



St. Paul's Messenger

A monthly newsletter for friends and family

September 2023

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 321 N. Park Avenue, Medford, WI 54451

Phone: 715-748-4909

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EVENTS

- Sept. 6 Confirmation Parent's Meeting
Joint Council
Church Council
- Sept. 10 First day of Sunday School
Blessing of the Backpacks
- Sept. 13 1st day of Confirmation
- Sept. 20 Ladies Lunch
- Sept. 21 Mobile Food Pantry
- Sept. 24 Blessing of the Quilts

Attendance

August 6	50
August 13	47
August 20	65
August 27	54

Thank you to Carol & James Kasperek for sponsoring the September newsletter.

A MESSAGE FROM COUNCIL PRESIDENT VAL BACH

Greetings everyone,

St. Paul's collected a Noisy Offering on Sunday, August 20, to help raise funds for the Community Mission with Jesus. As always, our members stepped up with open hearts. Thank you, St. Paul's.

CMWJ is an inter-denominational, non-profit ministry seeking to help people of all races, creeds, colors, languages and nationalities within our local community.

I have had the opportunity to serve as St. Paul's representative on the CMWJ committee. It is our job to review the incoming requests and weigh in on whether to allocate funds for the request, and if so, how much. The requests often tear at my heart.

I am amazed to hear just how many people in our small community live in hardship and face serious challenges regularly. I was oblivious to how many people are actually homeless in this area. I would have never guessed this to be the case. I have had my eyes opened with regards to how many people are unable to financially pay their heat and electrical bills, only to find out once warm weather hits, their utilities are shut off because of their inability to bring their balance current.

It's hard to replace the wonderful feeling associated with helping someone else in need. Whether it's lending an ear to a friend or family member or a complete stranger when they need you. Helping someone with their groceries, raking your neighbor's yard, dropping off a meal for a family who is mourning the loss of a loved one, donating to an organization or cause that makes your heart feel good. Helping others is always rewarding not to just the people you are helping, but to you as well.

The loss that Maui is facing after the devastating wildfires is unfathomable. With the death toll rising and a large number of people still unaccounted for, the friends and family members are left with minimal hope of being reunited with their loved ones. As I listen to some of the people affected by this tragedy, I have heard many stories of how their faith and the generous outpouring from people they don't even know has kept them going. My prayers go out to everyone suffering a loss from this catastrophic event!

Our faith is one thing we can always count on. God is our rock, our constant! He provides us opportunities to help others in so many ways, just as He is there to help us, to turn to in need. Pay God's gifts forward (your gifts) and relish in the wonderful feeling it brings back to you. Give thanks with a grateful heart each and every day!

God's Work, Our Hands.

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR BOB GIESE

Members and friends of Our Saviour's and St. Paul's:

The waiting goes on as the search for a new pastor continues. Pastor Randy Olson of the Synod staff told me this past weekend he has no prospects for a new pastor at this time.

So what do we do while we wait? Here are some words of wisdom from St. Paul in Romans 12:

⁹Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. ¹²Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. ¹³Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. ¹⁴Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. ¹⁶Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. ¹⁷Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. ¹⁸If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

While it's frustrating not having a called pastor, we are the Body of Christ with or without one. Our ministry goes on. The worship schedule for Sundays is filled out to the end of the year. The parish council and congregation councils are doing their work to plan for the mission and ministry of the church.

Now it's up to all of us to participate in worship and get involved in ministry within the walls of the church and in the community as we love and serve God and people in our daily lives.

Pray and participate!

Pastor Bob Giese,
Administrative Interim Pastor

MOBILE FOOD PANTRY

The Mobile Food Pantry served 75 households on August 17, 2023.



- 41 individuals ages 0-17**
- 77 individuals ages 18-59**
- 67 individuals ages 60+**
- 185 total number of individuals**

39 individuals visited the pantry for the 1st time.

1,252 pounds of food was distributed: chicken drumsticks, ground turkey, cheddar cheese, cottage cheese, tomatoes, blueberries, mac & cheese, cereal, oatmeal, bread and bakery, snack bars, and sauce packets.

If you would like to help sponsor the food pantry, simply make out your check to **St. Paul's Lutheran Church** and include "food pantry" in the memo line. Business and individual sponsors are welcome.

The next Mobile Food Pantry will be on Thursday, September 21.
Volunteers meet at 1:00 p.m.
Distribution begins at 4:00 p.m.

There was no sponsor for the August Mobile Food Pantry.



Rehearsals will begin at 8:15 a.m.

Sunday, September 10

Sunday, September 24

We will sing at the September 24 service.

Please, anyone with interest in singing, come and join us!

WORSHIP TIMES

Our Saviour's Lutheran	8:00 a.m.
St. Paul's Lutheran	9:15 a.m.

Every 5th Sunday – 9:00 a.m. joint worship: to be hosted on a rotating basis between Our Saviour's and St. Paul's.

October 29th – Joint service will be hosted by St. Paul's.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

St. Paul's will be offering Sunday School classes to children in grades PK - 6th grade beginning **Sunday, September 10**. Classes will be held during the church worship time, **9:15 - 10:15 a.m.**

Please fill out our online registration form, which can be found on our Facebook page, or use one of the printed forms available in the Welcome Hall. Contact the church office if you would like the form emailed to you.

Fill out the registration form for each child that will be attending Sunday School. This will allow our teachers to be prepared for when your child arrives. It will also provide us with contact information if ever needed when your child is in our care.

We are always looking for additional teachers and helpers. Contact Kathy Hackbarth or Heidi Haynes if you are interested in helping. Background checks will be completed with all adults working with our Sunday School children.

On September 10, we will also be participating in the *Blessing of the Backpacks* during the beginning of the worship service. Please ask your child to bring their backpack to church so we can help them start the school year with many prayers and blessings. Teachers are also invited to come forward during the blessing.



CONFIRMATION

Wednesday, September 6

Confirmation parent's meeting at 5:30 p.m. in the Welcome Hall

Wednesday, September 13

Confirmation class for grades 7 & 8 begins. A light supper will be served at 3:45 p.m. Class begins at 4:00 p.m.

LIFE LESSONS from MARK

4-6 week bible study

When: Thursday, October 5

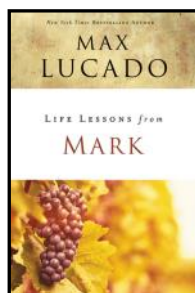
Time: 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Location: Welcome Hall

Please contact the church office if interested.

Overview: Join beloved author Max Lucado as he opens Mark's Gospel and helps you discover how to respond to God's Living Word and step out in faith. As you read, study, journal, and discuss the book of Mark, watch for these *key themes* that Max will unpack throughout the book:

- Jesus was a savior and yet a servant.
- Jesus gave his life as a sacrifice for humanity's broken relationship with God.
- Jesus performed miracles through the power of God.
- Jesus taught about the kingdom of God.



A Prayer for Schools

"O God, source of all goodness: We give you thanks for the gift of reason and the opportunity for education. Bless our schools, that they may be places of learning and safety where teachers challenge the minds and nurture the hearts of students. Grant that teachers and students may work together in mutual respect and find joy in the challenges of academic life; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen."
(ELW, p. 78)



BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

Sunday, September 10
during the service

All students and teachers are asked to bring their backpacks and bags to church so they may be showered with prayers and blessings for a wonderful school year.



September Worship Assistants

Date	Message	Liturgist	Communion Prep	Communion Assistants	AV
Sept. 3	Sara Bishop	Tony Schumacher	Jo Cypher	Jo Cypher Sally Lemke Kathy Schumacher	Cathy Retzer
Sept. 10	Dave Hraby	Cathy Retzer	No Communion		Ross Hackbarth
Sept. 17	Nancy Amacher	Mark Temme	Kathy & Dan Higgins	Chris Finkler Marguerite Jochimsen Mark Temme	Ross Hackbarth or Cathy Retzer
Sept. 24	Bob Giese	Sally Lemke	Kathy & Dan Higgins	Dawn Harder Sally Lemke Open	Ross Hackbarth or Cathy Retzer

Lawn Mowing

August 27—September 2
September 3—9
September 10—16
September 17—23
September 24—30

Dan Higgins
Don Koerner



CELEBRATING
10
YEARS

“God’s work. Our hands.” Sunday

September 10
2023

BLESSING OF THE QUILTS
Sunday, September 24
during the service

Daily Devotionals

St. Paul’s offers free devotional books to assist you with your daily meditations.

A Meditation Moment

Courtesy of the Kuse Farm Museum and
Nature Preserve webpage
<http://www.kusemuseum-naturepreserve.org>

Maple Family Boxelder "Ashleaf Maple" "Manitoba Maple" (Acer negundo)



Praise the LORD from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps, fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind fulfilling his command! Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars!
Psalm 148:7-9

This fast-growing tree in the maple family can reach a height of thirty to sixty feet. It has pinnately compound leaves with three to seven leaflets that are pointed at the ends. In fall, the leaves turn brown or yellow and fall from the tree. The bark is light gray and has narrow furrows and deep ridges. Male and female flowers come in spring and are on separate trees. Seeds may hang on the tree until winter. Birds such as Evening Grosbeaks come in flocks and eat the seeds in winter. Some people do not like to plant the female or seed bearing Boxelder trees because in fall they often attract hundreds of orange and black Boxelder bugs. The bugs do not damage the trees or bite or hurt people, but sometimes they become a nuisance when many of them gather on the sides of buildings looking for winter shelter.

Enjoy looking at the Boxelder tree. Who and what in creation might sing praises because of the presence of this tree?

*Dear Lord,
Help us to give praise to you for all that you have created.
In your name we pray, Amen.*

© Dr. Hildegard Kuse and Dr. Loretta Kuse

Church Council Meeting

Wednesday, August 9, 2023

Members present: Val Bach, Sally Lemke, Marie Koerner, Leon Gasek, Dan Higgins, Kathy Hackbarth, Heidi Haynes and Gail Heurung. **Guests:** Nancy Jones and Pastor Bob. **Missing:** Dave Hruby and Carrie Zirngible.

Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Val Bach and Pastor Bob led the group in an opening prayer.

Motion by Marie, seconded by Kathy to accept the meeting agenda, motion carried.

Motion by Dan, seconded by Marie to approve the minutes from the previous month's meeting, Motion carried.

Treasurer's report. Discussed the left over funds from the insurance reimbursements. Still waiting for the final bill from Combined Carpentry so the discussion on how to apply the funds left over from the repairs will be discussed in September. Leon mentioned that he had received a suggestion to increase the Sunday School funding. Kathy and Heidi explained that the staff donates many of the supplies. Council can address funding as needed.

Worship team - Supply pastors are scheduled thru the end of the year. Dave Hruby is scheduled for Sept. 10. Thanksgiving and Christmas are not scheduled as neither church has decided what they are planning for services as of yet. Nothing new from the worship team...meeting scheduled next week.

Sunday School will start Sept. 10. Confirmation is all scheduled...starts the 2nd Wednesday in September. Parent meeting is all set as well. Leon discussed finding interest in going to camps. We have interest in Nationals, but need more local camp interest.

Call Committee: Marie reports that there is currently nothing new to report for the Call Committee. Pastor Bob mentioned a lead on a pastor interested in moving to the NW Synod.

Joint Parish Council: Discussion on the Joint Parish Council conversation of how our shared contributions are determined. Val will let the council know when the next Joint discussion is. Great turnout for the Joint church service.

Insurance: Val will contact several people to review our insurance renewal and have that brought to the council.

Nancy reported the Chamber asked permission for using the church parking lot for Park Fest and use the facility as an emergency shelter. They will contact her if needed.

Our next meeting will be September 6. If Val can schedule a Joint Council first, it will be at 6:00 pm., with our council meeting to follow.

The council closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Heurung

COMMUNITY MISSION WITH JESUS

A noisy offering was taken during the service on Sunday, August 20, to benefit Community Mission With Jesus. A total of \$1175.38 was collected. Thank you to all who gave so generously.

Community Missions with Jesus is an inter-denominational, non-profit ministry in the Medford area that helps individuals and families that need extra support. St. Paul's is one of the churches that is in partnership with this ministry.

If you did not get the opportunity to participate in the noisy offering and would like to donate to this ministry, you can mail your donation to Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, W7809 Apple Ave., Medford. Make sure to write your check to: Community Mission With Jesus.



September 21, 2023

Please contact the church office if your contact information has changed.

Phone: 715-748-4909

Email:

stpaulslutheranmedford@gmail.com

TREASURER'S REPORT

	2023		2022		YTD % of Change
	July	YTD	July	YTD	
General Giving	9,215	73,226	9,748	70,955	3.2%
Mortgage Giving	1,780	14,320	1,955	15,800	-9.4%
Total Giving	10,995	87,546	11,703	86,755	0.9%
General Expenses	4,033	45,567	5,807	52,159	-12.6%
Mortgage Expense	2,782	19,474	2,782	18,502	5.3%
Total Expenses	6,815	65,041	8,589	70,661	-8.0%
Net Surplus (Deficit)	\$4,180	\$22,505	\$3,113	\$16,095	
Designated Giving	3,332	119,909	4,602	29,741	303.2%
Designated Expenses	31,088	98,955	1,179	22,462	340.5%
Net Designated Income	(27,756)	20,954	3,422	7,279	
Net Combined Income (Deficit)	(\$23,576)	\$43,459	\$6,536	\$23,374	

Bank Accounts - As of:	7/31/23	YTD Change		Comments
<u>General Checking</u>	\$134,702	\$23,529	\$99,194	
<u>Designated Funds in Checking</u>				
Building Maintenance	37,740	\$32,667	2,287	
Comfort Quilts	516	(\$229)	470	
Designated Memorials	2,878	\$0	2,878	
Fair Trade Sales	673	\$150	405	
Mortgage Fund	0	\$0	598	
Thrivent Choice	332	(\$10,947)	11,203	
Mobile Food Pantry	5,028	(\$1,625)	4,587	
Sunday School	1,102	(\$355)	1,510	
Youth Group	11,382	\$342	10,952	
Total Funds in Checking	\$194,354	\$43,532	\$134,084	
<u>Other Accounts</u>				
Events/Fund Raiser Acct	3,329	10	3,032	
Needles for Needs Acct	1,838	(1,271)	1,819	
Scrip Acct	2,900	(3,064)	7,625	
Total Other Accounts	\$8,067	-\$4,325	\$12,476	
Total - All Accounts	\$202,421	\$39,207	\$146,560	
PPP Loan Balance	\$0	\$0	\$0	Loan forgiven 3/15/21
Mortgage Balance	\$91,056	-\$59,622	\$177,215	

St. Paul's Giving Options

Mail your check to St. Paul's Lutheran Church,
321 N. Park Ave., Medford, WI 54451

Simply Giving contributions are deducted from your checking or savings account.

Giving via St. Paul's Website

E-Giving Download the app "GivePlus Church"



SCRIP cards make great gifts for weddings, graduations, or other special occasions. A portion of each gift card purchase enables St. Paul's to do ministry. Check with the SCRIP counter on Sunday morning or call the office and someone will help you.

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER 2023

Sept. 1 Steve Axtman
Kaylor Borman
Andrew Poetzl

Sept. 4 Jenn Knippel
Tina Machon

Sept. 6 Suzy Jensen
Juli Johnson
Joseph Mueller
Kaylee Seifert

Sept. 7 James Imbach

Sept. 9 Megan Bruggink
Colten Halopka

Sept. 10 Charley Peterson

Sept. 11 Rhonda Mueller
Andrew Rodman

Sept. 12 Michelle Danen
Greg Hoefs
Michael Raasch

Sept. 13 Kyle Melvin
Brian Schilling

Sept. 14 Mary Brost
Joshua Doberstein
Caleb Krug
Reece Williams

Sept. 15 Kriste Brandner
Alex Scheithauer
Eric Scheithauer

Sept. 16 Steve Danen
Lisa Gilles
Michelle Schreiner
Vince Wojcik

Sept. 17 Amanda Kraemer

Sept. 18 Nicole Harder

Sept. 19 Charles Kloth
Aliyah Pilgrim
Peyton Preuss
Autumn Sherman

Sept. 20 Janille Zirngible

Sept. 21 Gerald Fox

Sept. 22 Hildegard Kuse
Jake Seifert

Sept. 23 Nora Albers
Gail Heurung
Cheryl Purdy
Cathy Retzer

Sept. 25 Hailey Willner

Sept. 26 Joseph Eisch
Jacob Lubahn

Sept. 27 Carmyn Alexander
Todd Anderson

Sept. 28 Ronald Glamann

Anniversaries

Sept. 2 Nicole & Kyle Gebert

Sept. 5 Carol & Jim Kasperek

Sept. 6 Jill & Jeremy Sperl

Sept. 7 Aleta & Corey Huotari

Sept. 12 Tina & Jack Machon

Sept. 13 Kris & Jason Seifert

Sept. 15 Linda & Randy Sackmann

Sept. 18 Lori & Mark Willner

Sept. 23 Chris & Dave Konieczny
Kathy & Dan Higgins
Jennifer & Greg Hoefs

Sept. 26 Casey & Andrew Rodman
Crystal & Michael Ecklund

Sept. 28 Judy & Mark Zuleger

Sept. 29 Bonnie & Chuck Habermeyer

LADIES LUNCH BUNCH

WHEN: Wednesday, September 20

Time: 11:15 a.m.

Location: 64 North
2993 County Road E
Medford, WI

All are welcome to enjoy fun and fellowship.

**For more information, contact
Chris Finkler at 715-749-6848.**



Powerful Tools FOR Caregivers

Powerful Tools for Caregivers is an educational series designed to provide tools you need to take care of yourself. If you take good care of yourself, you will be better prepared to take good care of your loved one. Topics will include reducing stress, improve self-confidence, better communicating your feelings, increase ability to make tough decisions and locate helpful resources.



Class is six sessions:
Time: 1:00 pm -2:30 pm
September 5, 12, 19, 26, Oct 3, 10
Multi Purpose Room At COA Office In
Medford

Participants should attend all six classes.
There is a \$10 fee for the program.
For more information or to register,
contact Jenn at 715-748-1499

 **TAYLOR COUNTY
COMMISSION ON AGING**
715-748-1491

➡ If Respite care is needed please call ahead
so we can help make arrangements

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

321 North Park Avenue, Medford, WI 54451

Mission Statement:

Saved and strengthened by Christ, we proclaim God's love through worship, education, and service to our congregation, community, and the world.

Contact Information

Nancy Jones (Parish Administrator)

Office phone: 715-748-4909

Office email: stpaulslutheranmedford@gmail.com

Pastor Bob Giese (for pastoral emergencies)

Phone: 847-899-7122

rjgiese@gmail.com

Pastor Nancy Amacher (for pastoral emergencies)

Phone: 715-223-5316

revnia10@gmail.com

Tina Dassow (Treasurer)

tinadassow@gmail.com

Church Council

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Carrie Zirngible

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Additional Information

Sunday Service: 9:15 a.m.

Sunday School 9:15 a.m. (during school year)

Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday
10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Facebook: [StPaulsMedford](https://www.facebook.com/StPaulsMedford)

Website: www.stpaulsmedford.org



Please read the prayer list in the weekly service. If there is someone that needs to be added or removed from the prayer list, please contact the church office at 715-748-4909 or send an email to: stpaulslutheranmedford@gmail.com

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Phone: 715-748-4909

Email: stpaulslutheranmedford@gmail.com

September 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 6:00 p.m. AA Meeting	2
3 9:15 a.m. Worship / Communion	4 Labor Day <i>Office Closed</i>	5 9:00 a.m. Needles for Needs Work Day	6 5:30 p.m. Confirmation Parent Meeting 6:00 p.m. Joint Council 7:00 p.m. Church Council	7	8 6:00 p.m. AA Meeting	9
10 8:15 a.m. Choir 9:15 a.m. Worship / Blessing of the Backpacks 9:15 a.m. Sunday School	11	12 9:00 a.m. Needles for Needs Work Day	13 4:00 p.m. Confirmation	14	15 6:00 p.m. AA Meeting	16
17 9:15 a.m. Worship / Communion 9:15 a.m. Sunday School	18 6:00 p.m. Girl Scouts	19 9:00 a.m. Needles for Needs Work Day	20 11:15 a.m. Ladies Lunch Bunch 4:00 p.m. Confirmation	21 1:00-5:00 p.m. Mobile Food Pantry Newsletter Deadline	22 6:00 p.m. AA Meeting	23
24 8:15 a.m. Choir 9:15 a.m. Worship / Communion Blessing of Quilts Sunday School 6:00 p.m. Suicide Support	25	26 9:00 a.m. Needles for Needs Work Day	27 4:00 p.m. Confirmation	28	29 6:00 p.m. AA Meeting	30

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
321 North Park Avenue
Medford, WI 54451-1420

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