



St. Paul News

St. Paul Lutheran Church
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October

2026

What is Marriage according to Scripture? By Pastor Neil Wehmas

The month of October appears to be the month for weddings here at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Ida Grove. On October 3rd, I will be officiating my sister's wedding. On October 10th & 17th, we will be hosting weddings. Which seems like a great opportunity to write a little bit about marriage.

In Ephesians 5, the Apostle Paul writes quite about marriage in a double layered message. He tells us that a husband is to leave his father and mother. He tells us that a wife is to submit to her husband. He tells us that husbands are to love their wives, and wives are to honor their husbands. Some of these principals are tough for the modern reader. But in the end Paul tells us the truth. Marriage is all about Jesus and his love for his church (all believers).

Whenever our congregation hosts a wedding, we do make use of the processional cross (or crucifix). The husband stands there awaiting the start of the service. The first thing that he sees is that cross coming forth. It is a call to that husband as to what it means when he says, "I do."

Paul tells us that the husband is to love his wife as Christ loved the church. That means the husband is being called upon to be willing to have nails driven in his hands and feet. A crown of thorns smashed into his skull. A spear driven into his side. Being flogged and tortured, and hanging upon a cross for six hours to slowly suffocate and die. He endures all of this so that she may live. (This is why traditionally (not required) a husband wore black for weddings.)

The husband's entire life is to be a life of sacrifice. Here is how C. S. Lewis puts it in "The Four Loves":

"The husband is the head of the wife just in so far as he is to her what Christ is to the Church - read on - and give his life for her (Eph. V, 25). This headship, then, is most fully embodied not in the husband we should all wish to be but in him whose marriage is most like a crucifixion; whose wife receives most and gives least, is most unworthy of him, is - in her own mere nature - least lovable. For the Church has not beauty but what the Bride-groom gives her; he does not find, but makes her, lovely. The chrism of this terrible coronation is to be seen not in the joys of any man's marriage but in its sorrows, in the sickness and sufferings of a good wife or the faults of a bad one, in his unwearying (never paraded) care or his inexhaustible forgiveness: forgiveness, not acquiescence."

He would later remark that the crown of headship that a husband bears is not a crown of gold and beautiful gems, rather it is a crown of thorns. To be a husband is to live a life of sacrifice for his wife. Understanding that doesn't mean that he always gets what he wants, it means that always yields his desires for the sake of his bride and his children. He rarely gets what he desires.

For the wife to be in submission, this means not that the husband is to step upon her or abuse her. It doesn't mean that she has to do the cooking and the cleaning and get him a

sandwich. No...it means that she is to allow her husband to sacrifice for her. That she is to empower and encourage him to live a life of service to her and the children. That she is to empower and equip him with encouragement and wisdom to protect and sacrifice for her. Not because of her weakness, but because of her great value.

Read Genesis 1-3, John 2 (particularly the wedding at Cana), John 19, and Ephesians 5 for a better understanding of a Biblical view of marriage. Also, consider C. S. Lewis' "The Four Loves" or Dr. Emerson Eggerichs "Love & Respect". All of them point to the simple reality. Every marriage is to be a reflection of God's greater love for us. May each husband seek to be this. May each wife encourage and strengthen her husband to this kind of service to her. May both forgive one another where they fail. May we teach our young men to grow up to be men of sacrifice, who never would bring harm to their wife or children. Who live lives of sacrifice. May we teach our young women to not expect anything less from the men they choose to enter into relationships with.

Finally, may forgiveness and the love of Christ rule over every relationship. Husband/wife, parent/child, friendships, co-workers, and all others. In Jesus' name. Amen.

A banner for St. Paul Lutheran Church in Ida Grove, Iowa. The top section features a logo with a cross, a chalice, and an open book, with the text "ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH" and "IDA GROVE, IOWA". Below this is a photograph of the church building and a water tower. To the right of the photo, text reads "Receive God's Gifts of word and sacrament." and "Receive his forgiveness and hear of Jesus crucified for you." A dark blue box on the right contains the text "The Divine Service (Schedule starting in September)" and lists "Saturdays at 5:00pm" and "Sundays at 9:00am", with a note "Holy Communion at every service." On the left, a quote from 1 Corinthians 11:26 is displayed: "For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes." The banner is decorated with gold and blue wavy lines.

October gives us a special opportunity to thank the pastors who teach, encourage, pray and care for our congregation. May we honor their faithful service, support them with our prayers and remind them that their ministry makes a meaningful difference in the lives of many.

