ST. PAUL'S

The Communicator

MAUMEE, OHIO

October, 2023 Page 1



Spread the word!

It's time for our Parking Lot Rummage Sale!

It'll be a bargain shopper's delight on Saturday, September 30th. Be sure to stop by from 9:00 am—4:00 pm. Help us spread the word. Tell your friends and neighbors.

Say "Ch-e-e-e-se!"

When is the last time you updated your church directory photo? Has it been a while? Maybe your picture isn't in there at church Because photo directories are such helpful tools when you need to put a name with a face, we want to help. There will be a photographer present on Sunday, October after worship. Look for her!



(Remember: If you have a family photo that you like that is in jpeg format, you can always submit that for use in the directory by emailing it to smharden@stpaulslive.org).

Because of how we now produce our directories, they are available at a nominal cost and members can get a new one as often as they'd like. They are FREE if all you need is a digital copy.

In addition to up-to-date photos, we want our directory to have up-to-date address, phone number, and email address information, too. If you have moved, gotten rid of your land line, added or changed a cell phone number, or changed your email address, please let us know. So, on the 15th, when the photographer is here, we are asking EVERYONE to please find the table with a rough draft copy of the directory and check your information and make any needed changes. Thank you very much.

Join us for worship in October

This month, in worship, we will explore some different topics in our sermons.

We will start the month finishing up our sermon series "Made to Worship: True Worship vs Idolatry".

On Sunday, October 8th, we will have a special conversation with our T³ MAT.

The next two weeks (October 15th & 22nd), we will have a two-week series "Forging Faith: Rejoice in the Refining". This series examines two powerful verses in Peter's first epistle. In these verses, we learn how our faith can be purified through trials and tests. Then we won't just survive, but even grow, in our trust and faith in God.

Finally, we will finish up the month with Reformation Sunday, on Sunday, October 29th.



Health MattersPaul Doerfler, Pastor

"Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need. MT 6:33, NLT

One somewhat frustrating part of preaching is that when we prepare for the targeted amount of time as preachers we, far too often, end up with a whole lot more information than what we can bring to you, as listeners. And, hopefully you are also participants, as you apply some, most, or all of what you hear in a sermon.

Now granted, we are aware of the various and varied attitudes of folks going into the "listening mode" at a given worship service. Some are bound to close their eyes within mere moments related to a lack of sleep. Or, a total lack of interest in the subject matter. Or, a particular preacher's style—*not being* what they prefer or tend to get the most out of.

We get it. You really need to understand, however, that not every message is intended to meet the specific needs of every person, every week. There's only one preacher who could ever do that and it was Jesus. Because, in large part—he already knew hearts and minds before He even began — being both God and man. That said, the Spirit directs our messages to those intended.

So consider this observation, not an original of mine, but one I espouse: When all is said and done, "It's not all about you"—at least every weekly message. That doesn't discount the fact that we as preparers and you as listeners still can't learn something toward one's own sanctification, or an insight to share with a hurting or needy loved one, in time.

A few things I wished I had time to share with you in our recent Worship/Idolatry series include the following: Idolatry, in our modern world, can take on multiple forms. Not just the worship of physical idols. Idolatry may involve <u>anything</u> that takes priority over God in a person's life.

For example, what right now is keeping you from better knowing and worshipping through your words and deeds, the One True God? To know Him well requires a deep commitment to spending *real time* in <u>His Word</u>. What's your daily investment—timewise—in doing that simple, but highly disciplined-required, act? It may also be a similar matter for you as far as you assessing your prayer-life. Regarding you engaging regularly in prayer, enough so you are really feeling you are nurturing a personal relationship with Our Lord, how are you doing?

Then, this from LK 12, Jesus speaking: "Then he said, "Beware! Guard against every kind of greed. Life is not measured by how much you own." LK 12:15, NLT. I agree with those who preach against materialism.

Some of us have so much, instead of giving it away, we end up throwing away perfectly good things, that others actually "need." So, do *be deliberate* about <u>not allowing</u> material possessions to define your self-worth or play a key role in your joy in life. Jesus warned against the dangers of greed knowing it would impact eternal life, for some.

