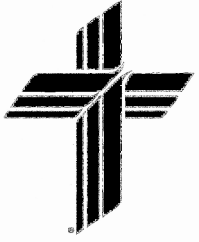


# God's Family



• 10:00 a.m.—Sunday  
Worship Service



## Inside this Issue:

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## St. Paul's Lutheran Church

150 W. Highway D  
New Melle, MO 63365  
(636)828-5616

Volume XXIII Issue 1  
January 2023

## *New Year, Old Values, New Mission Field, Old Mission*

New Year's is the time for New Year's resolutions of course. I will spare you of my recent and updated diet plans, though I know you love to hear about them! I am joking of course!

It is no secret that the last two years of our walk together at St. Paul's there has been a lot of new. And a lot of new means a lot of change and a lot of change, while it can be good, is not always so easy.

That is why it might come as a relief for some of us, that our efforts in synthesizing down to our five core values as a church is not really anything new.

What we found with feedback from our values sermon series was that these values really aren't "new" at all, they are kinda who we are, and have been for quite some time. That is great! We hoped that the values would be "no brainers" for our community of faith! They should reflect who we are as St. Paul's!

What is newer is our articulation... as we continue to translate these values into action and character words for us to live out all the more. We have settled on these values as a congregation, and we hope these newer names feel just as natural:

### **Community, Family, Mentor, Generosity, Heritage**

These core values should be nothing new... they should be who we have been, are, and hopefully, through our continued efforts, who we will continue to be, for a long time to come or Jesus returns.

While we hope these values are familiar, we do have to acknowledge that the world around us, the mission field in which God

has placed us, and some of the things that we will have to do as a church, may not always be so familiar. They will be challenging, uncertain and even at times risky.

But do consider a new year's resolution. Those things are change too, right? Change for the better? Change for a new sort of future. Change with a hopefulness that there will be something better on the horizon.

We should be able to have much more resolve than any new year's resolution because of the great hope we have in Jesus.

The author of Hebrews writes:

"Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." (*Hebrews 11:1*)

Jesus is our ultimate rootedness. We should be very familiar with him, for he is the one who has led THE church throughout the changes of generation upon generation, centuries even. He has done the same for St. Paul's who has over seen changes and transitions over its nearly two century span, including its multitude of generations.

St. Paul's we will have to face the new year, the culture, the new communities, and the new era that we are in.

But we have some rootedness in which to venture out bravely like the pilgrims and missionaries that we are.

We have who we are... our values, which will not hold us back in comfort and safety but give us the encouragement to go out as

*(continued on page 3)*



## January Birthdays

1/18 – Darby Aherin  
1/20 – David Chappell  
1/27 – Delaney Schmidt

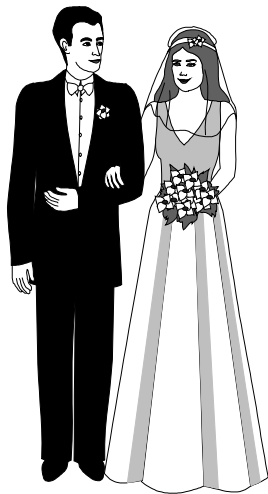
## January Anniversaries

1/1 – Wesley & Lavern Williams – 66 years



## January Services

1/1 – Sunday Service – 10:00 a.m. – Communion  
1/8 – Sunday Service – 10:00 a.m. – Communion  
1/15 – Sunday Service – 10:00 a.m. – Communion  
1/22 – Sunday Service – 10:00 a.m. – Communion  
1/29 – Sunday Service – 10:00 a.m. – Communion



## LUTHERAN WITNESS 2023 SUBSCRIPTIONS

The first envelope in your 2023 Offering Envelope box is for Lutheran Witness subscriptions. The cost for this year's subscription is \$19.20. Anyone who wants the Witness will have to pay for their subscription. Please make check payable to St. Paul's and include your name and address. (If you do not have your offering envelope, use a plain white envelope with the same information.)

