

God's Family



- 10:00 a.m.—Sunday
Worship Service

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

Volume XXIV Issue 11
November 2023

Painting a Beautiful Picture of St. Paul's Future

What is it?

This looks terrible!

Maybe if I squint at it?

What did you say when you saw our Artist in Residence's Oktoberfest booth? Is it abstract art? Is it supposed to look bad? Why are we doing this? Doesn't he have something better to do? How long will it take? Does anyone care?

The painting made me think a lot about our time together. Three years ago I began my ministry and walk with ya'll. The future was unclear. The vision trying to be cast didn't always make since. Sometimes things looked ugly. Sometimes things seemed like a waste of time. Maybe it felt too abstract, or maybe it just wasn't some people's tastes. Maybe if you looked at the past three years at one point during the process you might have said...

What is it?

This looks terrible?

Maybe if I squint at it?

As for the painting, the lack of clarity as to the result may have made you miss the beauty of the idea. As I checked in throughout the day, I saw people from every generation painting a little piece, a little square of the art project. And slowly

but surely, a picture started to emerge.

The whole point of the painting was being revealed, not only by the image in color, but also by the participation of the community in seeking it out.

What is it?

It looks... like love. Like mercy. Like hope for a future.



St. Paul's, we exist as a church for one reason – to disciple the disciples and bring the lost sheep into the fold. To bring Jesus to everyone.

I know it has been hard. I know it has taken time. I know at times the picture looked ugly. I know that it has taken a huge effort. I know it has been one square at a time. I also know that we are nowhere close to being where we ought to be... and maybe we never will. Maybe it is our Lord's will that we

continue to receive new direction, new paths, new people to love, new communities and mission fields to reach into.

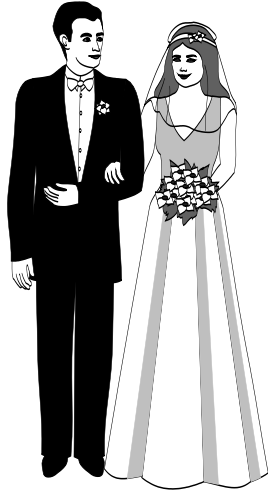
If that doesn't look good to you... if it looks like too much work, too uncomfortable. Too hard. Scary. I hope you can see the picture that has been being painted here for the past three years; the image

(continued on page 3)



November Birthdays

11/2 – Carolyn Schwede
 11/2 – Roger Sudbrock
 11/8 – Vicki Zuhone
 11/9 – Harold Demien
 11/10 – Jonathan Erickson
 11/12 – Randy Pohlmann
 11/16 – Carol Oberaitis



November Anniversaries

11/5 – Bill & Jackie Eslinger – 41 years
 11/20 – Harold & Sharon Demien – 63 years

CONTACT INFORMATION

FOR

Pastor Maxx Fisher

Office: 636-828-5616

or

Cell Phone: 812-216-5891

November Services

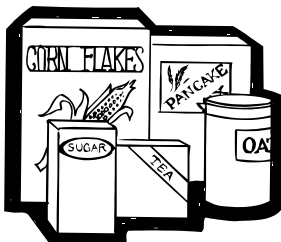
11/5 – Sunday w/Communion – 10:00 a.m.
 11/12 – Sunday w/Communion – 10:00 a.m.
 11/19 – Sunday w/Communion – 10:00 a.m.
 11/22 – Thanksgiving Eve Service – 6:00 p.m.
 11/29 – Sunday w/Communion – 10:00 a.m.



October Food Pantry Donations

Members of the congregation reported donating 36 food items and \$65.00 in cash to the New Melle Food Pantry during the month of October.

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 November

The **MEAL-A-MONTH ITEMS** for **November**: Canned fruit (pineapple, peaches, pears, applesauce, mixed fruit), spaghetti sauce, cooking oil, and snacks for kids.

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.

Painting a Beautiful Picture *(continued from pg. 1)*

that is starting to become more and more clear.

Did you know over 600 meals were purchased? The sales are nice, but do you know why that really matters? It means we had well over 600 people on our campus. Our biggest turnout yet. Our community coming to our campus to spend time with us.

I wonder what they thought of the picture. The scene with thousands of bubbles, children playing everywhere, free milk being guzzled, a rock 'n roll band, and some weird guy in a cow costume (and a few others).

