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The Epistle September 2025 Sundays @ 8 am & 10:30 am Mondays 6:30 pm





đ	Saturday	•	13	20 90th Celebration Doris Mathews Fellowship Hall 1-4 pm	27	n Bible Słudy/ Education Hour vice; nearsal	
	Friday	5 6-8:30 pm Middle School Pool Party at the Schmoll's	12 Eve's Restoration Ministry Trivia Night 5:30/6 pm to 8:30 pm 6:30 pm Pastor Sievers Bible Study	19 2 pm Bria Nursing Home Worship 3:30 pm Garden Place Worship Youth Lock-In	26	hedule Worship Service; 10:30 am Worship Service; 9:15 am Bible Educai 5:15 pm Adult Choir Practice; 6:30 pm Worship Service; 6 pm Jr. Confirmation; 6:30 pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal	別が、大学の大学の
	Thursday	4 Ladies League 11:30 am	1.30 Pre-School Chapel 6 pm Eve's Restoration Board Mtg	18 6 pm Eve's Restoration Fundraiser Mtg	25 9 am Newsletter Folders 5:30 pm Eve's Restoration Mtg	Service; 10:30 am W Adult Choir Practice Confirmation; 6:30 p	
	Wednesday	3 9:30 am Seminary Field Worker Mtg at the Seminary Food Pantry 1:30-3 pm	10 Food Pantry 4—5:30 pm Jr. Confirmation 6 pm 6:30 pm Handbells Choir	17 7:30 -8:30 am Rotary Business Mtg Ladies Bible Study w/ Nancy Food Pantry 1:30 - 3 pm Jr. Confirmation 6 pm 6:30 pm Handbells Choir	24 1:30 pm Stewardship Mtg Jr. Confirmation 6 pm 6:30 pm Handbells Choir	Fall Worship Schedule Sundays8 am Worship Service; 10:30 am Worship Service; 9:15 am Bible Study/ Education Hou Mondays 5:15 pm Adult Choir Practice; 6:30 pm Worship Service; Wednesdays 6 pm Jr. Confirmation; 6:30 pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal	であるというで
	Tuesday	2 7:15 cm Men's Bible St. 9 cm Quilters 5:30 B of Youth 6:30 B of Education	9 7:15 am Men's Bible St. 9 am Quilters 9 am Circuit Pastors Mtg Millstadt 5:30 pm B of Trustees 5:30 pm B of Elders	16 7:15 am Men's Bible St. 9 am Quilters 6:30 pm Church Council	23 7:15 cm Men's Bible St. 9 cm Quilters	30 7:15 am Men's Bible St. 9 am Quilters	MI ALLENDA
	Monday	1 Count (Team 2) Labor Day No Service	8 Count (Team 3) 5:15 pm Adult Choir 6:30 pm Divine Service	Count (Team 1) 12-3 pm Circuit Pastors Mtg at District Office 5:15 pm Adult Choir 6:30 pm Divine Service	Count (Team 2) NO Adult Choir 6:30 pm Divine Service Newsletter Articles Due For September newsletter	29 Count (Team 3) 5:15 pm Adult Choir 6:30 pm Divine Service	
	Sunday	SEPTEMBER	8 am Divine Service (Sanctuary) 8:15 am -Adult Bible Class in F. Hall SS Children & Youth in SS Wing 10:30 am Divine Service (Sanctuary)	8 am Divine Service (Sanctuary) 8:15 am -Adult Bible Class in F. Hall SS Children & Youth in SS Wing 10:30 am Divine Service (Sanctuary)	21 Congregational Picnic 11:30 8 am Divine Service (Sanctuary) 9:15 am -Adult Bible Class in F. Hall SS Children & Youth in SS Wing 10:30 am Divine Service (Sanctuary) 11:30 Congregational Picnic in Park	28 8 am Divine Service (Sanctuary) 9:15 am -Adult Bible Class in F. Hall SS Children & Youth in SS Wing 10:30 am Divine Service (Sanctuary) 11:45 am Congregational Mtg to discuss a possible DCE position	

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Brady Luther Collin Schmidt Brady Rhen Kirness David & Connie Jeff & Robin Phelps & Gummersheimer & Gummersheimer John & Becky Wallace & Donna Pennell Wallace & Schill Ryan Murray 18 Agron & Calli Frazer & Donis Mathews Ryan Murray 18 Agron & Calli Frazer & Donis Mathews Ryan Murray 19 Agron & Calli Frazer & Bethany Niehaus & Aimee Ebersohl Charles Ford Michelle Magnuson Ashton Haskell Phyllis Peters Cary Camp
25 Charles Ford Michelle Magnuson Phyllis Peters
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Catechism Ponderings - The First Commandment

As we are on the cusp of starting another year of confirmation, I thought it would be good to review the great significance of the First Commandment which states "You shall have no other gods." What does this mean? "We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things."



