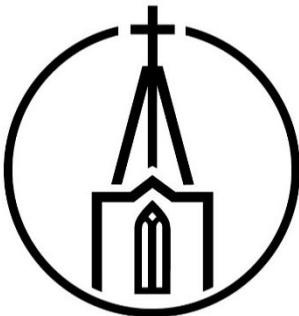
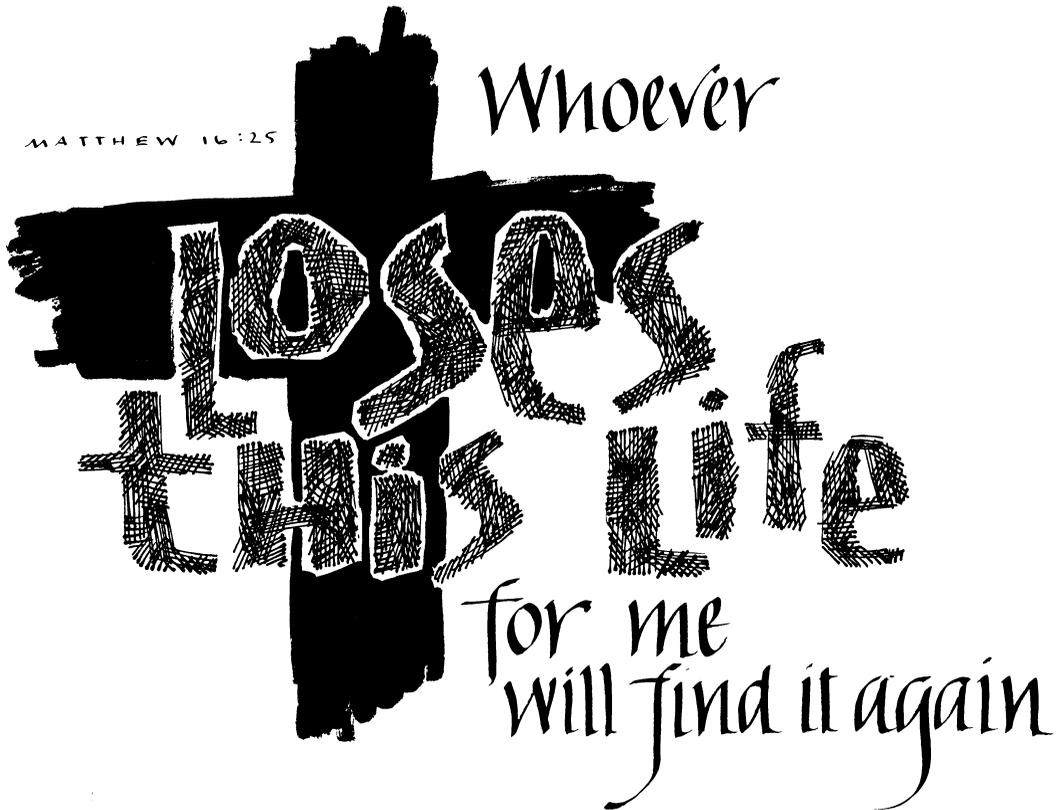


Saturday/Sunday, September 12/13, 2020
The 15th Sunday after Pentecost



St. Paul's
Lutheran Church
1100 Georgia Ave., Norfolk, Nebraska

Office & Website:
(402)371-1233 www.stpls.com

We welcome all worshipping God in this service!

We're so happy that you're joining us for worship today! If you need any help, please don't hesitate asking one of the ushers. Restrooms are located in the narthex, across from the car-port entrance on the west side of the church. A cry/changing room with a live-stream is also available in that same area..

St. Paul's is a member of the WELS...the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod. Just what is that?!?!

Wisconsin – In 1849, a group of Christians first joined together for like-minded Gospel ministry in the Milwaukee, Wisconsin area. Today, although our name only says “Wisconsin,” WELS congregations exist in all fifty states and in more than 25 countries.

Evangelical – This word simply means “good news.” The “Good News” of God’s love through Jesus is the heart of our faith and teaching.

