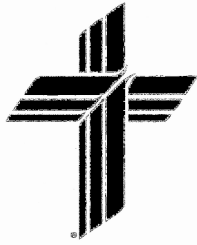


# God's Family



• 10:00 a.m.—Sunday  
Worship Service

## Inside this Issue:



The Art of Relationships— A Message from Pastor Fisher	1 & 3
Birthdays; Anniversaries; Services; Food Pantry	2
Pumpkins & Brews Event	3
Member Biography Corner w/photo; Mentor 1 Finale	4
Oktoberfest & Free Kinderfest; Digital Age—A Note from Pastor	5
Installation of St. Paul's Artist in Residence and Reception w/ photos	6
Connecting Youth with Other Young Christians; St. Paul's Upcoming Shine Event	7
Fire Starters Schedule Change and Other Information	8

**St. Paul's Lutheran Church**  
150 W. Highway D  
New Melle, MO 63365  
(636)828-5616

Volume XXIV Issue 10  
October 2023

## *The Art of Relationships*

Our Artist in Residence Nick Bennett is off to the races! Not only have we been collaborating as a church staff on various St. Paul's and community projects, but we have also talked a lot about relationships.

Now why on earth would I be talking with our new artist about relationships?

Well, I think it is because Jesus was and is himself an artist and one of his favorite mediums was people, and his best masterpieces were relationships.

You may have heard the phrase that something is "an art more than a science." Well, that is often true in relationships. Don't get me wrong, there is a lot of good science, biology, psychology, and anthropology that help us understand human relationships and how they work.

But, it is the nature of the variety of people and contexts that seem almost infinite that make it into an artform. No person is totally like the next, no relationship is the same, and the number of people that can be mixed and matched into partnerships, friendships, marriages, families, neighborhoods, communities, towns, and cities is truly incalculable.

Just like the colors on an artist's wheel, mixing, matching, blending, shading, all to create a beautiful masterpiece.

Unfortunately, many human relationships, including more than a few of our own, aren't always masterpieces. People, including ourselves, are filled with all sorts of gunk that can mess up an otherwise beautiful painting. Our pride, selfishness, fears, anxieties, hurt, wounds, guilt, shame,

and sin can mess up the painting.

That is why Jesus is truly the greatest artist. Let me paint you a picture. It is the picture of the cross. I could mention all the people to whom, just by a touch, word, a sit down, a dinner invitation, Jesus brought color, meaning, life and hope to the people he met. I could mention the 12 disciples that Jesus forged together as the first Church, that earthly artists have often tried to depict. I could mention the woman at the well, and the impossible relationship that Jesus forged with her in love, mercy, and grace. I could speak to the iconic relationship Jesus built with the little children as we have seen depicted so many times, laughing and smiling, Jesus is hoisting children from all over the world onto his lap!

Jesus, a true artist and creator, creatively built new relationships with people to himself and people to each other. Lepers who were ostracized were given new relationships with the people and community around them. The unclean woman who was unable to touch or be touched was given a new life of relationships, which meant a new life of possibilities. Jesus, even in touching the blind man's eyes, gave him the ability to see again, that is to see the wonders of the world that God the Father had created. Jesus the Word made flesh, the creator had come to create... less like an engineer and more like an artist.

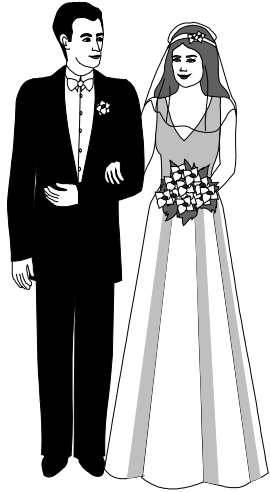
But like I said, His greatest masterpiece was on the cross. How can something so

*(continued on page 3)*



## October Birthdays

10/2 – Ann Chervek  
 10/5 – Sandra Schmidt  
 10/8—Joshua Gould  
 10/14 – Annie Schneider  
 10/21 – Carol Ramey  
 10/23—Carson Jennings  
 10/25 – Mark Wehmeier  
 10/25 – Laverne Williams



## October Anniversaries

10/5 – Jim & Ann Chervek – 19 years  
 10/16 – Robert & Wanda Greiwe – 69 years  
 10/24 – Pastor Maxx & Janie Fisher – 3 years

## October Services

*Communion at all services:*  
 10/1—Sunday—10:00 a.m.  
 10/8—Sunday—10:00 a.m.  
 10/15—Sunday—10:00 a.m.  
 10/22—Sunday w/Communion—10:00 a.m.  
 10/29—Sunday w/Communion—10:00 a.m.

