



St. Paul's Lutheran Church

**227 N. Goodhaven Drive
Columbia, IL 62236**

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**Nonprofit Organization
Bulk Mailing
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Columbia, Illinois
Permit No. 15**

Summer

Worship Hours

Sundays 9 am

Mondays 6:30 pm

The Epistle

August 2026

august

The earth has yielded its
produce; God, our God,
blesses us. Psalm 67:6

Worship with Us...



**St. Paul's Lutheran Church
227 Goodhaven Street
Columbia, IL 62236**

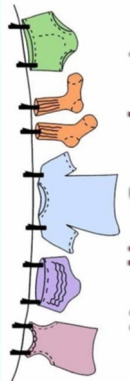
**618.281.4600 stpauls-lcms.org
facebook.com/stpaulscolumbiaill**



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
August						
2 9 am Divine Service 10:15 am DCE Call Mtg	3 Count (Team 2) 6:30 pm Service	4 7:15 am Men's Bible 9 am Quilters	5 Food Pantry 1:30—3 pm	6 Ladies League 11:30 am	7 2 pm Bria Nursing Home Bible Study 6-8 pm Middle School Pool Party	1 1
Pastor on Vacation August 3-7						
9 9 am Divine Service 10:15 am Adult Bible Study	10 Count (Team 3) 6:30 pm Service	11 Pastor's Circuit Mtg In Holy Cross East Carondelet 7:15 am Men's Bible 9 am Quilters 4:30 pm Trustees 5:30 pm Youth Mtg 6:30 pm Elders Mtg	12 Food Pantry 4—5:30 pm	13 10 am LWML Zone Mtg St. Paul's 1:30 pm Stewardship Mtg 5:30 pm Eve's Board Mtg	14 6:30 pm Pastor Sievers Bible Study	15 4 pm Columbia Days Parade
16 SS Kick-Off 9 am Divine Service 10:15 am -Adult Bible Class in F. Hall SS Children & Youth in SS Wing Adult Bible Class in F. Hall	17 Count (Team 1) 6:30 pm Service	18 7:15 am Men's Bible 9 am Quilters	19 7:30 am Rotary Bus. Mtg Food Pantry 1:30—3 pm 6:30 pm B of Communication	20	21 2 pm Bria Worship 3:30 pm Garden Place Worship	22
23 9 am Divine Service 10:15 am -Adult Bible Class in F. Hall SS Children & Youth in SS Wing Adult Bible Class in F. Hall	24 Count (Team 2) 6:30 pm Service	25 7:15 am Men's Bible 9 am Quilters	26	27 Noon Columbia Clergy Mtg	28	29 3:30—7 pm Eve's Restoration Dinner Hop
30 9 am Divine Service 10:15 am -Adult Bible Class in F. Hall SS Children & Youth in SS Wing Adult Bible Class in F. Hall	31 5:30 pm BOCO Mtg	Newsletter Articles Due For September newsletter				

Ladies League September Service Project

For the next 5 Sundays in August
Our Congregation is invited to bring NEW packages of
children's, women, or men's underwear or socks
and place in collection box in the narthex.



Undie Sunday!

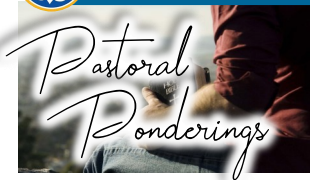


Birthdays & Anniversaries ♥

August 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 Duke Chandler Kathy Stechrnesser Tanner & Kelly Search ♥	3 Robert Roessler Jr	4 Brent Russell Eric & Shari Hofstetter ♥ Greg Holten Peyton Herbeck	5 Layne Katherine Kirmess Steve & Tricia Dinkelman ♥	6 Connor Crank Kyle Peery	7 Bob Schneider Charles Farris Jr Tom & Dana Keeven ♥	1 Rick & Lisa Schmidt ♥ 8 Gregory & Robyn Woolley ♥
9 Robert Roessler Jr	10 Heather Heck Lindsey Eckert Trey Search	11 Audra Cusumano Dianne Bierman Joe Louis Mitzi Ottwell Scott & Jamie Moeslein ♥	12 Jonathan & Diane Busch ♥ Sean & Maria O'Guin ♥	13 Anna Eytchison Ashlyn Farris	14 Laura Ford	15 Emmy June Brown Travis Busch
16 Gail Morrow	17 Clark Mathews Marilyn Miller Wanda Gross	18 Brittany Stahr Doc & Michelle Kleinschmidt ♥ Don Greer	19 Mike Arras Robin Lacefield Steve & Leslie Eckert ♥	20 Anna Eytchison Ashlyn Farris	21 Cole Sackman	22 Brad Roessler
23 Clayton Camp Colston Camp	24 Jason Woodcock	25 Stephanie Willemotte	26 Mike Arras Robin Lacefield Steve & Leslie Eckert ♥	27 Brittany Stahr Doc & Michelle Kleinschmidt ♥ Don Greer	28 Donna Stine	29 Roger Stechrnesser
30 Alexis Grandt Karla Elms Mia Sackman	31 Stephanie Willemotte					