Lutheran – In 16th century Europe, the church had strayed away from the Scriptures, and was teaching that a person is saved by his/her good works. A man named Martin Luther worked to return to the basic Biblical truths that a person is saved by grace alone, through faith alone, which comes by Scripture alone. Our congregation continues to build on these three Biblical truths.

Synod – This word means “walking together.” For over 150 years, St. Paul’s has been blessed as part of a church body, a synod, which consists of over 1,200 congregations, “walking together” in the same faith and the same ministry of sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Times to Formally Gather around the Gospel:

Saturday: 6:30 PM Worship Service

Sunday: 9:00 AM Worship Service & 10:15 AM Bible Class (in church basement...materials provided)

6:30 PM COVID Service (1st & 3rd Sunday of the month)

Wednesday: 10:00 AM Bible Class (in church basement...bring your own Bible!)

The Sunday service is broadcast live every week on KNEN, 94.7 FM, and livestreamed via our website – stpls.com.

These Sunday service video recordings are also archived on Youtube.

TODAY'S SERVICE THEME...

We Christians are encouraged and reminded to advertise the fact that we are Christians, even/especially in the face of my own whining and ridicule from others.

Greeting, Introduction & Invocation

Pastor: We begin our worship in the name of our triune God.

ALL: We begin in the name of God the Father who creates and preserves my life, in the name of God the Son who has redeemed me from my sins, and in the name of God the Holy Spirit who creates and strengthens my faith.

P: O Lord, open my lips,

ALL: So that I share Your praise and glory with those around me.

P: Give glory to God, who loves us with an everlasting love.

ALL: Let us worship Him through the words we speak and the songs we sing!

P: Give glory to God, who gives salvation through His Son!

ALL: Let us worship our Savior throughout the week as we live our lives at work and at home. May the light of salvation shine through us in all we say and do, as we live and work with the people around us!

P: We are gathered to worship the God who made us and who loves us, the God who forgives us through Jesus, and who feeds our faith through the Gospel.

ALL: We are here to worship Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We are here to grow in our faith as we hear His Word, so that we can better live God's will in our lives!

P: Let us pray.

ALL: O Lord Jesus Christ, through the power of Your Word and Your gracious hand, preserve and protect us as a congregation of believers. Help us avoid whatever is wicked and harmful in our daily lives, and guide us in the one way that leads to our salvation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Hymn #561 "Lord, speak to Us that We May Speak"



1 Lord, speak to us that we may speak In liv - ing
2 Oh, lead us, Lord, that we may lead The wan-d'ring
3 Oh, teach us, Lord, that we may teach The pre - cious
4 Oh, fill us with your full - ness, Lord, Un - til our



ech - oes of your tone. As you have sought, so
and the wa - v'ring feet. Oh, feed us, Lord, that
truths which you im - part, And wing our words that
ver - y hearts o'er - flow In kin - dling thought and



let us seek Your stray - ing chil - dren, lost and lone.
we may feed Your hun - g'ring ones with man - na sweet.
they may reach The hid - den depths of man - y a heart.
glow - ing word Your love to tell, your praise to show.

We Confess Our Sins

Please stand!

P: Dear friends in Christ, confession has two parts. The first part is that we confess our sins and ask God for forgiveness; the second part is that we confidently receive His forgiveness. This forgiveness comes to us in different ways . . . as I read God's Word and His promises on my own, through the assurance of another Christian, and it also happens through the pastor in this service. Satan and our sinful natures want us to deny the reality and existence of our own sinfulness. Therefore, our Lord gave us His Law to be used as a mirror so we see our sins and our need for a Savior.

ALL: Using the mirror of God's Law, I examine myself by asking...how well have I carried out my responsibilities as a husband or wife or single person, as a parent or child, an employer or employee, a teacher or student. Have I loved God with all my heart, gladly heard His Word, and patiently endured troubles? Have I been disobedient, proud or unforgiving? Have I been selfish, lazy, envious, or quarrelsome? Have I lied or deceived and taken something not mine? Have I abused my mind and body with lustful thoughts and actions? Have I failed to defend someone else's reputation in his or her absence?

