

The Messenger

August 2017

St. Paul Lutheran Church and PreSchool
1327 Vaughn Road, Wood River, IL 62095
Dr. George J. Gude, Vacancy Pastor

Pastor's Comments

With August, summer vacation winds down. Schools are starting up. Children are wondering who their teacher is going to be for the new school year, and parents are hopeful that it will turn out to be a good year. College students are packing up and getting ready to head off for another year, realizing that they are getting closer to the end of their formal education, and hoping there will be a job offer before they walk across the stage for their diploma.

While education and learning seem to be getting a lot of attention at the moment, the reality is that our education can never be complete. On the job we must continually learn new job skills. (Try getting a job as an auto mechanic with a 1960s skill set.) Grandparents need to learn to text if they want their grandchildren to communicate with them.

The same thing is true of our Christian faith. The commission that Jesus gave to those who confess him was not "Go and make disciples of all nations baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." That is only the first half. Jesus continued, "Teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you." Our charge, as those who confess Jesus as our Savior, is not limited to bringing people to confess Jesus, but it includes doing all that we can to nurture the faith of those who confess him.

This is why at St. Paul we place such stress on regular participation in worship, Bible class, Sunday School, and Confirmation classes. These are the places in which God's Word is expounded and applied to our lives. These are the tools that God uses to nurture and strengthen faith and to give us a better grasp of the incomprehensible nature of his love for sinners, that promoted him to send his own Son to die as the payment for sin.

We live in a fallen world which throws us a lot of obstacles in our path, trying to convince us that there are much better options. As we continue to learn and grow in our understanding of God's revelation of himself to us in the Scriptures, we are better equipped to see these obstacles for what they are and overcome them.

Don't miss out. Come and grow in your faith. Bring your children and grandchildren.

Dr. George J. Gude
Vacancy Pastor

The Call Process

On Sunday, August 20, President Scharr of our Southern Illinois District will preach the sermon and during the Bible class hour he will explain the call process, which we will be beginning. **All members of the congregation are encouraged to attend.**

Initially the congregation will do a required self study, which President Scharr will explain. Following the completion of the self study, members of the congregation will be invited to submit names individuals they would like to be considered to be called as pastor of St. Paul to the elders. After the date specified by the elders for the submission of names, all of the names will be submitted to President Scharr so that he can gather the necessary information. President Scharr will also likely provide the congregation with names of other individuals whom he considered qualified to called as the pastor of St. Paul.

The constitution of St. Paul designates the board of elders as the call committee, and eventually they will submit the names of those individuals whom they considered most qualified to a special voters' meeting which will then vote and select an individual to be called.

Dr. George J. Gude
Vacancy Pastor



You are warmly invited to enjoy this year's picnic which will be held at church on September 10. Meat and drinks will be provided; just bring one large or two small casseroles, vegetables or desserts to share. A bounce house and games are planned for the kids, and volleyball will be available for adults. Form a team or join a team. Don't worry about dressing up – this is a picnic, and casual attire is fine. We'll worship together at one service which will be at 9:30, followed by the meal at 11:15. Bring a friend and share some fellowship with your St. Paul family.

New Member Welcome

This year we will have welcome of new members to St. Paul in conjunction with our Church Picnic on September 10. This will be a good opportunity for our more recent and long time members to become better acquainted.



Dealing with Grief Bible Study

We are finalizing arrangements with Pastor Randy Fischer from Messiah, Alton to lead a Bible study on dealing with grief. A class will meet on Tuesday evenings, probably from 7:00-8:00. If you would like to attend, please contact Pastor Gude, Kevin Brumitt, chairman of the Elders, or the church office.

Men's Night Out

September 16 is the date for St. Paul's Men's Night Out. Here's your opportunity to share some fellowship with the guys. Pork steaks, beverages, and sides will be provided. Be at church by 6:00 and be home by ??? Who knows! Join us for a fun evening.

It's time to start planning for Oktoberfest. Anyone interested in helping to plan this fun event should meet on Monday, August 21 in the church lounge at 7:00 p.m.



Junior High Confirmation is about to begin for the new school year. 7th and 8th graders at St. Paul engage in a 2-year program where they study and learn the primary teachings of Scripture and the specific doctrines of the Lutheran Faith. Memorization, reports, projects and class discussions are the highlights of the program, which culminates in the spring of 8th grade year with the Rite of Confirmation. Mr. Jon Giordano, an Elder at St. Paul who has helped with the Youth Group for years, will be teaching Confirmation during the vacancy. He also is a Theology teacher at Lutheran High, and he is excited to be working with our Confirmands as they become adult members of the Congregation.

There will be a parent meeting on Wednesday, August 16 at 7:00. Classes will begin on Wednesday, August 30, and meet from 7:00-8:30.

A Word of Introduction

As a relatively new member of St. Paul, I felt one way I could serve the Lord would be as editor of our newsletter. Although I'm not very computer savvy, I do feel that writing is one of my strengths. With that being said, what you're reading is my first attempt at a newsletter. I'm sure improvement is in the near future. How can you help? If you have something that you feel the congregation needs to know, please either e-mail the article to me at bobpatlist@att.net or give me a call at 636-675-1182. I'm more than willing to write the article for you if you give me the information. Thanks and God's blessings.

Pat List
Messenger, Editor

Lutheran Older Adult Retreat

Sponsored by Older Adult Ministry of The Southern Illinois District and Lutheran Senior Services, the Lutheran Older Adult Retreat will be held on Wednesday and Thursday, October 25-26, 2017 at Pere Marquette Lodge in Grafton, IL. The theme of the retreat is "In Christ Alone We Stand" and will include opportunities for faith, fun, and fellowship, with choices of 16 workshop sessions, worship, Bible study, good food and fellowship. This is an enjoyable two-day event in a very pleasant setting. For more information feel free to contact Bob List at Robert.List@att.net or call 314-488-8997. The registration deadline is October 11th.

Best Practices Workshop

The Southern Illinois District Congregational Ministries is having a "Best Practices Workshop" on Saturday, September 9, 2017 at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Collinsville, IL. Registration begins at 8:30 AM with Opening Devotion at 9:15. Plenary speakers will be Rep. John Shimkus and Rev. Kirk Clayton, based on the theme "Being Christian in a non-Christian World". Three sectional

times will offer a variety of topics, and the workshop will close at 2:30. There is no cost, but pre-registration is required. For more information, contact Bob List at Robert.List@att.net or call 314-488-8997. Bob is a member of the SID Older Adult Advisory Committee, which will be offering one of the sectional options.

Notes from the Board of Properties

We will be having a Work Day at St. Paul on Saturday, August 26th beginning at 8a. We need to trim bushes, trees, etc. around the church grounds. One and all are invited to help. Bring your tools along with you and we hope to see many of you then.

Also, we would like to note that we have begun reviewing the bids for replacing the steps that lead into the auditorium. We hope to have these accomplished by the end of the year. We are also looking at resurfacing the back steps that lead up into the breezeway.