The Importance of Studying God's Word Together

"18 But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen" 2 Peter 3:15

One of the great joys of ministry is leading people through a more in depth look at God's Word.

We do this every Sunday morning here at St. Paul's, and I would invite you to consider growing in your understanding of God's Word by also joining us in this study. If you have not done this before, please know that you will not be asked to read out loud and I try not to put anyone on the spot with questions. You can bring your Bible or use a Bible provided.

Adult Bible Education

Starting Sunday, August 9th, we will be going through 1 Peter verse by verse. This is a Biblical book that deals with the gift of endurance and faith God brings the believer during trials. On Sunday, September 13th, we will begin a class that will cover key insights from the book of Job. In August the class runs from 10:15-11am. Starting September 13th, our class will go from 9:15am-10:15am.

August Sunday Morning Adult Bible Class

August 9th-September 6th **Sept 13th-October 25th**
Hope and Endurance **"Beyond the Why"**

- A verse by verse look at 1 Peter -A thematic look at the Key themes in Job



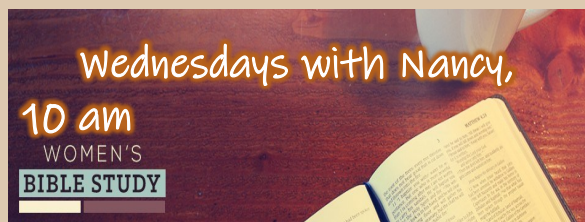
Fraturdays, Once a Month: 2026

EYES on Isaiah

Our **Not-for-Couples-Only Bible Class** led by Pastor Sievers will focus on the OT book of Isaiah in 2026, meeting monthly on a convenient Friday. Learn now the Holy Spirit used Isaiah not only to predict with amazing detail our Savior's birth, death, & resurrection, but also to warn & comfort God's people. For more info or to order your \$12 study guide, call or text Pastor Sievers (314-882-2097).

Tuesday Men's Bible Study

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



Women's Bible Study w/Nancy

Will resume on
Wednesday, September 9th at 10 am.
Call 618-340-2995 for more information.



PROGRESSIVE
Dinner Hop



Please join us for
Eve's Restoration Ministries
2nd Annual Dinner Hop.

Each Ticket Includes a 3-Course Meal and
 Activities throughout the night.

Date: Saturday, August 29, 2026

Time: 3:30—7 pm

Registration After July 24th: \$50 per person

Dinner Table of 4 \$200* Dinner Table of 6 \$300*

*Appetizer & Dessert stop is included in your dinner table purchase.

Reservations due by August 12th.



APPETIZER

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

522 S. CHURCH ST.

WATERLOO, IL 62298

DINNER

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

227 NORTH GOOD HAVEN

COLUMBIA IL 62236

DESSERT

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

503 E WASHINGTON STREET

MILLSTADT, ILLINOIS 62260



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.

DID YOU KNOW . . . that Eve's Restoration Ministries is a start-up non-profit 501(c)(3) organization affiliated with our church, & as a charitable organization your gift is tax-deductible. **WOULD YOU LIKE TO GET INVOLVED?**

Contact Amanda Douglas at 314-221-6700 for more information. Have a great summer!

24
 SEPT

Trivia Night
 September 24th, 2026

MARK YOUR
CALENDAR!



Thank you...from Alex & Kaitlyn (Koenigstein) Blum!



We'd like to thank all the members of St. Paul's that were able to attend our wedding ceremony on May 30. We especially want to thank Mitzi & Steve Ottwell and all the other wonderful folks that helped paint, clean and prepare the church in any way. We really appreciate each of you! Alex & Kaitlyn Blum
"Our new address is...

500 Roseville Parkway, Apt 1325,
Roseville CA 95747."



Welcome!
Shane Ihrig Chambers!