P: When we test our thoughts, conversations, and actions according to the truths in God's holy Word, what blunt and honest answer do we find?

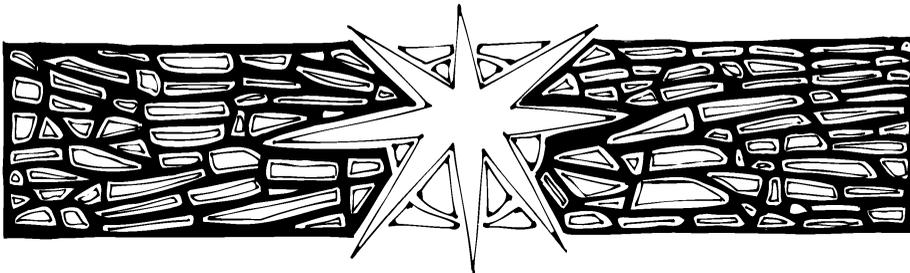
ALL: We know from James chapter two, verse ten – “...whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it.” Therefore, we join with the tax collector who said in Luke chapter eighteen, verse thirteen, “God, have mercy on me, a sinner.”

P: As a called servant of Christ, it is my privilege and responsibility to publicly use the Keys which Christ has given to all His children, to forgive the sins of penitent sinners, but to refuse forgiveness to the impenitent as long as they do not repent. With penitent hearts, then, let us confess our sins.

ALL: Almighty God, merciful Father, I, a troubled and repentant sinner, confess that I have sinned against You in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have not loved You with my whole heart. I have not loved others as much as I love myself. I am ashamed and tormented by the sins which I know of, as well as those which I do not know. Heavenly Father, please forgive all my sins, and strengthen me so that I change my sinful habits and live my life for Your glory and not my own.

P: Dear friends, as a called servant of Christ, I also have the grateful joy of reminding you of God's love and mercy! Our Lord Jesus Christ has forgiven us and reconciled us to himself and promised us the power to forgive and love each other. Relying on His promise, and in the name of Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins.

ALL: The peace of God's mercy is with us. May that peace rule in our hearts and guide all our thoughts, the words we speak, and everything we do. Amen!



We Respond to God's Grace!

"Glory Be To God"

(melody of CW #5)

1 All glo - ry be to God on high!
2 Our grate - ful thanks to you we bring,
Your name, O Lord, we glo - ri - fy;
For your great glo - ry, heav'n - ly King,
We praise you for your peace and grace,
For all, O Fath - er, you have done
Your fav - or toward our fal - len race.
Through Je - sus Christ, your on - ly Son.

The First Scripture Lesson Romans 12:1-8

Missionary Paul encourages all congregations to get along, to work together, and to appreciate the fraternity we have in Jesus Christ!

¹ Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. ² Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

³ For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. ⁴ For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, ⁵ so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. ⁶ We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; ⁷ if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; ⁸ if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

The Psalm

Psalm 116 *Let's sing the Psalm responsively.*

Refrain

I will walk in the pres-ence of the Lord,
in the land of the liv - ing.

Psalm tone

*

P: I love the LORD, for he heard my voice;*

C: he heard my cry for mercy.

P: Because he turned his ear to me, *

C: I will call on him as long as I live.

P: The LORD is gracious and righteous;*

C: when I was in great need, he saved me.

REFRAIN

P: For you, O LORD, have delivered my soul from death, *

C: my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling.

P: How can I repay the LORD*

C: for all his goodness to me?

P: I will lift up the cup of salvation *

C: and call on the name of the LORD.

ALL: *Glory be to the Father and to the Son*
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,*
is now, and will be forever. Amen.*

REFRAIN

The Second Scripture Lesson Matthew 16:21-26

Can you imagine what we'd have to look forward to if Jesus followed Peter's foolish advice?! After Jesus rebukes Peter, He then reminds all of His disciples that there is sacrifice included with being a child of faith.

²¹ From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.

²² Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. "Never, Lord!" he said. "This shall never happen to you!"

²³ Jesus turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns."

²⁴ Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵ For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it. ²⁶ What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul?"

