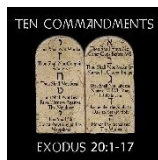


JULY 2026 St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church Connection
106 S. Maple St. PO Box 357 North Freedom, WI 53951

Message from the Pastor



The Seventh Commandment

“You shall not steal.” (Exodus 20:15)

Happy birthday, America! As you know, we’re celebrating 250 years of our nation’s founding this month. In those years, our nation has grown from 13 colonies along the Atlantic seaboard to 50 states and other territories around the world. For the past 80 years we have been the most powerful nation in the world. The Lord has truly blessed our land!

We like to call ourselves a Christian nation, and indeed, a majority of our citizens belong to a Christian church. But for decades, it seems that the god of this nation is not the triune God, but “Money.” The motto “In God We Trust” is off by just a letter, “In Gold We Trust.” The goal for so many is to make as much money as you can. Worship services and church activities suffer because people are out working to make more, or else spending their money on Sunday pleasure trips, sports and leisure activities.

The United States is as prosperous as it’s ever been. Yet poll after poll indicates that a majority of people are not happy with the state of the economy. People complain about affordability, and while it’s true that inflation has recently ticked up, it hasn’t stopped people from spending more and more (some going further into debt). The poor covet and envy the wealth of the “1 per cent.” The “1 per centers” aren’t happy, either, fretting about possible downturns in the stock market or future hikes in interest rates. The idol of “Money” creates discontent, coveting hearts.

These sins against the 1st commandment (“You shall have no other gods”) and the 9th commandment (“You shall not covet”) lead to the breaking of the 7th commandment, “You shall not steal.” How do we steal? Cheating Uncle Sam by fudging tax returns; the wealthy stiff the IRS or threaten to move their business elsewhere if taxes go up. (Is it any wonder that our country is over \$39 trillion in debt?) Cheating our employers by not doing the work but demanding that we still get paid. Fraudulent business practices. Being miserly with our money, or on the other extreme being very wasteful with it. All of this and more are, in one way or another, stealing.

On this 250th birthday of our country, we pray that our land will repent of worshipping Money and return to the one true God, the Lord. Instead of looking at this group or that group that we accuse of greed, coveting and stealing, let’s look in the mirror and repent of our own sins in this regard. Then let’s return to the Lord and hear our Lord Jesus tell us, “I suffered and died to take your sins away. You are forgiven.”

If you’ve been blessed with wealth, use your money as a tool to worship God and not Money. Be generous in your offerings, in providing for your family, and helping the poor. If you do not have much, instead of giving in to envy or stealing, learn to trust in the Lord with all your heart. He will provide. “But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well” (Matthew 6:33).

-Pastor Timothy Blauert



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JULY SUNDAY WORSHIP THEMES

July 5: 6th Sunday after Pentecost. 8:30 am communion service. Double theme: "Rest in Jesus" and "Independence Anniversary."

July 12: 7th Sunday after Pentecost. 7:30, 10 am services. "God plants the seed."

July 19: 8th Sunday after Pentecost. 7:30, 10 am communion services. "Weeds among the wheat."

July 26: 9th Sunday after Pentecost. 7:30, 10 am services. Pastor Curt Holub, preacher. "The Lord provides."

CONGREGATION MEETING:

Sunday, July 12th

All members are encouraged to attend this meeting, to be held between the worship services, starting at about 8:30 a.m.

JAMES: REAL FAITH for REAL LIFE

Summer Bible Study



In July we will be wrapping up our study of the book of James. Join us after fellowship hour on July 5 for a half-hour, and for a full hour on July 19 from 8:45 to 9:45 a.m.

VACATION

Pastor and Kristine will be gone from Wednesday, July 22 through Friday, July 31. Pastor Curt Holub, a retired pastor in Baraboo, will preach at St. Paul's on Sunday, July 26. Check bulletins in July for the pastor-on-call during the time pastor is gone.

HOT DOG/BRAT FRY

Tuesday, July 14



Come on over to St. Paul's in mid-summer for a grill-out! We'll grill hot dogs and brats in the evening, starting about 6 p.m. We will be using this as a fundraiser for the Apache Mission Schools, a WELS mission field in Arizona. St. John's, Rock Springs members are invited also. Come and enjoy some good summer food, friends and fun!

GAME NIGHT: Wednesday, July 15

6:30 p.m. Thunderbird Lanes, Baraboo



Game night's going to be bowling again! Anybody's welcome to come! Call Elaine or the church if you're coming so we can expect you. Bring a friend too!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

When: August 10-13, 9:15-11:30

Theme: "DIVE IN!"

For: All kids, preschool to 6th grade

Talk to Pastor Blauert if you would like to help! Let your friends and neighbors know about it!

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NEWS FROM THE WELS



Western Wisconsin District Convention was held on June 8 and 9 in Watertown, Wisconsin. Pastor Blauert attended. District president Mike Jensen of Watertown was re-elected, as was 1st vice-president Pastor Brett Brauer of Watertown. Newly elected as 2nd vice-president was Pastor Jon Bauer of Mount Horeb. Pastor Dan Naumann of Janesville was re-elected as secretary.

Circuits of the district held elections for circuit pastors. Our circuit re-elected Pastor Dave Karow of Rock Springs and Pastor Chip Wilke of Mauston as our circuit pastors.

In other district news, Pastor Joel Zank of Appleton has accepted a part-time call to assist the district president with regard to getting call lists for Lutheran schools. Pastor Zank will also serve the Northern Wisconsin District.

Synod-wide news: Two synodical schools will be undertaking major building projects. Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary in Mequon, Wis. is breaking ground for a classroom building and additional meeting spaces. Luther Preparatory School in Watertown is planning a new music/auditorium building.

New district presidents: Five of the twelve districts elected new presidents, due to pastors retiring, stepping down, or taking other calls. The new district presidents are: Pastor Benjamin Tomczak, Dakota-Montana District; Pastor Stephen Helwig, Nebraska District; Pastor Kevin Westra, Northern Wisconsin District; Pastor Jonathan Schroeder, South Atlantic District; and Pastor Paul Seager, South Central District.

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

Rose Vertein is stepping down as altar guild coordinator, after serving in that position for three years. We thank Rose for her service to the Lord. If anyone would like to volunteer for that position, please call the church office or speak with Pastor Blauert personally.

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. 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 and service to the Lord

May 31, 7:30 am	Attend.: 25; Offering: \$1,570
10 am	Attend.: 13; Offering: \$275
June 7, 8:30 am	Attend.: 45; Offering: \$1,800
June 14, 7:30 am	Attend.: 26; Offering: \$790
10 am	Attend.: 21; Offering: \$810
June 21, 7:30 am	Attend.: 36; Offering: \$625
10 am	Attend.: 10; Offering: \$497

Average attendance: 7:30 am: 29; 10 am: 15.

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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: We will not be meeting during the summer months. We will resume on Sunday, September 13.

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!

Joe & Linda Gray – July 4, 1987

Jeffrey & Susan Grossenbacher – July 9, 1988

James & Sarah Ahrensmeyer – July 15, 2000



Happy Birthday to:

Sandy Nehring – July 1

John Shimniok – July 1

Lori Hehenberger – July 2

Anna Zimmerman – July 3

Jerry Leifer – July 6

Madeline McLaughlin – July 8

Larry Ahrensmeyer – July 14

Jeffrey Grossenbacher – July 16

Tonya Klemm – July 16

Tanner Klingemeyer – July 27

Jeff Dodge – July 29

Passage to think about this month: Psalm 33:12. "Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD, the people he chose for his inheritance."