I wonder what they saw when they looked at the painting at our Artist in Residence's booth. I wonder what they thought.

We set the painting in its completed state next to the thank you sign. Why? We wanted the community to see that with their participation, they helped us with our goal.

Our goal to show the community Jesus.

I think that is clear in the painting now.

I think that is becoming more and more clear with Oktoberfest.

But what about for St. Paul's Lutheran Church? Like I said, we have a lot of work left to do. Many more squares to paint.

But I hope you are starting to get a glimpse of the final product.

Spoiler. It too will reveal the good news of our Lord, our Savior, our master of the banquet... Jesus.

What a beautiful picture that is... what a beautiful picture it will be.

Happy post-Oktoberfest!

Pastor Maxx



Fire Starters is St. Paul's Outreach 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!

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

Free materials and resources provided for guests and visitors

Kindle the fire with our classes before Worship

8:45 a.m.—9:45 a.m.

November 12th, November 19th & December 3rd

If you can't make all the classes that's ok! We will offer the class multiple times a year, so you can get it all. Come to the Igniters class in the fall and finish with the Kindling class in the winter. 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 brought 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)

Member Biography Corner

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

I have been a member for 54 years. I moved from St. Louis County to my current home on Father's Day weekend in June, 1969. My first husband and I drove around New Melle and stopped at St. Paul's to find out when the church services were. The sign said 10:00 a.m. So, the next Sunday we arrived at church shortly before 10:00 and walked in only to find the service ending. We made quite a first impression. Before air conditioning, St. Paul's started their services earlier in the summertime. Without changing the sign. The members were quite welcoming of the "new kids" and showed us around the church. They even took us up into the choir loft to see the organ. Climbing into the choir loft back then was a lot like climbing a ladder. That afternoon, Pastor Bahlow visited us at our home and signed my husband up for confirmation classes. It wasn't long before he had me teaching Sunday School. I transferred my membership from St. Paul's Des Peres, so you could say I am a "lifelong member of St. Paul's". The next Sunday, the time was changed on the church sign.



Jackie Eslinger

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

Currently, I am Co-President of our Ladies Aid Society. I joined Ladies Aid in 1971, thanks to my neighbor Esther Schwede inviting me. I have served the Ladies Aid as president and treasurer. Over the years I have taught Sunday School and Vacation Bible School. I have been part of many different Ladies Bible Study groups. I served on the Altar Committee, Youth Group Committee, Counting Committee, Social Welfare Committee, and as Chairman of the Board of Resource Management.. I have helped serve Easter breakfasts and Sunday School picnics, the Church Picnic (which was really the Fried Chicken and Beef Dinner), and Sausage Supper. As a Ladies Aid member, I have helped serve funeral luncheons, senior citizen luncheons, and other special celebrations. I have loved everything I have done at St. Paul's, as this is the way I am serving my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Worshiping Him and receiving the Sacrament of Holy Communion on Sunday mornings is the best part of church membership.

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

I feel I am part of God's family on earth here at St. Paul's. This church is my "home" and the members are my "family". My three children and two of my grandchildren were baptized and confirmed here. I married my husband Bill in this church. My best friends are members of this church. I feel like I belong here. Although, I do wish someone would invite me to join the choir.

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

I have been married to my wonderful husband Bill for 41 years. I have three children, two step-children, 10 grandchildren, and one great grandchild. My early career was as a secretary, working at Gardner Advertising Company, McGraw-Hill Book Company, and as a "Kelly Girl". I worked at Western Auto in Wentzville as a salesperson, and as a waitress in Foristell at the Union 76 Truck Stop, where I met Bill. My final and favorite career was as a school bus driver for the Francis Howell School District for 19 years. I enjoyed interacting with the children and felt I was serving my community by giving the kids a safe ride to

and from school.

Since retirement Bill and I have traveled around the country in our camper. We have been to New England, the northern and western states, and the southwest. We took our grandsons, Austin and Ethan, on a "Canyonland" trip in the southwest before Covid hit. We have bicycled the full length of the Katy Trail and camped at most of the state parks in Missouri. We camped in many of the national parks, as well. For many years, we enjoyed boating on the Mississippi and Illinois rivers and the lakes in Missouri.