Congratulations!
Joseph & Alexandra Louis



About&

Trek through the Bible



SCOTT WOODSMALL photo

Church Building Repair Update:

The Board of Trustees is now getting bids to repair the church entryway walls, and on a replacement air-conditioning unit and air handler. At the time of this newsletter, we are still awaiting our insurance claim but think the repairs will exceed \$20,000. If you can help offset these expenses, please make additional donations to the church building repair fund. Please make your check payable to **St. Paul's Lutheran** and write **"Building Repair Fund"** in the memo line.





DCE Call Meeting:

All are invited to the DCE call meeting in the fellowship hall on **Sunday, August 2nd at 10:15am** (following the 9am service). The call committee has gone over information on 12 candidates, interviewed three candidates, and they have a recommendation for a call.

Junior Confirmation Begins

On Wednesday, September 2nd at 6pm Pastor Krenz would like to meet with all confirmation parents (grades 5-7) and students to discuss the particulars of this year's confirmation program. The **first class** is scheduled to begin on **Wednesday, September 9th**.

There are a couple of options on times for this class (2:30pm Columbia Schools are getting out early) , 4pm, and 6:30pm). If your child is going to be part of the confirmation program this year, please let Pastor Krenz know your

CHILDREN'S Sunday School Pre-School through High School Sunday School: Will start again on **Sunday, August 16th @ 10:15am** preferred time on Wednesday.

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH BACK-TO-SCHOOL POOL PARTY AT THE SCHMOLL'S!

All students entering **5th through 7th grade** are invited to join us for a fun evening as we kick off the new school year- and give a special welcome to our **new 5th graders!**

Friday, August 7 6-8 pm

Come enjoy swimming, food, games, and fellowship with friends, both old and new. It's a great opportunity to reconnect after summer and welcome those who are joining our middle school youth group for the first time!

Please RSVP to Erin at 314-603-8654

The address will be provided when you RSVP. We hope to see you there!

More Information about LCMS Connections, including the option to sign up, can be found at lcms-connections.com. Rev. Wolfmueller has created an online clearinghouse of both singles



LCMS singles: Finding the Lutheran needle in the haystack

By Mary Henrichs (Reporter / June 2026—excerpt; find complete article @ reporter.lcms.org)

Terrin and Gideon Baldwin met on an LCMS singles cruise organized by the Rev. Bryan Wolfmueller in August 2024. They married a year later.

"It's becoming obvious to all of us who are in the older generation — parents and grandparents — that it is increasingly difficult for young people to meet each other and connect," said the Rev. Bryan Wolfmueller, pastor at St. Paul Lutheran Church and Jesus Lutheran Church of the Deaf in Austin, Texas. Wolfmueller has done significant work sharing Lutheran theology online.

Singles in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) looking to find their spouse within the church are often stymied because there are "just very few Lutheran singles that are concentrated in one spot," he explained.

Many LCMS singles agree with his assessment. Matt Nitsch, 28, a technical support specialist in Sheboygan, Wis., concurred: "If you ask a lot of [young LCMS] people, [they will say] they're the only person their age from their church." In Nitsch's congregation, he says, there are "maybe five people within my age range, and two of them are married to each other."

With local LCMS dating pools seeming so small, many singles will try dating outside of the church, but without unity in faith, forming a lasting relationship can be difficult: "Certain things ... you can debate with your significant other — you may like pasta, but then she doesn't," said Matt. "But when it comes to, say, abortion — you want to be aligned."

Marica Turan, a 36-year-old who works in the corporate world near Akron, Ohio, hopes her future husband will share her faith: "[With] Christ in the middle, ... everything else falls into place around that."...



An Obvious OOPS – May I pray for you?

PRAYER is a special privilege our Heavenly Father has given those who believe in His Son Jesus Christ (that's why we properly end our prayers in Jesus' Name). Theologically speaking, it's part of our Heavenly Father's communication system—He talks to us through His Word and we respond to His Word with our prayers.

As we faithfully carry on our Word-Prayer conversations with our Heavenly Father, we grow closer and closer to Him. (Please note how often the Bible records one of our Lord's constant prayer conversations with His Heavenly Father.)

Did you know our Heavenly Father can also use our praying as an outreach tool? Here's how.

Simply say, **"May I pray for you"** the next time you are in conversation with someone and they share a personal concern, need, or problem with you.

If their answer is **"yes"** then pray with them. Don't worry about the words. Just trust the Spirit to make the right ones come out of your mouth and heart. Even if they say **"no"** you have shown them you care and so does our Heavenly Father.

That's this month's OOPS
from your Board of Christian Outreach. Please try it!