At the heart of all this is the desire, spurred on by the evil one, for human beings to be like God. The evil one once said to Eve "For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." She took the bait, and we are impacted by Adam and Eve's actions to this day. Martin Luther once said in the Large Catechism "A god is that to which we look for all good and where we resort for help in every time of need; to have a god is simply to trust and believe in one with our whole heart." Which means that things like money, property, fame, and even the blessings of family, friends, good health, and the self can become gods or "the be all and end all." As John Calvin once said, "the human heart is an idol factory."

Thankfully the true God has come down to shatter the false gods and replace them with the true God through the person and work of Jesus Christ. Unlike the false gods who are never satisfied (there is never enough money, property and fame), our God sees us as blameless through the blood of Jesus. Through Holy Spirit driven faith in him, we can follow this commandment. As you prepare for confession and absolution and/or come to communion, it might be helpful to ask yourself these questions...

"What or whom do I fear Most?

"In what or whom do I Trust Most for financial security, physical safety, or emotional support?" "Do I expect only good from God in every situation, or do I worry, doubt, complain or feel unfairly treated when things go wrong?"







Our Mission Statement:

To Provide Parenting Resources & Christ-Centered Spiritual Care in a Residential Setting, to Mothers Whose Children are Currently in Foster Care, Empowering Them to Rebuild & Reunite Their Families.

Amanda Douglas 314-221-6700 or evesrestorationhome@gmail.com



Mums Fall Fundraiser!

In August, <u>Eve's Restoration Home</u> fund raising committee will be taking orders for Mums with the plan of delivering them in September.

Support <u>Eve's Restoration Ministries</u> by purchasing mums for just \$13 each!

The mums are approximately nine inches

and come in the following colors:

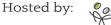
orange, red, white, yellow, and pink.

Sign up and make your color choices in the church Narthex. Please place your order by Sunday, August 31, 2025.

Pickup/Pay date TBA in mid-September at St. Paul's Lutheran Church.
Please contact Eve's at evesrestorationhome@gmail.com for any questions.

Progressive Dinner Hop

Saturday, October 11th at 4:00pm













Faith Oakville 6101 Telegraph Road St. Louis, MO 63129



St. Paul's Lutheran 227 N. Good Haven Columbia, IL 62236

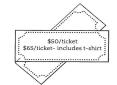


Trinity Lutheran 503 E. Washington St. Millstadt, IL 62260

Each ticket includes a 3 course meal and activities throughout the night. Please review the registration site for more information.

To purchase tickets, please contact evesrestorationhome@gmail.com or scan the QR code.





Eve's Restoration Ministries

would like to thank St. Paul's
for their generous donation this
"Eve's Restoration Sunday".
We really appreciate all the support
from this congregation.
Our plan is to open a home
for mothers seeking reunification
with their children in foster care in mid-2027.
There is SO MUCH to do
in preparation to serve these women and children.

Are you interested in showing

Are you interested in showing your personal support to this mission? Attend one of our exciting upcoming events!

Together, we can empower mothers to rebuild and reunite their families!







Sunday School Schedule MAY CHAR SS hour is 9:15 am to 10:15 am.

Want to spice up your table conversations with a dash of God's Word & a few meaningful questions? Pick up a left-over-from-the parade **DEVOTION PACKET** in the Narthex today.



Youth 8th -12th grade Sundays: 9:15—10:15 am In the Loft upstairs

Junior Confirmation

Our first 5th-8th grade Junior confirmation class will start Wednesday, September 10th at 6:30pm. If you know of someone (member or non-member) who might be interested in our confirmation program please contact Pastor Krenz or the church office. These classes run on Wednesday nights weekly through out the school year.

