

# God's Family



- 10:00 a.m.—Sunday  
Worship Service

## Inside this Issue:



|  |       |
|--|-------|
| Mentor 1 —A Mes-<br>sage from Pastor Fish-<br>er   | 1 & 3 |
| Birthdays, Anniver-<br>saries, Services of<br>Silence & Prayer; Wor-<br>ship Services & Food<br>Pantry | 2     |
| Immanuel High School<br>Kickoff Event  | 3     |
| Member Biography<br>Corner: Mike Schmidt<br>w/photo;   | 4     |
| Fire Starters; Service<br>of Silence & Prayer;<br>LCEF Demographics<br>Presentation                    | 5     |
| Clean-Up Day at St.<br>Paul's w/photos   | 6-7   |
| Oktoberfest Prepara-<br>tions w/photo & flyer  | 8     |

**St. Paul's Lutheran Church**  
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August 2023

## Mentor 1

One verse that has transformed the way I think about my life in the Church comes from St. Paul's letter to the Corinthians. Paul says he does what he does that he "might by ALL means win SOME" (1 Corinthians 9:22).

This is wildly inefficient. To do whatever it takes, go through all the means and methods, even give up your own wants, even needs, to do what? Have a few people join a little old church?

Paul's ministry insights however, get at the heart of Jesus himself.

Our mission isn't the vague crowd of "them, those, and they"... but rather to real people, with real lives, who breathe real air, bleed real blood, have hopes, dreams, fears, and challenges, just like we do. When Jesus came to redeem ALL the world, he surrounded himself, and met with only some. He met them face to face. He healed one person, another he gave forgiveness, to another he lifted by the hand from their deathbed.

St. Paul's... I want to win them ALL! But I am here to tell you, the sum of all the parts is greatest, and to get to the sum of all those who will be in heaven, we must focus on the some we have been given. The people Jesus has called you to meet face-to-face. To love. To know. To listen to. To care for. To walk with. To suffer. To suffer with.

When our church settled on its core values, one stood out as an immediate opportunity: Mentor.

We agreed as a group that mentoring for our church couldn't mean programs, schools, and studies. At least not at the moment. We simply don't have the means for this. But that is just fine. In the new post-church world we are specially poised and positioned to take on an even older, even ancient approach that is still valid today.

In Mentor 1 we are challenging ourselves to put our hands on one person. Name them and engage them. Serve them. Walk with them. Love them. All that we might what? Convert them? No. You

see, conversion is the work of the Holy Spirit. Not you and I. Our work is the work of the disciples. To proclaim the good news of Jesus in thought word and deed, by loving others as he has loved us.

Think about it. Who was your "mentor" in the faith? Odds are they weren't necessarily a pastor or a sanctioned church worker. They were a disciple who loved you, and went out of their way for you. Who listened. Who cared. Who offered wisdom when called upon.



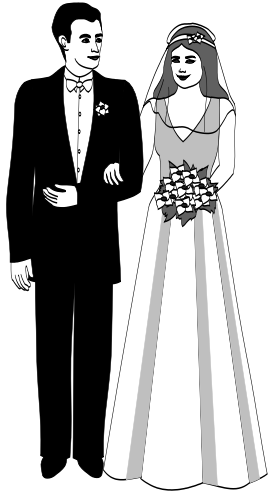
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## August Birthdays

8/6 – Bob Greiwe  
8/8 – Mary Bethel  
8/9 – JoAnn Hammel  
8/9 – Mike Schmidt

8/20 – Terry Bethel  
8/22 – Leah Vossen  
8/24 – Charlene Wehmeier



## August Anniversaries

8/10 – Mike & Amber Vossen – 27 years  
8/15 – Terry & Judy Joerling – 53 years

## August Services

*Communion at all services:*

8/6—Sunday Service—10:00 a.m.  
8/13—Sunday Service—10:00 a.m.  
8/20—Sunday Service—10:00 a.m.  
8/27—Sunday Service—10:00 a.m.



## July 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 July.

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 August

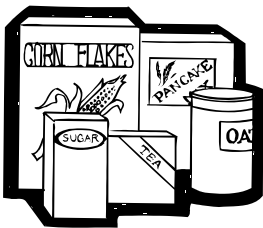
**MEAL-A-MONTH ITEMS for August:** Laundry detergent, pancake mix/Bisquick, canned fruit, salad dressing, mustard, ketchup, barbeque sauce, baked beans, Tuna/Hamburger Helper, fruit juice, cooking oil, sugar, coffee, and instant mashed potatoes.