August 2026 Newsletter Article

LCMS Foundation
TODAY | TOMORROW | FOREVER

Renee and Fran were chatting as they walked out of Church last Sunday. Renee said, "I finally made the decision to move into a retirement community. My house was just getting to be too much for me, especially after Frank went to be with the Lord. But I just don't know where to get started on the packing. I have lived in that house for thirty years and there is so much stuff to sort through. I'm having a hard time starting." Fran replied, "If you would like, I can come help. I have a lot of boxes, and we can just pick off one room at a time." Renee said, "Oh that would be lovely." The process began on Wednesday with lots of laughter and even a few tears.

There are many "Big Things" in life that become easier to begin if we just have someone along with us. Christian estate planning is one of those. It requires organization of your information. It includes conversations about what you want to accomplish. It culminates in putting together legal documents that seem powerful, and maybe even a little scary.

Your LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor can be your friend who will come along your side to get started. They have expertise and training in helping you move through each step of the process so that you can feel confident about the finished product when you sign documents at your attorney (if necessary). Instead of living with the burden of your procrastination, you can move forward, putting together a faithful stewardship plan directing the gifts the Lord has entrusted to you. For assistance, contact Scott Radden @ 618-977-4049 or scott.radden@lfnd.org.

Please consider using your online bill pay option thru your bank account to send automatic contributions to the church monthly. No need to remember your envelope or your checkbook!!



Comforts of Love Quilters-Tuesdays

Quilters meet Tuesdays from 9 am -10:30 am

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

Thank you for all your support!

Questions?

contact Wanda Gross or Marilyn Snider.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church



**FOOD
PANTRY**
Ministry

227 North Goodhaven Street, Columbia, IL

Food Pantry Needs...Chili, Cereal, and Garden Produce
Aug 5 (1:30-3pm), Aug 12 (4-5:30 pm), Aug 19 (1:30-3pm)



LWML Mission Statement As Lutheran Women in Mission, we joyfully proclaim Christ, support missions, & equip women to honor God by serving others.

LADIES LEAGUE/ LWML

Our July meeting opened at 11:30 in the fellowship hall. Our VP Susan Housewright led us in a devotion "Joy with Christ on Earth and Forever in Eternity." After Comon Table Prayer we enjoyed the lunch, we brought. Our hostesses Susan Housewright and Helen Nowak provided tasty desserts to compliment the patriotic decorations. Our missionary speakers were unavailable to attend as planned. They came and spoke on July 9. We continued with our regular meeting. Attendance was noted, no correspondence this month, minutes were accepted, and finance report was given. Two thirds of our collected birthday and table offerings for the quarter were \$76; a motion was made, seconded, and approved to give money to the missionaries. This was given to them on July 9th.

We then heard from our standing committees.

Comforts of Love--continue to make quilts.

Altar flowers--we discussed the colored vases in the altar nooks. It was decided they would stay through the summer months.

Card Ministry—Wanda Gross has sent out Get Well, Birthday, and Wedding cards. No new news from our other committees.

We recited the **LWML pledge** and Wanda gave the financial report.

We have several people going to the **SID Biennial Convention in September**.

The **August Zone meeting** will be **held at our church**, and we will provide snacks for it.

The **fall retreat** will be held in November at Zion, Belleville, more info to follow.



For the next 5 Sundays in August please bring (NEW) packages of children's, women, or men's underwear or socks and place in collection box in the narthex.

The Ladies League LWML will sort the items at our September meeting. Thank you in advance for your generosity. Something so simple means so much to those in need of them.

New business included:

Contacting Mitzi Ottwell to help her with cleaning the kitchen.

Contact Lillian Koenigstein if you have a Thrivent card that could be used for advertising the Eve's Restoration Home Summer Bazaar. Discussion was held about paying our

speakers, motion made, seconded, and approved to give up to \$50 if speaker requests.

We discussed what our **September Service Project** would be, and it was decided to have an **UNDIE SUNDAY!** For the **5 Sundays in August**, we will have an **ingathering of NEW underwear or socks for boys, girls, men and women**. Such simple things mean so much to those in need of them. There will be a **box in the narthex**.

At our September meeting we will sort out the items, and they will be given to the Orphan Grain Train for distribution. Pastor closed with prayer.

Our **hostesses for August** will be **Kathy Stechmesser and Nancy Radentz**. We will have a speaker talking about their India Mission Trip.



Monthly mtgs are on the first Thursday of the month, at 11:30am in the fellowship hall. If you have questions please contact Jane E Stumpf at 314-852-8776.