High School/College Confirmation

If you know of someone in this age range who has not been confirmed but might be open to doing so, please contact Pastor Krenz 618-363-0121. I am hoping to start a 1 year class for this age group. Date and times to be TBD. Pastor Krenz



WHEN: Friday, September 5th 6:00-8:30 PM WHO: Middle School Youth (5th-7th Grade) Bring a towel, your suit and a friend! Let's kick off the confirmation year with faith, fun and community! **RSVP** to Erin at

314-603-8654

We can't wait to see you there!

Calling All College Students: Please Send Us Your address at College

SIUE Lutheran Campus Ministry

If you have a relative or someone you know that could benefit from a campus ministry at SIUE ,please contact: Pastor Jess Biermann 314-255-8066 siuelutherans.com 600 Water St., Edwardsville, IL

Adult Bible Education

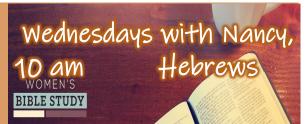
Tuesday Men's Bible Study

Meet w/ us at 7:15 am in the Narthex. All men welcome. We have been looking at the Weekly Scriptures in the Worship Service.

Fridays, Once a Month: NUMBERS in 2025 You are invited to tackle the **Old Testament book of** NUMBERS one Friday night each month. Our next meeting will take place on September 12th.

Sunday Morning Adult Bible Class: 10:15 am—11 am Luke/Learning to share our faith- Join us on Sunday mornings from 9:15-10:05 starting September 7th as we walk through the book of Luke, and spend the last 20 minutes of class dialoguing on ways we can share our faith. Come one come all.

Ladies Bible Study w/ Nancy



Ladies! We are at it again. A Bible study just for you. Beginning September 17. 10 to 11 am each Wednesday. Study this year begins with the book of Hebrews, Call Nancy Radentz or email her if you are coming, and she will send you the first week's lesson. 618-340-2995 donan9@sbcglobal.net

Meet in Sunday School room at far end of hallway. There is some home preparation with this class.
GIVE US A TRY. I BELIEVE YOUR FAITH WILL BE STHRENGHTENED!!

Gifts and Talents Surveu

Throughout the month of September we are asking members to fill out a survey on your



gifts and talents. These surveys can be filled out manually at church or you can fill it out online at our web site. Many Thanks. -The Stewardship Committee.

Congregational Meeting

Join us on Sunday, September 28th in hgregational the fellowship hall following the late worship service (11:45am) as we discuss the potential pros and cons of getting a Director of Christian Education.

Christina Stackle, a 20 plus year DCE from Peace across the river, has graciously agreed to come to this meeting to give insights on what a Director of Christian Education can do in a congregation. In addition, the financial implications for our congregation will also be conveyed. A free light brunch will also be served.

SEPTEMBER 2025



Asking the SO THAT QUESTION

In 2 Corinthians 5:15 the Apostle Paul reminds us—And (Jesus) died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for Him who for their sake died and was raised.

While we love and are blessedly comforted by the first half of this verse, we often seem to forget or ignore the second half—the SO THAT half.

In other words, we often fail to respond in any specific way to the Word of God we have just heard or read.

So, don't forget to ask yourself that SO THAT QUESTION the next time you are in worship, Bible class, or having devotions at home. And, if you dare ask that question, don't be surprised if the Holy Spirit answers it. After all, that's one of the blessed things He has promised us He'll do.

And, that's the **SO THAT QUESTION** from your Board of Christian Outreach.

Deadline for Submissions (articles, photos, calendar updates) for October 2025 Newsletter: September 22nd.





SEPTEMBER ELDERS SCHEDULE

Sunday 10:30 am



	Juliady 6 alli		Sunday 10.30 am	Monday 6.30 pm
September 7 and 8	David Greatting	&	Toby Search	Scott Peery
September 14 and 15	Mark Eischer	&	Levi Ottwell	Glenn Grebing
September 21 and 22	Scott Moeslein	&	Charlie Consolino	Bob Thoma
September 28 and 29	Mark Eischer	&	Charlie Consolino	Glenn Grebing

Please consider joining St. Paul's adult choir! We meet on Mondays at 5:15 PM (before church) and will start up again **on Sept. 8**.

Sunday 8 am

All voices are welcome!

Please contact Karen Shimkus at 618-540-0810 (text) or kjshimkus@charter.net
if you need more information!

Monday evenings at St. Paul's...

5:15 pm Adult Choir (starts 9/8)

6:30 pm Divine Service



Manday 4:30 pm

Wednesday evenings at St. Paul's:



& 6:30 pm Handbell Choir





6 pm Jr. Confirmation

SEPTEMBER 2025





LADIES LEAGUE LWML

Our monthly meeting was held on August 7th in the Fellowship Hall where revitalizing lemon décor and desserts awaited us. Wanda Gross led us with a devotion entitled "The Race of Faith: Persevering!" The devotion reminded us to set goals and meet our goals through perseverance and prayer, based on Ephesians 6:18 and Luke 18:1-18.

Following the common table prayer, we enjoyed the lunches we brought as well as the desserts and drinks provided by our hostesses, Alice Jestus and Susan Housewriaht.

Our **guest speaker was Amanda Douglas**, who brought us up-to-date on **Eve's Restoration Ministry**, from its conception to the present day goals.

LWML news and committee reports were given during our business meeting. We prepared "thinking of you" cards for our church member shut-ins.

We will meet **next month on September 4th at 11:30am** in the Fellowship Hall. Rose Anne Bense and Wanda Gross are scheduled to be our hostesses. **After the meeting**, we will prepare the in-gathering donations for St. Louis's tornado victims and take to **Bethlehem Lutheran Church.** Thank you to all that donated toward this project.

ALL ladies of the church are welcome to attend our meetings.

They are on the first Thursday of the month, at 11:30am in the fellowship hall.

LWML UPCOMING EVENTS (Call Jane Stumpf for more information.)

- 1) District Fall Retreat at Trinity, Edwardsville on October 11 9am-3pm. Registration and fees due by September 30. If you plan to go, see Marilyn Snider for a form.
- 2) Zone Fall Workshop at Holy Cross Wartburg on November 15.

All Ladies are invited to join us anytime at our meetings, events, and service projects.

For more information about Mailbox Membership or other events,

contact Jane Stumpf 314-852-8776.



LWML Executive Director position available, based in the LWML office at

Concordia Seminary. Google <u>www.lwml.org</u> if interested.



Monarch Jewelry
There is a small box in the
Narthex for used or broken
jewelry. These pieces of donated

jewelry will be given to Monarch Jewelry, a faith-based ministry.



THE EPISTLE

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Member Spotlight

Sean & Maria O'Guin



Tell us where you are from and what brings you to Columbia/St. Paul's?

My name is Maria and I am from Red Bud and my husband Sean is from Waterloo. We both moved here a few years ago, and recently moved into a new house just down the street from St. Paul's!

Tell us about your family.

Right now it is just Sean

and I, but we are praying God

blesses us with a little one in the very near future. :) However, we are both very close with our parents, siblings, extended family, as well as our friends and the many babies they've recently brought into our lives. :)

What led you to become members at St. Paul's?
We were previously members of St. John's
Lutheran Church in Red Bud, but have been on the
hunt for a new church here in town since getting
married two years ago, and feel St. Paul's is the
perfect place! We are so happy to have found a
home here!

What is your favorite Bible verse or story about Jesus?
Our favorite verse which was our wedding verse is
1 John 4:19, "We love because He first loved us."
We have always felt this very much resonates with us
as we feel so beyond blessed to have the love that
we share for one another, but know it would not be
possible without God's love for us and our shared
love for God.

What do you like to do as a family when you are not at church?

As mentioned, we recently bought a home and are in the midst of home projects. We spend a lot of time with our family and friends on the weekends. We LOVE trying new restaurants and simply enjoying the company and laughter of our loved ones. We hope to do lots of entertaining this fall once we get some of those home projects completed.:)

Free Event: ArmFolk Group from Armenia

September 2, 2005, 7 pm (Donations accepted)
Columbia Middle School Cafetorium
An evening of Armenian Dance, Music & Heritage
Live Cultural Performance in Columbia, IL
Presented by: International Arts Fund, Bethany
Church and Rotary Club of Columbia, Illinois

SEPTEMBER 2025



Current Pantry Needs:
Oatmeal, Pasta Sides & Snacks

Call 281-4600 for assistance on all other days.

