

The Messenger

September 2017

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



Pastor's Comments

The Wednesday morning Bible class is beginning to work through the narrative of the Old Testament. So far, we have looked at the two opening chapters of the book of Genesis where it is clearly stated that God is the source of all things that are created and that everything was created exactly as God intended it. Man and woman are also described as the high point of God's creation, intended to have a special relationship with God. In addition, God intended his creation to be one of total peace and harmony.

However, as we look at the description of God's creation in these chapters, it is also apparent the picture of harmony in those opening two chapters of Genesis does not look anything at all like the reality of the world in which we live. (If you have any doubts listen to the news.) If we ask why the discrepancy, Genesis chapter three explains why, as it depicts the fall of mankind into sin and the effects of that rebellion, which was to bring total disharmony. Yet, even as mankind falls into sin, Genesis 3 includes a glimmer of hope. God is going to do something to fix it. Then, after giving that brief glimmer of hope, Genesis 4 through 11 describe how once sin entered, it was all downhill after that.

A major change in the narrative of Genesis comes with chapter 12, God's call of Abraham, as the Scriptures now begin to tell the story of the process of how God fixed the mess man had brought about with his fall into sin. It is a process that will involve Isaac, Jacob, the slavery of the nation Israel in Egypt, Moses and the Exodus, Joshua, and David. It is a process that took centuries until finally it culminates and is brought to completion in Jesus, God become flesh in order to take the sin of the world upon himself, so that all who confess him as Savior could be set free from the death brought on by sin and dwell with him eternally.

Through our faith in Jesus each one of us is the beneficiary. Our sins are forgiven. We possess that harmony God intended for his creation. Yes, it is also true that as long as we live in this fallen world we will be effected by it. We will not be immune to the same kind of accidents, sicknesses, and tragic deaths that plague humanity as a result of man's fall into sin. However, even as we live in this fallen and

sin distorted world, there is a huge difference, as Paul reminds us in Romans. None of this horrible stuff has the power to separate us from the love of God we have received in Christ Jesus. We already possess that one thing that matters, the forgiveness of our sins. Being forgiven assures us that we are God's family, and that our ultimate destination is that we will dwell with God forever in bliss and harmony.

So, amidst the trials and difficulties that we call life in this world, we live with a unique confidence. As a result of our faith in Jesus, our path will lead to and culminate in eternal life. It is sure, it is certain, because it does not depend on us, but on Jesus.

Pastor Gude



Ladies Aid News and Announcements

St. Paul Ladies Aid begins the year on the first Wednesday in September with a Bible study led by Pastor Gude, followed with a business meeting. Pastor has agreed to have Bible study with us every other month. The opposite months we will continue to have 1st Tuesday devotions and coffee with Meredith Arnold @ Rosewood Care Center in Alton.

Devotions @ 9:30 in the church auditorium will be held on Sept. 6, Nov. 1, January 3, March 7 and May 2.

Devotions with Meredith at Rosewood Care Center will be held at 9:30 with coffee, fellowship and devotions on Oct. 3, Dec. 5, Feb. 6 and April 3.

The annual Christmas luncheon will be at Golden Corral, 350 Homer Adams Parkway in Alton. Tentative date is Dec. 12.

News of the spring luncheon will be forthcoming.

We invite all ladies to join us. Mark your calendars.

Nita Neunaber, President

Congregational Self Study and Eventual Call Process

We have received the "Congregational Self Study" documents from the district. Portions will be filled in by the church office and by the elders. However, there is also a significant portion that the members of the congregation are invited to complete, which will then be tabulated and reported by the elders. The purpose is to enable us to identify what the members of the congregation see as the strengths and needs of St. Paul, as well as the characteristics that are considered desirable in the new pastor.

There are two pages that congregation members are invited to fill out, along with several pages of definitions to assist in filling out the one page. These papers for you to take home and fill out are available on the tables in the narthex. They must be returned by Sunday, September 27, after which they will be tabulated. The papers may be returned to the church on a Sunday or turned in to the church office.

The results will be tabulated and a report will be included in the October Newsletter, which should be ready to email by October 4. This October Newsletter will also include an invitation to the members of the congregation to submit names for individuals they desire to be considered as pastor of St. Paul. Again, forms will be available on the tables in the narthex. The deadline for returning these forms suggesting names of individuals to be considered for pastor will be Sunday, October 22.

This list of names will then be submitted to the district office, which will provide the Self Evaluation Tool (SET) and Personal Information Form (PIF) for each of the names submitted. In addition, the district president will add names, based on the Congregational Self Study, and his personal knowledge of the congregation. The names heads will be individuals he believes would be good for the congregation to also consider. Hopefully we would have this information by the end of November.

Once we have received all of the information from the district office, then the call committee will begin the process of evaluating the qualifications of those whose names were submitted and for whom we have received information. (It is possible that the district might not be able to have access to the information from every suggested individual.) According to the constitution of St. Paul, the call committee consists of the elders, the chairman and vice chairman of the congregation, the circuit visitor, and the vacancy pastor.

The call committee may decide to interview several of the individuals, and eventually it will propose a list of several recommended names that are considered to best meet the needs of St. Paul. These recommended names, along with the evaluation and qualifications of each will reported to the congregation three weeks prior to the voters' meeting at which the call will be issued. At that meeting, any voter may move to amend the list by adding the name of one of those individuals for whom we have received information from the district office. (New names will not be able to be added at that time.)

Beyond the October 22 deadline mentioned above, at this time no other specific dates can be given.

Pastor Gude

Adult Information Class

We plan to begin an Adult Information Class for those interested in learning the basics of our Lutheran faith. Those who complete the classes will be prepared to become communicant members of St. Paul, should they desire to do so.

The classes will meet on Wednesday evenings, and our intention is to begin the middle of September. A specific date and time will be determined soon. If you are

interested, or know someone who might be, please contact Pastor Gude or the church office.

Church Picnic Weekend



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 a large casserole, a salad or a dessert to share. A bounce house and games are planned for the kids, and volleyball teams (maximum of 6 players and minimum of 4 players) and wiffle ball teams (maximum of 5 players and minimum of 2 players) will be available for adults. Form a team or join a team. Sign up sheets are in the narthex. 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.

St. Paul's Braille Crew

Lutheran Braille Workers is a mission of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod and is based in California. It has 77 work centers across the country and ours (No. 125) is housed at Zion, Bethalto. Some, like ours, have the equipment to produce Braille books and others make large print editions. St. Paul, Wood River, has been involved in the program since November 2010. Initially the work center was housed at Concordia, Granite City. Now it occupies a couple closets and the quilters' room five times a month at Zion. The equipment and a supply of paper and cartons fill the closets. Besides St. Paul and Zion, Bethalto, crews from Trinity, Edwardsville; Hope, Highland; and Good Shepherd, Collinsville come once a month to produce books. Delores Darnstadt directs the program and her husband works with packing and making double corners for the cartons. The office in California furnishes the labels for the cartons – to all parts of the world. Some orders are for a single book while others contain multiple books.



Each congregation needs to furnish a crew of 10 workers so if we need additional help we can call when needed. Our designated workday is the second Tuesday of each month at 9:00 am. Each of these congregations also contributes \$250 each year for supplies.

Our crew members in August were: Bill & Mary Birdsell; Wayne & Elaine Poenitske; Jo Brady; Jane Aper; David Richards; Dotti Hachman; Mary Lou Oelzen and Vi Pinkerton.

If you would be interested in spending two hours helping a worthwhile mission effort, please call the Poenitskes at - **618-254-3653**.

