

JULY 2025 St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church Connection

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

Message from the Pastor



True Freedom

*It is for freedom that Christ has set us free.
Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be
burdened again by a yoke of slavery.
(Galatians 5:1)*

“Freedom Days” has returned to North Freedom. The last weekend of June is a busy time for our little village, hosting hundreds of visitors enjoying carnival rides, fair food, and a grand parade which our congregation is participating in. Then, in just a few days we’ll celebrate the Fourth of July and the freedoms that we enjoy in our land since the Declaration of Independence was signed 249 years ago.

Our country treasures its freedoms. We enjoy the right to worship without government interference, free speech, freedom of the press and freedom of assembly, the right to bear arms, and other freedoms in the Bill of Rights. Some political parties, especially the Libertarians, want to expand our freedoms and get rid of certain laws that make many drugs illegal and penalize companies from polluting.

Freedom is certainly on our minds these days. But what is “true freedom”? Is it the freedom to do what we want, when we want it? Such “freedom” would actually be slavery. Jesus said, “Everyone who sins is a slave to sin” (John 8:34). The one who says, “I don’t have to go to church, I want to stay home watching TV on Sunday morning” is a slave to his sinful nature. So is the one who lies, who breaks speed limit and traffic laws. Sin is not freedom, it’s slavery.

True freedom won’t happen by our attempts to obey the law, either. We could try to keep

every law, obey every commandment, and still we find ourselves slipping. Even so-called “little” sins are enough to condemn us.

True freedom can only come from our Savior Jesus Christ. Jesus fulfilled all the laws for us, and also endured the curse of the law by being hung on the cross. Paul wrote in Gal. 3:13: “Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: “Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree.”

Christ has set us free to enjoy our freedom! No longer are we bound to all the Old Testament regulations like the Sabbath on Saturday law, circumcision for every 8-day-old baby law, and the like. We have true freedom now, not to do what our sinful nature pleases, but to do what pleases God. True freedom is serving our Lord and living for him alone. Stand firm, fellow Christians, in your freedom in Jesus!

--Pastor Timothy Blauert

July Worship

Sunday, July 6. 4th Sun. after Pentecost. 8:30 a.m. communion service. Theme: Focused Shepherds with the Word.

Sunday, July 13. 5th Sunday after Pentecost. 7:30 and 10 a.m. worship. Theme: Focused Love toward our Neighbor.

Sunday, July 20 6th Sunday after Pentecost. 7:30 and 10 a.m. communion services. Theme: Focused Worship—The Word.

Sunday, July 27 7th Sunday after Pentecost. 7:30 and 10 a.m. worship. Theme: Focused Prayer Is on God.

Daily Devotions in July

Devotions in July will include the prophets Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habbakuk, Zephaniah, and start Jeremiah, and Psalms 78-84. Continue in the Word!

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Congregational meeting

Sunday, July 6, 9:30 a.m.

On July 6 the congregation will have its quarterly meeting following the combined 8:30 service. We encourage all to stay, learn what ministry is happening, and give your input. Following the meeting we will have fellowship and Bible study.

School Supplies Collection



School supplies will be collected the months of June & July. The supplies collected will be divided between the North Freedom School and St. John's Lutheran School.

"It's Time for JOY": The letter to the Philippians



BIBLE STUDY

Our Summer Bible study series is studying Paul's joy-filled letter to the Philippians. We are meeting on Sunday, July 6 following the fellowship hour, and on other Sundays from 8:45 to 9:40 a.m. We encourage all members, especially adults and teens, to attend.

GAME NIGHT: Monday, July 21

We invite you to enjoy an evening of fun and fellowship with our game night, July 21, at 6:30 p.m.! Bring your favorite board game or cards, a snack to share, and a friend!

GREETERS



We are still asking confirmed members to sign up to be greeters. Those who sign for a service, please come about 20 minutes early and greet all who come, and assist visitors with church information. Thanks for serving...and greeting!



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.

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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 6th grade.

Bible lessons and activities, snacks and recess, arts and crafts, music will be a part of our classes. You can sign up by calling the church number (608)522-4493 or Pastor Blauert's cell phone (507)279-8560. Invite your grandkids, neighbor's kids and others! Spread the word!

**St. Paul's to participate in MLC
Congregation Grant again this Summer**

St. Paul's is donating up to \$800 to MLC (Martin Luther College) Congregational Partner Grant program for Faith Blauert's tuition next semester. This was not a budgeted item for the 2025 budget, so the council is asking for personal gifts toward the grant program if you wish. A collection jar is on the table in the fellowship hall. Sunday, July 6th is the deadline.

Please make checks out to St. Paul's. The Blauert family appreciates this very much!

WELS 68th Biennial Convention



The Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS) will be having their 68th biennial convention from Monday, July 21 to Thursday, July 24 at Martin Luther College in New Ulm, Minnesota. The convention is the governing body of the synod to make decisions and help set direction for our synod for the next 2 years.

Pastors, male teachers, ministers and lay delegates are selected to attend. Pastor Blauert has been selected as a delegate for this convention (his second time—the first time was in 2007).

Pray for our delegates and for our synod that we remain focused on our mission, to proclaim the good news of Jesus and carry that gospel out to the world!

Our Offerings & Service to the Lord

May 25, 7:30 am	Attend.: 30; Offering: \$1,020
10 am	Attend.: 15; Offering: \$395
June 1, 8:30 am	Attend.: 47; Offering: \$1,947
June 8, 7:30 am	Attend.: 27; Offering: \$1,100
10 am	Attend.: 16; Offering: \$530
June 15, 7:30 am	Attend.: 34; Offering: \$840
10 am	Attend.: 17; Offering: \$1,370
June 22, 7:30 am	Attend.: 29; Offering: \$630
10 am	Attend.: 14; Offering: \$550

Average attendance at 7:30 am: 30. Average attendance at 10 am: 16.

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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 (starting in September).

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:

Joe & Linda Gray (July 4, 1987)

Jeffrey & Susan Grossenbacher (July 9, 1988)

Jim & Sarah Ahrensmeyer (July 15, 2000)



Happy Birthday to:

Sandra Nehring – July 1

John Shimniok – July 1

Lori Hehenberger – July 2

Anna Zimmerman – July 3

Jerry Leifer – July 6

Maddie McLaughlin – July 8

Larry Ahrensmeyer – July 14

Jeffrey Grossenbacher – July 16

Tonya Klemm – July 16

Dan Filip – July 24

Tanner Klingensmeyer – July 27

Jeff Dodge – July 29

Passage to ponder this month: John 16:13.

"But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth."