



JULY

St. Paul News

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2025

“One Generation Commends Your Works to Another” By Pastor Neil Wehmas

“One Generation Commends Your Works to Another” (Psalm 145:4). This was the theme for the 42nd Convention of Iowa District West of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. It was indeed a fitting theme.

It is no secret, our churches are getting older, the hair on our heads are getting whiter. We may be so very tempted to throw in the towel and decide we are doomed. However, we are called to pass on the good news of Jesus’ works of salvation to the next generations.

Sometimes I wonder if I’d like to be a pastor in a large city, and someday that might happen. However, I greatly love being a pastor in a small community like Ida Grove. It is humbling, and quite awesome that on the same day I can be teaching about Joseph to preschoolers through 5th grade, and two hours later preaching about Isaiah to nursing home residents. I love that I get to preach to multiple generations of the same family in our congregation. In other words, here at St. Paul Lutheran Church, the opportunity to Commend the works of Christ to the next generation is right in front of our face.

As many of you know, Pastor Paul Egger was elected District President for Iowa District West. He has been the pastor at St. John Lutheran Church in Galva for 24 ½ years. From my observation he was a pastor that understood this. He worked much with his older members, but he worked with the youth as well. He regularly attended the Higher Things youth conference with them, and I sat with him a few times during Ridgeview vs. OABCIG games. I pray for him as God uses him as District President.

What can we do to pass the works of Christ from one generation to the next? Here are a few ideas:

Be an Example to Youth:

Attend worship, and sing openly whether it is the Praise Band or the organ. Don’t grumble, if a song is tough, do your best. Youth will see, and the learn best from the example of the parents and grandparents and other elders.

Attend an in-person Bible Study regularly. Show that the faith is important enough to give that extra 45 minutes to an hour of your time.

Read your Bible every day, and pray every day.

Sunday School/Midweek

Send your children to Sunday School and midweek that they can find church friends, and learn about the faith. Teach them to embrace everyone who attends, whether they attend every week or only on occasion.

Send your Teen to Youth Retreats, Gatherings, or Conferences

Next summer, hopefully we can bring a good sized group to the Higher Things Conference (location TBD). In sports, it is common for athletes to take part in camps or traveling teams in order to hone in their skills. Attending Higher Things or the district Youth Gatherings help in the same way to develop a person’s faith. (If you don’t have teen, support these events and fundraisers. **Thank you to all who have supported the youth on their trip to New Orleans for the National Youth Gathering.**)

Support Lutheran Camps like CAMP OKOBOJI

Support Your Camp. That is right, it is your camp. Every church in Iowa District West of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod has partial ownership of Camp Okoboji. We offer \$100 scholarships to those who attend. However, those funds are running dry. We need to be sending our kids to this camp, and helping make it financially possible to do so. (There are also options for Lutheran camps in Nebraska, Minnesota, and near Iowa City.)

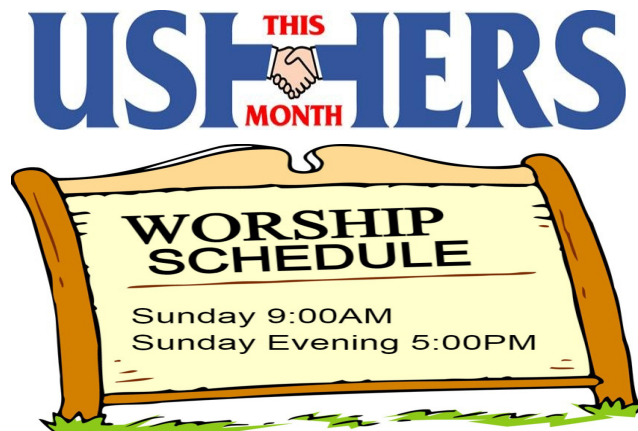
Send Graduates to our Concordia Universities and Seminaries and support our Concordias

Within 7 hours there are four Concordia Universities. (Concordia-Nebraska: 3-hours; Concordia-St. Paul: 4 ½ hours; Concordia Wisconsin (my alma mater): 6 ½ hours; Concordia Chicago: 7 hours)

They offer all sorts of majors. When I went to Concordia Wisconsin here is what some of my classmates were studying for: Lay Ministry, Pastor, teacher (public and private), police officer, nurse, computer engineer, philosophy, pharmacy, and others. And if you think it is only for boys, typically 70% of the school is female. The great thing is that you learn your specified field through the lens of the same faith that you confessed at your confirmation.

