



Newsletter

Volume 27 Issue 8
September 21, 2022

Election Season and the Christian's Responsibilities

Christians and churches do funny things with politics, and reconciling them to their spiritual life is a multivalent experience: they might jump head-long into a sort of old-world Manifest Destiny, believing that God will bless us with lower gas prices if only we had a more moral collective. On the other hand they might eschew politics altogether, sitting on the sofa on a Sunday afternoon (as Simon and Garfunkel put it), pretending that governmental designs have no lasting effects on their lives. Both extremes are wildly ignorant, but in different ways. Yes, God is present in the entire world, and no earthly government is perfect or permanent: "Trust not in mortal man," and all that (Ps. 146). On the other hand, pretending that your faith has nothing to do with your politics is like saying your skin has nothing to do with your body. You live in it, so how could it not? Even worse, getting angry because your church says you should keep the commandments of God is really just getting angry at the Bible when it says you should "choose life over death" (Deut. 30:19).

Lutherans hold a mediating political theology that I believe is both Scriptural and realistic to guide a Christian, especially in an election season. It's called the doctrine of the Two Kingdoms. On the one hand (the so-called "Right Hand") there is the Kingdom of Grace: this is the church, the gospel, the free-and-clear gift of salvation through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Here there is no social status, no taxation, "no slave or free, Jew or Greek, male and female" (Gal. 3:28), no law or condemnation for those who are in Christ (Rom. 8:1). It is not, never has been, and never will be a democracy by the people. It is a divine Monarchy, and God the Father is our King. We live and die by his grace and providence. Nothing you can do will earn his favor, and no offense is too great to be forgiven. You are his citizen, set free to be free (Gal. 5:1) and to serve others as Christ served you.

The other Kingdom (the so-called "Left Hand") is the Kingdom of Law: this is the world in which you live. So you have relationships: you are a father, a mother, a son or daughter; you have a job with a title, a salary, and a tax bracket. You have papers in your fire-proof safe that legally declare your citizenship of a particular land in a particular time. You are under the law, and there is no grace here. There are only consequences if you break those laws.



Continued on page 2...

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Election Season	1-6
Principal's Office / VLHS Homecoming Grand Tailgate	7
Benkert Family Update	8
Women's Fall Day Retreat	9
Ladies Aid News / CEF Investment	10
JOY Trip / Trunk-or-Treat / Fresh Fall Wreaths / Scholastic Book Fair	11
Missionary Updates / Persecuted church	12
October Rotations	13
August 2022 Minutes	14-15
October Calendar	16

SAVED

by Jesus,

SENT

to serve.

Election Season and the Christian's Responsibilities

...Continued from page 1

The doctrine of the Two Kingdoms is a paradox. As long as you live, you live in both Kingdoms. By grace you are saved, and not by works. But by works and not by grace do you live decently and at peace with your neighbors. The Kingdoms are interrelated, but offer very different statuses of existence. Consider: if I sin by being angry at my brother, I'm guilty of hell in the Kingdom of Grace. Yet in the Kingdom of Law, if I harbor a grudge against my brother there's no law I am breaking. Contra wise: even if I murder my brother, by repentance and faith in Christ I can be actually (scandalously!) be forgiven in the Kingdom of Grace. Yet in the Kingdom of Law, I will spend the rest of my life removed from the general population (or in some cases be executed). These Kingdoms aren't contradictory; it's how God designed them, and he is in control of both Kingdoms (cf. John 18:36 and Rom. 13:4).

Obviously the Kingdom of Law is finite, and the Kingdom of Grace everlasting. So in the maintenance of the paradox, how do these Two Kingdoms work together? Simple: your earthly life and citizenship in the Kingdom of Law is informed by your life and citizenship in the Kingdom of Grace. What does this mean? It means that I get over the grudge because God put his grudge against me on Jesus. It means I love my brother because Christ loved me and gave himself up for me. It means I serve my neighbor because the Spirit of peace enflames in me a love of my fellow man. It means God didn't save you so that you could be selfish, uncaring, and "sin boldly" whilst receiving absolution like a magic trick on Sunday morning. It means God saved you (Kingdom of Grace) so that you can do good works (Kingdom of Law) "which he prepared beforehand that we should walk in them" (Eph. 2:10).

