



St. Paul News

St. Paul Lutheran Church
100 7th St. Ida Grove, Iowa
712-364-2918
www.stpaulig.org

September

2026

Where is my Mission Field? By Pastor Neil Wehmas

During the time of the reformation, there was a belief held among congregations that those who served as Pastor or were in the monastery or nuns were the greatest servants of Christ. It is in light of this reality, that Luther wrote extensively about the doctrine of vocation.

The word “Vocation” quite literally means “calling”. Every one of us has a multitude of these callings. From parent to spouse to son/daughter to employee/employer to citizen and many more. All of these things are callings. Places that God has placed us with the sincere responsibility of serving him or being his missionaries.

Here is the truth. Jesus said that he is the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through him. (John 14:6). However, how shall a person believe unless someone preaches to them. For faith comes from hearing the word of God. (See Romans 10).

It is for this reason you read as you exit the parking lot, “You are now entering the mission field.” It is for this reason you have been called upon to remember yourself as a missionary. You are in fact called upon tell the Gospel of Jesus Christ to those who are within your life.

You do this within your mission field. Or more specifically, in your vocations. If there is a person that lives next door to you, and they never attend worship anywhere. They are part of your mission field. In your vocation as neighbor, you invite them to worship. (Also, being sure to be a good and respectable neighbor.)

If you go to a store or restaurant, you are now in the vocation of customer. You are a good and respectful customer. You tip when necessary. Then also pray that God would open the doorways to telling people about him. At Jimmy’s, one particular waitress will ask what Sunday’s sermon is about. Take that up as an opportunity to practice thinking about your faith, as an opportunity to tell others about what Christ has done.

In your own household, read the Bible with your family. Listen to Christian music, consider the Lutheran Public Radio music app. Take part in devotions as a family. I do produce a devotion and study guide based upon Sunday sermons. I’d love to share them with you so you can carry Sunday morning throughout the week. This is being a missionary to those closest to you in your life.

When at work or at school, be a good co-worker or classmate. Be courteous and kind and gentle. Also, pray that God would open your eyes, ears, heart, and lips to the opportunity to confess Jesus’ saving grace to those you interact with. It may be as simple as inviting them to worship, a Bible Class/Church Group/youth group.

Your mission field is all around you. Your opportunities to tell of Jesus to others, is wherever God has placed you for the moment. This includes social media and online gaming. I pray that God would lead all of us to bear witness of his grace to others. In Jesus’ Name. Amen.

~Pastor Neil Wehmas



ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

IDA GROVE, IOWA



Receive God's Gifts
of word and sacrament.

Receive his forgiveness and
hear of Jesus crucified for you.

*"For as often as you eat this bread and
drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's
death until he comes."*
1 Corinthians 11:26

The Divine Service

(Schedule starting in September)



Saturdays at 5:00pm

Sundays at 9:00am



Holy Communion at every service.



CATECHISM INSTRUCTION

MAKING DISCIPLES OF CHRIST...
BAPTIZING. TEACHING. GROWING TOGETHER.

Teaching the Scriptures and
Luther's Small Catechism
to children of our Community



CROSS EXPLORATIONS

Midweek Ministry for 3rd-6th Graders
St. Paul Lutheran Church, Ida Grove



CATECHISM INSTRUCTION

Preparing for First Communion and Confirmation



STARTS
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2ND
@ 5:30-6:30 PM
(7TH-8TH GRADE)

CROSS EXPLORATIONS

Explore the Bible and know God's love in Jesus



STARTS
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9TH
@ 5:30-6:30 PM

 GOD'S WORD
 +
 HOLY BAPTISM
 +
 LORD'S SUPPER

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH
IDA GROVE, IOWA

Cross Explorations is for 3rd – 6th grades from 5:30-6:30PM Wednesdays



THE HIGHWAY

THE LORD OF HOSTS IS WITH US;
THE GOD OF JACOB IS OUR FORTRESS.
PSALM 46:7

You Are Invited!!!

★ **THE FIRST HIGHWAY** ★
OF THE 2026-27 SCHOOL YEAR

★ **WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2ND** ★
@ 6:30PM

★ **MOOREHEAD PARK** ★
(OUTSIDE IDA GROVE)

★ **FOOD** ★ | ★ **SMORES** ★ | ★ **FRIENDS** ★ | ★ **JESUS** ★

Bring a friend. ★ Bring a football or frisbee. ★
Have a good time.

ST. PAUL YOUTH MUM FUNDRAISER, St. Paul Youth is partnering with Ida Grove Hardware to sell mums, cost is \$30 per mum and colors include red, white, pink, yellow, orange. See order sheet in Narthex if you haven't been contacted by a youth. Payment is due at time of ordering leave in envelope or with the church office. **Deadline is Sept. 12 and pick up will be here at the church on September 16th.**

Also a reminder to keep an eye out for Pastor Neil's emails for Youth events here at St. Paul and Gatherings

Also for 7th and 8th grade email with the sign up genius for Catechism class on Wednesdays 5:30-6:30PM



RALLY SUNDAY
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13TH

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH
IDA GROVE, IOWA

-  **DIVINE SERVICE W/COMMUNION @ 9:00AM**
 - ★ Praise Band Returns!!!
 - ★ Refreshments Following the Service
-  **FIRST DAY OF SUNDAY SCHOOL @ 10:30AM**
-  **HIGH SCHOOL BIBLE CLASS @ 10:30AM**
-  **ADULT BIBLE CLASS CANCELLED until Further Notice**

Come! Worship. Learn. Grow. Together.



