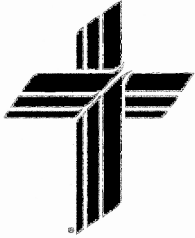


God's Family



• 10:00 a.m.—Sunday
Worship Service

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

Volume XXIV Issue 6
June 2023

Elders Message

by Jeff Schneider
presented at the Voters Meeting
May 21, 2023

By the grace of God, our church family is healing and growing. There is new, brilliant light being shown on our ever-strengthening mission with the Lord. We have been blessed with new faces, new perspectives, and new energy for that mission. Change. A modest word frequently accompanied by fear, empowerment, challenges, and joy.

Fear: *a common response to the unknown or unfamiliar*

Empowerment: *power given to someone to do something*

Challenge: *a call to take part in a contest or competition*

Joy: *a feeling of great pleasure or happiness that comes from success, a sense of well-being, or from blessings received*

Whether we experience change, or all remains as it was, those feelings can influence our interactions with others. As Christians we have been empowered by God's grace with strong tools to overcome fear and challenges to bring us the joy God wants for us. He has taught us love, compassion, empathy, patience, forgiveness, and repentance. We need all those tools every day. To practice them, demonstrate them, and share them. As we interact with God's world. And as we love, forgive, comfort, and work with our church family toward ours and God's mission.

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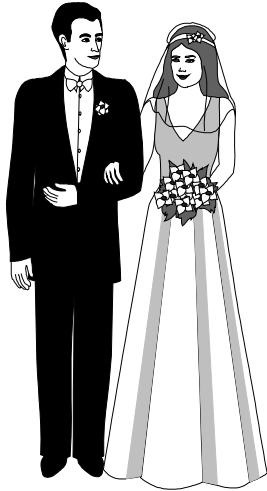




June Birthdays

6/7 – Ralph Ramey
6/9 – Don Horstmann
6/20 – Michael Diederich

6/23 – Terry Joerling
6/28 – Marilyn Finke
6/29 – Michael Motz



June Anniversaries

6/9 – Larry & Vicki Zuhone – 22 years
6/18 – Mike & Christine Diederich – 35 years
6/19 – Jeff & Annie Schneider – 43 years



June Services

6/4 – Sunday Service – 10:00 a.m. – Communion
6/11 – Sunday Service – 10:00 a.m. – Communion
6/18 – Sunday Service – 10:00 a.m. – Communion
6/25 – Sunday Service – 10:00 a.m. – Communion

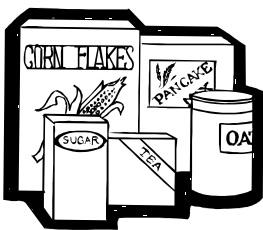


May Food Pantry Donations

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

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 June



The **MEAL-A-MONTH ITEMS** for **June**: Fruit juice, Bisquick, mayonnaise, Sloppy Joe mix, spaghetti sauce in cans, salad dressings, brownie mixes, cake mixes, icing, oil, coffee, instant mashed potatoes, pancake syrup, jelly, powdered drink mixes, barbecue sauce, sugar, and laundry detergent.

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 1st and 3rd Saturdays of each month from 9:00 to 10:30 a.m. Please tell anyone who might benefit from this service!

Values, Visions & Strategic Priorities Update

I am proud to announce that the visioning team has “landed the plane” for phase 1 of our visioning work.

We have completed our Values:

Belong: Belonging to and caring for each other as a church body.

Care: As a church body, leading, participating in, and caring about our community.

Mentor: Instructing, disciplining, and caring for our youth, for they are the future of our church.

Generous: Being generous members of our congregation, giving of self, time, and talents.

Honor: While rooted in our Missouri Synod Lutheran faith, we accept all people, while moving forward as a church.

We have constructed an awesome Mission/Vision Statement: A JOYFUL congregation, FAITHFULLY serving Christ, welcoming neighbors into the FAMILY.

And we have settled on some strategic priorities that fit our capacity and ambitions!

As our strategic plan gets fleshed out, be on the lookout for details, but also how you can get involved. Our vision and so, our direction, is simple but requires all hands on deck.

Whether it is out in the community to “SHINE!” Or if it is your family’s initiative to “Mentor One” or maybe it is as simple as getting your fire started with “Fire Starters”, we all can make more and deeper disciples through the life of our church.

We are excited to continue and share this work with the congregation, as we take our great commission seriously, and enter into a beautiful next chapter in the long and wonderful story that is St. Paul’s Lutheran Church. —Pastor Maxx

Fire Starters Launches June 4th

Fire Starters is St. Paul’s new 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.

June 4th

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 a.m.—9:45 a.m.