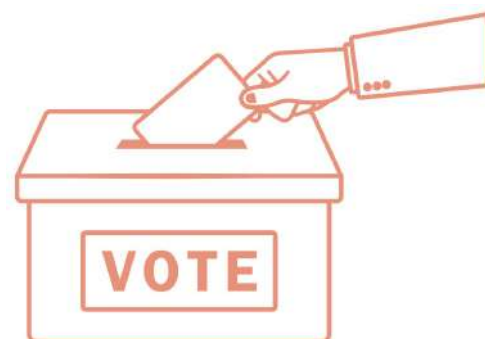
So what does this mean (and not mean) for American Christians in election season?

It means that voting is a work in the Kingdom of Law, so your consideration is for your neighbor and not for yourself. Because of the way this Constitutional Republic is organized—your representatives representing you "the people"—voting is one of the easiest acts of service (or disservice) you can give to your neighbor. In fact, I would go so far as to say that sometimes not voting at all is a sin of omission, since you are failing to serve your neighbor even in this simple way.

This does *not* mean that you can hold whatever political opinion you want, keep it secret, and declare it to be inconsequential to your faith.

This is as dangerous to your soul as if you were running a prostitution ring in your basement during the week but then come Sunday you slap on a tie and go to church to pass out bulletins. (I suppose a better analogy would be an abortion doctor serving communion.) A white-washed tomb looks pretty on the outside but smells like death in the inside. Some politics are *obviously* outside of God's will (Gal. 5:19–21), and he knows what circle your pen darkened behind the cardboard divider. You can't serve both God and mammon, but you can serve God *with* mammon; so you better darn well figure out which is which before the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November.

The doctrine of the Two Kingdoms also does *not* mean that if a fellow Christian disagrees with you over any number of political issues that they are *necessarily* demonstrating themselves to be a Pharisee or a hypocrite. They might be, but it's probably more complicated than that, so show a little charity. There are myriad issues that inform the reasons people vote. Some are naturally going to be prioritized due to the changing passions and harried instances of human life. But being broken by nature, politics is always a zero-sum game: sell your soul over here in order to get something good over there. Either way you look at it you lose (Simon and Garfunkel again). But some losses are patently worse than others, and you would be a fool to equalize them. Instead, use your godly wisdom to arrive at the best holistic decision, and pray that God's will be done.



Continued on page 3...

Election Season and the Christian's Responsibilities

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To that end, what is best for my neighbor (not necessarily what is most agreeable or comfortable for me) is what I will bring into the voting booth with me. Churches should not endorse individual politicians or parties as if good works are exclusive to individuals. They should rather examine (as saved people in a broken world) what God would have them do best to serve their neighbors according to the system of government—especially since that system is designed to change according to the will of the people voting. In church, Christians should expect to be exhorted toward moral and godly living always. Not just in election season, we should want to be turned toward the practical considerations and service of others, and toward being a good citizen of our land “so that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way.” (1 Tim. 2:2) Obviously this includes addressing moral issues on the regular, and it also includes directly addressing ballot issues or legislation that would be harmful to your neighbor.

To be perfectly clear: you are entitled as an American citizen to vote for whomever you wish. To be even clearer: you are not entitled as a Christian citizen to vote for your neighbor's harm. Within this newsletter is further information not only about what churches and pastors can and cannot legally say and do politically, but information from Right to Life of Michigan about the upcoming Proposal 3 that would enshrine a radical abortion law into the Michigan State Constitution. This is one of those rare occasions when it is legally and doctrinally acceptable for a pastor to adjure his congregation towards a particular action in the voting booth. You can keep your opinions about whomever—I'm never touching that—but a moral whatever like Proposal 3 is my pastoral responsibility to address. Go and read it: it isn't actually about personal freedom; it's a political bait-and-switch to make Michigan one of the most violent havens for abortions in the country. It is an abomination against humanity, and God will judge its supporters.

Again, I want to be crystal clear on this: St. Paul Lutheran Church is a member congregation of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and I am a professional rostered Member of the same. As such, we all confess the Bible to be the Word of God, and our doctrinal positions and teachings support both the sanctity of life and the public exhortations against evil—especially if we are legally entitled to a voice against that evil. I firmly believe that a large part of our societal problems today stem from churches and Christians cowering at the sounds of loud criticisms and wishing to be “polite” rather than “political,” even if that means watching the world burn down around them. We used to be the voice of reason and morality in the public square. But now we give it up at the first sign of someone being offended.

