

AUGUST 2024 St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church Connection
106 S. Maple St. PO Box 357 North Freedom, WI 53951

Message from the Pastor



A Life-long Competition

Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. (1 Corinthians 9:24)

Are you watching the Olympics this summer? Many of us enjoy watching the competitions. Who will be fastest runner, the strongest weight-lifter and the most athletic gymnast? Which nations will win the basketball, volleyball and soccer championships? Which nation will take home the most gold medals? So many nations and athletes involved make this competition more interesting to watch.

The apostle Paul compared the Christian life to a race. The Corinthians in Greece were acquainted with Olympic competitions back then, though the athletes didn't hail from all over the world. But they, and we today, can easily grasp what Paul is telling us. We need to compete in such a way as to "get the prize."

Olympic athletes must endure hard training to get where they're at. The Christian life is one of strict training for us too. We are constantly battling our sinful nature and the temptations from the devil and this sinful world. The Lord may decide to place a cross on us to carry throughout life, a hardship meant to help us focus on Christ. Training this way is not easy, but helps our Christian life.

The Christian competition is like a race in that each one must compete. We cannot stay on the sidelines and say, "My mom or my spouse is a faithful church-goer, that should count." Each one needs to live their faith and not coast through life on someone else's coattails.

At the same time, the Christian's competition is more like a team sport than an individual sport. We're joined with like-minded Christians in worshiping together, studying God's Word at church and at home, and supporting missions across the world. We're not competing against each other, but helping each other to be able to cross the finish line.

Paul's words, "only one gets the prize," may sound discouraging. We might be concerned that we'll miss out on the prize of heaven when we stumble and fall into sin, when we strike out against Satan or fail to hit the bullseye of God's commands. But we have one who ran the race for us already and won the prize. Jesus said on the cross, "It is finished!" He lived perfectly without any sin, and knocked out Satan in his match with him on the cross. When Jesus rose from the grave and ascended to heaven, it was like God giving him the gold medal.

When we run to get the prize, we run with confidence, knowing that our Lord has already gained the victory for us. And we know what the prize is: Eternal life in heaven! This is a prize given to us by grace, a treasure that "will neither spoil or fade, kept in heaven for you" (1 Peter 1:4). Keeping running the good race!

--Pastor Timothy Blauert

Worship themes in August

Aug. 4 (11th Sun. after Pentecost): The Lord Provides His Presence (Pastor Charles Iles)

Aug. 11 (12th Sun. after Pentecost): The Lord Provides the Bread of Life.

Aug. 18 (13th Sun. after Pentecost): Bread that Gives Wisdom for Life.

Aug. 25 (14th Sun. after Pentecost): Bread that Alone Gives Eternal Life.

Daily Devotions in August will complete our walk through Luther's Large Catechism: Holy Communion and Confession.

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VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
AUGUST 12 to 15



Vacation Bible School is planning to run Monday, August 12 through Thursday, August 15. Our theme is "Ready, Set, Gold!" (Olympic games theme).

Registration will be at 9 a.m. on Monday, August 12. Classes will go from 9:15 to 11:30 a.m. each day. Bible lessons, activities, snacks, recess, singing and crafts will be a part of each day.

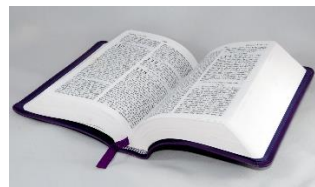
We are inviting all children ages 4 through 13 to join us. Friends, neighbors, and relatives are welcome to join us. Fliers and bulletin inserts are available at church and from Pastor Blauert if you would like to hand them to a neighbor or your grandchildren and invite them to come.

On Thursday, August 15 at 11:15 a.m. we will have our VBS's closing service. Everyone is welcome to come.

Thank you to our volunteers for helping out! If you would like to help, or register kids early, contact Pastor Blauert at 507-279-8560.

LADIES' AID NEWS

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, Aug. 13 at 6:30 p.m. All women are invited!



Bible Study

Topic: **ESTHER**, a God-sent Queen

Time: 8:45 to 9:45 a.m. on Sundays, starting August 18th. On September 1, the class will follow our fellowship hour. Don't know much about Esther? Here's your opportunity to learn more about her!



Game Night: Mon., Aug. 19, 6:30 pm

Bring a snack to pass, a beverage and a game and join us for an evening of fun and fellowship! Bring a friend too!

SUNDAY SCHOOL "Peak Ahead"

Sunday School will resume classes on Sunday, September 8. Class time will be at our regular time between the church services, and following church and fellowship on the first Sunday of the month. Parents, be sure to have your children enrolled!

Confirmation Class will start on Wednesday, September 4. Classes will run from 1:45 to 3 p.m. like last year.

