

The Messenger

May 2018

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

Pastors Page

On May 20 we will be celebrating the festival of Pentecost in the church year. We may think of Pentecost as a distinctly Christian celebration, which was first celebrated fifty days after Easter. Actually Pentecost was one of the three pilgrim festivals of the Jewish religious year. On these pilgrim festivals Jewish worships from all over the Mediterranean world would throng to Jerusalem to offer sacrifice in the temple, which for many was a once in a life time experience. The first of these festivals was Passover, Pentecost was the second, and Tabernacles or the Feast of Booths was the third. Originally Pentecost commemorated the bringing of the first fruits of the Spring harvest.

However, on the particular Pentecost that came fifty days after the resurrection of Jesus, an event occurred which permanently changed what the church now celebrates. For on that Pentecost, the Holy Spirit, whom Jesus had promised he would send upon his disciples to enable them to remember and understand all that Jesus had taught them, actually came in a totally unexpected manner. As the twelve disciples were gathered in a room, the sound of a rushing mighty wind engulfed the place, cloven tongues as of fire appeared over their heads, and they began to speak in tongues. At the sound, a crowd gathered, and the disciples began to proclaim all that God had accomplished in Jesus, which all the people heard in their own native languages. The end result was that over 3000 people confessed Jesus and were baptized that day. Many of them would have been these Jewish pilgrims who were in Jerusalem for the celebration, and when they returned home, they had an amazing story to tell, resulting in the rapid spread of the news that the Messiah had come.

However, our celebration of Pentecost is more than a remembrance of an event from history. Our focus is on what the Holy Spirit does today among us, to whom he still comes. The Scriptures make clear that it is the Holy Spirit who gives us faith to believe that Jesus is the promised Savior, just as he claimed. The Holy Spirit works through baptism, by which he gathers us into God's family by creating faith in us.

But that is not all that the Holy Spirit does. Once he has given us faith, he continues to work in us strengthening that faith. The Holy Spirit works in us every time that we come to the Lord's Supper and receive the body and blood of Jesus. The Holy Spirit works in us every time we hear the message repeated about all that Jesus accomplished for us in his death on the cross. Then, as the Holy Spirit causes our faith to grow, he enables us to share that faith with those who do not believe. He equips us to resist temptation in our daily struggle to overcome the sin in our lives and to live in a way that reflects the fact that we are God's family. So our focus, as we again celebrate Pentecost again, is not on the past, but on the present. Our focus is on the reality that the Holy Spirit is at work in us daily, strengthening our faith and equipping us to live the implications of our faith.

Comments Regarding a New Pastor

We rejoice that God has led Pastor David Schultz to accept the call to become the next pastor of St. Paul. The arrival of a new pastor inevitably brings changes in the life of a congregation, because each pastor is unique and has his own gifts and strengths. For many years God has blessed St. Paul through the ministry of Pastor Martin Schultz, and the congregation became accustomed to his way of serving and leading the congregation.

Even though Pastor David Schultz grew up in this congregation, it is unreasonable for the members of the congregation to expect that his way of leading and serving the congregation will be the same as his father. We look forward to being served by Pastor David Schultz, knowing that there will be changes in the structure of how things are done in the life of the congregation, in the manner in which he shepherds the congregation, and in the direction that he leads the congregation.

We trust that God will be with and guide the members and leaders of the congregation and Pastor Schultz and give the congregation continued growth.

Dr. George J. Gude, Vacancy Pastor

Letter of Acceptance from Pastor David Schultz:

April 7, 2018

St. Paul Lutheran Church
Mr. Kevin Brumitt 1327 Vaughn Rd.
Wood River, IL 62095

Dear Mr. Brumitt and the Saints of St. Paul Lutheran Church,

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

I thank you for your prayers as I have asked God's guidance in considering your Call to serve as pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church. I appreciated your assistance during my visit — the tours, meetings with the church council, board of elders, congregational leaders, and the staff. I appreciate your love for our Lord and your desire to serve His people in your congregation. Led by the Holy Spirit, I have decided to accept your call as Pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Wood River.

Your ministry at St. Paul interests me greatly. You have impressive lay leadership that carefully seeks God's will during the call process. You have strong leaders on both your church council and board of elders who have a desire for St. Paul to grow in both number and in faith in their Lord. The church staff was very welcoming, hardworking, and eager to build new relationships. Your Church is beautiful and the many projects you have recently done add to the beauty of St. Paul. Your ministry at St. Paul is very exciting. I appreciate your love for music and worship. I appreciate your support of your Preschool and your Lutheran High School. With all the young families coming to the school, St. Paul will surely experience growth and an exciting future. You express the desire and joy of involving more people in worship and Bible study. You hope to instill a greater confidence among your members in the work of proclaiming the Gospel in your area. I appreciate all these concerns.

For all of these reasons St. Paul is a very attractive congregation for any pastor. I rejoice that the Holy Spirit has chosen and now leads me to accept the Call to serve as your pastor. I look forward to sharing with the Saints of St. Paul God's gifts and proclaiming to them their Risen Savior.

Blessings in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Schultz". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rev. David Schultz



The Installation of Pastor David Schultz will take place on Sunday, May 27th at 3p. Rev. Timothy Scharr, President of the Southern Illinois District will join us for the Rite of Installation. Following the service at 5p, there will be a catered dinner in the auditorium. Hope to see all of you take part in this worship service as your sign of support for our new pastor and the ministry he will begin with us at St. Paul.

The following are prayer suggestions to assist you in your personal prayer and devotional life.

BRETHREN PRAY FOR US

- May 6 For our confirmands at St. Paul, Beau Brandt, Giavanna Cruz, Jacob Hopp, Julian Marshall, Emily Ogle, Daphne Peterson, Dane Slayden, and Autumn Wilson
For Pastor Dave Stratmann and the members of Emmaus, Dorsey
- May 13 For the blessings God gives to us through our Mothers
For the Bible and that all may faithfully use this Means of Grace
For our Board of Stewardship.
For Pastor Dale Skeesick and the members of St. Peter, Prairietown
- May 20 For those who serve in the armed forces, especially those far from home
That God would richly bless our families
For those who have strayed from an active worship life
- May 27 For Leslie Fincher, Financial Secretary of our Congregation
For all the graduates in our communities, especially Alyssa Autery, Madison Crockett, Alexis Enke, Jacob Hall, Hunter Hobbs, Trenton Krockner, Sebastian Ledesma, Maddisen Long, Bryce McGaughey, Derek Ogle, Hannah Overton, Elizabeth Schroader, and Mary Teske



Membership Changes

Richard Grace, 3514 E. Arpent St., St. Charles, MO 63301

Lorraine Wieseman, Alhambra Care Center, 417 Main St., Room #417,
Alhambra 62001

Mark Tungett, 3747 Aberdeen Ave., Alton 62002 618-960-9515

Monica Hobbs – No Forwarding on File

Dan Bodenstag – University Nursing/Rehab, Room #C10, 1095 University Dr.

Edwardsville 62025

Baptisms

Hazel Kruckeberg, daughter of Crystal Kruckeberg 4/15/18

Samuel Loemker, son of Jeremy & Mauri Loemker 4/29/18

Death

Doug DePew +Entered Life Eternal+ 4/16/18

Confirmation Sunday, May 6th - We Will Welcome into communicant membership, 8 young people, who through the Rite of Confirmation will publicly profess their faith and promise a life of faithfulness to God: Beau Brandt, Giavanna Cruz, Jacob Hopp, Julian Marshall, Emily Ogle, Daphne Peterson, Dane Slayden, and Autumn Wilson. We pray the Lord's blessings upon them as they make their vows, and throughout their life as they seek to carry them out.

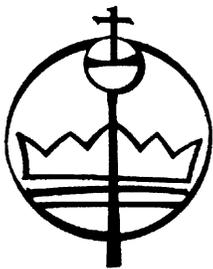


Going Forward!
Ready to
Accept God's will
Determined to
Understand God's word,
Alert to
Temptations,
Interested in
Others,
Never forgetting that Christ is my strength.

Congratulations to our high school graduates: Alyssa Autery, Madison Crockett, Alexis Enke, Jacob Hall, Hunter Hobbs, Trenton Krocker, Sebastian Ledesma, Maddisen Long, Bryce McGaughey, Derek Ogle, Hannah Overton, Elizabeth Schroader, and Mary Teske. We wish each of you God's blessings in the days ahead continue to learn and to serve in the Church and in the world! (If you are a high school senior and were mistakenly omitted, please call the church office at 259-0257.)

Graduation Dates and Times

- **Metro East Lutheran High Baccalaureate Service** Wednesday, May 16th at 7p at Holy Cross, Collinsville. Graduation will be in the school gymnasium on Sat., May 19th 7p
- **East Alton-Wood River High** graduation will be Wednesday, May 16th at 7:30p.
- **Roxana High** graduation will be on Sunday, May 20th at 2p.
- **Civic Memorial High** will hold their graduation on Saturday, May 19th at 7p.
- **Edwardsville High** graduation will be on Saturday, May 26th at 3p



ASCENSION SERVICE
Thursday - May 10th

The members of St. Paul, Concordia and Zion Lutheran Churches join together for the annual celebration of Ascension (the 40th day after Easter).

This year's service will take place at 7 pm at St. Paul

Save the Dates

Salad Luncheon



Donations: \$9 - Adults; \$3 - Children (4-11). We are planning on a large variety of salads, chicken salad and ham sandwiches, nut breads, cookies and drinks. Mark your calendar, plan to come and bring your friends. We will be calling for donations of salads and we would greatly appreciate your help in making this event successful. If you would be interested in helping with this event, contact Sandy Lee at 216-2262.

Ladies Aid Salad Luncheon

Thursday, May 10th
11a to 2p

St. Paul PreSchool Spring Program

Monday, May 14th
7:00 in the Auditorium



V.B.S. Staff

If you are interested in being on our excellent V.B.S. staff, please use the bottom of the registration form and fill in your name, address and phone number and place it in the offering plate on any Sunday, or call the church office at 259-0257. The dates for this year are June 11 - 15. Please join us, we have an awesome time working with and sharing Jesus with a great bunch of kids!!!



Older Adult Ministry

The Older Adult Ministry planning team will be meeting just a few days after this is written. We have had some good discussions and ideas for future activities and how to promote interest at St. Paul. Watch for more information about our first planned social event that hopefully will provide an enjoyable fellowship opportunity.

One disappointment has been a couple of shared sentiments reflecting a reluctance to acknowledge that aging is taking place. While it is fairly easy to understand, it is also sad when someone resists the fact of getting older. Remember, we don't need to apologize that we are aging. All of us are, and the suggestion is to embrace aging and look around and see that in many respects 65 is the new 50. People are continuing to retire at 65 after which many reinvent themselves for their second half of life. For some, later life is a time where people blossom and realistically anticipate the ability to retire and yet remain active for a number of years and enrich the experience of aging, rather than accept a traditional view of a period of inevitable decline.

