

THE Epistle from St. Paul



Romans 16:16; I Corinthians 16:20; II Corinthians 13:12

AUGUST 2025

“Greet One Another With a Holy Kiss”

Saint Paul’s instructions (above) are usually skipped over in a passage, or joked about as a Christian pick-up line, but they refer to the sharing of the peace, which is called the Pax (Latin for “peace”). In our congregation, we shake hands after the Prayer of the Church, and quote the words of Christ to the disciples in the upper room when He said to them, “Peace be with you.”

Christians have used the Pax in the Divine Service from the earliest days of the Church. It’s a treasure to pass the Peace in the Divine Service, because we’re engaging the Peace of the Lord. It’s ok to say hello during the Pax, but at its root it’s not for greeting or for getting to know someone. The Pax isn’t even about welcoming new members, although extending the Peace of Christ is a great way to welcome anyone.

The Pax is about reconciliation. Jesus’ blood shed on the cross has won reconciliation for you and for all your brothers and sisters in Christ, whether in that moment they feel like friends or enemies! So, the Pax is at a very specific time during the Liturgy. It follows the Prayers, so that as we share the Peace with fellow congregation members, we’re saying “your needs are my concerns too, and what you’re praying for, I’m praying right along with you.”

It’s just before the Offertory and the Service of the Sacrament. In the Peace, therefore, we offer to God a forgiving spirit, broken and contrite over our own sins, and forgiving of those who sin against us. Then, as we receive the Lord’s Body and Blood, which reconciles us to God and to one another, which forgives every sin, and which heals the wounds between us, we recognize all together that the Peace of Christ is greater than all that divides us.

This opportunity for reconciliation is especially important in the summertime when we’re off in different directions and don’t see each other quite so often. By extending the peace, we forgive each other so that we can receive the Holy Supper for our benefit, without sinning against the Body and Blood. Take it as an opportunity to reconcile with your family, your friends, with the ones driving you just a bit nuts. If bad feelings are between you and someone else, take the Pax as an opportunity to seek them out, forgive each other, and prepare for the Eucharist with a clean conscience. By saying “Peace be with you,” we’re saying what the Lord said to the disciples—the sins of the past are behind us, and life with Christ is before us—all together! We’re brothers and sisters again by the cross of Jesus, who promises to heal every wound in His good time. Peace be with you all!

In Christ, *Pastor Newton*

You are invited to the service of

INSTALLATION

of Pastor David Kottlowski
as Assistant Pastor

Sunday, August 24
3:00pm
Meal to follow



St. Paul Lutheran Church

Stewardship Report

The Stewardship Board did not hold a meeting in July, as there was no event pending.

Stewardship will sponsor a camping weekend September 12-14 at Prairie Flower camp site. The camping loop site is L217-Lead. The cost for a camper is \$50; the cost for a tent is \$30. The check-in time is 2:00pm on Friday; check out is noon on Sunday. Sign-up sheets are located in the FLC Hallway.

There will be a potluck during the camping weekend Saturday night. Stewardship will provide the main course (hot dogs and hamburgers). You can bring your favorite side dish or dessert. This potluck is for everyone...even those not camping. There is a sign-up sheet for the potluck as well.

The Youth Board served donuts and coffee in July. Evangelism serves in August.

In Christ,
Ken Kise
Stewardship Board Chairperson

INSTALLATION
of **& COMMISSION**
Laura Nelson
as a called rostered church worker
(Director of Youth Ministry)

Sunday, August 31
9:30am

Join us for a meal following
the service at 11:00am.

There is
only one
service on
August 31.



**VOTERS
MEETING**

**Wednesday,
August 6
6:00pm**

Advanced recommendation for the Associate
Pastor call. Call committee approval.
Quorum is needed
Please plan to attend!

LCMS Youth Gathering Reflections and Photos

The 2025 LCMS Youth Gathering in New Orleans was a joy-filled and deeply formative experience for our youth, adult leaders, and by extension, our whole congregation. Anchored in the theme *Endure* from Hebrews 12:1–3, the Gathering brought together thousands of Lutheran teens and adults from across the country to receive Christ's gifts, confess the faith, and be strengthened in the sure and certain hope that is ours in Him.

