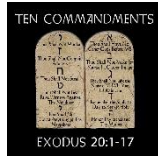


SEPTEMBER 2026 St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church Connection
106 S. Maple St. PO Box 357 North Freedom, WI 53951

Message from the Pastor



The Ninth & Tenth Commandments

“You shall not covet...” (Exodus 20:17)

Patrick seemed to have it all: A good-paying job, a loving family, a nice home with a two-car garage. But he wasn't happy. Down the street a neighbor had a three-car garage to keep his big boat. “I wish I could make that kind of money to afford a bigger home,” he thought to himself. “But I don't have time to take on an extra job. It's just unfair.”

Jane worked hard at school, but she struggled to get a C, much less an A. She didn't have many friends either. Jane envied the smart, athletic, popular girls at her school. “If only I could join their crowd, people would like me. But they'd never accept a loser like me.”

Wally had a secret problem. He wasn't married and was too shy to ask women out for a date. But he still lusted after women, which drove him to click on pornographic sites on his phone and his laptop.

Patrick, Jane and Wally are all examples of breaking the ninth and tenth commandments, “You shall not covet your neighbor's house. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, etc.” Coveting is a sinful desire of wanting something God doesn't want us to have. It can take the form of greed, envy, lust or bitterness. Because envy comes from the heart, the state can't pass laws against coveting. But God, who looks at the heart, calls it a sin.

Some might protest, “But it's human nature to want something you don't have and strive to

get it. It's good to be ambitious and a go-getter. It's healthy to have some discontent so you can get ahead.” God doesn't condemn ambition and making the most out of what we have. What he condemns is the sinful desire that leads us to get things, or try to get things, that aren't rightfully ours.

When we go through the Ten Commandments, we might fool ourselves into thinking, “I never misuse God's name. I always go to church. I obey state laws and respect the police. I think I've obeyed these commandments.” Until we get to the Ninth and Tenth Commandments. We look inside our hearts and we know there's plenty of coveting going on in there. We need to confess to God the sins of our hearts as well as the outward sins we do.

Only one can claim to have a pure, sinless heart: Jesus. “In him is no sin,” St. John wrote (1 Jn. 3:5). Jesus kept himself pure so that he could shed his innocent blood to pay for all of our sins. In Jesus, you and I have now been purified, washed clean of sin. Let's thank God for Jesus' work by keeping ourselves pure, as Paul reminds us: “Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires” (Galatians 5:24).

--Pastor Timothy Blauert

SEPTEMBER SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Sep. 6: 15th Sunday after Pentecost. 8:30 am communion service. “Our brother's keeper.”

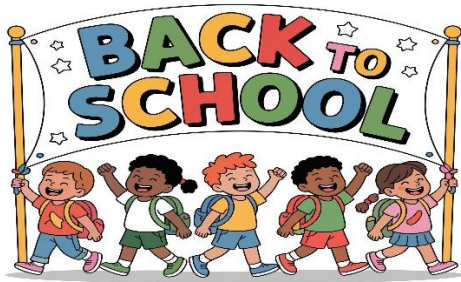
Sep. 13: 16th Sunday after Pentecost. 7:30, 10 am services. “Forgive as God forgives.”

Sep. 20: 17th Sunday after Pentecost. 7:30, 10 am communion services. “Not fair, but grace”

Sep. 27: 18th Sunday after Pentecost. 7:30, 10 am services. “Repent and obey.”

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BACK TO SCHOOL

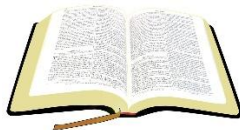


Sunday School will start classes on Sunday, September 13 at 8:30 a.m. or right after the first service. Lori Cook and Lynn Zimmerman will be our teachers, assisted by Rylee Zeman. Sunday School is encouraged for all kids, ages 3½ through 12!

Confirmation Class for 7th-8th grade public students will be meeting on Wednesdays, starting September 9. We will let you know what time the class will be.

Thank you to all who helped with Vacation Bible School that met August 10-13! A total of 13 kids attended. Thank you also to all who bought school supplies for needy students of St. John's, Baraboo and North Freedom Elementary. They are being distributed this week.

BIBLE CLASS



Topic: "The Holy Spirit, Silent Member of the Trinity."

Times: Sunday, Sept. 20 and 27, 8:45 am

For: All adults and teens!

BAPTISM



Isaac Timothy Rathman, son of Luke and Mariah Rathman, was born of water and the Spirit on Sunday, August 9 at St. Paul's. We rejoice in welcoming Isaac to God's family!

LADIES' ACTIVITIES

Salad/Appetizer luncheon: Tuesday, Sept. 8.

All ladies of the church are invited to come for the luncheon at 6 pm! We've also invited the ladies from Rock Springs, Hill Point and Lime Ridge. There's a sign-up sheet at church to write down what you're planning to bring to share. Also, please bring 2 or 3 \$1 items for dice game prizes.

LWMS Fall Rally will be held here at St. Paul's on Saturday, October 17th. We would like to meet briefly after fellowship on September 6 to plan the event. All ladies are asked to attend this brief meeting. Thank you.



GAME NIGHT: Tuesday, Sept. 15



You're invited to join us at 6:30 for an evening of fun, games and fellowship! Bring a snack to share, a beverage, your favorite game, and a friend to join in the fun!

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CARDS



Mary Klemm is our Sunshine Lady for St. Paul's. If anyone is sick or needs a card of encouragement, please contact her.

ALTAR GUILD

The altar guild sign-up sheet is on the table in the fellowship hall. This is a great way to help with worship at St. Paul's. Please call the church if you are interested and have questions. We are also looking for an altar guild coordinator. Talk to Rose Vertein or pastor for more information. Thank you!



Altar Flowers

On the table in the fellowship hall, please sign up to bring altar flowers for a particular Sunday, in honor of a birthday or anniversary, in memory of a loved one, or just on your own. Please refer to the directions in the fellowship hall for caring for altar flowers.

Our offerings and service to the Lord

July 26, 7:30 am Attend.: 33; Offering: \$1,180
10 am Attend.: 20; Offering: \$375
Aug. 2, 8:30 am Attend.: 33; Offering: \$1,655
Aug. 9, 7:30 am Attend.: 30, Offering: \$1,085
10 am Attend.: 14; Offering: \$300
Aug. 16, 7:30 am Attend.: 33, Offering: \$790
10 am Attend.: 16, Offering: \$940
Aug. 23, 7:30 am Attend.: 22, Offering: \$664
10 am Attend.: 17, Offering: \$553

Average attendance: 7:30 am: 30; 10 am: 17; 8:30 am (combined): 33.

NEWS from the WELS



1) Around noon on Monday, July 27, a tornado ripped through northeastern Wisconsin, causing damage to Bethel, Menasha, a bilingual WELS church with about 500 members. The tornado also damaged Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Preschool, located on Bethel's property, a shared ministry of Bethel and Mount Calvary, Harrison, Wis. No fatalities were reported with this tornado.

WELS Christian Aid and Relief is supporting Bethel and area WELS members with recovery efforts and financial aid as needed. From July 30—Aug. 3, about 75 volunteers helped clear fallen trees and clean up properties damaged by the storm. Read more about this in the latest issue of Forward in Christ, Sept. '26, page 24.

2) Two new directors are now serving at the WELS Center for Mission and Ministry in Waukesha, Wisconsin. Mark Maurice is the new executive director for WELS Investment Funds and WELS Foundation. WELS Investment Funds, a self-supporting subsidiary of WELS, provides cost-effective, professionally managed investment portfolios for more than 270 WELS ministries, affiliated organizations, and congregations. WELS Foundation offers planned giving support to donors through WELS Christian giving counselors.

Carolyn Barsch is the new director of Communication Services, which oversees items like *Forward in Christ*, *WELS Connection*, the "Together" e-newsletter and the WELS website.

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ST. PAUL'S "INFORMATION" PAGE

Pastor: Rev. Timothy Blauert
Church secretary: Elaine Shimniok

Contact us: Church office: 608-522-4493
Pastor's cell phone: 507-279-8560
Email: stpaulsnf@hotmail.com or
tkblauert@outlook.com

Website address: www.stpaulslutheran-nf.org

Worship times: Sundays 7:30 and 10 a.m.
First Sunday, 8:30 a.m.
Communion, 1st & 3rd Sundays

Sunday School: Will resume on Sunday,
September 13 (8:30 am).

Adult Bible study: Sundays at 8:45 a.m. or
after the service on the 1st Sunday of the month.

Church Council

President: Dave Zimmerman
Vice-president: Paul Fuller
Secretary: John Shimniok
Treasurer: Mark Shimniok
Financial secretary: Jeremy Zimmerman
Head usher: Bill Page

Ladies' Aid

President: Elaine Shimniok
Secretary: Kristine Blauert
Treasurer: Elaine Shimniok
Sunshine Lady: Mary Klemm
LWMS Reporter: Kristine Blauert

Church organist

Susan Grossenbacher

Church Custodian

Vonnie Leifer

**Please remember our shut-in members with
your prayers and visits**

Delores Raddatz (at home)
Ellie Schultz

Please let Pastor know if you are sick, in the hospital, or are having any other difficulties. He'll be glad to visit and have a devotion and pray with you, as well as offer communion. His contact information is on the left column of this page.



Happy Anniversary!

Jim & Suzanne Dohner – September 2, 1971
Adam & Brook-Lynn Klaetsch – Sept. 7, 2013
Luke & Mariah Rathman – September 7, 2024
Roy & Corisa Schneider – September 8, 2018
Larry & Laurie Ahrensmeyer – Sept. 14, 1996
Larry & Laurie Wiese – September 15, 1990
Jerry & Vonnie Leifer – September 17, 1977
Joshua & Brenda Zeman – September 27, 2003



Happy Birthday to:

Colson Zimmerman – September 2
Joe Gray – September 3
Alexis Zeman – September 4
Rose Vertein – September 5
Sarah Ahrensmeyer – September 6
Brayden McLaughlin – September 6
Brea Nehring – September 8
John McLaughlin – September 10
Sally Glorch – September 12
Linda Klaetsch – September 18
Casey Klingenmeyer – September 18
Delores Raddatz – September 18
Patricia Klemm – September 28