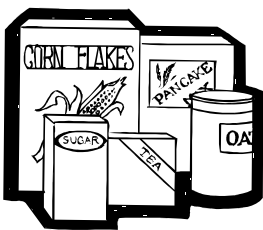
**Please return by Sunday,  
January 29, 2023.**

## December 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 December.

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 January



The **MEAL-A-MONTH ITEMS** for **January**: Pancake syrup, pancake mix, fruit juice, Hamburger Helper, Chicken Helper, Tuna Helper, gravy packets, laundry detergent, Kleenex tissue, paper towels, razors, shaving cream, and hair conditioner.

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.

**NOTE:** Food Pantry hours are: The 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays of each month from 9:00 to 10:30 a.m. AND for JANUARY, they are adding the 3<sup>rd</sup> TUESDAY of the month from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. Please tell anyone who might benefit from this service!

## St. Paul's Values *(continued from page 1)*

the body of Christ to do what he has called us to do.

And what's more... who Jesus is. He is our Lord, our King, our Savior, our Brother, and our Friend. We belong to him; the church belongs to him; the nations and all creation belong to him.



St. Paul's, remember the explanation of the symbol of our new logo. While it is new, our logo is rooted in something of old. The two halves of the logo represent our heritage and the new opportunities we have, the long-time members, and the new believers who have entered our midst. The two halves converge on the center of it all, the cross, the work of Jesus, that has in mercy and grace laid the foundation of who we all are in Jesus. The rays of light in the logo take this beautiful congregation centered in Jesus and send it outwards, to be joyful people of all generations, to faithfully serve the Lord, and to invite all people to join this old and new spiritual family.

What's next? We will be hammering out a new statement of Mission and Vision, which will facilitate our ability as a church to lay down some strategies. The rubber will start meeting the road soon. It will take all of us to sacrificially, graciously, and charitably embrace change.

But we do so together, not changing the core of who we are... servers of the community, a spiritual family, mentors raising up the new generations, generous with our resources and selves, and rooted in and grounded by our heritage.

It is a new year St. Paul's! But who we are, and our mission are nothing new. May that fact encourage you as we go out into a world where the gospel of Jesus will be very new to people, where our joy and faithfulness will seem novel, and where belonging to a family will seem like a breath of fresh, new air.

Happy New Year in Jesus!  
Pastor Maxx

## ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH VOTERS MINUTES November 13, 2022

**CALL TO ORDER** – President Rick Pohlmann called the meeting to order. 13 members and 4 guests were present.

**OPENING DEVOTION** – led by Pastor Fisher.

**MINUTES** – Accepted as presented.

**WELCOME OF GUEST/S** – Terry and Mary Bethel and visitors Scott and Pam Alexander (not official members of St. Paul's).

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS** – Motion made, seconded, and voice passed to elect by acclamation: Rick Pohlmann-President, Marilyn Finke-Secretary, Barbara Auping-Treasurer, Mike Schmidt-Property Management, and Margo Hoffman-Shanley-Resource Management. Motion made, seconded, and voice passed to elect Jeff Schneider as Elder.

**ADMISSION/TRANSFER OF NEW MEMBERS** – Motion made and seconded to accept into St. Paul's membership Amy, Mason, and Carson Jennings by instruction.

**REPORT OF PASTOR** – Continuing to meet with consultant. Shut-in visits are being made. Also discussing digital tithing and LERT support.

**REPORT OF TREASURER** – Accepted as presented.

**BOARD OF ELDERS** – Reported that a wheelchair has been donated. Continuing to work with pastor.

**BOARD OF PROPERTY MANAGEMENT** – Need to hire a licensed plumber to complete the work in the parsonage.

**BOARD OF RESOURCE MANAGEMENT** – Margo Hoffman reported on the consultant group discussions concerning the core values and how the group is asking for congregational feedback on the core values presented.

**NEW BUSINESS** – A motion was made, seconded, and voiced passed to accept the 2023 budget of \$156,420.34.

Respectfully submitted,  
Marilyn Finke  
Secretary



## The Sanctuary was filled with Beautiful Poinsettias for Christmas

The **POINSETTIAS** decorating our church for Christmas are to the glory of our Savior, Jesus Christ and are given by the following:

- Diana Eschenbrenner in loving memory of her husband Harold and other family members, and Jesus.
- Larry & Vicki Zuhone in memory of Alvin, Virginia, Kay, and Brenda Auping
- Don Horstman
- Roger & Dianne Sudbrock in memory of Harold & Marjorie Sudbrock and Harry, Myrtle & Jack Sudbrock
- Harold & Sharon Demien in memory of our parents Bill & Emilie Demien, and Art & Frances Benne
- Terry & Mary Bethel in memory of her parents
- Carolyn Schwede in memory of Roger, Esther & Raymond Schwede and Gus & Selma Webbink
- Jeff & Annie Schneider in memory of Doris & Joe Schneider
- Ted & Jane Nadler in celebration of the birth of Christ Jesus
- Rick & Debbie Pohlmann in memory of their parents and grandparents
- The Humphrey family in memory of Marilyn Avis
- Carol Oberaitis in memory of her mom Loretta Fritze
- Brad & LuAnn Fisher to the glory of God
- The Diedrich & Schmidt families in memory of Kenny Diederich, Dee & Barb Schmidt, and Steve Schmidt
- Scott & Pam Alexander
- Rich & Sally Goth in memory of her parents Joe and Lucy Higgins
- Marilyn Finke in memory of her parents Howard & Louise Finke and David Finke
- Mark Wehmeier in memory of Elmer & Arlene Wehmeier and Glenon & JoAnn Grieshaber
- The Chappell family in celebration of being together again in time for Christmas
- Janie & Pastor Maxx Fisher



**Thank you to everyone who donated poinsettias to help our church look beautiful for Christmas. We also thank Barb Auping and Annie Schneider for arranging them in the sanctuary and Barb for continuing to water them.**





# Traveling to Israel in 2023

## Staying Connected with St. Paul's:

- 1) There will be Email updates and devotions on our website.
- 2) We will email the congregation updates every several days or so with pictures, itineraries and devotional reflections concerning the trip, so you can see what pastor is up to.
- 3) We will plan on having a "Sunday Special" presentation (hopefully, January 29th) where pastor will unpack his trip and make biblical connections of the text and the places where Jesus quite literally walked. We will be serving a luncheon.

**(If you would like to help with the luncheon via food or donations, please reach out to the office or Pastor Maxx).**

## News from Pastor Maxx:

I will be heading out of town for a few days to the land where it all began! I will be joining a group of pastors to the Holy Land, Israel, for an education tour.

While we, of course, always need to learn more about our Lord Jesus and the scriptures that point to him, I also need to learn how to lead a tour!

The goal of this trip is twofold:

- 1) I hope to bring back invaluable insights into the Word of God that I can share with you through preaching and teaching.
- 2) I hope to learn the ins and outs of facilitating and leading groups to the Holy land.

I have been blessed to go to Israel in the past and each time was very impactful to my deeper discipleship and my eventual decisions to become a pastor. I have felt and have seen others receive the impact that time spent in the Holy land can provide.



**PHOTOS: Above Left:** Jerusalem; **Above Right:** The Galilee; **Below Left:** Jericho.



## To all those staying home:

Maybe some members of St. Paul's will be able to go to Israel in the future with Pastor Maxx as our tour guide! Wouldn't that be AWESOME! The possibility is out there.

We pray for him as he travels and his safe return to New Melle with plans to lead us to Israel some day soon!



Pastor Maxx & Deaconess Janie are going to Uganda in February to join our brothers and sisters of the Lutheran Church Uganda through our partners Hearts and Hope for Uganda.



#### A message from Pastor Maxx:

Unfortunately, we were not able to go during the summer of 2021 due to issues with Covid. But, thankfully, we have been able to find an opportunity for our trip to be rescheduled.

We have supported Hearts and Hope for Uganda and their mission to walk with the LCU in providing food, drink, schooling, other opportunities, and of course the hope of Jesus!

Janie is bringing me along this time as a representative of St. Paul's Lutheran Church.

St. Paul's has been a blessing to HHU & the LCU by providing funds to build a nursery facility, and more than a few goats to help local small businesses and food sustainability. We hope that the future means more partnership and more support!

We will be going to learn more about the situation on the ground in Uganda and how HHU operates here in the U.S. as well as in Uganda.

Ultimately, we will learn how St. Paul's can better partner with the Church, our fellow disciples in Uganda, and not to mention, how they can better partner and serve us, as we mutually walk together, learn from one another, and support and encourage one another as the Church.

I will be providing email, picture, and video updates, as well as utilizing some other ways, to keep St. Paul's connected with the us on our trip.