RALLY DAY
Sunday, September 13th

† 9:00 AM Worship Service

The 3rd Graders will receive their
Bibles
during the Worship Service.

The Growing in Faith Bible

*"Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path."
Psalm 119:105*

The Growing in Faith Bible

Growing in Faith • Building in Community • Serving in Love



COMMUNITY BASKET DONATIONS FOR SEPTEMBER: Laundry/Kitchen items: detergent, bleach, dryer sheets, fabric softener, dish soap, etc.. Place your donation in the shopping cart in the Narthex or the clear tote on coat rack by front door. **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 canned vegetables, canned fruits & canned soups. ESPECIALLY CEREAL. Also note: they can use outdated items that are within a year of expiration. Mobile Food Pantry will be at Battle Creek Fire Station on Thursday, September 17 from 4:30-5:30PM . Its helpful to bring a laundry basket or container for your food items.**



2026 MONTHLY SCRIPTURE READING CALENDAR – SEPTEMBER is on the Welcome Center for you to pick up. It is also included in this newsletter on the back of the monthly calendar also available on our Website under the Calendar tab. As well as our Facebook page.



Join the Praise Band!

High school students and adults — do you sing or play an instrument? Come be part of our Praise Band!

Rehearsals: Wednesdays in September 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30 at 5:30PM

First Service: Sunday, September 13

Interested? Contact Tammy Hoffman
Let's worship together through music!

BELL CHOIR if you are considering learning a new talent or sharing your existing musical talent. If you are interested in joining us, have questions, or would like to give ringing a try, watch for more details as to when practices will begin. If interested or have questions talk with Trisha Hoffman

LUTHERAN FAMILY SERVICE, Lynnette Aschinger, clinical social worker, is available here for therapy at St. Paul on Tuesdays, and she is also has offices in Storm Lake, Wall Lake and Carroll. Along with offering telehealth as well. To schedule an appointment call 712-276-9000 or email at Laschinger@LutheranFamilyService.org
Business cards are available on the Welcome Center

MISSION CENTRAL EVENTS! UPCOMING MISSION CENTRAL EVENTS!

- September 19, 2026 – Stan and Dana Stigdon – Dominican Republic – 1:00 pm
- November 21, 2026 – James and Angie Sharp – Puerto Rico – 1:00 pm
- December 5, 2026 – Rev. Christian and Lula Tiews – Germany – 1:00 pm



From Duty to Participation in the Divine Mission

It's easy to think of giving as just paying the bills or keeping the lights on. Those needs are real, but they're not the whole story.

Ultimately, giving to the church is not merely about sustaining an organization. It is one way Christians share in the Lord's ongoing work through His Church—supporting the preaching of Christ crucified and risen, the administration of the Sacraments, catechesis, mercy, and mission. This shifts our mindset entirely:

• From: "What does the institution expect from me?" • To: "How may I faithfully steward what God has entrusted to me in service to my neighbor and in support of the Gospel?"

This perspective changes the way we see the offering plate. What can feel like a weekly chore becomes a concrete act of faith active in love. It helps believers see giving as a faithful response to the Gospel and a meaningful part of the Church's life and mission.

From Pastor Keith Haney, Assistant to the President for Missions, Stewardship

and Human Care: It encourages me to know these sentences are helping to nurture faithful, discipleship-centered stewardship. My hope from the start was that these words would be a practical bridge—connecting God's Word to the everyday lives of His people, shaping hearts, strengthening faith, and guiding us all as we walk together as followers of Christ.

Scripture: "For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them." —

Matthew 18:20 Stewardship Sentence: Gathered by Christ around His Word and promise, we offer our presence, resources, and gifts in love for His Church and for reconciliation with one another.

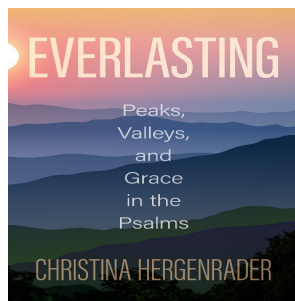


SOME OF YOUR OPTIONS FOR BIBLE STUDIES

WEDNESDAY EARLY MORNINGS BIBLE STUDY meets at **7:00AM** at Jimmy's

WEDNESDAY MORNINGS BIBLE STUDY meeting at **9:30AM** on Wednesdays

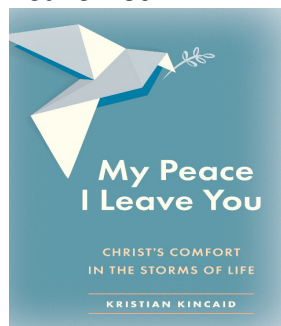
WOMEN'S EVENING BIBLE STUDY on **1ST AND 3RD** Wednesdays on the month at **6:30PM **** and meet in the fellowship hall. The evening study will be doing **Everlasting, Peaks, Valleys & Grace in the Psalms**



Everlasting Peaks, Valleys and Grace in the Psalms by Christina Hergenrader

Anxious. Worthy. Ashamed. Nostalgic. Lonely. Secure. This is just a handful of emotions we observe in the Psalms—and in our day-to-day lives, too. In this women's Bible study from beloved author Christina Hergenrader, you'll be guided through 25 psalms, digging into their genres, perplex emotions, glimpses of Jesus, and more. While in this life we experience mountaintop moments, deep valleys, and everything in between, we can rest in God's everlasting love and grace. Gather your friends and together you can read, feel, discuss, pray, and grow closer to the Lord.