Each day was centered in the Word of God. From daily Bible study to evening mass events, breakout sessions, and service projects, our youth were immersed in the promises of Christ and surrounded by the communion of saints. The highlight of the week was the Divine Service, where we were gathered by the Holy Spirit to hear Christ's Word preached and to receive His true Body and Blood for the forgiveness of sins. This was no emotional high or mountaintop moment, but the steady work of God through His Means of Grace—Word and Sacrament.

A treasured rhythm of our time together was nightly devotions led by Pastor Newton, which included the gift of Confession and Absolution. What a profound comfort it was to end each day receiving the forgiveness of sins, spoken aloud in Christ's name and stead.

Throughout the week, our students had opportunities to reflect on their baptismal identity, to serve their neighbor, and to learn more deeply what it means to confess the faith in an increasingly hostile world. Four of our youth (and three of our adult leaders) even helped lead parts of closing worship, pointing others not to themselves, but to Christ crucified and risen.

It was a week of visible joy and quiet endurance—of sweat, sacrament, and the sure promises of our crucified and risen Lord. Thank you to our congregation for your prayers, encouragement, and support. Please continue to pray that the Word planted and the gifts received would take deep root and bear lasting fruit in the lives of our young people.

Following are lots of fun photos of the week in New Orleans! You can also find some on the church FaceBook page.

In Christ,
Laura Nelson
Director of Youth Ministry







Oh, the food! Gumbo, jambalaya, po'boys, beignets, seafood...enjoyed by all!

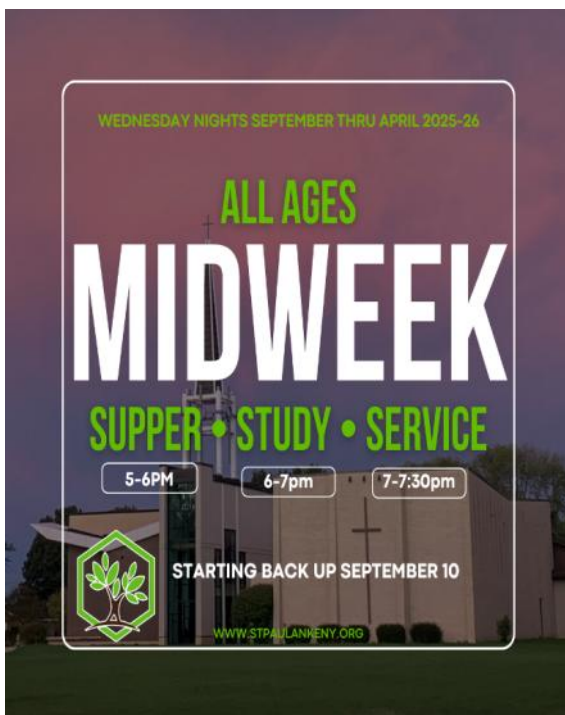




Is your 8th grade student interested in being confirmed in 2026?

Let's chat soon! Please set up an appointment with Pastor Newton or Laura Nelson. You can email them at pastornewton@stpaulankeny.org and laura@stpaulankeny.org.

Save the date! Confirmation will take place on January 18, 2026 at the 10:45am service.



Registration Now Open!

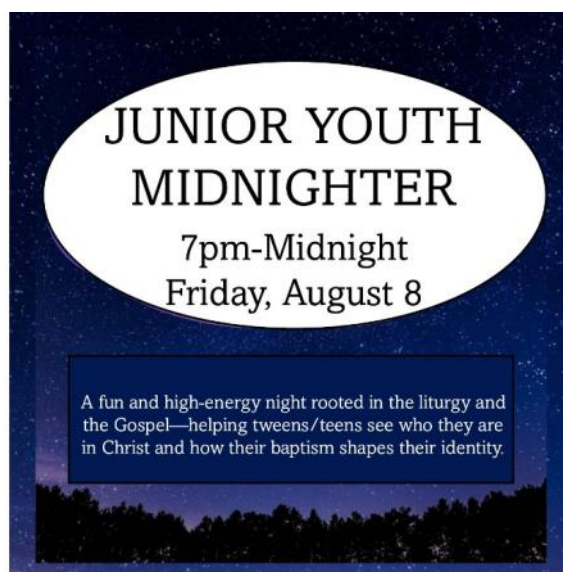
We invite you to register for Sunday School, Midweek Classes, Confirmation, Sunday Morning Youth Bible Study, Youth Group, and all other children and youth activities at St. Paul Lutheran Church. These Christ-centered programs are designed to support your family in the lifelong task of growing in faith, grounded in God's Word and the Lutheran Confessions.