### CONTACT INFORMATION

FOR

Pastor Maxx Fisher

Office: 636-828-5616

or

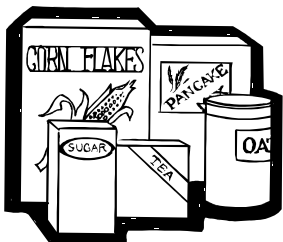
Cell Phone: 812-216-5891



## September Food Pantry Donations

Members of the congregation reported donating 36 food items and \$90.00 in cash to the New Melle Food Pantry during the month of September.

In the future, if you donate, please report this to Sherry in the office, so your donations can be included in our tally.



## Meal-a-Month Needs for October

The **MEAL-A-MONTH ITEMS** for **October**: Fruit juice, beef stew, chili beans, spaghetti sauce, Sloppy Joe sauce, gravy packets, canned chicken, sugar, flour, canned fruit, all-purpose cleaner, and laundry detergent.

Please bring items directly to the Immaculate Heart of Mary Church. If you donating money, please make checks payable to: St. Vincent De Paul Society. You may hand deliver your monetary (cash or check) donation or mail a check to Immaculate Heart of Mary, PO Box 100, New Melle, MO 63365. Please report your donation to Sherry Brandes in the office for Voters Assembly and Ladies Aid records. You only need to report number of items (or boxes or bags) and dollar amount. No names will be attached to the donations; just a monthly tally of the number of food items and dollars donated will be recorded.

**The Art of Relationships** *(continued from page 1)*  
gruesome hold any beauty, any artistic value? There is a reason that it is one of, if not the most, artistically depicted images on earth.

On the cross, with the colors of brown, red, and black darkness, Jesus masterminded the greatest relationship of all. That is God's people, the redeemed, the forgiven, the human creation, me and you with the Father in Heaven once and for all. A relationship of fear love and trust. Relationship established solely on the grace of God in Jesus. There in the ugliness of the human reality, the human situation, the truth concerning how broken our relationship was with God, is the beauty of how God's love could even overcome that bleak picture.

On the cross, in brokenness, in ugliness, in death, there is beauty, and there is a new relationship. You, St. Paul's, are a work of art, not because of your inherent beauty, but because of God's love for you shown in our relationship with His Son Jesus.

So, back to the beginning. Nick and I talk a lot about relationships. While Nick is incredibly blessed with artistic ability, he is blessed more so with his own relationship with Jesus Christ that he now has chosen to share with us here at St. Paul's. In his relationship with Jesus by grace through faith, Nick has expressed the desire to build

meaningful relationships with people in the community that he might love them. Serve them. And be served by them. Why does he want this? Because while art is a beautiful gift and a wonderful tool to express God's love and beauty of His work and the work of His Son Jesus Christ, it is a means to the end of loving our neighbors and sharing with them the greatest relationship we have and the most beautiful thing we possess, namely a relationship with Jesus.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention Oktoberfest in the October newsletter. But I think you know that it is happening and the help we need from everyone to make it a successful event.

So instead, I will conclude with this.

This Oktoberfest, I pray you take a moment from the fun and our business and soak it in. Enjoy, give thanks, and marvel at the beautiful painting, the glorious tapestry, the brilliant work of art of relationships that are in front of you, a masterpiece complete yet still in the works. I pray that it inspires you. I hope that it encourages you. I hope you know that you are a part of it. I hope you know that it is all by the hand, the love, of Jesus.

Happy Oktoberfest,  
Pastor Maxx



## St. Paul's Lutheran

- Dads & Kids
- Pumpkin Carving/Painting  
(Pumpkins Provided)
- Free Beer and Refreshments

**Sunday, Oct. 22nd 2:00pm**

Our new Artist in Residence, Nick Bennett, is wasting no time going to work for St. Paul's. He is formally beginning his outreach with this "Pumpkins and Brews" event.

It is open to the whole community, as well as to all St. Paul's dads and their kids. Flyers containing more details will be available SOON! Talk to Nick if you have questions.

So, Dads, help Nick make his first endeavor a success! Tell your friends and neighbors about this event. Bring your own kids!