Please take your items directly to the Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in New Melle during their office hours. Call 636-398-5270 in advance to be sure there is someone present to accept your donation. Monetary donations should be made payable to “St. Vincent De Paul Society” (“Food Pantry” on the memo line). Monetary donations may be

hand-delivered to the church or be mailed to: Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, 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. Please tell anyone who might benefit from this service!



## Mentor 1 (continued from page 1)

Paul invites us to the ministry of the Church, with winsome hearts and a sincere concern for people; person-to-person; cultivating, gardening and developing relationships for the sake of the wellbeing of the fellow creature, not for the sake of filling our pews.

As our image says, we want our lives and our relationships to point to Jesus, and shine His light. And I believe it starts one person at a time.

Our series and exercise will require a commitment of five weeks. This is likely not enough time for you to win anyone over to following Jesus, taking a huge leap in their discipleship, or converting from atheism to Christianity. But it is enough for us to disciple ourselves and begin to think differently about how Church is supposed to work and how we work in it?

Often the church in America has relied too heavily on the church worker, and the church institution for evangelism and discipleship. But you have been given the same ministry of mission as the rest of the church on behalf of the church. You are being called to take the responsibility home with you, to begin to change your mindset from church growth, to growing in your calling to love and serve people.

So what will this process look like?

You will better learn from biblical witness, how to engage people in love, service, and discipleship.

You will be asked to identify one person, be it a youth, one young in the faith, someone non-practicing, or even a non-Christian and begin an intentional walk with them.

You will be encouraged to pray for this person, develop ways to get to know this person and ultimately serve this person. (We are not focusing on how to convert them. Again, we will witness Christ, and invite them to the joy we have, but we leave the rest to the Holy Spirit).

You will be encouraged to take notes or journal about

this experience.

You will be encouraged to join a small group or a group messaging correspondence to share in devotion, prayer, and encouragement as you do the difficult task of sacrificial service.

In believing that one of our values is mentoring, we must become the mentors. That means we must become disciples who are engaged in our own discipleship, eager to learn and grow wise for the sake of the world around us.

If this seems like a lot of work, you are right. But there is no easy solution to the reality of the world around us and the departure en masse of our neighbors, friends and family away from Jesus and his church.

If we say we value something, we must seek to live it out. What's more, we must do so together.

All that we might win some. The simple math is that if each family at St. Paul's took to mentoring one person, our church would double in a couple of years.

But even that is not the point. The point is that the kingdom of God spans over seven continents, four oceans, and a host of nationalities, ethnicities, and billions of people. The church is big. We are, by God's grace, a piece of this beautiful tapestry being woven together by the cross of Christ Jesus.

Jesus himself says, "Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance" (Luke 15:7).

For one person, all of heaven throws a party.

Church is in fact about numbers... but the number is 1. One person, one relationship at a time.

St. Paul's, let us become a church of mentors. Let us be a church of winsomeness. Let us be a church FOR SOME. Let us be the Church of Jesus.

In Jesus,  
Pastor Maxx



## Immanuel Lutheran High School **KICKOFF EVENT**

**Sunday, August 20 —6:00 to 8:00 p.m.**

**For more information contact Deaconess Janie Fisher at: [jfisher@ilsw.org](mailto:jfisher@ilsw.org)**

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## Member Biography Corner

### Mike Schmidt



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

I became a member at St. Paul's soon after we moved to Defiance in 1998 and our middle child Delaney was born, about 23 years ago. My wife Sandy has been a member her entire life.

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

I currently am the Property Board leader. When I started this, several people including myself, were directed by Ralph Ramey. We worked together to manage the property. I also have been an usher and fry shed cook for the spring and fall dinners. I have always enjoyed fixing things and my greatest accomplishment was directing the update/remodel of the outside of our church.

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

I enjoy the variety of people at St. Paul's, especially the families that have been long-time members at St. Paul's, such as my wife's family, that have been members for generations. I love talking with them and reading about the rich history of our church and church family.

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

I spent my first 18 years growing up in North County. I tried my skills at professional golf in Florida and soon found out I was good, but it was a challenge without playing college golf. I started to work at Proctor & Gamble when I was 20 and ended my career there just after my 60th birthday. In retirement I spend my time fixing vehicles, 4-wheelers and side-by-sides with our youngest, Dalton. Although I am more of a resource, as he does most of the repairs. I am also currently doing a remodel of the Diederich homestead, the house Sandy grew up in. Sandy and I have a rental Villa located in "The Villages" in Florida. We enjoy going there a couple times a year and have some or all the kids go with us. We also find time to travel several times a year on other adventures. We recently added Wichita to our destinations, as our oldest daughter Darby had a baby—our 1st grandchild. We love traveling there to see Hallie and her parents.