I realize that cost is a major concern. Our district offers very generous financial aid for those attending a Concordia. Our congregation also has special financial support for those attending a Concordia. (Although, it does need to be grown.) Ask me for a cost comparison, after financial aid it isn't a major difference. However, Concordia University in St. Paul is much cheaper than most other private schools.

There are many other ways to pass on the faith to the next generation. I will be talking about a mentoring program with our LWML and other leaders of our congregation. We can talk about developing more family nights and activities. However, it starts at the home, it continues into the sanctuary. May we all look to the ways that God is calling us to pass on his gracious gifts to the next generations.



9:00AM Worship :
Acolytes are listed on the calendar

COMMUNION ANNOUNCEMENT we have added Holy Communion on the 5th Sunday of a month –

About our Communion Practice

To our visitors and guests: In accordance with the apostolic command and in unity with the unbroken practice of the Church, St. Paul Lutheran practices Closed Communion. If you are not a member of a congregation in fellowship with the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod we kindly ask you to refrain from communing. We do so not to offend you, but because the Scriptures clearly teach that those communing together be unified in their confession of the Faith. In this Sacrament we are not only joined to Christ our Head who is present in His body and blood but are also knit together with one another as His Body, in which there should be no division of belief. Should you have questions or concerns about this Biblical and historic doctrine, please speak with our pastor. If this is your first time communing at St. Paul Lutheran Church, please speak with our pastor before the service. If certain factors prohibit you from partaking in regular wine, a non-alcoholic option is available in the center circle of each tray. **If not communing but desiring to receive a blessing, please cross your arms over your chest when Pastor approaches.**

OFFERING BOXES In order to help with the overall flow and length of the worship service, we will be collecting the offering via the offering boxes in the Narthex. The main wooden offering box will still be available on the Welcome Center, there will be boxes available by each door that enters the Sanctuary.

“ASK THE PASTOR” submit your questions for Pastor to answer see box on black table in the narthex by Sanctuary glass windows, to submit your questions.

HYMN SING SUNDAYS, there is a white box on the table in the Narthex for you to put in your hymn suggestions for Hymn Sing Sundays.



COMMUNITY BASKET DONATIONS for COMMUNITY BASKET DONATIONS FOR JULY: Condiments: ketchup, mustard, pickles, mayo, salt & pepper, puddings & Jello, etc.. Place your donation in the shopping cart in the Narthex or hallway. Any items are appreciated as well, as they can always use donations. The Community Basket is open on Thursdays (except 3rd Thursday), from 2:30-5:30PM ****They can always use toilet paper, laundry soap, shampoo & conditioner, canned vegetables, canned fruits & canned soups. Mobile Food Pantry will be at the Methodist Church in Ida Grove on July 17 from 4:30-5:30PM.** Its helpful to bring a laundry basket or container for your food items. **Volunteers are ALWAYS appreciated when the Methodist Church has the Mobile Food Panty to help carry.**

BIBLE QUIZ



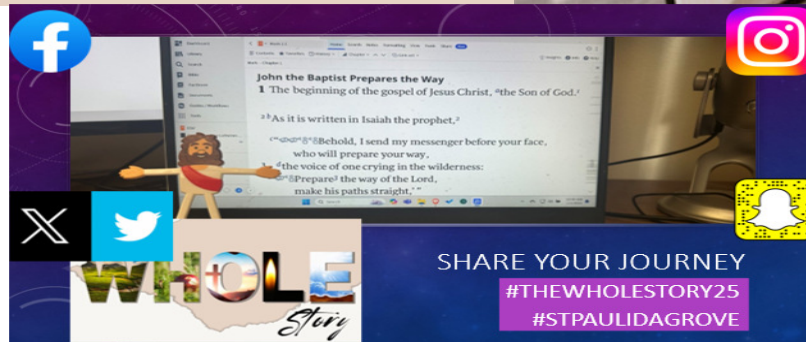
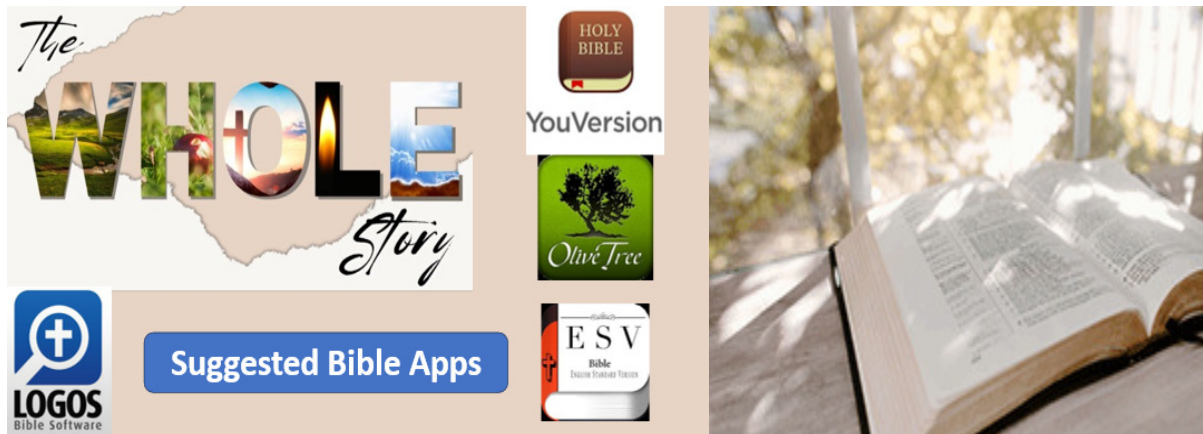
In a parable of Jesus in the Gospel of Luke, someone named Lazarus features prominently while other characters go unnamed. Who is Lazarus in this story?

