***Message from the Pastor***

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**Regeneration**

*He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior.* (Titus 3:5,6 EHV)

“Brother, are you born again?” asks a preacher on a TV program. Many Christians understand “born again” as a special receiving of the Spirit, a great feeling that comes on you as you accept Jesus as your Savior. They may teach that many Christians aren’t truly born again, and that you need that special experience to be a true, “born again Christian.”

But is that really what the Bible means when it talks about regeneration, or rebirth? Notice how Paul tells us that our being born again didn’t come by our decision, but by God who saved us. The agent who made us born again is the Holy Spirit, and the means he used is the “washing of rebirth,” a clear reference to baptism. Jesus said much the same thing when he told Nicodemus, “Unless someone is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God,” and then explained, “Unless someone is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God!” (John 3:3,5).

When a person is brought from the unbelieving world into faith in Christ, they are “born again.” They receive a new life, no longer dead in sins, but now alive in Christ. It’s true of an infant who is baptized as well as the older person who hears the gospel, believes and gets baptized. In reality, all believers in Christ are born again; regeneration is simply another term for conversion, being brought to faith.

When you witness a baptism at church, or a private baptism in the home, you are witnessing a new birth into the family of God. Paul also wrote, “You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, for all of you who are baptized in Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ” (Gal. 3:26,27). Baptism is really the celebration of a birthday, being born of God.

Don’t feel as if you need some extra nice feeling to be considered a “born again Christian.” Our faith isn’t dependent on feelings, but on the Word of God. Continue in the gospel of Christ, and thank the Lord for the life that Christ has earned for you and the Spirit has given you. Born again Christians, live in the Spirit!

--Pastor Timothy Blauert

**September Worship**

 Sunday, Sep. 7. 13th Sun. after Pentecost. 8:30 a.m. communion service. Theme: The Cost of Discipleship. (Fellowship hour afterwards.)

Sunday, Sep. 14. 14th Sunday after Pentecost. 7:30 and 10 a.m. worship. Theme: The Lost Are Found.

Sunday, Sep. 21 15th Sunday after Pentecost. 7:30 and 10 a.m. communion services. Theme: Proper Stewardship of Wealth.

Sunday, Sep. 28 16th Sunday after Pentecost. 7:30 and 10 a.m. worship. Theme: Life and Death Matters.

***Daily Devotions in September:*** Readings in Ezekiel and Daniel (the time of the exile) and Psalms 90-97. Devotions will be emailed again after the Blauerts are back from vacation, on Sept. 4. Meditations are also available for you. Continue in the Word and grow in faith and love!

***Sunday School Starts Up***



Sunday School will begin the ’25-26 school year on September 7. Classes will be at 9:35 a.m. on the 1st Sunday of the month and 8:35 a.m. the other Sundays. Our teachers this year are Lori Cook and Lynn Zimmerman. Thank you, Lori and Lynn, for teaching!

***Church Council:*** Our next meeting will be on Sunday, September 14 at 8:30 a.m.

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***BIBLE STUDY***

Our Fall Bible study series will begin on Sunday, September 21st. Our topic will be on the Council of Nicea and the Nicene Creed. Class times will be between the church services from 8:45 to 9:45 a.m. All adults and teens are welcome to join us!

**LADIES’ Salad Luncheon**

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**Tuesday, September 9** 6 p.m. at St. Paul’s. Ladies from Rock Springs, Lime Ridge and Hillpoint are also being invited. Ladies, please sign up if you plan to attend and what food you would bring to share. Also, please bring 2 or 3 prizes that evening for our dice game.

***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.

**GAME NIGHT: Monday, September 15**

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Our monthly game night will be Monday, September 15 at 6:30 p.m. Bring your favorite board or card game, a snack to share and something to drink. Friends are welcome too!

**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 Synod Convention Report**

The Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod had its biennial convention July 21-24 at Martin Luther College, New Ulm, Minn. Pastor Blauert was a delegate this year. He served on the “Congregational Services” committee, which commended the resources and assistance at our WELS Congregational Services team provides for congregations and individuals.

The first vice-president, Pastor James Huebner of Milwaukee, and the secretary, Pastor Robert Pasbrig of Hartford, WI, both stepped down from their positions. Rev. Joel Voss of Centerville, Ohio was elected as 1st vice-president; Rev. John Bortulin of Mukwonago, WI was elected as 2nd vice-president (replacing Joel Voss), and Rev. Tyler Peil of Taylorsville, Utah was elected as secretary. President Mark Schroeder, who is serving 2 more years of his 4-year term, announced that he will be stepping down from president in 2 years.

The convention heard an essay on the synod’s 175-year history by Professor Joel Otto of Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary. Presentations from home and world missionaries were also given.

Delegates at the convention approved the “Christ Through Us” long-range strategic plan for the next ten years. The synod is making strategic plans to meet the challenges that we face in a changing world: To cultivate a gospel-driven culture by raising up culture-shaping leaders and making outreach a personal effort; to strengthen WELS’ backbone (congregations) by supporting ministry enhancement efforts and unleashing the laity in mission; to bring Christ to the nations (expanding multi-language mission efforts, etc.); and to produce more workers for a growing harvest.

It was a privilege and blessing to attend the synod convention. Teachers and laymen from selected congregations also were delegates. When it’s St. Paul’s turn, I pray that one of you laymen will jump at the chance to go!

 --*Pastor Tim Blauert*

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

July 27, 7:30 am Attend.: 30 ; Offering: $1,425

 10 am Attend.: 14; Offering: $705

Aug. 3, 8:30 am Attend.: 35; Offering: $1,305

Aug. 10, 7:30 am Attend.: 37; Offering: $1,005

 10 am Attend.: 19; Offering: $720

Aug. 17, 7:30 am Attend.: 26 ; Offering: $1,010

 10 am Attend.: 16; Offering: $325

Aug. 24, 7:30 am Attend: 36; Offering: $1,350

 10 am Attend: 16; Offering: $390

Average attendance: 8:30 am (combined): 35;

7:30 am: 32; 10 am: 16.

**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](http://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 September 7th).

**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:**  

Jim & Suzanne Dohner (September 2, 1972)

Adam & Brook-Lynn Klaetsch (Sept. 7, 2013)

Roy & Corisa Schneider (September 8, 2018)

Larry & Laurie Ahrensmeyer (Sept. 14, 1996)

Larry & Linda Wiese (September 15, 1990)

Jerry & Vonnie Leifer (September 17, 1977)

Josh & Brenda Zeman (September 27, 2003)

**Happy Birthday to:**

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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

Pat Klemm – September 28

Julie Rathman – September 30