Finally, I'll end with PRO 4:23 which says, "Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it." Stay mindful of what you allow to influence and occupy your heart and mind. True worship means on-going self-reflection, dependence on God, and a willingness to make changes in your life to align with His will. What does this mean for you?



What is lament?

The spiritual discipline of lament may not come naturally, and churches rarely teach it. Because we're raised to stay silent if we can't say something nice, passionately pouring out our sorrow just doesn't seem right.

My opinion changed when I heard author Sharon Garlough Brown explain this spiritual practice from God's perspective. As parents can attest, toddlers have an innate ability to find foreign objects and put them in their mouths. Concerned parents bend down and coax the child to remove the toy, bottle top, coin or rock. "Spit it out." "Let me have it." "It's not good for you to swallow that."

As a concerned parent, God sees and knows what's troubling us. He knows that this world's woes and trials will hurt us if we keep them all inside. God, our good and gracious Father, wants us to passionately pour out our grief, so he bends down, looks us in the eyes, and says, "Spit it out." "Let me have it." "It's not good for you to swallow that."

Spend time with God, sharing your laments. God loves you and is faithful to listen well.

-Janna Firestone

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"Autumn ... the year's last, loveliest smile."

-William Cullen Bryant

BE HERE Sunday, October 8th!



T³ MAT is taking over the sermon time and having a conversation with you!!

Pray for us as we prepare. And for peace on our hearts as speaking in front of a group of people can be

nerve wracking! See you there!!

Save the date!

It's time for the annual Candy <u>CAR</u>avan!



Sunday, October 29th, at 5:00 pm!



Men's Bible Study and Breakfast Club has planned October meetings



The St. Paul's Lutheran Church Men's Bible Study Group and Breakfast Club meets on Saturday mornings, from 8:00 – 9:30 am in the Gathering Space.

Our next scheduled meetings are October 14th and 28th. Our Men's group is being led by Aaron. Coffee

and Donuts are provided. Please bring your Bible.

October Message from Aaron



I wanted to try something a bit different for this 'article'. I wanted to try a sort of 'distance equipping'. An attempt to give any who read this some tools to disciple any students or young adults in their lives. Before that, though, if you're looking for a quick fix, a one-size-fits-all solution, a 'silver bullet', you won't find one here.

I would caution you against such a mindset. People are beautifully complicated and complex. Each person is incredibly unique, and so the methods we use must also be unique to them. There's no quick and easy way. Discipleship is hard, and messy, and strange, and wonderful, and worth it, and beautiful. There's no 'silver bullet' here. That said, here are some basics to discipling teens, youth, and young adults.

First, live what you believe. So many miss this crucial step. You won't always live what you profess. Many people profess many, many things, and don't always live that out. See, when it comes to this generation, what you say matters less than what you do. So, you've gotta live what you believe. And you will. We don't always live what we profess, but we always live what we believe. You can look at a life, and see its fruit, and conclude what that person actually believes.

It isn't enough to just tell them about Jesus, that's a wonderful start, but then live out what you profess. If you say Jesus is important, does your life reflect that? For some, this may be hard to hear, but your priorities matter a lot. If you profess Jesus is important and a priority, and yet you constantly put work, sports, events, outings, parties, whatever, before gathering to worship this wonderful Jesus, what are you really saying? Take a long, hard look at your life and really ask what your actions communicate.

You may find your actions reveal that you see Jesus as someone you can tack on to life, instead of someone who radically changes it. If you say Jesus is loving and forgiving, do you mirror that? Or do you hold grudges, are you slow to forgive? Are you unloving toward some? I so appreciate the fact that this generation is like this, because it challenges me to not just talk about my faith, but to actually live it. Talk is cheap.

Second, ask questions. I don't mean ask with the intent to respond. Ask with the intent to listen. Figure out who they actually are as people. What they love, what makes them happy, what they're passionate about, what they want for their life. What they're afraid of, what makes them nervous or anxious. Take an interest in them as a person. Become friends with them. This generation is so lonely, offer them something better than the shallow and petty relationships they can find anywhere else. Invite them over for meals. And live your faith in front of them. Be generous, quick to forgive, quick to speak kindly, quick to apologize.

