

**AUGUST 2025      St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church Connection**  
**106 S. Maple St.   PO Box 357   North Freedom, WI 53951**

***Message from the Pastor***



**Zionism**

But you have come to Mount Zion, to the heavenly Jerusalem, the city of the living God. (Hebrews 12:22a)

“Zionism” is a word that you may have seen in the news in recent months. It’s the idea that the Jewish people have the right to have their own state and nation in their ancestral home of Israel. Since 1948, the dream of Zionists became reality when the nation of Israel was carved out; many Jews settled in Israel while many Palestinians were displaced. Tensions between the two have continued to this day—to state the obvious.

The name “Zion” refers to a mountain or high hill in Jerusalem which David conquered as king (2 Samuel 5:7). It later became another name for Jerusalem and for the temple Solomon built in Jerusalem (900s BC). Jeremiah lamented the fall of “Zion” in the 500s BC, mentioning Zion 14 times in the book of Lamentations. But the prophet Isaiah recorded the Lord’s prophecy, “See, I lay in Zion a stone that causes men to stumble”—a Messiah who would restore people to Zion.

Some Christians believe that, based on Old Testament prophecies of the return of God’s people to Israel, we should be Zionists. Their Zionism includes a belief that when the nation of Israel gets restored and the full number of Jews returns, then Christ will come. But this is not really what the Bible says. When Paul wrote in Romans 11:26, “All Israel will be saved,” and quoted the passage in Isaiah 59:20, “The deliverer will come from Zion,” he was referring to “New Zion” or “New Jerusalem,” that means the Holy Christian Church. The

writer to the Hebrews makes that clear in the verse above: “the heavenly Jerusalem, the city of the living God.” All “Israel”—all believers in Christ—will be saved.

It’s for this reason that our church does not take a stand on “Zionism”, whether or not we should be pro-Israel or pro-Palestinian in their conflict. Zionism is political, not religious. The physical nation of Israel is not made up of believers in Christ, any more than the Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank are Christian believers.

Whenever we gather around the Word, as we receive Holy Communion, when we baptize a new believer, we have come to Mount Zion—spiritually. One day we will reach the heavenly Jerusalem, with all believers in heaven. There will be no more strife, no more war, no more death, no more sin. Look to Jesus (and not the nation of Israel), for he alone will bring about our everlasting salvation.

*--Pastor Timothy Blauert*

**August Worship**

Sunday, Aug. 3. 8<sup>th</sup> Sun. after Pentecost. 8:30 a.m. communion service. Theme: The Value of Earthly Wealth.

Sunday, Aug. 10. 9<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost. 7:30 and 10 a.m. worship. Theme: The Value of Heavenly Treasure.

Sunday, Aug. 17 10<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost. 7:30 and 10 a.m. communion services. Theme: Challenges to our Faith.

Sunday, Aug. 24 11<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost. 7:30 and 10 a.m. worship. Pastor Dan Burgess of St. Paul’s, Mauston/Friendship, preacher.

Sunday, Aug. 31 12<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost. 7:30 and 10 a.m. worship. Pastor Chip Wilke of St. Paul’s, Mauston/Friendship, preacher.

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**Daily Devotions in August:** Readings in Jeremiah, Lamentations and Ezekiel, and Psalms 85-91. We will not have devotions the weeks of August 24 and 31 because of pastor's vacation. Remain in the Word!



## ***BIBLE STUDY***

Our Summer Bible study series is studying Paul's joy-filled letter to the Philippians. This month we are meeting on August 3 after the fellowship hour, and on August 17 from 8:45 to 9:40 a.m. We encourage all members, especially adults and teens, to attend.

## ***Vacation Bible School***



**August 4-7 at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, North Freedom**

**Time: 9:15 to 11:15 a.m.**

**For: All kids ages 4K to 6<sup>th</sup> grade.**

Bible lessons and activities, snacks and recess, arts and crafts, music will be featured each day. You can register ahead of time by calling the church number, (608)522-4493, or Pastor Blauert's cell phone (507)279-8560.