I love to read and am a member of the book club at the Daniel Boone Library in New Melle. I also play "Hand and Foot" canasta. I am not a crafty person and I don't sew. I do (or maybe "did") like to bake and cook. I especially love being around children. Oh wait, they heard me sing...that's why they won't let me join the choir.

Note about future member biographies: We plan to highlight one member each month, starting with our leadership and staff. Eventually every member of St. Paul's will be highlighted, so you can start writing your biography now, using the questions from Jackie's biography above!



The ladies at the Welcome Booth greeted everyone, but the 400 pretzel necklaces weren't enough...next year there will be more!



Pastor Fisher presented a plaque to Marian Wildschuetz for being the oldest living lifetime member of St. Paul's. Bob & Wanda Greiwe, and Carol and Ralph Ramey (accepted by Vicki Ramey on their behalf) also received plaques for their long-time membership.



Good News Brewery provided their the beer and Russo provided the music. Though a cold day, the crowd stayed strong!



Sherry Brandes received a plaque for her service a secretary since 2007.



Preparation on Saturday (and even earlier than that) helped everyone be ready to sell food and Country Store items on Sunday. Thank you to all who helped set up everything on Saturday and Sunday and clean up on Sunday and Monday!



Besides the basic sausage dinner, other food options included hot dogs and sausage sandwiches. Thank you to all of the food preparers—sausage fryers, mashed potato makers, servers, ...all of you...your food was wonderful!
The Ladies Aid Country Market was huge and had a wide variety of products for sale from baked goods to bird feeders. They also a quilt raffle and a whole garden of plants for sale. Thank you, Ladies Aid!

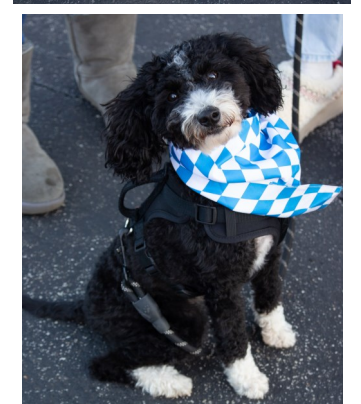




Booths were also set up to inform the community about groups such as Hearts & Hope for Uganda and the New Melle Food Pantry. Nick Bennett also took the opportunity to introduce himself as our new Artist in Residence with his “paint by number” activity, which was very popular.



The New Melle Fire Department Truck was on display, as well as the Ambulance District vehicle. Special Guests, “Beauty and the Beast” even showed up to enjoy the festivities! They had fun with the families and their face-painted children. This is truly an event for all ages! Even the dogs had a good time!

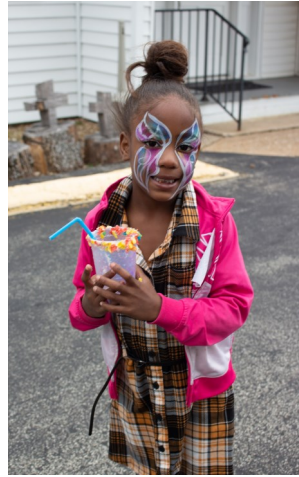




There were three Stein Hoist competitions. They were great fun to watch, even if you weren't competing. The good-natured fun brought smiles to many faces...ignoring the cold weather and making new friends.



Kinderfest Fun for All!



Thank you to all of the volunteers from Messiah Lutheran Church Weldon Springs for their help with the Kinderfest. Thank you, also to Straatmann Feed for the use of their always popular corn wagon. From the bubble machine, to free milk and balloons, to the petting zoo, to the pony rides, to the balloon art and the face painting...what kid couldn't be happy at St. Paul's Kinderfest! Those kids are probably counting the days until next year!



On Sunday, October 8, Deaconess Janie Fisher led the children in a lesson on what it takes to make a plant grow. They replanted a plant much in need of “loving care” into a portion of the tree that was cut down of St. Paul’s church property. They added soil, fertilizer and water.

Janie talked to them about how this would help the plant grow and be healthy. Pastor Maxx related the plant to our work as Christians at St. Paul’s in our effort to Mentor others. Nick Bennett our Artist in Residence painted a picture to represent our growth as Christians through the love and sacrifice of our Lord Jesus Christ. Everyone present received a slice of wood from the tree recently removed tree. Pastor instructed everyone to put something representing their faith on the slices and return them to church for display.