Remember, outreach is something all of us can and must do — Show Nick and our community he is not in this alone!!

## Member Biography Corner

### Barb Auping



#### How long have you been at St. Paul's?

I am a life long member of St. Paul's.

#### What do you do and enjoy doing at St. Paul's?

Currently, I am the church organist and the treasurer of the congregation. I have done many things at St. Paul's, but what I am most grateful for is the gift that I have been given by our Lord, to help lead the congregation and the choir in the singing of praise to God.

#### What do you enjoy about being a member at St. Paul's?

St. Paul's has always been my family. Growing up across the street from the church, I and my family were always involved in every aspect of the church and school.

#### What is something interesting about yourself? A hobby? Etc.

I have been able to travel around the world. My favorite trip was to Melle, Germany where new friendships were formed. I have had jobs working in the federal government (in Washington, D.C.), as well as working for a hospital in St. Louis. My current job, which has become my most favorite, is working for the Wright City School District in the Special Education Department.

**Note about future member biographies:** We plan to highlight one member each month, starting with our leadership. Then we will move on to our office staff, and eventually every member of St. Paul's, so you can start writing your biography now, using the questions from Barb's biography above!



### Mentor 1 Finale

Sunday, October 8, will be the concluding sermon message on "Mentor 1".

The service will have a special kids' message from Deaconess Janie and an artistic element presented by Nick Bennett, our Artist in Residence.

As we conclude our Mentor 1 series, we encourage everyone to come out for a special worship service, where we will learn how God is working in us and on us, so that we can bear fruit for the sake of others!

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## Oktoberfest & Free Kinderfest — Sunday, October 15

**St. Paul's—it's TIME!** Time to **advertise** (pass out flyers at the places you frequent), time to **post our event on social media** (Facebook and more), time to **invite others**, time to **come to St. Paul's Oktoberfest (and Kinderfest, too!)**, and time to bring **your friends and family** with you.

Right now, it's also time **make final preparations**—we still need people to sign up for work shifts to take food orders, be cashiers at the food tent, be parking attendants/crosswalk assistants, and work at the welcome booth. Pretzel necklaces need to be made by those who have signed up.

So, what else can you do? Advertise the

event, invite your neighbors, family, and friends, set up tents and other things on Saturday, October 14 (starting at 8:30 a.m. for tent set-up and by 10:00 to help with the bulk of the remaining work), and get ready to eat sausage, sing along with the band, raise a stein, (maybe even wear a German hat, lederhosen, or a dirndl skirt or dress), help the kids play some games, and **HAVE SOME FUN!**

There is a flyer enclosed in this newsletter, and you can get more copies at church or by asking for them in the church office. Additional flyers can also be emailed.

**St. Paul's, we need ALL of us to work together to make this event the best ever!**



### Digital Age

#### A Note from Pastor Max

While learning a new skill can be hard it can also be rewarding. The tech side of Church hasn't always been St. Paul's strong suit, however, three years in with new tech we are finding places to reach into with the gospel!

- Did you know that our website had 100 site visitations last month alone? With 87 new visitors and 14 coming back for more? We see these sorts of numbers almost monthly.

- Did you know that the past nine weeks we have averaged 15 views on YouTube? That is 15 more people participating in our Sunday morning worship than our already increased weekly attendance averages! It also makes up for at least 20 to 25% of our Sunday participants.

- All of this with the awesome fact that our church body at St. Paul's is made up of about 40% of people who have joined in the last three years.

It is a new generation which means new challenges to overcome. But St. Paul's, we too have something new going on in our midst and it is awesome!

# Installation of St. Paul's Artist in Residence—Nick Bennett



During the church service on Sunday, September 17, Nick Bennett was installed as our new Artist in Residence. His brother Charlie assisted Pastor Maxx with the Installation Rite.

Following the service a reception was held in the church hall.

Nick will be part of St. Paul's continuing outreach efforts to connect with people in the New Melle area, to get to know them, and to help them learn to know St. Paul's as core part of this community.



Nick had the opportunity to chat with quite a few members of St. Paul's after church. Light refreshments were served and members had the opportunity to get to know him, as well. They also had time to have a few laughs and deepen their acquaintances with each other. Nick's position became possible through a grant St. Paul's received from the Lutheran Foundation of St. Louis. We look forward to all he will work to do to help us connect with others in our community and grow St. Paul's.