June 11th, June 18th & June 25th

Questions? Call Pastor Maxx: 636-828-5616 (church office) or at 812-216-5891 (cell), or contact him through his personal email (maxxjofish@gmail.com)



Member Biography Corner

Jeff Schneider



How long have you been at St Paul's? My wife Annie and I have been members for about two years. We have attended service several times over the past 10 years, but didn't settle on our church home until about three and a half years ago and waited on a permanent pastor to apply for a permanent church home. We have lived in the New Melle area for 22 years,

What do you do and enjoy doing at St Paul's? I have been an usher for close to two years and an elder since January 2023. It was an honor to accept the role as elder allowing Harold Demien to take a break from that responsibility for so many years. Having the privilege to administer the Sacrament to our pastor is one of my most treasured responsibilities as an elder and usher.

I have a key role in organizing our Oktoberfest and have found it very rewarding to be a part of a renaissance of sorts for that event. The energy and creativity exhibited by our church family make it a joy to work hard to have fun with the community and seek to fulfill the Lord's mission at the same time.

Building a relationship with Pastor Maxx, sharing experiences and perspectives with him, and observing a high energy, mission devoted, and eternally optimistic man has been its own reward. I always look forward to interacting with him as a friend and my spiritual leader.

What do you enjoy about being a member at St Paul's? Being a member at St Paul's is very important to me due in part to my family history and my German heritage. In 1948 my paternal grandparents were instrumental in forming a new LCMS church in my hometown of New Athens, IL. That church is also called St Paul's Lutheran Church. Rumor has it one of the motivating factors for Grandma Schneider and friends to start a new church was their previous church in Baldwin, IL required women to sit on one side of the church and men on the other. My parents were married there in January 1959 and I was baptized there in 1960. In 1994 my brothers, our wives, and I organized my parents' renewal of vows there as well. My mom and dad taught Sunday School there. The words "St Paul's Lutheran Church" will always mean family to me. Being a member in New Melle feels like I never left home.

What is something interesting about yourself? Interesting? I am actually pretty boring. Annie and I love living in this area. The climate, our friends, neighbors, and church family. It "feels" just right. We quit taking travel vacations 16 or more years ago. We take staycations. It gives us the freedom to slow down our lives and take in all the natural and human treasures around us in the community. Why go somewhere else when you love it right where you are.

My favorite hobby is target shooting 19th century era firearms. I cast my own lead bullets and handload ammunition for everything I shoot. Annie participates on occasion as well. We have hunted deer together and share the butchering duties, too. She prefers the part after the hide is off. I don't blame her. She is pretty proud of having gotten her first deer before I got my first. Ask her about it sometime.

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 Jeff's biography above!

Israel 2024: The Planning Begins

The first informational meeting about the trip to Israel will be Monday, June 5, 2023, beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the church hall. If you would prefer to join the group on ZOOM, please use the link below:

<https://lcef.zoom.us/j/85139241250>

For more information there is an "Israel Sign-Up Sheet" in the narthex or you may call Pastor Maxx at the church office (636-828-5616), or call or text him on his cell phone (816-216-5891), or email him at maxxjofish@gmail.com

While this trip is open to everyone, there will be a lot of walking and stair-climbing of some duration. While you can do a lot, there may be some occasions where you will not be able to participate. Consider your health and wellness before signing up for the trip. Being elderly is not a disqualifier.

The Egypt Extension is an optional addition to the Israel trip. If you opt out of the Egypt Extension that is okay. You will be safely transported back to the U.S., as the Egypt group stays behind.

Costs (starting at \$4,346 for the Israel portion of the trip and \$1,398 for the Egypt extension) are approximate and are subject to some changes and additional fees. Costs do not include your own personal spending or lunches. We will discuss more about these costs in our first group meeting.

<https://www.eo.travelwithus.com/tours/hl24060424l60524#.ZFUco6DMKUm>

A downloadable brochure is also available on this website.



Vacation Bible School

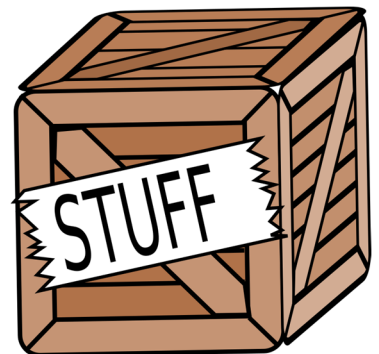


Immanuel Lutheran Church–Wentzville is hosting their Vacation Bible School from June 12th to June 16th from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

It is open to children from age 3 to those going into 5th grade. The cost is \$30 to participate.

Although it is past the registration date, you can still talk to Deaconess Janie Fisher about volunteering or possible late registrations. Please contact her at jfisher@ilsw.org or get in touch with her through Pastor Maxx or St. Paul's church office.

Storage Boxes Needed for the Office!