PANCAKES ARE BACK !! JR HIGH & SR HIGH YOUTH will be serving pancakes in the fellowship hall on Sunday, October 11th following the Worship Service. Free Will Offering

ST. PAUL YOUTH will be having a Rummage Sale in the Fellowship Hall on November 6 from 2-7pm, November 7 from 8-1pm and after church on Nov. 8 from 10:30-11:30am.

We are taking gently used clothing, small household items and décor items for house as well as seasonal decorations. We prefer no furniture at this time, no TV's and if you have questions please contact Allyson Iversen or Jen Hoffman. You can start bringing items to the church, if you're in question if the church is open or if we are able to take items that day, please call first. 364-2918 Office hours for drop off typically 9am – 3pm, or you can make other arrangements.



CONFIRMATION PICTURES will be on **Wednesday, October 28** at **6:30PM**, and will also have a practice for Sunday.

CONFIRMATION will be on **Sunday, November 1** during the **9:00AM Worship service** and a reception hosted by current 8th grade Catechism class, will follow in the fellowship hall after the service.



Sunday School 10:30-11:30 AM

Children ages 4 yr old Preschool-5th grade

Preschool-1st grade room upstairs hallway by south

windows to the left -- middle classroom in that hallway

2nd & 3rd room downstairs to the left - middle classroom

4th & 5th room downstairs to the right

6th-8th - Middle School Youth Room downstairs southwest corner

9th-12th - High School Youth Room downstairs southeast corner

WEDNESDAY CROSS EXPLORATIONS & CATECHISM CLASSES ON WEDNESDAYS (MIDWEEK CLASSES) for grades 3rd - 8th 5:30-6:30PM.

(just a reminder when there is an early out class is still at 5:30PM)

There will be no snack time, when kids arrive they will go directly to class when they come at 5:30PM *Parents of 7th & 8th graders please check email for sign up genius for schedule to sign up when you can help.

Catechism students visit MISSION CENTRAL

Wednesday, October 7th
(Leave from the church)
Return by 3:30pm

Both St. Paul, Ida Grove & St. John, Battle Grove Catechism Students

THE HIGHWAY
Lutheran Youth Fellowship

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

(9th-12th Grade)
1st & 3rd WEDNESDAY
OF EACH MONTH AT 6:30PM

MIDWAY
JUNIOR LUTHERAN YOUTH FELLOWSHIP
ST. PAUL LUTHERAN, IDA GROVE

PRESS ON TOWARD THE GOAL,
FOR THE UPWARD CALL OF GOD
IN CHRIST JESUS.
— PHILIPPIANS 3:12-14 —

(6th-8th Grade)
NEXT MEETING:
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10TH
@10:00AM.

GROWING IN CHRIST--TOGETHER



COMMUNITY BASKET DONATIONS FOR OCTOBER: Pastas: macaroni, spaghetti, and other pastas, macaroni & cheese, spaghetti sauce, 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 The Shed in Kiron on Thursday, October 15 from 4:30-5:30PM . Its helpful to bring a laundry basket or container for your food items.**



2026 MONTHLY SCRIPTURE READING CALENDAR – OCTOBER 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: Wednesday, Sept. 30, Oct. 14 & Oct. 28 at 5:30PM

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. Bell Choir practice is on Mondays at 6:30PM. 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

UPCOMING MISSION CENTRAL EVENTS!

- November 7, 2026 Shara Osiro- Africa (time to be announced), Shara is our missionary through Mission Central that our congregation supports monthly
She will be here at St. Paul to talk with our congregation during the Worship Service on Sunday, November 8th
- November 21, 2026 – James and Angie Sharp – Puerto Rico – 1:00 pm
- December 5, 2026 – Rev. Christian and Lula Tiews – Germany – 1:00 pm

MISSION CENTRAL VOLUNTEER DAY – FALL CLEANING on Thursday, October 15 from 9:00-12:00PM. There will be a meal to follow. Please let them know if you will be staying for the meal so they can plan accordingly. Nancy Ford is planning to go if you would like to car pool with her.

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

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

Charging Forward in Stewardship

There may be a stewardship lesson for us in that.

Stewardship is not passive. It calls us to move with purpose, give with conviction and serve with the strength God provides. May we be quick to answer God's call, bold in putting our faith into action and faithful in caring for the people and work God has placed before us.