Registering for classes and events helps the Board of Christian Education, the Board of Youth, and staff prepare well for a faithful and fruitful year ahead.

Used the QR code or go to the church website, click on the Family Ministries tab and then click on Registration.



We look forward to walking with your family in Christ this school year!



August Adjustments — They'll be here soon!

August adjustments? We're right there with you. August comes in with backpacks to fill, sports schedules to juggle, and maybe just a little resistance to letting go of summer.

Whether you're clinging to the last sips of lemonade or already mapping out the first week of school, we get it—this month is all about shifting gears.

And as routines return and calendars fill back up, our youth ministry begins to lean back in, too. But even with new schedules and fresh starts, we stay grounded in what matters most:

God's Word. His Sacraments. The main thing is STILL the main thing.

So as you make your August adjustments—buying supplies, getting back into rhythm, maybe even shedding a few summer tears—know that we're praying for your families and walking with you into this new season.

Jesus goes with you—into classrooms, carpool lines, and quiet moments of trust.

In Christ,

Laura Nelson

Director of Youth Ministry

St Paul
JR & SR YOUTH
communicate on **BAND!**
Band is THE app for groups and communities!

Parents and students! Make sure you are using the Band app to keep up to date on everything happening with the youth at St. Paul!

Scan the QR code below to start.

Senior Youth



Junior Youth



Senior Youth Church Campout (grades 9-12)

Friday, August 15 at 7:00pm to

Saturday, August 16, 7:00am

This fun night will be lead by students from Concordia University, Seward, Nebraska.



Wednesday, August 20
1:30-5:30pm

Christ Lutheran Church

2325 SW State St. Suite C, Ankeny

Scan the QR code or sign up online through the Red Cross. Go to redcrossblood.org, click on the find a blood drive tab. Type in 50023. Click on the Christ Lutheran Church tab and you can sign up for a time.



Scan to schedule an appointment.

Lady Dinners

Lady Dinners are going to Arcadia PC in Polk City on **Tuesday, August 5** at 11:30am. If you are interested in car pooling, please contact Betty Berlau (515-249-9968) or Donna Stoelk (515-964-9805).

All single ladies are invited! Regardless of your age or why you are single.

Nursing Home Ministry

St. Paul provides services to local nursing homes once a month. Members are always welcome to attend the services. You can help by singing along and assisting residents with the songbooks.

- Sunny View at 2:30pm on August 17
- Rock Creek at 1:30pm on August 19 (Communion in Jan Volf's room, service at 2pm)
- Mill Pond at 2:00pm on August 24



NOW TAKING DONATIONS

Donate
SCHOOL SUPPLIES

- Kleenex
- Disinfecting Wipes
- Hand Sanitizer
- Expo Markers (black: skinny & regular)
- Crayola Colored Pencils
- Crayola Markers
- Post-it Notes

Place donations in the basket by the LWML table.

School supplies will be donated to Capitol View Elementary School in Des Moines. Last day to drop off is August 17.



Church offices will be closed Fridays in August

August
1, 8, 15, 22, 29

SAVE THE DATE!