## Connecting Youth with Other Young Christians

Do you have young people in your family who would like to get involved in worthwhile, interesting, and fun Christian activities with others their own age?

Whether it is a Bible study, service project, or even a Christmas party, there are wonderful opportunities out there!

Contact Deaconess Janie Fisher for more information on the activities and locations of the events listed here.

The young people don't have to be attending Immanuel Lutheran School to take part in these events.

Get on the email list and learn more by contacting Deaconess Janie at: [jfisher@ilsw.org](mailto:jfisher@ilsw.org)

# Immanuel Students FALL SCHEDULE

sun <b>20</b> august	6:00-8:00PM House Hang & Bible Study The Auringer House
sun <b>10</b> sept	6:30-8:00PM House Hang & Bible Study The Carvey Lake
sun <b>17</b> sept	2:00-4:00PM Copperfield Service Project Copperfield Subdivision
sat <b>21</b> oct	1:00-5:30PM Christian Friends of New Americans Service Project Thies Farm Pumpkin Patch-Meet at Immanuel
sun <b>12</b> nov	6:30-8:00PM House Hang & Bible Study The Fisher House
sun <b>03</b> dec	6:30-8:00PM House Hang & Bible Study The Riutzel House
sun <b>10</b> dec	3:00-5:00PM Christmas Party The Charter House

For specific addresses and more information-get on our email list by contacting [jfisher@ilsw.org](mailto:jfisher@ilsw.org)

## St. Paul's Upcoming Shine Event

**Saturday, October 7, beginning promptly at 2:00 p.m.**

A "Masskrugstemmen" (beer stein hoist) is a stein-holding endurance contest. The event is designed for pleasure and friendly competition. This event will be held at Good News Brewery in Defiance, and St. Paul's "Shine" group has been asked to host the contest and provide prizes.

Annie Schneider and Amoret Chappell are working at this event, judging the contest. They need more help—four or five additional helpers would be GREAT!

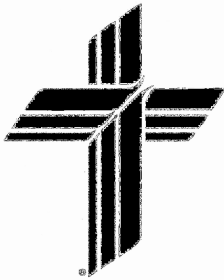
Also, having an audience filled with members from St. Paul's would be WONDERFUL! Everyone is encouraged to attend, even if you can't work. Please support SHINE and their efforts to be a presence in our community.



St. Paul's Lutheran Church

P.O. Box 70  
New Melle, MO 63365

"A new command I give  
you: Love one another."  
John 13:34



St. Paul's Lutheran Church-  
Missouri Synod



## Fire Starters

### Fall Schedule—Date Change

**Fire Starters** is St. Paul's Out-reach class. This class is where we bring in new members, answer questions for the curious, or just offer those outside our community a chance to get to know us.

**Fire Starters** is also our In-reach class. It is a chance for the disciples of St. Paul's to be reignited for the mission and go back to the basics, but also to learn more about their own story and ask important questions, as well as exercise their evangelism muscles by bringing and walking with their friends and family.

We sincerely ask and hope that all of you will participate in these classes as members, even if you do not have someone to bring. We all need the word, discipleship, and to be set on fire!

**November 5<sup>th</sup>**

**Fire Starter's - Ignition Class kickoff**

**11:30 a.m.—1:00 p.m.**

**Come see what St. Paul's is all about and learn more about our story of faith, and how the story goes on!**

**Lunch provided**

**Childcare will be available**

**Materials and resources provided for guests and visitors for free**

**Kindle the fire with our follow-up classes before Worship**

**8:45-9:45 a.m.**

**November 12<sup>th</sup>, November 19<sup>th</sup> & November 26**



If you can't make all the classes that's okay! We will offer the class multiple times a year, so you can get it all. Though it is always great to do them all at once, we want you to know your relationship with St. Paul's is more than just a class, but an ongoing process of discipleship as we walk together.

**Note:** Fire Starters is our "New Members" class, in that its completion is required for membership next steps. If you are desiring membership and cannot make all the classes, we will work with you to complete the classes and be bought into membership in a way that works for everyone.

If you do not desire to be a member, but are sincerely looking to learn about our faith, AWESOME! We will not sneakily "make you a member" or sign up for things you don't want. We are just grateful to have you join us!

Questions? Call Pastor Maxx: 636-828-5616 (church office) or at 812-216-5891 (cell)