Mentor 1 Series Finale



REMINDER: Please bring back your decorated wood slices for display as soon as you have completed them.





On October 22, St. Paul's hosted its first Pumpkins and Brews event. This gave dads an opportunity to come have a beer, enjoy the weather, and spend time with their kids carving/painting pumpkins. And we did exactly that!



Though attendance was not huge, the folks that did show up brought the energy! Each kid that attended got their first pick of pumpkin to make their own, many even going for a second or third. Everyone left with a trunk full of pumpkins and another good memory made at St. Paul's. Thanks to Eckert's in Belleville for making it all possible with a pumpkin donation!

—Nick Bennett, Artist in Residence

Reformation Sunday, LWML Sunday, and Bells of Joy Ensemble

Prior to their performance during the Reformation service at St. Paul's on Sunday, October 29, the Bells of Joy Ensemble from Messiah Lutheran Church in Weldon Springs rehearsed their musical selections.

They played arrangements of "Fantasy on All Creatures of Our God and King", "Fairest Lord Jesus", and "The Church's One Foundation".



LWML Sunday was also observed on October 29. During the service nine St. Paul's Ladies Aid Society members sang "Serve the Lord with Gladness" and were accompanied on the organ by Barb Auping, who is also a member of the society. Prior to the service two members, Carol Oberaitis and Mary Bethel served as greeters. Member Sandy Schmidt prepared a poster depicting the activities of the LWML and our local Ladies Aid Society. Carolyn Schwede, co-president and Sherry Brandes, secretary arranged the display in the narthex.



Members Present: Barb Auping, Vicki Zuhone, Diana Eschenbrenner, Jackie Eslinger, Carol Oberaitis, Mary Bethel, Carolyn Schwede, Jane Nadler, and Sherry Brandes

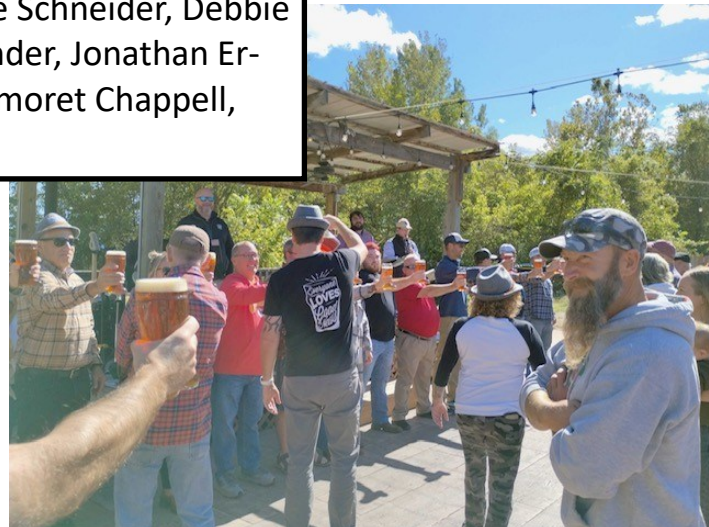


St. Paul's "Shines" at Good News Brewery Stein Hoist Contest

On Saturday, October 14, Annie Schneider and her team of St. Paul's volunteers helped solicit contestants prior to the start of the stein holding contest and watched to ensure contestants were following the rules during the contest.



St. Paul's Volunteers (pictured somewhere in these photos): Annie Schneider, Debbie Pohlmann, Scott Alexander, Jonathan Erickson, Peter Menke, Amoret Chappell, and Randy Pohlmann



Immanuel Wentzville Youth Event



On October 21, high school students from Immanuel Wentzville had the chance to partner with Christian Friends of New Americans to take 15 kids to Thies Pumpkin Patch. We had an incredible time getting to know one another and playing at the patch, decorating pumpkins, eating kettle corn, going through the corn maze, and making new friends. CFNA is an outreach group that seeks to be a resource for refugees and immigrants in the St. Louis area. If you would like to learn more, please visit their website at <https://www.cfna-stl.org>. We praise God for opportunities to serve Him in our community. —Deaconess Janie Fisher



Our Christmas Giving Tree

The Christmas Giving Tree in the south room of the narthex has tags with names on them for three Concordia Seminary students and their families. HOWEVER, there will be NO stress in choosing gifts to buy or wrap...only GIFT CARDS and a CHRISTMAS CARD. There WILL be a sign-up sheet and a set of printed directions, so you will know what to do and the committee will know whose cards still need to be turned in to the office.