We Confess Our Christian Faith

I believe the Bible teaches us that there is one God, yet that one God is also three distinct persons who all work together for the salvation of my soul.

I believe in God the Father almighty, who made the universe and all it contains, and sustains it with His mighty power. He gave me my life so that I may learn about my Savior Jesus and be saved for eternity.

I believe in Jesus Christ, His one and only Son, who reconciled lost mankind to the Father through His perfect life, sacrificial death, and glorious resurrection.

I believe in God the Holy Spirit, who gathers and strengthens sinners into God's forgiven family which we call the Church. He creates saving faith in a person's heart through the faithful use of the Gospel in Word and Sacrament.

Even though I do not understand how three persons are still one God, through faith I believe this gracious truth, and I thank and praise this gracious triune God!

Hymn #176 "Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord"



1 Come, Ho - ly Ghost, God and Lord! May all your gra - ces
2 Come, ho - ly Light, Guide di - vine, And cause the Word of
3 Come, ho - ly Fire, Com - fort true; Grant us the will your



be out-poured On each be - liev - er's mind and heart;
life to shine. Teach us to know our God a - right
work to do And in your ser - vice to a - bide;



Your fer - vent love to them im - part. Lord, by the bright - ness
And call him Fa - ther with de - light. From ev - 'ry er - ror
Let tri - als turn us not a - side. Lord, by your pow'r pre -



of your light In ho - ly faith your church u - nite
keep us free; Let none but Christ our Mas - ter be
pare each heart, And to our weak - ness strength im - part



From ev - 'ry land and ev - 'ry tongue; This to your
That we in liv - ing faith a - bide, In him, our
That brave - ly here we may con - tend, Through life and



praise, O Lord our God, be sung: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
Lord, with all our might con - fide. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
death to you, our Lord, as - cend. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

“LABOR” IN GOD’S KINGDOM
I. The wages may seem unfair...
II. but we have the ultimate benefit!

¹⁵ LORD, you understand; remember me and care for me.

Avenge me on my persecutors.

You are long-suffering—do not take me away;
think of how I suffer reproach for your sake.

¹⁶ When your words came, I ate them;
they were my joy and my heart’s delight,
for I bear your name, LORD God Almighty.

¹⁷ I never sat in the company of revelers,
never made merry with them;
I sat alone because your hand was on me
and you had filled me with indignation.

¹⁸ Why is my pain unending
and my wound grievous and incurable?
You are to me like a deceptive brook,
like a spring that fails.

¹⁹ Therefore this is what the LORD says:

“If you repent, I will restore you
that you may serve me;
if you utter worthy, not worthless, words,
you will be my spokesman.

Let this people turn to you,
but you must not turn to them.

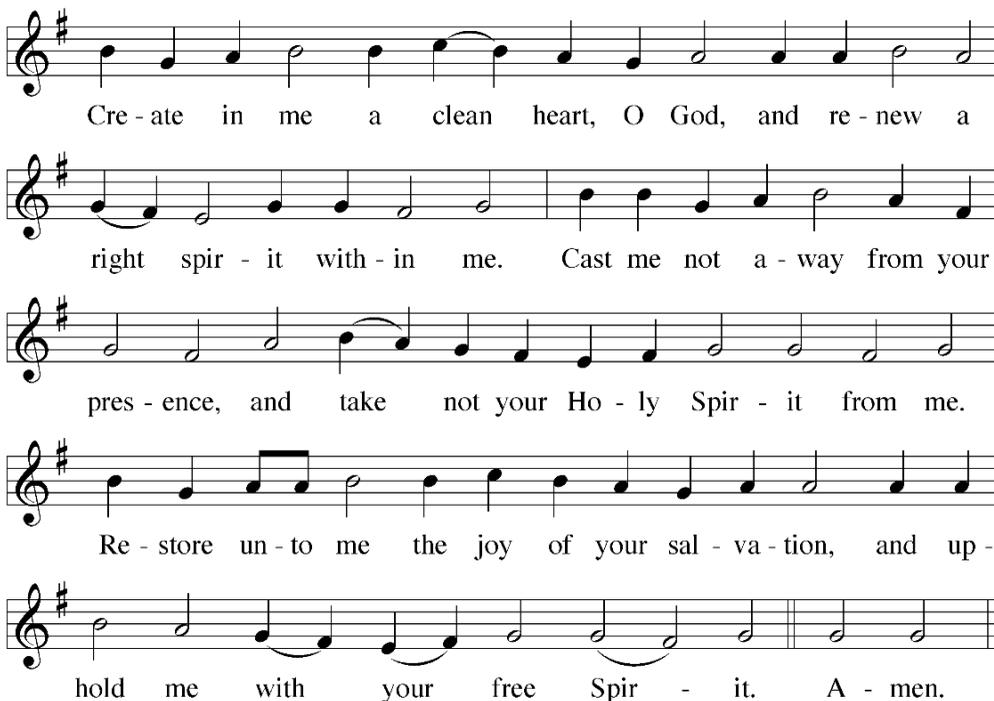
²⁰ I will make you a wall to this people,
a fortified wall of bronze;
they will fight against you
but will not overcome you,