Third, have reasons you believe what you do. Contrary to what you may have heard on the news, this generation isn't stupid. They are frighteningly intelligent. They don't want a Jesus that doesn't make logical sense. Thankfully though, there's so much evidence, so much logic for what we believe as Christians, and I don't have enough space or time to list it all, but call me, or come find me, and I'd be happy to share. Be able to give answers for why you believe. Christianity is not opposed to reason, logic, and science, it's actually quite supportive of it.

Fourth, don't force an answer. When you are blessed with the moment to tell them about Jesus, force no answers. Just talk, be patient, be gentle, be gracious. If they grow uncomfortable, give them plenty of opportunities to check out of the conversation. What I do is open every conversation about Jesus with some variation of 'if at any point this makes you uncomfortable and you wanna stop, just say so and we can talk about literally anything else.'

(Continues on Page 5...)

"Discipling Youth" Continued from Page 4

Fifth, be consistent. With the chaos of life in the digital age, be someone consistent for them. Show up when you say you will, be present in the moment. Be someone that they can consistently count on.

Sixth, spend time with Jesus yourself. You can't tell anyone about someone you don't know. In fact, prioritize your relationship with Jesus. What people need most from you is you being with Jesus.

Seventh, have fun. Life is short, and cold, and cruel. But you don't have to be. Have fun, be gracious, do some fun things that have no point other than being fun. Watch a movie, play a game, eat some garbage food. Make mistakes, and own them. Live a life marked by grace, by love, by forgiveness. I promise, all of these things matter so much more than you might think. Do these things, and yah, you won't see changes overnight. But you will see people change, you will see the lonely set in families, the prodigals come home. And that is worth so much more than I could ever describe.

Notes of thanks received

"Thank-you to Pastor David Kaiser who delivered a moving remembrance at the funeral of Ron Frastaci's life.

"Thank-you to the ladies of the luncheon funeral committee. It was very much appreciated as his family was from out of town."

~ Linda Frastaci

"I so appreciate my St. Paul's family, Pastor Paul's visit, your cards, your notes, and most of all your prayers. Thanks so much. God bless you."





"I want to thank all those who donated to the Over the Edge 4 the Victory Center! With your help, I was able to raise \$1,345.00. The event raised a total of \$217,290.00 for the Victory Center, to fund FREE programs and services for newly diagnosed cancer patients, cancer survivors and their caregivers. 100% of funds raised will stay in the Toledo area.

"May we someday put an end to cancer,"

~Dave Grieger

October Prayer Focus: Focusing

"Let your eyes look straight ahead; fix your gaze directly before you."
(Proverbs 4:25)

Ask ... Seek ... Knock ... Almighty God,

In this month's "Prayer Focus", we pray for focus.

These days, there seems to be endless important tasks demanding our attention so we come to You for focus on what really matters. We pray that we can keep our focus on You and trust in Your plan. God, help us to focus on the life-giving things and not the life-draining things. And help us to focus on the positive and uplifting, not the negative. And in our work for ourselves, for others and for You, may we focus to remain on task instead of distracted and unaccomplished.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

News from the Outreach M.A.T.

"Showing God's Love Through You"

OUR MISSION:

Providing local outreach opportunities for individuals by caring for the needs of others.

Outreach M.A.T. Co-Directors: Sue Schad (419-893-2330), Beth Heisey, Carol Doerfler & Linda Scott with the St. Paul's church family.

Check out the slides, weekly bulletin, weekly email, and the monthly *Communicator* for news on ministries that are happening at St. Paul's and how you can help!

You <u>CAN</u> make a difference!

Outreach MAT Ministry Assistance Extension Number

The voicemail extension for all Outreach Board ministry assistance is extension 220. Call the church number (419-893-0205) then dial 220. The Outreach MAT schedules food pantry appointments as well as providing monetary assistance with rent, utilities, and other needs.

Prayer Corner

Many of you have noticed the special area in the back corner of the sanctuary where there are pull-out folding doors, chairs, and a small fountain. Our Prayer Corner is reserved for folks in need of prayer or who wish to have a quiet,

Continues from Column 1

private area for individual prayer before or after each worship service. There is also the Chapel downstairs down the hallway to the Youth Room on the right.

"Stock the Store" (God's Storehouse and outside Blessing Box)

Want to make a difference for struggling folks in our local area? Want to do something that can be done when you do your grocery shopping? The Outreach MAT has an opportunity for you! Both of our food storehouses have seen an increase of use by families who are having a hard time with the lack of food in these times of rising costs. God's Storehouse offers an inside "store" for families as well as The Blessing Box which is our outdoor 24/7 "store".