Steps: 1) Please take the tag(s) and sign your name on the sheet by the Giving Tree. 2) Purchase the gift card(s) you would like to give. 3) Put the dollar amount of your gift card either on the gift card itself or on the inside of the Christmas card. 4) Place the gift card(s) inside the Christmas card and sign the card or write a note inside. Include your address, because most seminary students want to send thank you notes. 5) Put the name of the person on the outside of the envelope. 6) Give the Christmas cards with the gift cards inside to Sherry **NO LATER THAN Sunday, December 3.**

All of the cards will be bundled by Sherry in the office and **mailed on Monday, December 4,** to arrive at the seminary in time for the families to receive them prior to leaving for their Christmas break.

If you wish to contribute, but don't wish to go to the store to buy the gift card, you can still participate. **TO DO THIS:** Take a tag and give it, a Christmas card, and the CASH to purchase the gift card to Sherry Brandes **NO LATER THAN Sunday, November 26,** in time for the gift card to be purchased and mailed with the others.

We would appreciate your help in making this Christmas holiday a happy and memorable one for these Seminary students and their families!

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH VOTERS MINUTES September 10, 2023

CALL TO ORDER – President Rick Pohlmann called the meeting to order. 13 members were present.

OPENING DEVOTION – led by Pastor Fisher.

MINUTES – Accepted as presented.

REPORT OF PASTOR – Topics covered included Mentor series for Sunday services, Oktoberfest plans, Strategic Plan – Rise & Shine, installation of Artist in Residence on September 17, announced that a \$50,000 grant was received from the Lutheran Foundation for our Artist in Residence.

Services of Silence & Prayer

Monday Mornings

10:00-10:30 a.m.

DATES

November 13, 20 & 27

December 4, 11 & 18

Confession & Absolution

Monday Mornings

Prior to the Service of Silence & Prayer

Please schedule with Pastor Fisher in advance via phone, email, or text (This will also continue from November through December, as listed on the schedule above.)

Thanksgiving Eve Service

Wednesday, November 22—6:00 p.m.

REPORT OF TREASURER – Accepted as presented.

BOARD OF ELDERS – Reported that the tree by the parsonage was removed, new rubber mats have been placed at the entrance to the main door of the church, the church will be getting new credit cards, and new windows for the parsonage and central air will be forthcoming.

BOARD OF PROPERTY MANAGEMENT – Reported that the electric pole by the parsonage needs repair.

NEW BUSINESS – none

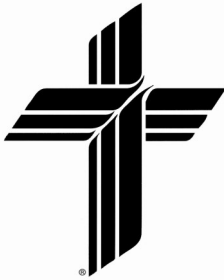
CLOSED WITH THE LORD'S PRAYER

Respectfully submitted,
Marilyn Finke

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

Ladies Aid Christmas Party

All ladies of the congregation are invited to the Ladies Aid Christmas Party on Saturday, December 9, beginning at 11:30 a.m.

Ladies Aid members whose last names begin with A-L are asked to bring a salad and those whose last names begin with M-Z are asked to bring a side dish. All members are asked to bring one dozen cookies for dessert.

The recommended price range for Secret Pal gifts is between \$10 and

\$15. If you do not have a Secret Pal, you may bring an exchange gift to trade with others who do not have a Secret Pal.

A free-will Ingathering will be taken. Proceeds will go to a family or individual in need in the area.

An RSVP to Sherry Brandes is needed by Sunday, November 26, so that the committee may plan for the meal, table decorations, games, and other surprises.

Help Decorate our Church

This year, we will again have **POINSETTIAS** for Christmas. Please fill out the form below and turn it in to the church office by **SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26.**

Make checks payable to: **St. Paul's Lutheran Church.** The cost is \$13.00 per 6-1/2" pot.

NAME _____

IN MEMORY OF _____

BIRTHDAY OF _____

OTHER _____

NUMBER: _____ @ \$13.00 each = _____

'Tis the Season!

Our Church Christmas Tree and other Christmas Decorations will be put up on Saturday, November 25, beginning at 9:00 a.m.

All help will be appreciated.