RALLY DAY
SEPTEMBER 7 • 9:30AM

AUGUST 2025

ELDER OF THE WEEK

03: Gary Hauge
10: Adam Haselhuhn
17: Jon Jero
24: Dan Pottratz
31: Tim Krehbiel

ALTAR COMMITTEE

Vicki Sickels, Mary Suhr

ALTAR FLOWERS

03: Ruth & Dan Pottratz
10:
17: Kathy Olson
24:
31: Carol Wemdt

OFFERING COUNTERS

August 3

Betty Berlau, Dan Depe

August 10

Kevin Kisker, Marilyn Sharar

August 17

Kevin Kisker, Donna Stoelk

August 24 & 31

Tim Davies, David Reddel

USHERS

August 3 & 10

8:00am — Ray Marvin, Randy Sunderman, Curt Hora
10:45am — David Reddel, Collin Reddel, Mark Lauthen

August 17 & 24

8:00am — Mike Hayden, Dave Thompson, Jane Thompson
10:45am — Tim Krehbiel, Steve Bradley

August 31 & September 7

8:00am — Ken Kise, Dan Hubbard
10:45am — Cal Uhlig, Eric Bradley

August Birthdays

01: Eric Forde	15: Steve Hunt
02: Janet Anderson	16: Norah Newton
Kaylee Haselhuhn	Megan von Qualen
03: Katy Newton	17: Lucy Thompson
04: Charlene Fairchild	19: Kathy Olson
Alise Sunderman	21: Lynn Hanselman
05: Chloe Clark	Jeff Zogg
Dorothy Swanson	22: Mark Mueller
06: Tyler Irlmeier	23: Betty Berlau
Kole Johnson	Len Mash
07: Maceo Anderson	24: Greg Crawford
Lucy Brooner	25: Hans Schaeffer
08: Lindsey Irlmeier	Aubrey Wiebelhaus
Nic Parker	26: Chris Madsen
09: Jennifer Dorfler	Charlie Poock
Molly Trueblood	27: Cassie Nessa
10: Lana Crownsun	29: Duane Reinke
Art Olson	30: Jackson McCarragher
11: Tom George	31: Sherwin Bulls
14: Linda Glenn	

August Wedding Anniversaries

01: Susie & Jackson McCarragher	15: Beth & Larry Banwart
02: Beth & Dan Hubbard	20: Lana & Carey Crowson
Ruth & Dan Pottratz	24: Janey & Mike Brooner
04: Joyce & Steve Voss	27: Joyce & Tom George
06: Sandi & Tony Miller	Carla & Mike Oleson
08: Julie & Laird Hodges	Judy & Duane Reinke
09: Kathy & Doyle Witt	29: Jo & Denny Lensch
12: Rachel & Chad Burgess	30: Pam & Ron Houseman
13: Kathy & Don Jacoby	
Audrey & Rod Rieken	
Cindy & Brandon Rohlfson	

August 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 8:00am Worship Service Fellowship Hour 10:45am Worship Service	4 9:00am Staff Meeting 5:30pm Board of Education Meeting	5 11:30am Lady Diners 5:30pm Board of Youth Meeting	6 6:00pm Voters Meeting 7:00pm Summer Liturgy	7 9:30am Service of Matins 7:00pm Men's Fellowship & Bible Study	1 Offices Closed	2 8:00am Christ Lutheran — St. Paul Golf Outing
10 8:00am Worship Service Fellowship Hour 10:45am Worship Service	11 9:00am Staff Meeting 6:30pm Property Board Meeting	12 6:30pm Elders Meeting	13 7:00pm Summer Liturgy	14 9:30am Service of Matins 7:00pm Men's Fellowship & Bible Study	15 Offices Closed 7:00pm Sr. Youth Campout	16
17 8:00am Worship Service Fellowship Hour 10:45am Worship Service 2:30pm Sunny View Service	18 9:00am Staff Meeting	19 1:30pm Rock Creek Service 6:30pm Council Meeting	20 7:00pm Summer Liturgy	21 9:30am Service of Matins 7:00pm Men's Fellowship & Bible Study	22 Offices Closed	23 9:30am Merilee Voss Visitation 10:30am Merilee Voss Memorial Service
24 8:00am Worship Service Fellowship Hour 10:45am Worship Service 2:00pm Mill Pond Service 3:00pm Pastor Kottowski Installation with meal to follow	25 9:00am Staff Meeting	26	27 7:00pm Summer Liturgy	28 9:30am Service of Matins 7:00pm Men's Fellowship & Bible Study	29 Offices Closed	30
31 9:30am Worship Service & Installation of Laura Nelson 11:00am Meal	1 Labor Day Offices Closed					