A cartoon-style illustration of a bearded monk with brown hair, wearing a red robe, sitting at a wooden desk. He is writing with a quill pen on a large, open manuscript. On the desk, there is a green book titled 'BIBLIA', a lit candle in a brass holder, and several rolled-up scrolls. A small inkwell is also visible. In the background, a stone archway looks out onto a landscape with a castle and a red flag flying. A purple cloth with a white cross hangs on the left side of the desk.

Luther's life was threatened because he spoke out against practices he believed did not reflect the true mission of the Church. Forced into hiding, he found refuge at Wartburg Castle as the guest of the ruler of Saxony.

dialects, making communication difficult from one area to another.

helped unify the many German dialects. In that sense, Martin Luther is often considered one of the fathers of the modern German language.

A Letter from Christ



Paul the Apostle gave a beautiful compliment to the believers in Corinth. He wrote: "And you show that you are a letter from Christ delivered by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts" (2 Corinthians 3:3, ESV).

What a meaningful picture. A letter carries a message, and Paul reminded the church that their lives were sharing the message of Christ with others.

The same is true for us today. Through our words, actions and faith, people can see evidence of God at work in our hearts. None of us is perfect, but living faithfully can point

others toward Him. What a wonderful goal for every Christian: to be known as "a letter from Christ."

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* 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* by Kristian Kincaid. It 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, let Pastor or the church office know, 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 watch for details on an upcoming video Bible study series, called "Stuff they didn't teach me in Sunday School".

If you are wanting a Pastor led Bible Study we encourage you 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 OCTOBER



Lutheran Women
in Mission

RUTH (2) will meet on **October 1** 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.

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

EUNICE (10) will meet on **Wednesday, October 14** at Willowdale Assisted Living, Battle Creek at 2:00PM. Shar will be hostess and Corliss will be BSL.

JOHANNA(12) will meet **October 1** we will meet for lunch at **Zimmy's at 12:30PM** and then meet at the church Fellowship Hall for Bible Study. Cecile will be BSL.

LWML SUNDAY will be on **Sunday, October 11**, we will have a Worship Service geared towards LWML and acknowledge and encourage your support in prayer and by bringing your MITEs as we encourage you to do on the Second Sunday of every month. Below you will see below Mission Grant #17 is Mobilizing After School Care for Special Care Teens in Hastings, Nebraska. It is currently fully funded, but your MITEs will go towards other Mission Grants that have not gotten fully funded yet.

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 OCTOBER Mobilizing After School Care for Teens Our Place After School Care Inc., Hastings, Nebraska | \$69,500** About This Mission Grant Our Place is a caring, Christian community for special needs students between the ages of thirteen and twenty who are not safe when home alone and have aged out of the Hastings, Nebraska, daycares. Grounded in a Christ-like love for their neighbors, Our Place provides programming designed to promote academic, social, and life skills and opportunities to grow spiritually through community service and enrichment activities. Parents and caregivers of the children are supported. The after-school program allows them to maintain full-time employment to meet their families' needs. Our Place needs a 12-passenger accessible van to transport program participants to the facility after school and to educational, vocational, and recreational opportunities. By serving these students and their families, Our Place fulfills Jesus' call to compassion by being a community for and with our neighbors. This grant will fund the purchase of a special needs accessible van for the after-school program.

LWML BIBLE STUDY LEADER'S MEETING we will be on **Tuesday, October 20 at 1:00PM**

LWML GROUPS / CIRCLES as you see the groups listed above all meet during the day.

If you are interested in a day time circle/Bible study group but the current days or times don't work for your schedule please reach out to Shar, Nancy or the church office and we can help get you started. If you are interested in a night time circle because you work or you just prefer evening time, again please let us know and we can help get you started.

Our LWML Quarterly which includes the 3 monthly Bible Studies that we do each quarter, so the new Quarterly is on the table in the hallway by the Old Conference Room / bulletin boards, and it is for October, November, December. They are generally pretty short Bible Studies and also on the table is a Leaders Guide/help that goes along with each monthly Bible Study for you to help with the discussion of answers. You are welcome to meet here at the church or in your homes, whichever you prefer

PSALMS 91 WORD SEARCH

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

TEN THOUSAND	FALL	FOOT	EYES	REWARD
EVIL	LOVE	PLAGUE	ANSWER	ANGELS
NAME	TROUBLE	HONOR	SATISFY	SALVATION
HANDS	LONG	LIFE	THOUSAND	NOONDAY
DARKNESS	ARROW	TERROR	AFRAID	DELIVER
TRUST	FORTRESS	REFUGE	SECRET PLACE	DWELL