- A. a friend Jesus raised from the dead
- B. a rich man dressed in fine linen
- C. a poor beggar at the rich man's gate
- D. the brother of the poor man
- E. an angel who carried the poor man to heaven

Answer: C (See Luke 16:19-31.)

The Whole Story is our Congregation as a group reading the Bible in a year.

Suggested Apps below if that is how you like to read **the daily Bible readings and included in this newsletter, on the back of the July Calendar and a print out of the month of June daily readings will be on the Welcome Center**



When you post on your personal Facebook, Twitter, Instagram or Snapchat
Use the #thewholestory25 and #stpaulidagrove



FLAT JESUS We encourage everyone (all ages) to **take a Flat Jesus** and carry Flat Jesus with you, keep him in your pocket, car, or at work, etc.. We also encourage you to share Flat Jesus with someone you know, grand kids, other adults. We also encourage you to have Flat Jesus with you as you read through the Bible.

Take him with you any time you're out having lunch, dinner, driving, etc..If you would like to take a picture of him by your Bible, Tablet, computer or at your lunch table, dinner table, or car, etc..Send in your pictures we would love to post them or share them on the screens, with our announcement slides stpaulidagrove@gmail.com

WHEN ON VACATION.....

When on vacation, be with us in spirit.

The rest of the summer, be with us in person.

Sunday, July 6 at 9:00AM, Special Worship Service with Rev. Dr. Carl Hanson serving in Seoul, Korea
Tuesday, July 8 at 1:00PM Rev. Gerald & Heidi Paul Cayman Islands
Tuesday, July 22 at 1:00PM Andrew & Noel Schaff Taiwan
Saturday, July 26 at 1:00PM Rev. Michael Paul & Family Taiwan
Saturday, August 2 at 1:00PM Rev. Tyler McMiller & Family Italy
Monday, August 11 at 1:00PM John Wolf & Family East Africa

SUMMER



WORD SEARCH

A R E F J E T R I S U M M E R M I S
U S E S T O R Y W H P P O O I N O V
P E T F U N O I W O S R K T B H S M
S E A N I V M R U R N V I N A R E T
R M T O L M I D O T T P A N U L D I
C A M P I N G R O S P O S Y K R M Y
P X O N E E U I L K T O H N U F N N
L N G F S C R C I N P L V K D P S Z
E J A S U D G U H B L H O T Q N K V
I V W S E R Y M Z R K R J G S U M A
L L X A E U O R E L K N I R P S F C
F R U I T L G L N G T H A P O T D A
S S M R D E X H V N O O I A P H J T
S A D E O P R E H R B U E K S I O I
P I T D F I O M W V T K L B I I S O
D T K I O R T D E C L E F O C N G N
G R A S S S O Y A L P I S S L S G N
U V U T C N S L E M O N A D E N H I
S F I U T P F O I L O N E O W Y A T
R T R O A D T R I P I C N I C S R U

summer

pool

swimming

camping

fun

sun

grass

outside

hot

sprinkler

picnic

road trip

shorts

vacation

watermelon

play

fruit

hiking

popsicle

lemonade