Official Acts of the Church

Weddings:

Alex and Kaitlyn Blum 5/30/2026

+

Joseph and Alexandra Louis
6/27/2026

Baptisms:

Shane Ihrig Chambers
6/28/2026

+

Benjamin Donald Twillmann
7/5/2026

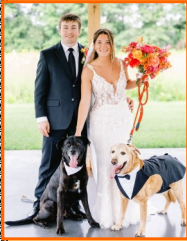
Funeral

Alberta Spradling 6/25/2026

+

Death

Benjamin Donald Twillmann 7/5/2026



Member Spotlight

**Derek & Bethany Niehaus, w/
Paloma, Augustine & Mozelle**

We have been members of St. Paul for 7 years. We had been members at Timothy in St. Louis, and after moving to Waterloo and trying for a year plus to maintain our membership there, it got too challenging, so we visited a few LCMS churches in the area and decided we liked it at St. Paul's the best.

What we like best about St. Paul Lutheran is the people, traditional services, and the traditional music during service.

Bethany serves on the Board of Education, and I have served as a substitute Sunday School teacher. It's also always been fun and enjoyable (when our schedules have allowed) helping set up and tear down at VBS, and helping during the VBS week.

Our family's favorite bible passage is probably Psalm 23. We love how it lays out calmness and faith in times of trial and tribulation.



Columbia Days Parade

Sat, Aug 15, 4pm

We will have a float in the parade again this year to represent both our church and preschool.

We need about 6 adults to walk to handout flyers

and candy or crayons.

We also welcome students to ride on the float. Please sign up on the sheet in the Narthex.



Newsletter Deadline for Submissions

(articles, photos, calendar updates)

For September 2026 Newsletter: August 24th

PASS THE PLATE AUGUST

WE ARE BLESSED WITH OUR ELDERS, USHERS
AND VOLUNTEERS WHO SERVE OUR CHURCH.

WE WILL ONCE AGAIN
PASS THE
OFFERING PLATE
DURING
OUR SERVICES.





"As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace"
1 Peter 1:10



Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In response to God's love in Christ Jesus Christians are to serve their neighbors at home, in the community, at work, and at church. While service within the congregation is not a holier call than other places we serve, there are ample opportunities to love our neighbor within the church. If your time and ability allows, prayerfully consider serving for a time on one of the boards or committees of

the church. These include the board of finance, education, outreach, trustees, stewardship, communications, cemetery, youth, and elders. There are also opportunities for you to serve as a Sunday School teacher/helper, in the choir, bell choir, assist with youth activities, volunteer at the food pantry, work with the church property, use your musical gifts in worship, volunteer with Eve's Restoration Home, sending cards to those in need, assist in the church office with the newsletter, be a college student liaison, work on the church property, assist with ushering, the outdoor church sign, and the list goes on. You may have other ideas on ways our church can more effectively serve those within and outside the congregation, and if so let us know. Thank the Lord for the privilege of serving him in your family, at work, the community, and also in the church.

Blessings in Christ,
Pastor Krenz

Sundays

9 am Divine Worship Service

10:15 am Bible Study for Adults

Mondays

6:30 pm Divine Worship Service

Inside this issue:

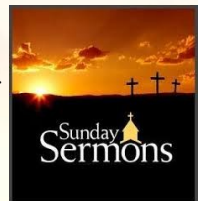
Newsletter Deadline Official Acts of the Church Member Spotlight Columbia Days Parade Invite Church Picnic Save Date	2
LWML/Ladies League	3
OOPS! Financial Update Food Pantry Comforts of Love Quilters	4
Children's Sunday School Youth News - Pool Party DCE Call Update Fall Confirmation Classes	5
Photo Dump	6
Pastoral Ponderings Eve's Restoration Ministries Adult Bible Education	7
Birthdays & Anniversaries	8
Event Calendar	9
Worship with us!	10
Pastor Stephen Krenz 618-363-0121	

August 2nd & 3rd

"Why the Church?

Through the Church God Brings Bread Aplenty."

Matthew 14:13-21



August 9th & 10th

"Jesus Saves Even in Doubt" Matthew 14:22-33 Joshua Gillespie

August 16th & 17th

"Why the Church? Through the Church God Gathers the Outcasts."

Isaiah 56:1, 6-8

August 23rd and 24th

"Why the Church? Through the Church God Gives the Keys to the Kingdom"

Matthew 16:13-20

August 30th and 31st

"Delight, Commit, and Be Still. The Look of Faithfulness."

Psalms 37:4-7

Eve's Dinner Hop

August 29

Annual Church Picnic

September 20

Ask An Expert - Wills & Estate Planning

October 18th 6-8 pm

Reformation Service w/ Circuit Congregation October 31 (Hosted at St. Paul's)



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!