Fliers and posters are available at church for you to invite your neighbors and family to V.B.S. Spread the word!

## **GAME NIGHT: Monday, August 18**



Our monthly game night will be Monday, August 18 at 6:30 p.m. Bring your favorite board or card game, a snack to share and something to drink. Friends are welcome too!

**Church Council:** Our next meeting will be on Sunday, August 10 at 8:30 a.m.

## ***School Supplies Collection***

We are wrapping up our school supply collection early in August and will distribute them to North Freedom School and St. John's Lutheran School in Baraboo. Thank you for your generous support!

## ***LADIES' AID UPDATE***

After being off June and July, the Ladies' Aid will be resuming their meetings on the second Tuesday of the month. We'll meet at church on August 12 at 6:30 p.m. All women of St. Paul's are encouraged to come.

We are collecting for the LWMS fall rally at church through the first week of October. The container is on the table before you go into the sanctuary.

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## ***THANK YOU!***

--To all who contributed for the cookie and water sale at Freedom Days (June 28 & 29).  
We raised \$      for the sale.

--To St. Paul's members for contributing to the MLC Tuition Assistance Fund, for our member Faith Blauert's last semester at Martin Luther College. We were able to reach our goal of \$800, which will be matched by MLC.

## **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 for 2025 is on the table in the fellowship hall. This is a great way to help with worship at St. Paul's. Please speak with Rose Vertein if you are interested and have questions. 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.

## **WELS Update**



In May, 26 graduates of Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, Mequon, Wisconsin, received calls as pastors. We thank the Lord for blessing our church with them. After assignment day, there are still 132 vacancies in congregations throughout our synod.

There were 101 students from Martin Luther College, New Ulm, who received assignments, 98 as teachers to schools, and 3 to congregations as staff ministers. There are still 102 teacher vacancies in our synod.

Please pray to the Lord to send more workers in the harvest field!

## ***Our Offerings & Service to the Lord***

June 29, 7:30 am	Attend.: 27; Offering: \$1,125
10 am	Attend.: 10; Offering: \$130
July 6, 8:30 am	Attend.: 41; Offering: \$3,088
July 13, 7:30 am	Attend.: 35; Offering: \$1,295
10 am	Attend.: 19; Offering: \$720
July 20, 7:30 am	Attend.: 23; Offering: \$715
10 am	Attend.: 11; Offering: \$305

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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](mailto:stpaulsnf@hotmail.com) or

[tkblauert@outlook.com](mailto:tkblauert@outlook.com).

**Website address:** [www.stpaulslutheran-nf.org](http://www.stpaulslutheran-nf.org)

**Worship times:** Sundays 7:30 and 10 a.m.

First Sunday, 8:30 a.m.

Communion, 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays

**Sunday School:** Sundays at 8:45 a.m., or after the service on the first Sunday of the month (starting in September).

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

**Church Council**

President: Jim Dohner

Vice-president: Dave Zimmerman

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: Linda Ennis

**Church organist**

Susan Grossenbacher

**Church Custodian**

Vonnie Leifer

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

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 to:**

Timothy & Kristine Blauert (August 12, 2000)

Melvin & Kay Gaetzke (August 14, 2010)

Adam & Cathy Hehenberger (August 21, 2010)

Raymond & Judy Sorenson (August 24, 1968)

John & Melanie McLaughlin (August 28, 2004)



**Happy Birthday to:**

Paxton Zimmerman – August 3

Cora Schneider – August 5

Adam Klaetsch – August 7

Alvin Klaetsch – August 15

Corisa Schneider – August 17

Sandra Bender – August 24

Elaine Shimniok – August 25

Passage to ponder this month: Colossians 3:2.  
*"Set your mind on things above, not on earthly things."*

**VACATION**

Pastor and Kristine will be on vacation from the afternoon of August 19 through September 3. Emergencies will be taken by a local WELS pastor—check the bulletin who to call. Two pastors from Mauston and Adams-Friendship will be preaching on August 24 and 31.