Every month, we will ask for donations of a particular item to "stock the store". These items are ones that are in demand by our families. You can help us out by purchasing that item while you are shopping and donating it at church in a special box labeled "Stock the Store".

For October, you can "stock the store" by donating mustard,



catsup and mayonnaise. So watch each month in the Gathering Space for the item you can donate to help Outreach MAT "stock the store". Thank you for your support!!

Continues from Column 2

Prayer Shawls Ministry

If you are now working on a prayer shawl, please continue and turn it in to Pastor Paul's office as we bring this ministry to a close OR turn in what you have finished and someone will finish it for you so we can give it to someone who needs it. Thank you for your support of this ministry!

Ronald McDonald House pull tab ministry

The Outreach MAT is asking you to save pull tabs from aluminum cans including soup and vegetable cans and pet food cans to support the mission of Ronald McDonald House Charities. RMHC recycles the tabs to supplement the food budget that provides meals to families during their stay, at no cost to them. There is a container in the Gathering Space as well as in the Fellowship Hall. you would like to learn more about RMHC and/or other volunteer opportunities, please contact Carol Doerfler doerflers@toast2.net.

<u>Baby University</u> (a Mosaic ministry)

Baby University ministers to

families in Toledo's Old South End. They are



collecting children's books especially board books (hard cover). Research proves that reading to children from birth (or even before birth) every day for the first five years prepares them for success when they start formal schooling. Parents

(Continues on Page 7...)

News from the Outreach M.A.T. Continued from Page 6

are their children's first and most important teachers.

We, as a congregation, can help them achieve their mission by providing them with books. There is a collection container in the Gathering Space to place the books. Thank you for helping this important, but vulnerable part of our population.

Halos of Hope (chemo caps)

Many thanks to the ladies who are knitting and crocheting chemo caps for this ministry. We have made over 3,300 CAPS since this ministry started! We are making a DIFFER-ENCE! This ministry that uses volunteers to knit or crochet caps for individuals who are undergoing treatment for cancer.

If you knit or crochet and would like to use your gift to help others, please contact Sue Schad for more information about this exciting opportunity to make a difference.

Aldi's Plastic Handled Bags

Because of restricted supply from Aldi's, Outreach MAT's collection of plastic, handled bags used to pack the Holiday Baskets is dwindling. We could use your help! If you shop at Aldi's, please consider purchasing a dozen bags for our use when we do the Food Baskets. We need about 250-300 bags. The bags have white handles and are \$0.13 each. Thank you, in advance for our generosity, if you can help us!! Put the bags on the wooden bins near the coat hang-up areas or give to one of the Outreach MAT members.

Continued from Column 1



<u>God's Storehouse</u> (St. Paul's food pantry)

God's Storehouse, our food pantry, is St. Paul Lutheran's "hand up" for families in the area who are struggling to make ends meet in these difficult times.

God's Storehouse October shopping list:

Mustard, catsup, mayonnaise, dill pickles, canned pasta (like beefaroni), Spam, canned spinach, canned waxed beans, angel food cake, Knorr pasta sides or rice sides, canned chicken, relish, canned tuna (in water), "kid-friendly" cereals, diced tomatoes, mandarin oranges, any kind of Jiffy mix, crushed or chunk pineapple, boxed mashed potatoes (like au gratin), Pop Tarts, snack crackers, cookies, pudding or jello cups, single-serving chips or pretzels, raisins, toilet paper, paper towels, instant chocolate pudding, red jello.

If you are shopping and think of it, buy two and donate one to God's Storehouse. We thank you, in advance, for your generosity! <u>Please place your donations in the wooden bins back by the coat racks in the Gathering Space/narthex.</u>

The Outreach MAT would like to thank the anonymous St. Paul's members who are continually contributing items, monetary gifts, or time for our ministries. We are so honored to be the "visible" face of St. Paul's for the local families we help, but we would like to express our gratitude to all of you who are always helping out without any kind of recognition.