for I am with you
to rescue and save you,”

declares the LORD.

²¹ “I will save you from the hands of the wicked
and deliver you from the grasp of the cruel.”

Hymn #272 "Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God"



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a
right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your
pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me.
Re - store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion, and up -
hold me with your free Spir - it. A - men.

Our Thank-Offerings

Our financial offerings are one way we give back to God in response for ALL He has done for us! As members of St. Paul's, we gather our thank-offerings which are used to fund the operations of this congregation, our Christian high school – Nebraska Evangelical Lutheran High School, and the work of our Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod. We don't expect or ask our visitors and guests to give toward this offering since it is our pleasure just to have you with us! But if you would like to, please feel free. It is our joy and privilege as Christians to generously give to the work of our Lord! Scan the QR code to give digitally, or offering plates are located at the rear of church.



Malachi 3:10

Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it.

Our Responsive Prayer

P: Dear heavenly Father, we join in thanking You for giving us life and breath, talents and energy, and all that we are and have during this earthly life.

ALL: We are grateful to You for our safe travels, for the angels You send to serve and protect us, and for our prosperity.

P: Lord Jesus, we praise You for saving us and giving Your life as the payment for our sins.

ALL: Thank You for the rest and the peace we have which comes through the knowledge and faith of our forgiven sins.

P: Holy Spirit, thank You for the joy and privilege of growing in grace through the power of the Gospel.

ALL: Cause Your Gospel to grow in us, and to produce stronger faith and godly attitudes and behavior in each other.

P: We rejoice this morning for the blessing of Christian friendship and fellowship. Keep us all faithful to the Christian duties You have given us through our families and jobs and free time.

ALL: We ask You to preserve a Christ-centered doctrine in our congregation at all times, so that we all may be more active in our service to You and to those around us.

P: Hear us Lord, as we bring You our private prayers.

(Silent, personal prayer)

P: Lord of the nations, we pray to You for our country and all its federal, state, and community leaders. Through the blessing of government You give us temporal peace, order and stability.

ALL: Keep me from making disrespectful comments and remind me of the proper respect I am to give to all the governing authorities You have placed over me! It is only Your perfect wisdom and guiding hand that brings either peace and prosperity or challenging troubles. Use me as Your faithful example of patience and trust. Hear us as we pray, O Lord. *Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.*

The Blessing

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace. Amen.

Closing Hymn #579 "Lift High the Cross" HOTW

Refrain



Lift high the cross; the love of Christ pro - claim Till



all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.



1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our cap - tain trod, Our
2 Led on their way by this tri - um - phant sign, The
3 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be: Praise



king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.
hosts of God in con - qu'ring ranks com - bine.
to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry.