WOMEN'S DAYTIME BIBLE STUDY is on the **2nd & 3rd Thursdays** at **1:00PM** in the Conference Room. The Daytime study will be doing the book/ Bible study **My Peace, I Leave You**



My Peace I Leave You by Kristian Kincaid shows you Christ's everlasting love for you through 20 different struggles. Guilt. Personal difficulties. Doubt. Pride. Worry. Whether or not you've gone through or felt each of them, there's certainly one that you've personally struggled with. Each chapter ends with a short prayer and Bible verse to help you reflect on the reading and points back to Christ helping you in daily life.



NEW BIBLE STUDY, READING THE BIBLE AND THE LUTHERAN CONFESSIONS WITH PASTOR NEIL, Thursdays at 7:00PM, will be every Thursday and on the **4th Thursday of the month he will be going through the Book of Concord**. It is not necessary to have the Book of Concord to join in this Bible Study as it will only be used on the 4th Thursday.

if you would want to purchase one, we can order for you. We will have a sign up sheet available on the wooden stand by the stained glass light window for us to order Book of Concord through CPH, if you are wanting one, paperback version and hardback versions available or there is a free download for the Book of Concord <https://bookofconcord.cph.org/>

This Bible Study is open to anyone and any age.

*****SUNDAY MORNINGS BIBLE STUDY is currently paused until further notice**, we encourage those that are missing the Sunday morning Bible Class to come to Wednesday morning Bible Study at 9:30AM-10:30AM with Pastor Neil or to his Thursday evening Bible Study at 7:00PM in the Fellowship Hall.

LWML LADIES BIBLE STUDY SEPTEMBER



Lutheran Women *in Mission*

RUTH (2) will meet on **Sept. 3** and will meet at the Bowling Alley for lunch and have Bible study at 1:00PM at the church in the Old Conference Room. Ellen will be BSL. We had 8 present at our August meeting.

LOIS (3) will meet on **Sept. 3** in the downstairs Conference Room at 1:30PM. Judy will be hostess and Janice will be BSL.

EUNICE (10) will meet on **Wednesday, Sept. 2** at Willowdale Assisted Living, Battle Creek at 2:00PM. Clara will be hostess and Shar will be BSL.

JOHANNA(12) will meet **Sept. 3 at 7:00PM**, at Golden Horizons. Karen will be hostess and Ann will be BSL. We had 7 at our August meeting.

LWML BIBLE STUDY LEADER'S MEETING we will be on **Tuesday, September 18 at 1:00PM**

LWML FALL RETREAT at Perry Lutheran Homes, Perry, Iowa on **Saturday, September 19** from 10:00AM-2:00PM. Registration is \$15.00,, Registration forms are on the narrow table in the Narthex and deadline for registration is **Wednesday, September 9th**.

LWML MAPLETON ZONE FALL RALLY will be at St. John's Lutheran Church, Battle Creek on **Wednesday, September 23**. Registration will be at 5:00PM with a salad dinner. Speaker will be Gary Thies, he will speak at 5:30PM. Executive Board meeting to follow. The InGathering is free will offering for a Missionary from Mission Central.

THE LARGE LWML MITE BOX that is on the table in the narthex will be highlighted and along with the **Mission Mite** of the month, on the **second Sunday** of each month. For **September** **The Teaching of Lutheran Pastors in West Africa — Sierra Leone and Liberia Project: Pastoral Education West Africa | \$86,000** The project will send two LCMS Pastors to both Sierra Leone and Liberia to teach principles of doctrine and practice to Lutheran pastors in West Africa. LCMS pastors will make two trips per year (four for the biennium). The estimated cost for the team to travel and stay in West Africa is \$21,000. Students selected by their church body attend training for the Pastoral Ministry. In countries where witch doctors, Muslims, animism, prosperity preachers, and a mix of all of these is prevalent, to have the pure Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ proclaimed and taught is vital. The project also hopes to purchase Kindles or electronic books since paper books do not last long in this climate. A web portal will be established to allow teaching and completion of assignments between sessions. This grant will cover the cost of travel, rental facilities for teaching, lodging, meals, and materials.

Name: _____

Date: _____

JESUS IN A FEW WORDS

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

redeemer

righteous

king

lamb

healer

faithful

wonderful

lord

holy

savior

christ

creator

father

saviour

trustworthy

pray

praise

worship

everlasting

joy

bible

love

faith

hope

courageous