ALTAR GUILD

The altar guild sign-up sheet for 2024 is on the table in the fellowship hall. This is a great way to help with worship at St. Paul's. Please speak with Rose Vertein if you are interested and have questions. Thank you!

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CARDS



Mary Klemm is our Sunshine Lady for St. Paul's. If anyone is sick or needs a card of encouragement, please contact her.



GLORIFY GOD with Altar Flowers!

Thank you to those who have brought flowers to church in memory of loved ones or to honor anniversaries, weddings, etc. We invite all our members to sign up on the sheet in the fellowship hall. Please also refer to the sheet that gives directions for giving flowers.

Here are a few suggestions to spark celebration ideas: new baby/ grandbaby, birthdays, weddings, anniversary, retirement, new job, holidays, baptisms, confirmations, graduations, health recoveries, or good health, faith, family and friends.

So, thank you for bringing flowers!

- When you intend to provide flowers, please sign up at least the Sunday prior.
- Call Mary Klemm 608-434-0650 or Kristine Blauert 507-460-2928 if you would like to provide but not arrange flowers, or for any other questions. Afterwards, you can enjoy the beautiful flowers at home and/or gift some to a friend or family member.
- We appreciate your consideration in providing altar flowers. TO GOD BE THE GLORY!

CHURCH COUNCIL

Council members, please mark August 11 for our next meeting. We will meet between the church services at about 8:35 am.

LWMS Update

LWMS (Lutheran Women's Missionary Society) is requesting pill bottles which will be sent to Malawi. They must have labels removed and be washed. Please see the bulletin board for information on the size of bottles needed. Any questions, speak to Linda Ennis. We'll collect them until the Fall Rally in October.

OUR GIFTS to the LORD June 30—July 21

	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Offering</u>
Sun., June 30: 7:30 am	27	\$1,225
10 am	17	\$600
Sun., July 7: 8:30 am	38	\$1,758
Sun., July 14: 7:30 am	20	\$775
10 am	12	\$590
Sun., July 21: 7:30 am	26	\$890
10 am	15	\$702

Average attendance: 8:30 am (combined), 38; 7:30 am, 24; 10 am, 15.

Vacation

Pastor Blauert and Kristine will be gone July 30 through August 4 on vacation. If there is a pastor emergency during that time, please call Pastor Dave Karow of Rock Springs, 608-228-5745.

Pastor Charles Iles will be doing the service on August 4th.

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INFORMATION ABOUT ST. PAUL'S:

Pastor: Rev. Timothy Blauert

Church secretary: Elaine Shimniok

Contact us: Church office: 608-522-4493.

Pastor's cell phone: 507-279-8560.

Email: stpaulsnf@hotmail.com or
tkblauert@outlook.com.

Website address: www.stpaulslutheran-nf.org

Worship times: Sundays 7:30 and 10 a.m.

First Sunday, 8:30 a.m.

Communion, 1st & 3rd Sundays

Sunday School: Sundays at 8:45 a.m., or after
the service on the first Sunday of the month.
(We are not having classes in the summer.)

Adult Bible study: Sundays at 8:45 a.m. or
after the service on the 1st Sunday of the month.

Church Council

President: Jim Dohner

Vice-president: Dave Zimmerman

Secretary: Paul Fuller

Treasurer: Mark Shimniok

Financial secretary: Jeremy Zimmerman

Head usher: Roy Schneider

Ladies' Aid

President: Elaine Shimniok

Secretary: Lynn Zimmerman

Treasurer: Elaine Shimniok

Sunshine Lady: Mary Klemm

LWMS Reporter: Linda Ennis

Church organist

Susan Grossenbacher

Church Custodian Vonnie Leifer

**Please remember our shut-in members with
your prayers and visits**

Linda Faivre (at home)

Gary Meske (at home)

Ellie Schultz (at home)

Please let Pastor know if you are sick, in the hospital, or are having any other difficulties. He'll be glad to visit and have a devotion and pray with you! Contact information for him is in the left column of this page.



Happy Anniversary to:

Timothy & Kristine Blauert – August 12, 2000

Melvin & Kay Gaetzke – August 14, 2010

Adam & Cathy Hehenberger – August 21, 2010

Ray & Judy Sorensen – August 24, 1968

John & Melanie McLaughlin – Aug. 28, 2004



Happy Birthday to:

Paxton Zimmerman – August 3

Cora Schneider – August 5

Adam Klaetsch – August 7

Faith Vertein – August 9

Alvin Klaetsch – August 15

Corisa Schneider – August 17

Sandra Bender – August 24

Elaine Shimniok – August 25

Words to live by... Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty." (John 6:35)