The King will reply, "I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for Me." (Matthew 25:40)

God's helpers

God's providence is not in baskets lowered from the sky, but through the hands and hearts of those who love him. The lad without food and without shoes made the proper answer to the cruel-minded woman who asked, "But if God loved you wouldn't he send you food and shoes?" The boy replied, "God told someone, but [they] forgot."

—George Buttrick

Thank you to volunteers

Our gratitude to the many volunteers who have been sharing their God-given gifts with our church family at St. Paul's by doing the "behind-the-scenes" things that make our church home so welcoming, warm and cozy.

While your service may not be noticed by others, God sees everything you do for others and smiles.



M.A.T. Spotlight

"Is this MAT your Cup of Tea?"



- Would you enjoy making baked goods to share at the Coffee Counter?
- Greet and direct anyone seeking information who comes to the coffee counter?
- Hand out Welcome Bags to new faces that visit the counter?

Did you answer "yes" to any of these? Then the EVANGELISM & HOSPITALITY MINISTRY MAT is your "Cup of Tea!"

Please reach out to Beth Heisey (248-709-2599) and tell her you saw this in the *Communicator* and that you'd like to help when the need arises!

Committees make plans - M.A.T.s (Ministry Area Teams) take action!!

**If this list wasn't your "cup of tea", no worries! We have many other areas that will fit your interest.

Stop by the counter at the back of the church right by the nursery where you'll see all of our "Cups of Tea." Grab a paper interest survey to fill out and drop in the offering plate at the entrance of the Sanctuary so we can get you connected!

Or access the interest survey on the St. Paul's app or on our website at https://www.stpaulslive.com/volunteer

Altar flower dates available

All five Sundays in October (the 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th) are still open on the Altar Flower calendar. If you are interested in placing flowers on the altar on any of those Sundays, please call Becky in the church office (419-893-0205).

As a reminder, the cost is \$20.00.



Give us a call

Please call the church office (419-893-0205) if you or a family member are (or are scheduled to be) hospitalized, have recently moved to an assisted living facility or nursing home, become a shut-in, desire home communion or would appreciate a home visit due to health problems.

Hospitals and care facilities no longer provide us with this information and it's important so that our pastor, prayer groups, and congregation are able to provide the necessary spiritual support when and where it is needed.

Please help us best minister to you and your loved ones.

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"I have so much to do that I shall spend the first three hours in prayer."

-Martin Luther

Bible Quiz

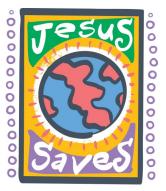
Not long before Jesus' arrest, he said: "I did not come to _____ the world, but to _____ the world." Fill in the blanks.

A. judge; save

B. hate; love

C. condemn; teach

D. disrupt; conform to



Answer: A (See John 12:47, NIV.)

Your old glasses can give new life

Millions in developing nations lack access to basic eye care services. The Lions Club has recognized the urgent need for corrective lenses and continues to lend their support.

If you have old eye glasses that you are no longer using, please bring them to the church, drop them off in the basket on the counter by the Outreach Board and we will recycle them through the Lion's Club. Questions? Contact Gary Langenderfer.

Ladies' Lunch and Dinner Bunch news

Ladies of all ages are invited to meet on Thursday, October 19th, at 11:30 am OR at 6:00 pm at Longhorn Steakhouse restaurant on Dussel Drive, in Maumee, to enjoy good conversation, good food and good company together. Bring a friend! Contact Sue Schad with any questions.



Saturday Stitchin' news

Join us for a Saturday morning of knitting, crocheting, cross stitching, or fleece blanket making on Saturday, October 7th.

Want to learn how to knit or crochet? Bring an H crochet hook or size 8 or 9 knitting needles and 4-ply worsted yarn with you. Come at 9:30 am to the Gathering Space and stay until 12 noon to learn or to sit and work on a continuing project. Not working on a project? Come and just chat with friends and enjoy the conversation and a snack or two. Bring a snack to share, if you wish.

Enjoy some time doing something you love with good friends.