Attention all Thrivent Insurance Members

You can help any St. Paul ministry or service projects by writing a Thrivent Action Grant and receiving a \$250 to help purchase items for the event. It is really easy! It takes about 10 minutes to write the request. Lynn Koch will help you write the grant. She and her family have written numerous grants and know the ropes! Here is what you need to do:



- Go to the Thrivent website. You will need to know your username and password--or create an account.
- Scroll down and find Thrivent Action Plan. Follow the directions for writing the grant.
- You will receive confirmation in about 2 days. The box with materials and the debit card will arrive in about 2 weeks.
- Contact Lynn Koch with any questions or assistance in writing the grant. You may call 520-3327 or email 19stevekoch54@gmail.com.

We could write grants for the following events:
Advent and Lenten dinners, Oktoberfest, St. Paul Christmas Party, Chili Cook-off and Auction, Vacation Bible School, Ladies' Salad Luncheon, St. Paul's Preschool, St. Paul's Youth Ministry, or any function of St. Paul Lutheran Church.

Let's work together to benefit the ministry and service projects of St. Paul! To God be the Glory!!

Deadline for the October Newsletter

The deadline for the October Newsletter is September 29. Please submit articles to the editor, Pat List, (bobpatlist@att.net) or to the church office.

Men's Night Out

We will need to move this to October or November. There is a conflict to have this on September the 16th. Watch the bulletin and newsletter for new date.

Dealing with Grief Bible Study

The arrangements have been finalized for Pastor Randy Fischer from Messiah, Alton to lead a Bible study on dealing with grief for those members of the congregation who would like to attend. The Bible study will meet on Tuesday evenings from 7:00-8:00, beginning Tuesday, September 12. It will meet in one of the upstairs classrooms.



Board of Properties Update

Thank you to all who helped with the work day. The trimming and other landscaping look great.

The outside steps going down to the Parish Hall are deteriorating, and bids have been received. Bids have also been received to repair the concrete steps leading up to the church from the back parking lot.

St. Paul's 17th Annual Benefit Golf Scramble is scheduled for Sunday, September 24th. Tee-off: Noon \$65/person includes 18 holes, cart, soft drinks, prizes, food & fellowship. Where: Woodlands Golf Course, 2839 Harris



Lane, Alton. Enjoy this fun event while raising funds for St. Paul's Social Ministry. Hole sponsorship begin at \$20/hole; sponsor 9 holes for \$150; 18 holes for \$250. Contact Bob Farrell at 618-971-6644.



Membership Happenings

Chris Barnes, 606 W. Kennedy, DeSoto, IL 618-980-4193

Darla Hetzel, 45 N. Harvest Crest Ct., Highland, IL 62249 618-882-6633

Steve Jenkins, 2210 Illinois Rt. 127, Donnellson, IL 62019 912-455-5360

Lisa Flener & Children, 521 10th St., Wood River 62095 618-334-5781

Ben & Emily Bomkamp & Family, 1259 Cedar, Wood River 62095 Ben: 618-977-5824

Matt & Helena Jenkins & Family, 1 River Reach Ct., Unit B, Alton 62002

Wedding

Michelle Pilger to James Reveal 6/3/17

Transfer In

Steve Jenkins from St. Paul Lutheran, Statesboro, GA

Baptism

James Matthias Gauen, son of James & Abby Gauen

Adult Confirmation

Stacey Craig

Transfer Out

Edna Hartman to Faith Lutheran Church, Godfrey

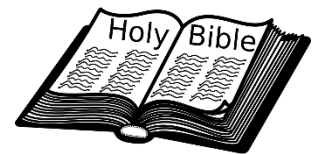
Dee Turnbeaugh to Signal Hill Lutheran, Belleville

Shelley Kohlenberg to Concordia Lutheran Church, Kirkwood, MO

Funeral

Paul Osborne + Entered Life Eternal 7/26/17+

Shirley Barnes +Entered Life Eternal 8/17/17+



Wednesday Morning Devotions

Are you available Wednesday mornings? Would you enjoy a Scriptural devotion and fellowship?? Please, join us (all ages) each Wednesday morning at 8 am for hymn singing, scripture, devotion, followed by fellowship, coffee and rolls. This group meets each Wednesday at 8am in the auditorium.