

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

Message from the Pastor



Halloween

...and the spirit returns to God who gave it.
(Ecclesiastes 12:7b)

Halloween has become the second biggest holiday in America, judging from commercial sales. (The biggest commercial holiday, of course, is Christmas.) Already homes are getting decorated with spooky ghosts and skeletons. Costumes are being purchased and candy is getting gathered for trick-or-treaters who will throng the streets on October 31.

It might surprise you that Halloween was originally a Christian holiday, of sorts. November 1st was known as All Hallows Day (some churches still have All Saints Day), commemorating well known believers who have died and gone to heaven. In the Middle Ages, especially in Ireland and Scotland, the evening before All Hallows Day was a time to pray superstitiously for souls supposedly in purgatory, and to ward off evil spirits. The custom of baking and sharing “soul cakes” was to help remember the souls in purgatory—a forerunner of treats shared at Halloween.

In the late Middle Ages in Ireland and Scotland, on Halloween Christians would also carry lanterns in hollowed-out pumpkins and turnips that represented the souls of the dead. Jack-o-lanterns were carried around to ward off evil spirits.

For poor churches preparing for All Hallows Day, and unable to afford the relics of saints (another medieval superstition), costumes of saints were worn instead. The custom of wearing costumes for Halloween continued.

Still other Halloween customs trace their roots to pagan culture, again especially in Ireland, where Gaelic and Celtic rites and rituals to contact spirits and cast spells were done. Somehow these pagan customs blended with Catholic superstitions for Halloween.

In the early years of our country, Halloween was not practiced because the Church of England and Puritans forbade it. It grew in popularity in the 19th century with waves of Scotch and Irish immigrants, and became wide spread in the early 20th century.

Today Halloween is looked at as a harmless day of dress up and handing out candy, with a bit of spookiness mixed in. Christians can join in the fun. But it might be good to remember Halloween's roots, and stay away from the superstitions that are still present in it today. Ghosts, goblins and spirits of the dead are not spooking around. At death, “the spirit returns to God who gave it” (Ecc. 12:7). Any actual “spirits” that do have power are from the devil. Stay away from the devil—and just enjoy the Superhero outfits and the candy!

--Pastor Timothy Blauert

October Worship

Sunday, Oct. 5. 17th Sunday after Pentecost.
8:30 a.m. communion service. Theme: Faith and Duty. (Fellowship hour afterwards.)

Sunday, Oct. 12. 18th Sunday after Pentecost.
7:30 and 10 a.m. worship. Theme: Generosity Produces Gratitude.

Sunday, Oct. 19. 19th Sunday after Pentecost.
7:30 and 10 a.m. communion services. Theme: Promises Produce Persistence in Prayer.

Sunday, Oct. 26 Synodical Anniversary Service. 7:30 and 10 a.m. worship. Theme: Christ with Us.

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Daily Devotions in October: The readings will focus on the Old Testament books after the exile. We will finish Daniel, and read through Ezra, Haggai, Zechariah, Nehemiah, Esther and Malachi. Psalms 98-104 will be included.

Meditations are also available for you.

Continue in the Word and grow in faith and love!

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, October 5

9:30 a.m. (after the 8:30 service)

All confirmed members are encouraged to come and participate! Fellowship hour will start immediately after the meeting.



BIBLE STUDY

Our Fall Bible study series is on the Nicene Creed. Class times are on Sunday between the church services from 8:45 to 9:45 a.m., on October 12, 19, and 26. All adults and teens are welcome to join us!

Sunday School

Kids, don't miss out on Sunday School! All kids from 4 years old through 6th grade can come each Sunday, between the services on Oct. 12, 19 and 26, and after our combined service on Oct. 5. Lori Cook and Lynn Zimmerman are our teachers. See you there!

LADIES' AID NEWS

Our next Ladies' Aid meeting will be Tuesday, October 14th at 6:30 p.m. All ladies are welcome. We will be planning the spaghetti dinner (see the next column) and discussing further plans for future events, as well as taking time to grow in our faith.

SPAGHETTI DINNER



Wednesday, Oct. 22

The Ladies' Aid is bringing back the fall spaghetti dinner fundraiser on Wed., Oct. 22 at 6 p.m. We will have a sign-up sheet for what to bring and for who is coming. Thank you for participating and helping out. We're looking forward to a night of good food and fun!

LWMS UPDATE

(Lutheran Women's Missionary Society)

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.

The next LWMS rally will be at St. Paul's Lutheran in Mauston on Saturday, Oct. 18. Registration is at 9 a.m. Pastor Nathan Schulte will give a presentation on *Academia Christo*.

GAME NIGHT, Tuesday, Oct. 21st



We are moving the monthly game night from the 3rd Monday to the 3rd Tuesday! Game time will still be at 6:30 p.m. Bring your favorite board or card game, a snack to share, and a friend!

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LINDA ENNIS MOVING SALE

October 2-4 at St. Paul's fellowship hall

Thank you to everyone helping Linda prepare for her move with this big sale! The sale will be at the fellowship hall the first Thursday through Saturday; if there are still many items to sell, the sale will be held the following Thursday through Sunday as well. This is not a church fundraiser, but Linda's event.

FALL CLEAN-UP



Inside Church: Clean-up day is planned for Saturday, October 25th. Please come in the morning if you can. If you aren't able to come on Saturday, there will be a list of things needing to be done that you can check off on your own time that week.

Outside church: The Dohners washed windows already. (Thank you!) A few items need to get repaired; a list is available at church. Please sign your name if you can tackle that project and put a check mark when it's done. This can be done any time in October through early November (hopefully before the snow starts!).

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.

Our Offerings & Service to the Lord

Aug. 31, 7:30 am Attend.: 23; Offering: \$810
10 am Attend.: 11; Offering: \$345
Sep. 7, 8:30 am Attend.: 47; Offering: \$1,945
Sep. 14, 7:30 am Attend.: 28; Offering: \$1,570
10 am Attend.: 23; Offering: \$975
Sep. 21, 7:30 am Attend.: 30 ; Offering: \$1,175
10 am Attend.: 21; Offering: \$615

Average attendance: 8:30 am (combined): 47; 7:30 am: 27; 10 am: 18.

Notice: We will not have "Trunk or Treat" for this year's Halloween. We will evaluate it for the future.



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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: Sundays at 8:45 a.m., or after
the service on the first Sunday of the month.

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

Rick & Lori Hehenberger (October 2, 1982)
Dave & Lynn Zimmerman (October 9, 1976)
Richard & Claudia Galston (October 10, 1981)
Dalton & Regalle Rathman (October 12, 2019)
Dan & Angela Filip (October 14, 2000)
Brendon & Carrah Shimniok (Oct. 14, 2023)



Happy Birthday to:

Dalton Rathman – October 4
Walter Klaetsch – October 8
Luke Rathman – October 8
Timothy Blauert – October 10
Brenda Zeman – October 10
Morgan Weber – October 11
James Dohner – October 16
Scott Klemm – October 16
Scarlett Klaetsch – October 17
Kody Weiland – October 18
Kyle Weiland – October 18
Archie Weber – October 20
Melanie Zimmerman – October 28
Claudia Galston – October 30
Michael Weiland – October 30