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MISSIONARY-MINDED PRAYER

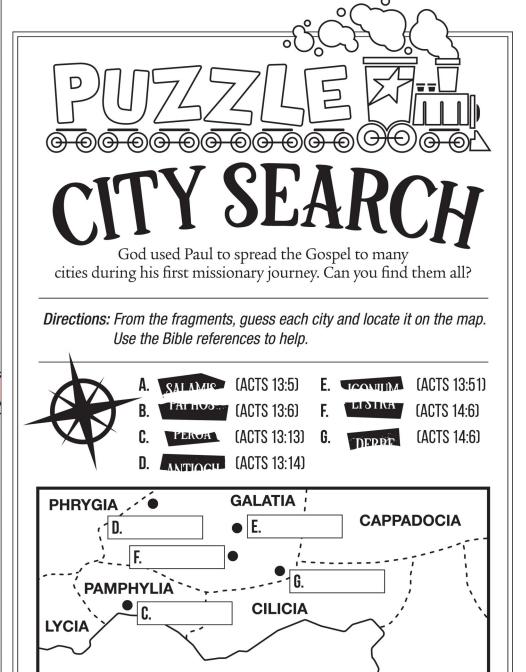
An important part of missions is prayerfully supporting the church. Use this activity to guide your family's prayer time.

What you need:

- Plastic bag (large zippered)
- Permanent marker
- Bandage
- Toy plane
- Heart-shaped drawing or toy
- Spoon
- Coin
- Hot-sauce packet

What you do:

- 1. Label the bag with details about the missionaries you'll be praying for (names, location, specific needs).
- 2. Add small prayer-prompt objects to guide your prayer time (bandage = health, plane = travel, heart = relationships, spoon = cultural connection, coin = finances, hot sauce = boldness).
- 3. Include other objects that will prompt prayer for missionaries' specific needs.
- 4. Place the bag where it will remind your family to pray regularly.



CYPRUS

Mediterranean

B.

Answers: Salamis, Paphos, Perga, Antioch, Iconium, Lystra, Derbe

SYRIA

The Communicator is published monthly by

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Web Site: www.stpaulslive.com Facebook: facebook.com/Stpaulslive Instagram: St_pauls_live

In the event of an emergency and it's after hours, you may reach Pastor Paul at **419-382-5747**.

Office Hours: Mon-Fri: 8:00 am–noon & 1:00-4:30 pm

Pastoral Staff:

Rev. Paul S. Doerfler

Sunday Schedule:

8:30 am Traditional Service (drive-in & in-Sanctuary)

10:30 am Modern Service (drive-in & in-Sanctuary)

Everyone is welcome!

Trustees:

President— Vice President—Doug Barchick Treasurer—Gary Yunker Secretary—Scott Valare

COMMUNICATOR DEADLINE

As a reminder, the deadline for the <u>Communicator</u> is the 15th of the month at 8:00 am. IF the 15th is on a weekend, the deadline is the following Monday at 8:00 am.

Submissions for repeated printing must be earmarked with the specific publication dates.

Editor reserves the right to edit for content and space. Thank you so much for meeting the deadline!

Joy in the Word of God



Oh! how great and glorious a thing it is to have before one the Word of God! With that we may at all times feel joyous and secure; we need never be in want of consolation, for we see before us, in all its brightness, the pure and right way. He who loses sight

of the Word of God, falls into despair; the voice of heaven no longer sustains him; he follows only the disorderly tendency of his heart, and of world vanity, which lead him on to his destruction.

-The Table Talk of Martin Luther

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Who We Are

We believe that God is willing and able to do more than we can ask, think or imagine. We believe that He has positioned us to fulfill our calling to reach out into Maumee, Toledo, and the nations with His love.

We are a Bible-based, caring church family that desires to grow in Christian faith. As a congregation, our most earnest desire, programming and efforts are focused toward reaching out to the world with the great news of salvation found in Jesus Christ. And we would like to reach out to you too.

If you do not have a church home, and if you are searching for a warm, welcoming place to learn, grow, and invest your time and talents, please consider worshipping with us.

Mission & Vision

ST. PAUL'S MISSION:

In response to Christ's great commission to share the Gospel with the whole world, St. Paul's Lutheran Church is called to make disciples by connecting the unconnected to Jesus Christ and together growing in full devotion to Him.

ST. PAUL'S VISION:

Do L.I.F.E: <u>L</u>ove. <u>Inspire</u>. <u>F</u>orgive. <u>E</u>ncourage. L.I.F.E: The building blocks of authentic, Christ-centered community.

Prepared Especially For:

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