August Wednesdays:
September 3, 10 & 17
1st & 3rd Wed - 1:30-3pm 2nd Wed - 4-5:30 pm

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Comforts of Love Quilters-Tuesdays

Quilters meet Tuesdays from 9 am -10:30 am

Please join us! We have "sew" much fun!

The <u>Comforts of Love</u> sewing group needs a few more helping hands to tie comforts which will be donated to Lutheran World Relief, Orphan Grain Train, or Lutheran Disaster Response Team. There are no special sewing talents required, just a willingness to help

provide items for warmth and comfort to those in need.

Thank you for all your support!

Questions? contact Marianne May or Marilyn Snider.

Save the Date church church picnic plan to attend!

Sunday September 21

Congregational Picnic- Join us on Sunday, September 21st after the late service for our annual church picnic at Bolm-Schuhkraft memorial City Park here in Columbia (12pm).

At this picnic we will also be welcoming those who have joined the church in the last two years. The stewardship committee will provide chicken, paper products, and drinks. Members and friends of the congregation are invited to sign up for desserts and salads. Please sign up in the church entryway.



The Epistle



2025

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Pastor Stephen Krenz 618-363-0)121

"In your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect" 1 Peter 3:15

Friends and Members of St. Paul's.

It is a rule of etiquette that if you want general agreement rather than disagreement you should refrain from discussing religion or politics. In this country similar statements can be found in print all the way back to the 1840's. Even in the popular "Peanuts comic strip" Linus is quoted as saying "There are three things I have learned never to discuss with people...religion, politics, and the Great Pumpkin." Many years back there was a witness survey conducted by the Billy Graham association among those attending training sessions for a crusade. You would think these would be the most motivated to share their faith. Yet, when asked "What is your greatest hindrance to witnessing?" they said the following: -(9%) Felt they were too busy and/or forgot to do so.

- -(28%) Believed they lacked an understanding of the information they were to
- -(12%) Stated their own lives did not reflect well their faith.
- (0%) They did not really care.
- -(51%) Was the fear of how others would react.

Notice they all cared but were hindered either by their own fragilities or by the perceived negative reactions to their intentional witness. What if, in fact, they/we were more than qualified? What if the expected negative response their witness caused, was quite positive? This has been my experience. Throughout the month of September and even into October, our Sunday morning adult class along with weekly bulletin announcements, and weekly emails will address various outreach issues. We will tackle head on this fear of how others will react. We will learn to ask various questions which can assist us in fruitful religious dialogue. We will learn how to be ready with a response when asked about the

hope that is in us. We will discuss ways we can humbly discuss the faith with our children, grandchildren, and even those who have had a negative experience with the church. We will learn how listening rather than talking is the first key when witnessing to our faith. We will learn how prayer is an essential tool in this whole process. Thanks be to God we had parents, grandparents, pastors, friends, teachers, and others who shared the faith with us. May the Lord help us do the same with others.

Blessings in Christ, **Pastor Krenz**

Sunday Sermon Schedule: 8 am & 10:30 am & Monday 6:30 pm

September 7th & 8th- Following Jesus- It's worth the cost. Luke 14-25-35 September 14th & 15th- Followers of Jesus are lost and found. Luke 15:1-10 September 21st & 22nd- Followers of Jesus are to serve one not two masters Luke 16:1-15 September 28th & 29th- Followers of Jesus are to trust like a child Matthew 18:1-11



Fall/Winter/Spring Weekly Worship Schedule thru Memorial Day Weekend

Sunday Worship

Monday Worship

Bible Studies & Education

8 am Divine Service 10:30 am Divine Service

6:30 pm Divine Service Sunday: 9:15 am Adult Bible Study, SS Hour, Youth

Tuesdays: 7:15 am Men's Bible Study

Wednesdays: 10 –11 am Women's Bible Study

Wednesdays: 7 pm Junior Confirmation

2nd Friday/Monthly: 6:30 pm Adult Bible Study Group

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 227 Goodhaven Street Columbia, IL 62236 618.281.4600 stpauls-lcms.org facebook.com/stpaulscolumbiail

St. Paul's Lutheran Church Mission Statement: Proclaim Christ. Teach Christ's Word & Reflect Christ's Love to All!