A long-overdue "office cleaning" will be happening in June and July. So, Pastor Maxx and Sherry need your help! They **NEED** large storage boxes to begin the process of sorting what should be kept and what should be recycled or thrown away.

The boxes can be cardboard or plastic. Lids are preferable, but not mandatory. Boxes should be at least 12" wide x 18" long x 12" tall. They can be larger, but should be something that can be carried by one person without falling apart.

Ladies Aid Prepares for Their Oktoberfest Country Market and Other Sales Events

On Saturday, May 20, a group of St. Paul's Ladies Aid members, led by Becky Murphy made "Suet", which is bird food, to put in some of the many outdoor birdfeeders already made by Becky and her helpers. They hope to sell the birdfeeders with their packets of suet in the Country Market at the Oktoberfest, as well as at other sales venues.

They baked about 100 suet items of various shapes and sizes, added some decorations, wrapped them in Saran Wrap, and put them in the freezer until needed.

Suet consists of quick-cook oatmeal, cornmeal, lard, white flour, sugar, and crunchy peanut butter. This was their first experiment with "suet". If it works, they can make more for future fundraisers.

Suet Bakers: (Right) Missy Motz, Carol Oberaitis, and Mary Bethel. (Below Left) Jackie Diederich and Annie Schneider. (Below Right) Becky Murphy and Sandy Schmidt.



New Melle Fire Protection District New Building New Site!

The groundbreaking ceremony for a new Station #1 for the New Melle Fire Protection District took place on Wednesday, May 17, 2023. The new station will be located at the northwest corner of Forstell Road and Hwy. Z. The project will begin ASAP and should be complete in the summer of 2024.

“Community FIRST” is the department’s Mission Statement, and that “F.I.R.S.T.” is an acronym for Family, Integrity, Respect, Service, and Tradition.

As the community grows, the NMFD has to be ready to handle more and more calls for their help. They are doing everything they can to be prepared to help us. We need to continue to pray for them and to remember to thank them and their families for their service and their personal sacrifices.



Opening Ceremonies: (Top Left) Pastor Maxx, as NMFD Chaplain, provided the opening prayer. (Top Right) Chief Dan Casey welcomed everyone for attending, thanked the planning committee, and spoke about the plans for the building project. For a more detailed report and names of those holding shovels, please read the *Boone Country Connection* article in their upcoming June issue.



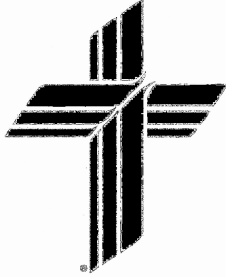
Groundbreaking Ceremony: (Above) Several groups took shovels in hand to officially mark the start of the project. (Below) An artist’s rendering, an arial view, and a floor plan design were also on display.



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 Adopted Seminary Student's Journey Continues

Dear St. Paul's Ladies Aid,

I am excited to write to you that Brooke and I are going to begin the next chapter of my journey into the pastoral ministry by receiving a call as the vicar at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Lockwood, Missouri, for the next twelve months. It sounds like I will be preaching at least every other week and most of the mid-week services! I will also be leading my own Bible Study, teaching their religion class school's third and fourth grade students, and assisting with other aspects of the pastoral duties.

The past two years have been a wonderful time of growth and learning in St. Louis at the seminary, but we are very eager to get out into a parish setting. The city of Lockwood has a population of under 1,000 residency, so this should be a pretty good change of pace from living in St. Louis. It's a rural agricultural community, which should be more reminiscent of my home than St. Louis, so that is a very welcome change!

We are so thankful for all your prayers and continued support while we have been at the seminary and we ask that you will keep us in your prayers as we continue our journey. Thank you so much for everything, and I look forward to keeping you updated with our time on vicarage.

Your brother and sister in Christ,
Brock and Brooke Stockland

Will St. Paul's Have a Parade Float This Year? - It Is Up to ALL of US!

The 2023 New Melle Festival Parade will be on Saturday, June 10. Our church board has discussed and expressed the hope that St. Paul's will once again participate in the parade by entering a float. (The Ladies Aid did it in the past, so did the Youth Group—now we all need to work together to do it) The board members have a float wagon and are getting the tractor to pull it. They have a place to build and store it.

NOW...they need help...MEMBERS of St. Paul's, if you are able and willing to help build this float and/or possibly ride on it, the Board NEEDS TO HEAR FROM YOU! (Mark Wehmeier, Jeff Schneider, Rick Pohlmann, Marilyn Finke, Mike Schmidt, and Barb Auping) They have promised to "keep it simple" since the time line is short...so don't wait...help them, help St. Paul's get out into the community and show everyone in New Melle—everyone in the area—that St. Paul's is a vital part of this community and we want everyone to know it!

**Contact a Board Member as soon as you read this!
HELP ST. PAUL'S show up in our community!!!**