We will plan on having an after-church luncheon

where we will unpack all that happened on our trip and share future opportunities to walk with HHU and the LCU.

**In the meantime, we asked HHU what sorts of things could be helpful to bring on the trip. If you would like to send a little love from St. Paul's we could use the following:**

- Soccer balls (they are running very low on soccer balls and these are perhaps the MOST treasured items we could bring the kids.)

- Letters (Generic, "We're thinking of you" or "God loves you" types of messages for those students who do not receive a packet.

- Homemade or purchased, little, inexpensive pieces of jewelry like earrings, bracelets, or necklaces to give to the church women groups to make them feel appreciated.

- socks and underwear (items which are always a need for the kids) – NEW obviously!

- when it comes to school supplies, Uganda has specific items they use for classes which can't be found here, but pencils, pens, erasers, and sharpeners are always in need.

While we will not start formal collection of these items until later in January, you can always drop off donations to the office at any time.

For more information of our partners at HHU check out the following:

<https://heartsandhope.org/>





## St. Paul's Ladies Aid Participates in "Advent by Candlelight"

On Tuesday, December 6, a group of St. Paul's Ladies Aid members participated in "Advent by Candlelight", an annual event sponsored by Immanuel Wentzville's Women in Mission group, attended by over 60 women.

The theme this year was "Angels". Readings, music, a skit, and even a craft, focused on the idea of angels. Punch and coffee were provided by the Women in Mission group.

Each table had a hostess designated to decorate their table of eight to ten women, according to the theme, and provide their guests with desserts, drinks, and votive candles for them to share.



Barb Auping was the hostess for St. Paul's Ladies Aid. She provided all the table decorations from her huge collection of figurines, manger scene items, and characters that would have populated Nazareth and the surrounding areas in the time of Jesus' birth. She also provided tableware, candy, votive candles, and



everything needed for a beautiful display. Sandy Schmidt brought a chocolate pie and Sherry Brandes brought other dessert items.

Those at the St. Paul's table were: Vicki Zuhone, Debbie Anderson, Barb Auping, Sherry Brandes, Georgia Diederich, Sandy Schmidt, and Carolyn Schwede.

It was a lovely evening that really set the proper tone for Christmas.

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## Livestream Help Needed

Our livestream has connected us to hundreds of viewers over the past few years. Our livestream is used by folks of St. Paul's who can't get to church and folks who are discovering us for the first time! Even one person able to hear the gospel of Jesus is worth the effort, and our livestream touches so many more.

BUT, we have not found enough help to make the livestream a regular part of our Sunday volunteer effort. We desperately need folks to step up and learn how to start and stop our livestream.

While the thought of working with anything "tech" can be intimidating, our new livestream set up is easier than ever. AND it doesn't mean you can't sit in the pews with your family.

Responsibilities include starting the livestream several minutes before service. Ending the livestream when service concludes and disconnecting the power.

The "How to" is all spelled out in detail at the camera station. Not to mention, Pastor Maxx will work with you to show you how to do it every step of the way. Mistakes come with the territory and trust me, Pastor Maxx has made A LOT with the livestream. It is a learning process, and we can share it together.

Please consider this service to your church and the spreading of Gods Word.

Contact office or Pastor Maxx:

Church office: 636-828-5616

Church email: [stpaulnewmelle@hotmail.com](mailto:stpaulnewmelle@hotmail.com)

Pastor Maxx: 812-216-5891

Pastor Maxx's email: [maxxjofish@gmail.com](mailto:maxxjofish@gmail.com)



## Spotlight on Our Quilters



**Above:** (left to right around the quilt) Joyce Schiermeier, Star Cox, Missy Motz, Rose Fink, Jane Nadler, and Marian Wildschuetz).

On Tuesdays throughout the year (weather permitting) our quilters get together to enjoy the fine art of quilting and share in each other's good company.

Jane Nadler is the leader of this group and she invites anyone interested in quilting to join them. You don't have to know how. The ladies will teach you.

They generally begin at 9:00 a.m. and stop by 3:00 p.m., but everyone comes and goes as their own life schedules permit. They eat lunch together, talk, laugh, have fun, and of course, quilt.