Speaking of retirement, I left the workforce in January of 2009. I learned that it is best to plan for a major life change. Although there isn't room here to go into detail, for those who are, or will be thinking about, retiring, it's a time to think about switching gears from the structured life of a full-time job to the less structured life of retirement. There are a couple common concerns among retirees, including:

- Missing out on daily social interactions with co-workers
- Getting used to new routines
- Finding ways to give meaning and purpose to their days

Many retirees know that the change from a full-time job to a life with less structure and purpose can be challenging, especially emotionally, so here are 6 quick tips to get mentally ready to retire:

1. Celebrate your retirement with a party. It's an achievement that you have been blessed to reach.
2. Realize that you don't need to be anywhere. You don't need to wake up early, sit in traffic and put up with bad cafeteria coffee. You are free to lounge in your pajamas and take your time with errands. Seize the day and focus on doing what you love, whenever you want to.
3. Enjoy aging gracefully. You don't want to be 18 again, so enjoy your age at every age.
4. Spend more time with family and friends. Whether retired or not, this is one of the most important wishes for many people.
5. Adopt a dog. Pat and I are not yet in agreement on this, but research shows that dog-owners need fewer doctor visits, have lower cholesterol and blood pressure, and a lower risk of heart attack. What better reason to share your life with a dog in exchange for unconditional, tail-wagging love.
6. Stop obsessing about retirement. Maybe you have been anxiously waiting for retirement your entire adult life. Plan to live for the moment and enjoy being the master of your own schedule. Make yourself available for whatever God has planned for your life in retirement.

Even if your retirement is still a ways off, start on some of these ideas to prepare for an easier transition, and when it's time to retire, embrace your new-found freedom and make the most of it. More later.

Bob List 314-488-8997 Robert.List@att.net



VBS Registration Form

9a to 11:30a
Kids ages 3 thru Grade 5
(Grade 6 thru Adults • Volunteer on bottom of page)

Family Name: _____

Child's Name _____ Grade Completed _____ Baptized : Y/N

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

4 _____

5 _____

6 _____

Parent's First Names: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Emergency Contact Person/Phone #: _____

Relationship: _____

Church you attend: _____

Food Allergies or other medical conditions: _____

Brought by: _____

I would like to Volunteer: Name _____

Address & Phone #: _____

(Volunteers should be those going into 7th grade on up)

May 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 7:00p N.A. Meeting	2 8:00a Devotions 9:00a Quilting 9:30a Ladies Aid & Bible Study 6:00p Handbells 7:00p Confirmation	3	4	5
6 Easter 6 8:00a Divine Service 9:15a S.S. & B.C. 10:30a Divine Service Confirmation Aud. In use/Brandt	7	8 9:00a Braille/Zion 6:00p Properties 7:00p N.A. Meeting	9 8:00a Devotions 9:00a Quilting 6:00p Handbells	10 11:00a Ladies Aid Salad Luncheon 7:00p Ascension Service at St. Paul	11	12
13 Easter 7 8:00a Divine Service 9:15a S.S. & B.C. 10:30a Divine Service	14 7:00p PreSchool Program	15 10:00a Winkle 7:00p Elders 7:00p N.A. Meeting	16 8:00a Devotions 9:00a Quilting 6:00p Handbells	17	18	19
20 Pentecost 8:00a Divine Service 9:15a S.S. & B.C. 10:30a Divine Service	21 Last Day of 3-day PreSchool	22 Last Day of 2-day PreSchool 7:00p N.A. Meeting	23 8:00a Devotions 9:00a Quilting 6:00p Handbells	24	25	26
27 Holy Trinity 8:00a Divine Service 9:15a S.S. & B.C. 10:30a Divine Service 3:00p Installation of Rev. David Schultz 5:00p Catered Dinner Reception	28	29 7:00p N.A. Meeting	30 8:00a Devotions 9:00a Quilting 6:00p Handbells	31		

Church: 259-0257; PreSchool: 259-0055 St. Paul Lutheran Church: 1327 Vaughn Road, Wood River, IL 62095

St. Paul Lutheran Church

1327 Vaughn Rd., Wood River, IL 62095-1890

A Lutheran High School Association Member

A Stephen Ministry Congregation

Rev. Dr. George Gude, Vacancy Pastor • (618) 377-6246

Tammy Plummer, PreSchool Director, PreSchool: 259-0055

Church Office: 259-0257 • Fax: 259-0055

Church's Email: pastor@stpaulwoodriver.com

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www.stpaulwoodriver.com