$269.37	0.00%
4. Adult Instruction	\$400.00	\$0.00	0.00%
5. Library & Music	\$300.00	\$0.00	0.00%
6. Camp Luther	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%
D. Board of Social Ministry	\$100.00	\$0.00	0.00%
E. Board of Youth	\$500.00	\$246.29	49.26%
F. Board of Stewardship	\$200.00	\$0.00	0.00%
G. Medicare	\$500.00	\$336.82	67.36%
H. FICA	\$1,500.00	\$1,440.24	96.02%
Total Home Budget	\$193,612.56	\$132,816.55	68.60%
Mission Outreach			
A. Winnebago Mission	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	0.00%
B. Winnebago School	\$4,000.00	\$0.00	0.00%
C. Seminarian Students	\$9,000.00	\$0.00	0.00%
D. Orphan Grain Train Orphanage	\$3,500.00	\$0.00	0.00%
E. Synodical Support	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	0.00%
F. District Support	\$1,500.00	\$0.00	0.00%
Total Mission Outreach	\$21,000.00	\$0.00	0.00%
Total Home & Mission Budget	\$214,612.56	\$132,816.55	61.89%
Scholarship Fund, CD			
A. Winnebago School Fee	\$500.00	\$0.00	0.00%
B. NACC	\$2,129.74	\$0.00	0.00%
Total From Scholarship Fund	\$2,629.74	\$0.00	0.00%

**Home Budget
Weekly Needs:
\$3,723.32**

**Mission Outreach
Weekly Needs:
\$403.85**

Stewardship CAMPAIGN

<u>June 4</u>		<u>June 11</u>	
General Envelopes	\$3,357.75	General Envelopes	\$3,834.75
Mission Envelopes	\$125.00	Mission Envelopes	\$120.00
Annual Project	\$0.00	Annual Project	\$0.00
Mission of the Month	\$0.00	Mission of the Month	\$150.00
Bible Class	\$22.00	Bible Class	\$6.00
Total	\$3,504.75	Total	\$4,110.75
Church Attendance: 137		Church Attendance: 141	
<u>June 18</u>		<u>June 25</u>	
General Envelopes	\$3,791.60	General Envelopes	\$1,793.0
Mission Envelopes	\$230.00	Mission Envelopes	\$110.00
Bible Class	\$22.00	Bible Class	\$19.00
Annual Project	\$0.00	Annual Project	\$314.00
Mission of the Month	\$230.00	Mission of the Month	\$75.00
Total	\$4,258.60	Total	\$2,311.00
Church Attendance: 121		Church Attendance: 129	

**Home Budget
Weekly Needs:
\$3,723.32**

**Mission Outreach
Weekly Needs:
\$403.85**

Stewardship CAMPAIGN

<u>July 2</u>		<u>July 9</u>	
General Envelopes	\$5,869.00	General Envelopes	\$3,561.00
Mission Envelopes	\$105.00	Mission Envelopes	\$90.00
Mission of the Month	\$170.00	Mission of the Month	\$0.00
Annual Project	\$100.00	Annual Project	\$0.00
Bible Class	<u>\$16.32</u>	Bible Class	<u>\$14.00</u>
Total	\$6,260.32	Total	\$3,665.00
Church Attendance: 122		Church Attendance: 161	
<u>July 16</u>		<u>July 23</u>	
General Envelopes	\$4014.75	General Envelopes	\$2,461.75
Mission Envelopes	\$165.00	Mission Envelopes	\$50.00
Bible Class	\$7.00	Bible Class	\$14.00
Annual Project	\$0.00	Annual Project	\$49.00
Mission of the Month	<u>\$150.00</u>	Mission of the Month	<u>\$75.00</u>
Total	\$4,339.75	Total	\$2,649.75
Church Attendance: 125		Church Attendance: 121	

Birthdays in August 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Cindy Buxton Randy Nissen	2 Doug Liermann	3 Annamae Bloedorn	4 Elizabeth Moeller Judy Borgelt Larry Liermann Stephanie Rasmussen	5 Aaron Becker
6 Amber Buhrman	7	8 Jordon Polk	9	10 Willis Hollman	11 Hunter Waterman Troy Kimble	12 Aaron Biermann Michelle Schultz
13	14 Matt Siebrandt Tim Springer	15 Steven Cornett Stephanie James Tanisha Brahmer	16 Keith Rasmussen Taylor Buderus	17 Allie Hassler Amy Eisenhauer Bonnie Petersen	18	19 David Fullner Cadence James
20 August Bloedorn	21	22 Jacob Borgelt Wayne Heermann	23	24 Bennett Biggerstaff	25	26 Sam Schweers
27 Barb Hass Travis Feyerherm	28 Elizabeth Cornett	29 Tammy Donner Adalyn Mologianes	30 Emersyn Buderus	31 Tyler Kimble		

Anniversaries in August 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4 Tom and Tammy Donner	5
6 Jason and Larianne Polk	7	8	9 Leroy and Bonnie Petersen	10	11	12
13	14 Wayne and Jayne Heermann	15	16	17	18	19
20 Walt and Saundra Biermann	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28 Jason and Abbi Oligmueller	29	30 Steve and Autumn Heermann Wade and Amy Eisenhauer	31		

Church Activities in August 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 6pm Worship	3	4	5
6 9:30am Bible Class 10:30am Worship 11:30am Board of Youth Meeting	7	8	9 10am Bible Class 6pm Worship	10	11 2pm Work Day at OGT	12
13 9:30am Bible Class 10:30am Worship	14 1pm Busy Fingers 7pm Board of Elders Meeting	15	16 10am Bible Class 6pm Worship 7:00pm Board of Trustees Meeting	17	18	19
20 9:30am Bible Class 10:30am Worship 11:30am Board of Education Meeting	21	22	23 10am Bible Class 6pm Worship	24	25	26
27 9:30am Bible Class 10:30am Worship 11:30am Board of Stewardship Meeting	28 1pm Busy Fingers	29	30 10am Bible Class 6pm Worship 7:00pm Church Council	31 1:30pm DOR		

St Paul Lutheran Church

We invite you to join us for
Worship every weekend;
and Bible Study throughout the week.

Our Address is:

509 13th Street
Po Box 797
Wisner Nebraska 68791

Phone #402-529-6583

Parsonage #402-529-3468

Email:

secretary.stpaulwisner.onmicrosoft.com

Website:

stpaul LutheranWisner.360unite.com

Things to Remember

Worship Times

6:00pm Wednesdays

10:30am Sundays

Bible Study Times

9:15am Sundays Adult Bible Class

10:00am Wednesdays Bible Class

COMING NEXT MONTH

- * New Mission of the Month
- * Rally Day and Midweek Information