But “blessed is the one who is not offended by me,” (Matt. 11:6) and “God is not mocked.” (Gal. 6:7)

So:

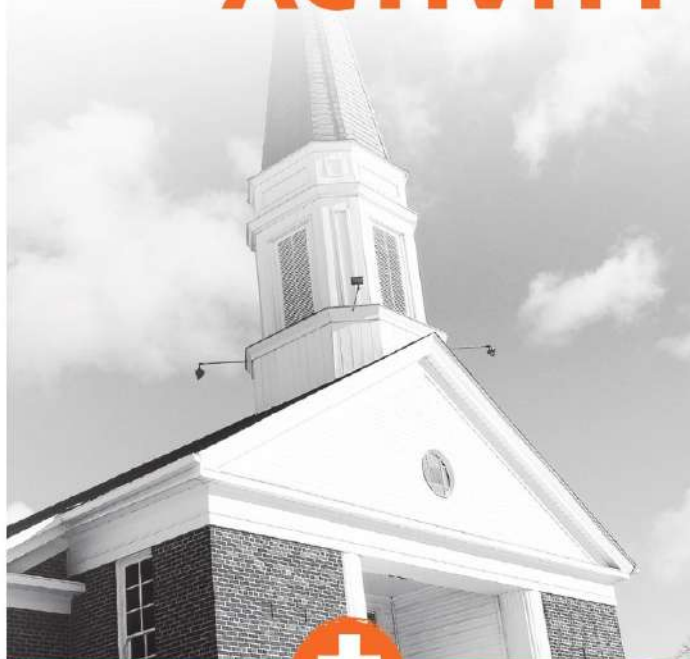
Dear Christian, you have been redeemed by the death and resurrection of Jesus, and are free to do good works for your neighbor. Therefore, if you are a voting citizen of this state, you are conscious bound by your Christian faith to vote “no” on Proposal 3.

Please do the right thing.

Pastor Matyas



ELECTION ACTIVITY



What Churches

Can and

Can't do

Right to Life of Michigan

CHURCH LEADERS HAVE RIGHTS TOO!

Many pastors and church leaders worry about legal repercussions of speaking out on issues that frequently involve politics, like abortion. They are concerned about endangering their church nonprofit status as a 501(c)(3).

While churches may not participate in a candidate's campaign, churches can do quite a few things that broadly involve election and legislative issues. There is no reason to remain silent or be concerned about informing members about issues of public concern.

Pastors and priests, acting as individuals and not as official church representatives, have the same rights as every other American citizen to involve themselves in political activity.

Key points:

- Be fair to every candidate in the race.
- When discussing candidates' position on issues, stick to the facts.
- Churches can tell members their position on legislation and encourage members to sign petitions as long as those efforts are not a substantial part of their activities or spending. Don't connect the legislation to specific candidates.



**Right to Life
of Michigan**
EDUCATIONAL FUND

CONTACT:
P.O. Box 901 | Grand Rapids, MI 49503
(616) 532-2300 | info@rtl.org
RTL.org



Updated 5/11/21

Thank you to Alliance Defending Freedom for providing much of this information: www.adflegal.org

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

The Internal Revenue Code (IRS) requires that churches refrain from supporting or opposing a candidate's campaign. IRS guidelines prohibit direct contributions to a candidate, as well as in-kind contributions, which include giving anything of value to a candidate (such as a church mailing list). Independent expenditures, which are expenditures expressly advocating the election or defeat of a candidate when made without the knowledge of any candidate, are also prohibited.

Speech about public issues may incidentally influence elections, but the government is far more limited in its ability to restrict discussion about issues. Churches may speak out about social and moral issues, the actions of government officials, and the positions of candidates on issues. As long as a church does not endorse or oppose a specific candidate for office, it has broad freedom of speech.

Churches can take a position or participate in ballot referendums and issue-oriented activities such as speaking out for or against legislation as long as spending or activity does not exceed an insubstantial amount.

These are general guidelines. Federal laws and laws in other states can differ or change in some cases.

ACTIVITY	CHURCH	PASTOR*
Provide information about legislation	YES	YES
Express an opinion for or against legislation	YES	YES
Spend a substantial amount lobbying on legislation	NO	YES
Discuss positions of candidates on issues	YES	YES
Endorse political candidates	NO	YES
Contribute to candidates	NO	YES
Give In-kind contributions to candidates	NO	YES
Make indirect expenditures for or against candidates	NO	YES
Contribute to political action committees	NO	YES
Contribute to 501(c)(3) organizations	YES	YES
Pay expenses to attend state or national conventions	NO	YES
Non-partisan voter registration or get out the vote activities	YES	YES
Distribute candidate surveys and voting records	YES	YES
Distribute candidate literature or materials	NO	YES
Distribution by others of political materials in church parking lot	YES	N/A
Editorials in church bulletin endorsing or opposing candidates	NO	N/A
News stories about issues and candidates in church bulletin	YES	N/A
Political ads in church publications at regular rates	YES	N/A
Rental of church facilities or membership list at regular rates	YES	N/A
Invite all candidates to a church event or candidate forum	YES	N/A

*Acting as an individual and not in an official capacity or representative of the church.

EXAMPLES OF DO'S AND DON'TS

Do say:

Senator Smith supports abortion and his opponent candidate Jones does not.

Don't say:

Senator Smith is bad for being pro-abortion, candidate Jones has a great prolife position.

Do:

Tell church members they should vote prolife.

Don't:

Tell church members they should vote prolife while talking about Senator Smith and candidate Jones' position on abortion.

Do:

Talk about supporting the bill in the Michigan Senate to require parental consent before abortion.

Don't :

Talk about how we should vote against Senator Smith for opposing parental consent legislation.

Do:

Encourage people to sign a petition after the service on prolife legislation.

Don't:

Encourage people to sign a petition from Senator Smith so he can appear on the ballot.



NO PROPOSAL 3

TOO CONFUSING

It's a mess of confusing wording and legalese, but it's not by accident: the sponsors want to confuse voters to hide how extreme their proposal actually is. Behind innocent-sounding words lies a radical proposal that would wipe out 50 years of laws and regulations about abortion and replace them with one new rule:

ANYTHING GOES.

- Any kind of abortion...including partial birth abortion
- Any time during the pregnancy, including up until the moment before birth
- Any woman at any age, even teenagers getting an abortion without their parents knowing.


TOO EXTREME

All the laws that protect unborn children — and even those protecting women getting an abortion — would be wiped out, including:

- The ban on taxpayer funding of abortions
- The laws requiring parental consent and informed consent
- The law requiring abortion clinics to pass health and safety inspections
- Even the law saying only doctors can perform abortions would be repealed
- And on top of all that, this proposal would permanently put 60 mistakes into our state constitution. Currently, our constitution has ZERO typos, grammatical errors, or other glitches. It's a good idea to keep it that way, which means you have 60 more reasons to **VOTE NO.**

NO PROPOSAL 3

Paid for with regulated funds by Citizens to Support MI Women and Children
P.O. Box 901, Grand Rapids, MI 49509-0901



From the Principal's Office

Statistically speaking, students and parents report a higher level of satisfaction with a sense of belonging in a school community when a student (and therefore a family) is involved in an extracurricular activity. This isn't to say that we need to over extend our schedules, but it is good for a student to look forward to school related activities that happen after the school day or during the school day. To that end, I am pleased to report that this September our school has:

- 33 soccer players (grades 2-8),
- 37 Wildcat Club members who are working with a Japanese wooden toy called a Kendama (grades 3-8),
- 13 band members (grades 5-8),
- 174 JME participants (all ages), and
- 22 parents and teachers in attendance at our most recent PTO meeting.

School success and student engagement are less of a numbers game and more of a relationship journey. It is a blessing to interact with students and parents on the sidelines, after a landed trick, across a music stand, during a walk, or over a slice of pizza. Our school community thrives when we draw closer to one another—and ultimately draw closer to Jesus.

-Principal Mrs. Valerie Matyas



VLHS Homecoming 2022: You are Invited!

Join us at the Valley Lutheran High School Homecoming Grand Tailgate

All St. Paul Church & School families are welcome!!

When: Friday, September 23, 2022, 4:45 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

- We will be providing grilled hot dogs and chips.
- Please bring a dish to pass, your own non-alcoholic beverage, lawn chairs or blankets for seating.
- Look for the blue tent with the St. Paul signs around it set up between the driveways at Valley.

Parking: Please drop your stuff and passengers in the unloading zone by the tailgate area and then proceed to the rest of the parking lot or the grass lot to the west of the driveway to park.

Staying for the game? Seating in the stands could be tight so you're welcome to bring your lawn chairs into the game and find a seat around the track toward the end zones with other VL fans!

- Does your child have an EVENT PASS from a VL camp this summer? Use it for complimentary family admittance to the game!

We are looking forward to a fun filled evening!

(Please remember VLHS is a no alcohol/drug zone.)



Benkert Family Update

Greetings from the Bankert's to our St. Paul family!

First of all, we wanted to let everyone know that our transition to life in the great state of Indiana is going well. Vanessa still heads back to Mid-Michigan every other weekend to work at the hospital, so you may see her around at church occasionally, or even get to see her getting paged into work while at church, as I understand happened last Sunday. Emmaline, Josiah, and Eliana are doing well at their new school here in Ft. Wayne (Ascension Lutheran). It has taken some adjustment, but we are beginning to feel right at home here in Ft. Wayne, as well as in the seminary community.

I have managed to survive the somewhat harrowing experience of Summer Greek, a ten-week exercise that has likely aged myself and Vanessa by ten years or so. I was compelled to study an average of sixty hours per week outside of my time in the classroom for this single class; an experience that I would very much like to avoid ever having to do again. As an individual who has recently completed their undergrad to get into seminary, I can say for a fact that it was the most difficult but rewarding bit of academia that I have yet to experience. Now that Summer Greek is over, I have two and a half weeks to relax/prepare for "theology school proper" which begins September 7th; something that I am wholeheartedly looking forward to.

On a personal note, we would like to say that we truly appreciate your support and prayers as we go through this adventure. I am always encouraged when I get a random phone call from a member of St. Paul, to see how we are doing, or the unexpected letters showing up at times with financial support. It is truly a comfort to know that we are in the prayers of so many. We would like for nothing more than your continued prayers for us as I go through this process to be as equipped as possible to serve our Lord Jesus Christ and his holy church.

Much love and appreciation from the Benkert family

~In the name of our Risen Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!



Women's Fall Day Retreat

Lay Your Burden Down

How do you take a small next step following Jesus without carrying the burden of being a good Christian, or good woman, or good mom, or friend, or wife, or ... ? How can you see discipleship as a series of mini-adventures with the Holy Spirit, covered by a relationship of mutual delight with your heavenly Father?

Join singer/songwriter Brooke Orozco and award-winning author Justin Rossow as they help you pause, refresh, and reset.

Date: Saturday, October 22, 2022

Time: 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

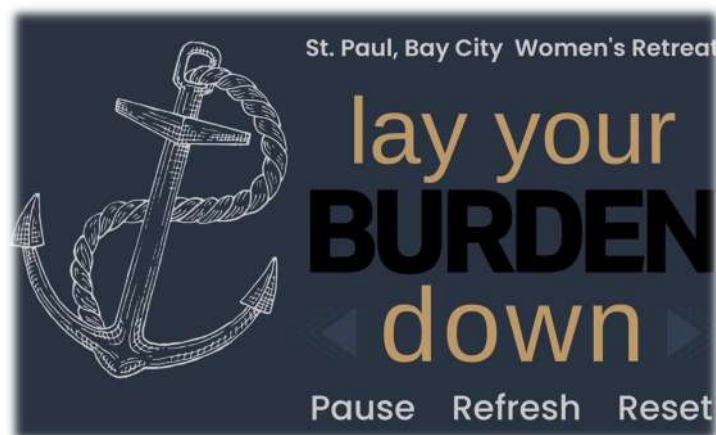
Location: St Paul Ministry Center at St Paul Lutheran Church in Bay City

Cost: \$50 (includes a catered lunch)

Early Registration Discount: \$40 if paid in full by October 1st

Registration and fellowship will begin at 8:30am. A light breakfast will be available.

To register, you can stop in the back of church or the ministry center at the end of each church service over the next several weeks, stop by or call the Church Office at 989-684-4450.



About the Presenters



Singer/Songwriter
Brooke Orozco & Author
Justin Rossow

Brooke Orozco has been using music to praise God and serve others for over 25 years. While her home base is the music and worship ministry of NewLife Community Lutheran Church, Flint, Michigan, she is also a sought after worship leader for gatherings like the Katie Conference, Camp Arcadia, or most recently, the Michigan District LWML Convention. Brooke is both an accomplished arranger and songwriter, and the original music on her Christmas album, A Light in the Darkness, was featured in the Advent Hymn Journal published in 2020 by Next Step Press.

Rev. Dr. Justin Rossow is a pastor, presenter, award-winning author, and founder of Next Step Press and the Next Step Community (community.findmynextstep.org). With humor and insight, Justin brings a breath of fresh air to the adventure of following Jesus. His many books and resources include Delight! Discipleship as the Adventure of Loving and Being Loved, Preaching Metaphor: How to Shape Sermons that Shape People, and a three-volume practical guide called My Next Step: A How-To Companion for People Who Want to Follow Jesus (But Sometimes Get Stuck).

Ladies Aid News

Our meeting started with a devotion from Cathi Reymore based on Psalm 100:2 Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into his presence with singing! God has given us all gifts to be used for a distinct purpose. Whether we are called to teach, write, counsel, or be a stay-at-home mom, we should serve with gladness only seeking to please the Lord. God has equipped us with all we need to serve with gladness and excellence. Let us serve God today with a renewed zeal.

Our president Rosalinn Hardy discussed all of our committees we have and what is required from each of them and some ideas for improving them. Melissa Appold had made a screen display of some of the fun things we do.

We welcome new members Rachel (Rylan) Appold, Nicole Burnison, Susan Gillespie, and Clarrissa Marter.

Our next meeting is October 3rd. All ladies are welcomed.



CEF Investment Rebate Program Pays Off

As a result of our congregational and individual investments in Church Extension Fund, we recently received a check in the amount of \$7,095.48 as a rebate on our loan!

You may recall hearing about this before...

Here's how it works:

Eligible CEF loan customers (that's us) receive a cash rebate once a year, when the congregation's total investments (individual and congregational) meet one of three tiers. Each higher tier pays a higher percentage of the loan balance. So, the more we invest with CEF, the bigger our cash rebate will be.

Remember, all CEF investments are used to provide low-interest loans to Lutheran Congregations in Michigan. These loans help build new churches and schools (or Ministry Center additions). So, by investing in CEF, not only do we earn a competitive rate of return, we learn how our money can be used to bless others. Truly a terrific stewardship habit that can last a lifetime.

If you would like more information on CEF investment opportunities, visit their website at mi-cef.org – or –

contact our St. Paul CEF Rep, Shasta Duffey at shastaduffey@gmail.com.



Church Extension Fund

JOY (Joyful Older Youth) Outing

JOY (Joyful Older Youth) is sponsoring a bus trip to Turkeyville Dinner and Theater on Friday, October 21. This trip is open to all. We will leave St. Paul Ministry Center at 8am, travel to Horrocks in Lansing for a little shopping, arrive at Turkeyville at 11:45 for dinner and then watch the Church Basement Ladies handle a record breaking Christmas dinner, the funeral of a dear friend, a Hawaiian Easter Fundraiser, and a steaming hot July wedding at the theater. We will travel back arriving at St. Paul at approximately 6:30pm. Cost for the trip will be \$83 per person which includes coach, dinner and theater. Any questions or to reserve a spot, call Virginia Hutter (989-686-3262) or Bonnie List (989-225-6801). Deadline to register is October 2.



Trunk-or-Treat



It's back! Friday, October 28, from 6-7 p.m., at the school playground and ball diamond. Bring the kids for a bit of trick-or-treating, run around, and enjoy being together. The event will be all outdoors this year, light snacks, and cold drinks provided.

It's super fun to host a Treat Trunk! Call or text Katie at 989.225.3532 to register a trunk.

(Rain date, Saturday, October 29, 1-2 p.m.)

Fresh Wreath Fundraiser

Spruce up your holiday decor in support of St. Paul Lutheran School. Order your 24 inch Fraser Fir holiday wreath now. \$25. Presales end November 7th. Wreaths will be available just in time for Thanksgiving celebrations. Makes a great gift!

Contact Kristen Glasser 989-529-2962 or Ray & Debbie Garcia 989-662-6050 to place your order now.



Scholastic Book Fair – Save the Date!



Mark your calendar! St. Paul's Scholastic Book Fair will be held in the gym on October 24th through October 28th. All sales earn free books for our school! Over the last three years, St. Paul's Scholastic Book Fair has earned \$4,800 in free books and resources. Families donated an additional 175 books to our classrooms and library. YOU can be a part of this year's success! Consider partnering with St. Paul by shopping at the Book Fair or donating in support of our classrooms and library. For more information, contact Kristen Glasser: 989-529-2962

Missionary Links

Rev. James and Deaconess Christel Neuendorf serve the Lord through The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) in Puerto Rico.

[Click here to read their July& August 2022 Newsletter.](#)



All Things Considered—#4 “God is Moving in Ethiopia”

This is the fourth article in a series of more positive news items coming from nations which, historically, have been hostile to Christianity and to the followers of Christ. After so many years of writing about harsh negative and harmful responses to Christians it is good to know that there are nations where terroristic actions are becoming less extreme and the Christian faith is becoming safer and more attractive to the people of this nation.

“When Muslims in eastern Ethiopia forced a small group of Christians out of their meeting space the Muslims expected it to end the Christian presence in their area. But to their surprise, it grew. Christians in the 98 percent Muslim region had been meeting for worship in the living room of one of the believers, but local Muslims pressured the man's landlord to evict him so the Christians would have no place to meet. With the assistance of other believers, however, the Christians purchased a small piece of land and built their own worship space. Today, the church has grown from 58 people to more than 70.”

Please continue to hold our brothers and sisters in the faith in your prayers for the region in eastern Africa we know as Ethiopia and Eritrea. They have been suffering under Muslim dominance for a long time, yet they remain faithful. However, as with many who are persecuted, they need to know God is with them fighting for their faith and secure living too.

Remember that we are to be found worthy of being called Christian also.

The article in quotation is taken in its entirety from The Voice of the Martyrs 2022 Global Prayer Guide.



Acolyte and Reader Schedule for October 2022

Acolytes:	8:00 a.m.	10:30 a.m.	Readers: 8:00 a.m.	10:30 a.m.
Sun., Oct. 2	Jozelynn Begick	Rylie Garrett	Scott Engelhart	Terry Burkhard
Sun., Oct. 9	Dolan Wills	Hayden Kusterer	————	Jeremy Waren
Sun., Oct. 16	Lillian Bourdow	Ava Begick	Ken Van Cise	————
Sun., Oct. 23	Kaleb Kusterer	Sofia Glasser	Ben Helmreich	Howard McMullen
Sun., Oct. 30	Noah Helmreich	Maura Zeilinger	————	————

Altar Guild and Ushers in October 2022

Altar Guild:	8 a.m. Ushers: Group #1	10:30 a.m. Ushers: Group #4	Head Usher:
Margie Begick	Cary Behmlander (631-0914)	Bob Eastman (686-7365)	Dale Jezowski (327-7613)
Cheryl Leppke	Dale Jezowski	Cindy Eastman	
Kristen Fisher	Adam Jezowski	Tim Begick	
	Mike Appold	Andrew Wiess	
	Matt Schlicker	Larry Strawn	
		Lynn Strawn	

There are many opportunities to serve here at St. Paul and at the moment we are looking for volunteer Ushers, especially for the 10:30 a.m. service. Ushers serve on a team and are typically assigned every third month. Any members, men or women, over confirmation age are welcome and your participation is appreciated! Please contact the Church office at 989-684-4450 or Dale Jezowski, head usher, at 989-667-9194. Thank you - Elders

Family Elder List (June-December 2022)

<u>Family Name:</u>	<u>Elder:</u>	<u>Family Name:</u>	<u>Elder:</u>
A-Bec Abraham-Beckers	Brian Appold	L-Na LaFontaine – Nagy	DJ Bourdow
Beg-Br Begick-Brown	Howard Helmreich	Ne-Schi Neuman– Schimm	Scott Weiss
Bu-E Buda – Engelhardt	Jeremy Begick	Schl – V Pfau-Schlicker	Tom Appold
F-He Finney - Hendrick	Ben Burnison	Wa – Z Schmidt-Wagner	Jerry Schlicker
Hi-Ku Hildebrandt– Kusterer	Terry Burkard		

Your elder should be able to answer any church related questions you may have, or they can find the person who can answer your question.

St. Paul Lutheran Church Newsletter

August 19, 2022
Volume 27—Issue 8

6100 Westside Saginaw Road
Bay City, MI 48706
Church Phone: 989.686.7140
School Phone: 989.684.4450

Pastor:

Rev. Dennis Matyas

Vicar:

Mr. David Schultz

Principal:

Mrs. Valerie Matyas

Office Manager:

Mrs. Nicole Burnison

Newsletter articles for the next newsletter are due on Wednesday, October 12th, 2022. You may submit articles to the email address below or drop them off in the office.
Website: www.stpaulbaycity.org
Email: office@stpaulbaycity.org

St. Paul Lutheran Church
Council Meeting Minutes of August 18, 2022

(Approved)

Chairman Weston Appold called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Pastor Matyas led us in an opening prayer.