The quilts are of all types, from the simplest to some that are more complex. They quilt each others quilts and sometimes for others. Right now Jane is putting together a quilt for the next Oktoberfest. It has been a fun group and they enjoy each others company.

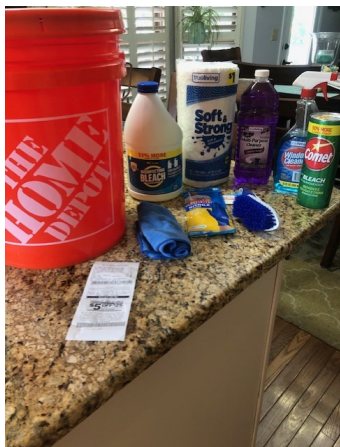
If you have any questions, please contact Jane Nadler. If you don't have her contact information, please call the church office.



# LERT—Lutheran Early Response Team—Buckets & More

St. Paul's recently collected funds for the buckets needed for LERT to assist in their efforts to help those in need following natural disasters, such as hurricanes, tornados and floods. This collection totaled \$665.00. Each bucket, filled with cleaning supplies, costs approximately \$20.

So, St. Paul's, you have helped 33 families in great need of support during a very difficult time in their lives.



One of our own members, Vicki Zuhone, is a member of LERT. She provided the following information for those interested in knowing more, or even better, joining LERT!

"On behalf of the Lutheran Early Response Team (LERT), we are very thankful for the extremely generous donation from St. Paul's for cleanup buckets.

"These buckets are compiled as a mission of mercy and then given out free of charge to anyone who needs one to help clean up from a natural disaster. They include clean up supplies as well as devotional materials. Often times this is from flooding, hurricanes, or tornadoes, but it can be for other emergencies, such as a 'derecho' (hurricane on land) or fires. Even subzero temperatures that cause pipes to break would possibly be a reason to need a flood clean up bucket.

"LERT is a nationwide organization run by the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. They provide training and resources

for local LERT teams. [www.lcms-LERT.org](http://www.lcms-LERT.org)

"Immanuel Wentzville started their LERT group in 2017 and has since had members from at least five other area Lutheran Churches join their team. They always want more members and assistance! Members of all ages above 14 can serve in a variety of capacities—team members can do hurricane cleanup, remove tree debris from tornado affected areas, help redo a flooded basement; house volunteers, make lunches to serve workers; others can donate gas gift cards or simply write thank you cards. Most importantly, everyone can help out by praying for the Lord's work to be done helping others.



"Immanuel Wentzville LERT has been on many assignments, including several hurricane cleanups in Texas and Louisiana, 'derecho' cleanup in Iowa, tornado cleanup in Defiance and Jefferson City, and continues to do lots of flooding cleanup in O'Fallon, Missouri. They intend to head to Florida sometime this spring to help with clean up from Hurricane Ian.

"If you would like to learn more about the organization you can contact Kris Schuldt, Immanuel Team Leader at [pitchatent@centurytel.net](mailto:pitchatent@centurytel.net) or Vicki Zuhone, member at [vickizuhone@gmail.com](mailto:vickizuhone@gmail.com). The next one day intro training is scheduled at Immanuel St. Charles in St. Charles, MO on January 23, 2023- register to attend and become part of a Mission of Mercy in some capacity serving the Lord!"

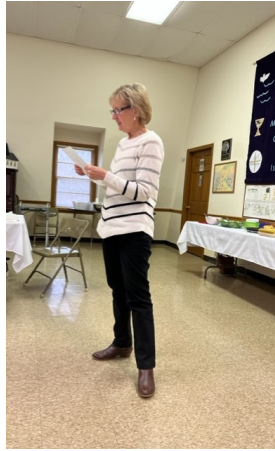


Here is a link for more information on LERT training and needs:

[https://www.lcms-lert.org/need/detail/?need\\_id=756596&onSuccess=respondIndividual](https://www.lcms-lert.org/need/detail/?need_id=756596&onSuccess=respondIndividual)



## Ladies Aid Christmas Party—Saturday, December 10



The St. Paul's Ladies Aid Annual Christmas Party began with an opening devotion and prayer led by Missy Motz. The ladies brought side dishes and cookies to share in the potluck and cookie exchange. The meat was prepared by West Allen Grill. Following the meal, the ladies played bingo, sang Christmas carols, exchanged Secret Pal gifts and picked new Secret Pals for 2023. The ladies also had an Ingathering for Luke Henderson (great grandson of Georgia Diederich, who is suffering from a rare genetic disorder called "Phelan-McDermid syndrome"). Becky Murphy, Missy Motz, and Sherry Brandes were on the planning committee. They set up for the day, purchased the attendance prizes, gifts for the games, and organized other items needed. Barb Auping played the piano when the ladies sang Christmas carols.

The 25 women in attendance and pictured above were: Janie Fisher, Annie Schneider, Rhonda DeGeal, Sandy Schmidt, Delaney Schmidt, Jackie Diederich, Georgia Diederich, Wanda Greiwe, Marcia Vance, Diana Eschenbrenner, Carolyn Schwede, Amber Vossen, Sherry Brandes, Sharon Demien, Charlene Blankenship, Becky Murphy, Cindy Kirkpatrick, JoAnn Hammel, Missy Motz, Shelley Running, Marian Wildschuetz, Mary Bethel, Barb Auping, Vicki Zuhone, and Carol Ramey. Everyone had a great time sharing a bit of the Christmas season with each other!



## Wassail & Cookie Night

Following a long-standing St. Paul's tradition, those attending the December 14th, Wednesday evening Advent service, moved over to the church hall afterwards to share wassail, cookies, and fellowship.

The cookies were provided by the Ladies Aid, and Sherry Brandes made the wassail, which is a hot apple cider and mixed fruit drink with cinnamon and cloves to make it a little spicy.

They sang the "Wassail Song", too! Here are the lyrics for those who are not familiar with the carol:

### THE WASSAIL SONG

Here we come a-wassailing  
Among the leaves so green,  
Here we come a-wand'ring  
So fair to be seen.  
Love and joy come to you,  
And to you your wassail, too,  
And God bless you, and send you  
A Happy New Year,  
And God send you a Happy New Year.

We are not daily beggars  
That beg from door to door,  
But we are neighbors' children  
Whom you have seen before  
Love and joy come to you,  
And to you your wassail, too,  
And God bless you, and send you  
A Happy New Year,  
And God send you a Happy New Year.

God bless the master of this house,  
Likewise the mistress too;  
And all the little children  
That round the table go.  
Love and joy come to you,  
And to you your wassail, too,  
And God bless you, and send you  
A Happy New Year,  
And God send you a Happy New Year.



## Annual Boars Head Festival Immanuel, St. Charles



On Thursday, December 8, three of St. Paul's ladies were invited by Tommy Piper (Pastor Piper's youngest son) to attend the Boars Head Festival performance at Immanuel Lutheran Church in St. Charles. Diana Eschenbrenner, Barb Auping, and Sherry Brandes.

For those who might not recognize Tommy in the photo, he is the baker with the beard in the green and white costume. He has grown up!

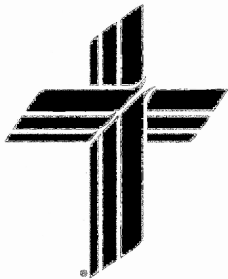
The program was superb! The audience laughed, some cried, some sat in awe of the message delivered by the performers and all had a chance to sit back and remember the meaning of Christmas, minus all of the hectic activity! We need to get a big group to go next year!



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

## New Melle Chamber of Commerce



Pastor Maxx somehow, some way, fell into being the co-president of the New Melle Chamber of Commerce. He is as shocked as you. His position is to help organize and structure, as well as cast vision and try new things to help bring about a vibrant, community-focused, and small business-centered chamber of commerce.

On a spiritual front, it is indeed important to live out and serve in our vocations and callings with an eye toward the community.

If you or someone you know has a business and is interested in joining the chamber, it is a great way for our church to support the community and other local businesses.

No, there is not spiritual mandate, nor are their devotions or bible studies... you still need to come to church for that! But it is a good way for Christians who love to work hard and see their business efforts as truly a means for God to help and serve other people.

For more information contact Pastor Maxx:

Phone: 812-216-5891

Email: [maxxjofish@gmail.com](mailto:maxxjofish@gmail.com)

Or the New Melle Chamber of Commerce:

<https://www.newmellechamber.com/members>

