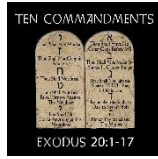


AUGUST 2026 St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church Connection
106 S. Maple St. PO Box 357 North Freedom, WI 53951

Message from the Pastor



The Eighth Commandment

“You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.” (Exodus 20:16)

Murder. Adultery. Stealing. Hatred. Lust. Greed. The fifth, sixth and seventh commandments address those big sins. Then we come to the eighth commandment: “False witness. Lying.” They are sins, but somehow they don’t seem quite as wicked as other sins.

It would be a mistake for us to minimize the eighth commandment or to say it’s less important than others. Jesus called the devil a “liar and the father of all lies,” for “there is no truth in him” (Jn. 8:44). Read Genesis 3:1-5 when the devil made his appearance and notice the lies, the deception, and the half-truths that the devil used to tempt Eve. Those who think it’s fine to lie in certain situations, to get out of trouble or to gain favor, belong to the devil.

False testimony includes more than telling lies, however. It is defined as all talk that comes from a false heart. Spreading rumors and malicious gossip, whether true or not, help ruin a person’s reputation. Slander, giving someone a bad name, is as hurtful as punching someone in the face. “A gossip betrays a confidence,” Proverbs 11:13 points out. It destroys trust and devastates relationships.

We need to remember the second table of the law, “Love your neighbor as yourself” (Matt. 23:39). When our hearts are filled with love for our neighbor, we won’t be lying to them or spreading rumors about them. Think of how

much we treasure our good name. Love for our neighbor will move us to defend their good name, speak up for them when they’re being run down by others, and take their words and actions in the kindest possible way.

We have to admit how easily we sin against this commandment. Even beyond the fibs we say, we look at our hearts and find sin lurking there, wanting to trash our neighbor’s good name and elevate our own. We need to repent of our sins against this commandment.

Then we look to our Lord Jesus. The one who is the Truth suffered for our lies; the Son who always acted in love for us, died for loveless acts. But when we’re sorry, Jesus says, “I forgive you. I love you. Go in peace.” Moved by his love for us, let’s act in love for all the people in our lives, friends and enemies, church members and neighbors, family and acquaintances, and speak the truth in love to them (Ephesians 4:15).

--Pastor Timothy Blauert

AUGUST SUNDAY WORSHIP THEMES

Aug. 2: 10th Sunday after Pentecost. 8:30 am communion service. “Gaining real wealth.”

Aug. 9: 11th Sunday after Pentecost. 7:30, 10 am services. “Doubt is answered by faith.”

Aug. 16: 12th Sunday after Pentecost. 7:30, 10 am communion services. “Gentiles are brought into the church.”

Aug. 23: 13th Sunday after Pentecost. 7:30, 10 am services. “The Rock on which Christ builds the church.”

Aug. 30: 14th Sunday after Pentecost. 7:30, 10 am services. “First the cross, then the crown.”

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VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Mon., Aug. 10—Thurs., Aug. 13

9:15 to 11:30 a.m.

For All kids, 3 ½ to 6th grade

Fliers are available at church for members to hand to their neighbors and friends with kids.

If you would like to volunteer as a helper, call Pastor Blauert, 507-279-8560.

If you would like to contribute snacks for VBS, call Vonnie Leifer, 608-522-4936.

CHURCH COUNCIL meeting is on Sunday, August 9 at 8:30 a.m.

Ladies' Aid: Tuesday, August 11, 6:30 pm

Summer/Fall Bible Study



On August 16, our Bible Class will start a new topic: "The Holy Spirit." Bible Class times will be 8:45 to 9:45 a.m. on the 16th, 23rd and 30th. Come and learn more about the "silent" member of the Trinity! All adults and teens are welcome to attend.

BAPTISM



Bodhi Dean Rathman, son of Dalton and Regalle Rathman, was born of water and the Spirit on Sunday, July 12 at St. Paul's. We rejoice in welcoming Bodhi to God's family!

GAME NIGHT: Wednesday, August 19

This month our game night will be back at St. Paul's fellowship hall. Come at 6:30 p.m. and bring a snack to share, a beverage, your favorite game, and a friend to join in the fun!

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 Verlein 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.

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106 S. Maple St. PO Box 357 North Freedom, WI 53951

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!

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 – Aug. 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

Our offerings and service to the Lord

June 28, 7:30 am Attend.: 24; Offering: \$1,075
10 am Attend.: 10; Offering: \$340
July 5, 8:30 am Attend.: 26; Offering: \$2,195
July 12, 7:30 am Attend.: 25; Offering: \$940
10 am Attend.: 20; Offering: \$1,595
July 19, 7:30 am Attend.: 23; Offering: \$585
10 am Attend.: 13; Offering: \$375

Average attendance: 7:30 am: 24; 10 am: 14.

AUGUST 2026 St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church Connection

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Congregation Meeting Minutes from July 12, 2026

Councilmen present were Dave Z., John S., Mark S., Paul F., and Jeremy Z. Fourteen members attended, including Pastor.

The meeting was called to order by President Dave Zimmerman with a prayer by Pastor Blauert.

Minutes from the last Congregation meeting were approved. 1st Paul F., 2nd Mark S.

The agenda for today's meeting was approved. 1st Harold B., 2nd Walt K.

Pastor's Report: Approved. 1st Harold B., 2nd Jeremy Z. Pastor stated that 2nd quarter attendance averaged 44.5 and for the first half of 2026 was 46. Bohdi Rathman, son of Dalton and Regalle Rathman is scheduled for a private baptism today following the 10 a.m. service. Adult Bible Study will complete the topic "James: Real Faith for Real Life" on July 19th. The next topic will begin on August 16th. Vacation Bible School (VBS) will be held August 10-13. Lori Cook, Vonnie Leifer and Pastor will be leading classes. They are looking for volunteers to help out. Sunday School will be starting in September, as will 7th grade confirmation class. One student is at St. John's and we have one that will be having class here at St. Paul's. Dave Z. and Pastor are making contact with inactive members. Pastor & Kristine will be on vacation from July 22-31. Pastor Karow from Rock Springs will be handling emergency calls and Pastor Curt Holub, who was our vacancy pastor, will preach on September 26th. Pastor Blauert is planning to teach grades 5 and 6 at St. John's, Baraboo.

Treasurer's Report was read and approved. 1st Paul F., 2nd Walt K.

New Business: Linda Ennis transferred to Faith, Reedsburg, Wisconsin.

There was discussion about having only one service when we have a Guest Preacher. It was decided that the decision would be left up to the Guest Pastor.

Dave Zimmerman is going to repair the sidewalk areas by the parsonage.

Reminder that there will be a Brat/Hot dog cookout on July 14 at 6 p.m. Please sign up if attending.

Thank you to all who helped with North Freedom Days parade and selling cookies and water. \$234 was raised from the sale.

A reminder was mentioned to be sure to put your name on your offering envelope and designate where you want your offering to go.

Motion to close meeting. 1st – John S., 2nd Mark S. Pastor closed meeting with a prayer.

Next Congregation Meeting will be Sunday, October 11 at 8:30 a.m.

Submitted by John Shimniok, Secretary