Council members in attendance include: Weston Appold, Pastor Matyas, Vicar Schultz, Andy Weiss, Valerie Matyas, Tom Appold, Jim Marter, Josh Schlicker, Jason Schlicker, Leeta Theiss, Tom Deprekel and Sharon Schlicker

Acknowledgement of Blessings - Thankful for school starting and Tom D. being thankful for angels watching over him during his recent accident.

Minutes - *A motion passed* approving the minutes from the July 14, 2022 council meeting.

Treasurer's Report - Andy Weiss presented the Treasurer's Report. Funds look good for the month. The Treasurer's Report will be filed for audit.

Committee Reports

Gifts and Memorials - no report

175th Anniversary Committee - The committee currently has a \$500 budget. Will try to get someone from that committee to attend the next council meeting for updates and possible need for increased funds for the event. Thrivent grants are also a possibility.

Planning Committee - Looking into the men's and women's shower/changing room renovations at school for lockers and toilets. Check upstairs bathrooms also for renovations. Preschool bathroom will be addressed at a later time.

Endowment Committee - *A motion passed* approving \$1000 to Heidi Schultz for the women's retreat.

BOARD REPORTS

Board of Elders - Chairman Tom Appold presented the Elder's Report.

1. Death of Allan Wegener
2. Wedding approved for Jonny Engelhardt for 9/9/23

Board of Trustees - Chairman Josh Schlicker shared the following information:

1. The gym floor was resurfaced. Will make a schedule for future upkeep.
2. Shelves and hooks were purchased instead of lockers at school. Will be installed as soon as they arrive.
3. Various shrubs and a tree at school will be addressed.
4. Obtaining estimates on gutters for Vicar Schultz's home and the God Box.
5. Need for a piano dolly for chapel in the gym so it doesn't damage the floor.

Board of Education - Chairman Jim Marter reported the following:

1. Officers elected for the year are Jim Marter- chairman and Kristen Glasser - secretary
2. Changes approved to the Parent Handbook and Board of Education Policy Handbook regarding new church members school tuition procedure.
3. School registration was on 8/11/11 with a total of 121 students - 20 preschool and 101 K-8
4. LCMS Anniversaries
 - a. Lisa Stanley, 30 years
 - b. Pastor Matyas, 10 years

They will be recognized during the first of the month potluck on August 28th.
5. Board will host Family Fun Day after the JME races on September 10th.
6. The Board of Education has rescheduled their meeting to September 8th at 6:00 p.m so the church council meeting will be September 8th at 7:00 p.m.

Board of Business Management - Chairman Andy Weiss reported the following:

1. Researching ways for growth for the endowment fund.
2. Received annual financial checklist provided by the synod and making a plan as to what to review every year/every 5 years as appropriate.

Board of Youth - Vicar Schultz shared the new Sunday school superintendents are Tiffany List and Catherine Hutter. September 11th is the first day of Sunday School.

Board of Evangelism - Chairman Tom Deprekel reported on the following:

1. Checking on Lutheran University concept at SVSU and Delta College
2. Camp Lu Lay Lea had to shut down early. Will need fundraising to help with camp expenses.
3. Prison ministry started back up in July.

Board of Stewardship - Leeta Theiss will meet with Valerie Matyas regarding volunteering opportunities at school.

Unfinished Business

1. Vaughn Begick checking on AED for Ministry Center
2. Checking with Ben Helmreich on first aid kit for Ministry Center
3. By-Law change
 - a. Board eligibility for paid staff members
 - b. Board eligibility for Staff's immediate family members

New Business

1. Discuss endowment at January Voter's Meeting with bylaw changes

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:34 p.m. Pastor Matyas closed the meeting with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Sharon Schlicker, Secretary

Next Regular Voters Meeting-Sunday, January 8th, 2023 at 1:00 p.m. - Budget Approval

1. Publish agenda
2. Childcare

Next Council Meeting - Thursday, September 8th, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

St. Paul Lutheran Church Calendar

OCTOBER 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																				
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