Worshipping the Lord

Last Week's Attendance: Sat. 6:30 PM – 75; Sun. 9:00 AM – 74; **Total = 149**
 Sunday Bible Class – 25; Wednesday Bible Class – 16

St Paul's Weekly Giving to the Lord – General Fund, Sept. 5th & 6th

Yearly Need	YTD Need	YTD Offerings	YTD Need vs Offerings	Last Week Received	Weekly Need	Difference
\$370,844.46	\$64,969.24	\$67,141.66	\$2,172.42	\$5,372.00	\$7,131.64	-\$1,759.64

Serving the Lord

Worship Leader: Pastor Paul Hirsch

Organist: Mrs. Karen Pufahl

Radio Broadcaster(s): Lee Grebe & Glynn Grebe

Television Broadcast Technician: Darol Dusseau & Laurie Jackson

	On Duty This Week:	On Duty Next Week:
Elder:	Ron Kraemer	Chad Moyer
Greeters:		
Ushers:	Eric Nunnenkamp & Joe Myers	Curt Dinkel & Randy Anderson
Technology:	Sam Myers & Ashlee Plisek	Kaylee Little & Katy Nichols

THE SHUT-IN BIRTHDAY CARD SHOWER BOX

Brenda Anderson (November 7)

2600 Westside Plaza Dr. – Apt 121, Norfolk, NE 68701

Announcements

- 1) **Sunday Morning Bible Class** -- Today, Pastor Lindke will continue with a class covering the topic – “How We Got the Bible.” *How'd we get the books that we have...why we shouldn't expect any more additions, etc.* Materials are provided.
- 2) On the weekend of October 17/18, **Pastor Mark Luetzow** will be our guest preacher/presenter. Pastor Luetzow is the President of **Michigan Lutheran Seminary**, which is one of two preparatory high-schools that our Synod operates in the big picture of encouraging and preparing young Christians to be future pastors and teachers (the other prep-school is Luther Preparatory School in Watertown, WI). He'll be here to encourage and remind and inform us of some of the work being done for this important work for the future of our church!
- 3) Our **area golf-outing** which raises \$\$ for the area schools' tuition assistance funds, will be held on **Sunday, September 27, 1:00 PM at Fairplay Golf Course** just south of Norfolk. Both business sponsor and individual participant forms/sign-ups are available at the Communication Center in the narthex.
- 4) St Paul's members have been asked to donate some items for the **Area WELS golf/tuition event** on September 27, 2020. These items include hamburger buns, styrofoam cups, napkins, potato salads, and baked beans. If you are interested in donating, there is a sign-up sheet at the Communication Center. Donations should be given to Mr. Markgraf or Ms. Lindemann by noon on September 27th. THANKS!
- 5) **THE NEW LOOK CHOIR IS STARTING!!** The first attempt is going to be a men's choir, practicing for two Wednesday evenings, on Wednesday, September 16&23, 7:00 PM at church. This is an open invitation to any male member of the species who'd like to do some singing in a very special and unique setting! The plan is to sing for the Sunday, September 27, worship service. Questions?? Contact Mr. Brown...402-730-3278...scottbrown@stpls.com.

SOME CHURCH FUNCTIONS THIS WEEK:

Sunday, 9/13 = Worship Service, 9:00 AM
Bible Study, 10:15 AM

Tuesday, 9/15 = Executive Council, 6:00 PM

Wednesday, 9/16 = Worship Service Broadcast on Local Cable 12, 9:00 AM
Bible Class (Schliewe), 10:00 AM

Saturday, 9/19 = Worship Service w/ Communion, 6:30 PM
Organist: Mrs. Shannon Spreeman

Sunday, 9/20 = Worship Service w/ Communion, 9:00 AM
Bible Study, 10:15 AM

Church Cleaning Teams:

Sept. 13 – Team 1 (Chad & Alicia Moyer, Kathy Janovec,
Bill & Sue Ulrich)

Sept. 20 & Sept. 27 – Team 2 (Darol Dusseau, Mike & Linda Mullen, Sarah
Nelson, Joel & Kathy Wiedeman)

St. Paul's Contact Information

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(402) 649-9268
pahirschki@gmail.com

Jeanette Leuthold, Secretary
School Office: (402) 371-1233
stpls.office@gmail.com

Principal Aaron Markgraf
(920) 248-2223
amarkgraf@stpls.com

St. Paul's Website: www.stpls.com
WELS Website: www.wels.net