***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 Rick's biography above!





It is never too late (or early) to think about when to get your FIRE started! Put Fire Starters on your schedule! Join the mission by deepening your discipleship and bringing someone along to get their fire sparked!

The tentative dates for our fall installment of Fire Starters are October 22<sup>nd</sup> – Nov 19<sup>th</sup>.



### **Service of Silence and Prayer**

The Service of Silence and Prayer will be held on Friday mornings, August 18-September 29, from 9:00 to 9:35. The sanctuary will be open after the 9:00 a.m. service until 11:00 a.m.

If private confession and absolution is desired, please tell Pastor Maxx after the service has ended or schedule with him in advance.

### **Lutheran Church Extension Fund Demographics Study Presentation**



After church on Sunday, July 16, Mike Wadley from the LCEF Missouri District of the LCMS presented the results of the LCEF demographic study our area's potential future growth. The study looked at three age groups that represent the majority of the people who will most probably move into our area: Ages 5-9, 25-40, and 55-65. In other words, young married couples with kids and people building a house and retiring.

This demonstrated to the group attending what our community might actually grow to look like in the future. The results of the study can help our congregation better understand and respond to the spiritual and physical needs of those who actually represent our community.



## Clean-Up Day at St. Paul's and Preparing for Some Changes

Beginning at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, July 15, as well as a few days prior, the work started to make way for changes both indoors and outside. The green shed behind the parsonage, as well as both Pastor's office and the church office, were cleared of things that needed to be discarded, stored elsewhere, or just moved while renovations take place.



**Above:** Pastor Maxx, Terry Bethel, Larry Zuhone, Scott Alexander, and Don Horstmann tackle the green shed and fry shed.

**Below:** Becky Murphy sorts through Sunday School files.



**Above Right:** Barb Auping sorts through historical items.

**Below Right:** Vicki Zuhone, Pastor Maxx, Janie Fisher, and Annie and Jeff Schneider take a break and check out all the stuff that was moved out of the office.







On Friday and Saturday, Annie Schneider, Pam Alexander, and Becky Murphy worked with Sherry Brandes in the office. Pastor Maxx cleaned things out of his office and file cabinets were removed with the help of some fellow movers.



Once things were in the hall, Barb Auping and others sorted the items to various tables for future use, storage, or tossing. There will be more work done on this while renovations take place in the offices.



**Following the Hard Work: FOOD, RELAXATION, AND CELEBRATION.** Annie and Jeff Schneider provided the food. Smiles provided by everyone!



**Bottom Left:** Don Horstmann, Terry Bethel, Annie Schneider, and Barb Auping.

**Middle Right:** Janie Fisher and Jeff Schneider.

**Bottom Right:** Maxx and Pam and Scott Alexander.



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

## Mark Your Calendars—October 15!!! You Can Help Make This Year's Oktoberfest



### How Can I Help, You Ask???

#### Here are just some suggestions:

**Attend:** Come to the Oktoberfest. Invite neighbors and friends. Spread the word!

**Volunteer:**

Prior to the Oktoberfest help will be needed to make our 300 pretzel necklaces, set up tents, tables, and chairs—and much more. On the day of the Oktoberfest workers will be needed in the kitchen, the food sales stand, the fry shed, the Country Market, the welcome booth, the parking area, and outside in other areas wherever needed. If you are able to help in ANY WAY, you don't have to wait to be ASKED...talk to Jeff Schneider, Becky Murphy, Missy Motz, Sherry Brandes, or anyone else on the committee...they will either give you a job (or jobs!) or direct you to the correct person to talk to for more information.

**Consider a Sponsorship (or ask others to do this):**

This year's Oktoberfest is would definitely benefit from some additional funding. So for the first time, St. Paul's has developed a group of Sponsorship Packages that will help offset the cost of the event. These sponsorships can help advertise area businesses, as well as show individual and community support for St. Paul's.

Please read the insert explaining each package and consider investing in the future of St. Paul's (as well as the entire community) by purchasing one of these sponsorship packages.

If this is not something you can do at this time, please give the insert to someone who might like to do this—relatives, neighbors, area business people. The flyer explains where their name or business name will appear and what expenses those funds will help cover for St. Paul's Oktoberfest.