

Called by God to Serve
St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church & Lighthouse Preschool
Aberdeen, SD *October 2021*

Vocation and a Framework for Serving

When the mother of the Apostles James and John approached Jesus about giving her sons places of honor in His kingdom, Jesus responded with these words, "[W]hoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many" (Matthew 20:27-28). Jesus also teaches in Matthew 22 that we should love the Lord with all our heart, soul, and mind and love our neighbor as ourselves (Matthew 22:37-40). What becomes clear throughout Scripture is how God created us to be serving creatures, people who serve Him by serving the rest of creation, especially our neighbor. This means the less we serve, the more alienated we become from who God wants us to be and the fulfillment and contentment God intended for us. The result of such alienation is frustration, cynicism, disappointment, and a darkening of our hearts and minds by our passions instead of the Holy Spirit and God's Word.

In an era saturated with talk of how we should fulfill our desires and with products guaranteed by their producers to make us happy, it is sad and ironic that we have lost sight of the necessary framework to make true fulfillment and contentment possible. This framework is indispensable and essential to a proper understanding of ourselves, God, and the rest of creation around us. Here's what I mean.

Let us say you want to improve your financial situation by saving money. To do this, there are fundamental views concerning money you must first have for saving money to make sense. You would, for example, need to understand (on some level) that money is not free but is given to you because you work. Little children often make this mistake. Because young children do not understand how money works, if you tell a child that you cannot afford a toy, they say, "Just go to the bank and take money out!" Of course, this is not how banks or money works, but the child has not yet acquired the framework to make sense of money. Similarly, if a person were going to save money, he or she would need to understand (on some level) that you cannot spend more than what you have. These fundamental concepts (along with many others) provide a framework for saving, and without this framework, saving money, no matter how financially beneficial, will never happen.

Now let us turn to the dilapidated spiritual framework surrounding our current culture. The devil has darkened our hearts and minds to some fundamental truths rehearsed over and over in God's Word and in our worship. One is the concept of gift. In Scripture, God is the giver, and we are the receiver. Jesus as our Savior is God, once again, giving us the gift of forgiveness, life, and salvation just as He gave us the gift of creation in the garden along with our vocations. Serving ceases to make sense when we stop seeing everything all good things we have as a gift from God. In other words, when we stop viewing ourselves as unworthy recipients of God's good gifts, we unavoidably stop seeing the neighbor as someone with whom we can share God's gifts.

Another place the devil has obscured God's will from us surrounds our Savior's resurrection. The current cultural framework is vague at best about what happens to a person when they die. This uncertainty leads to a protectiveness of the time and resources God has given us. Because we want to get the most out of life before we die, we stop seeing those around us as people God has given us to serve and instead see them as possible drains on limited resources and time. Christ's resurrection guarantees us a new heaven and a new earth where we live with Christ in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness. Without the joy and certainty of the resurrection, once again, serving makes no sense, and when this joy is replaced by a depraved framework of finality and looming death, serving and contentment become shrouded in the gloom of fear and selfishness.

Do not underestimate how distinct and divergent the picture given us by Scripture is over and against the picture given us by the devil, the world, and our sinful flesh. In His Word and through the cross and empty tomb, God gives us the gifts of hope, life, forgiveness, and contentment through serving in our vocations. The framework of the world, on the other hand, leaves these gifts as unfathomable—ideas not even open to rejection because they are incapable of being grasped in the first place.

In Christ,

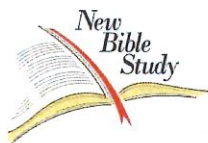
Pastor Bobby



Five Loaves Supper is scheduled for October 6th at 5:15 pm. Help is needed — for set-up, serve and clean-up. Menu: Baked potato bar, toppings, salads, and desserts.



A Prayer Service is scheduled for Sunday, October 10th at 12:30pm. Prayers will be offered for the mission and ministry at St. Paul's over the next year.



NEW! A new Wednesday Bible Study, at 10:00 am. 1 Samuel is a wonderful book where we get to see God forgive Israel time and time again. We get to read about some political intrigue in the rise and fall of Saul. Also, we get some amazing stories, such as David and Goliath. It is a wonderful book that sets up so many future stories in the Bible and we get a glimpse of what the greater King will be like. This Bible study will be led by Pastor Smith.



Pastor's Appreciation Sunday is October 10th. Send words of encouragement and appreciation to Pastor Bobby and his family and to Pastor Smith.

Circuit Reformation



A Circuit Reformation worship service will be held at St. Paul's on October 31, 2021. The worship service will begin at 4:00 pm. The guest speaker will be Rev. Dr. Reed Lessing. A German supper will be served at 5:15pm followed by a Bible Study at 6:30pm. Please join us for this special worship service.



LWML BREAKFAST

October 3, 2021

9:15am—10:15 am

Egg Bake

Fruit

Sweet Breads/Muffins

OCTOBER USHERS:

EARLY:

Paul Zinter &

Larry Jung, Head Usher

Terry Ellingson

Myron Voegelé

Cora Burrer

LATE:

Dennis Stoeber, Head Usher

Edna Stoeber

Ron Droog

Deb Droog

CIRCUIT EVENT:

A Circuit event on the topic of "*Decisions at Life's End*" will be held on October 24th at Our Savior Lutheran Church from 5:30-7:00 pm. The speaker will be Pastor Ryneanson. A supper will be served.

**St. Paul's Lutheran Church
Church Council Meeting Minutes
September 20th, 2021 at 7:00pm**

Larry Jung opened the meeting with a prayer.

August 2021 Meeting Minutes were reviewed. Nate Bode motioned to approve the minutes. Jon Mesmer seconded. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report from July 2021 still needed approval. Nate Bode made a motion to approve of the July 2021 Treasurer's Report. Jason Oberfoell made a second. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report from August 2021 was reviewed. Jason Oberfoell motioned to approved of the report. Steve Jacobson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Board Minutes - Reviewed Elder and Bd of Ed meetings.

Pastor Smith reported on him and Pastor Bobby making calls. Rural Field Seminar is scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 25th at St. Paul's.

Old Business

-Joint Parish Agreement. Voters' Assembly voted to go forward with the agreement with St. Paul's Leola. Will need to have representatives on the Joint Parish Council.

-Will need to have a meeting to extend a call to Vicar Ray Anderson.

-Structure and Governance - District Board meets Tuesday, Sept. 21st, 2021 to approve of our new Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws. Will have a special election 6 weeks from then to elect new members of each Board.

New Business

-Received a bid from NVC for new wireless (wifi) system in the church. Received a bid from Dakota Structured Cabling last month. Paul Swanston said the DSC bid was \$2733.86 and the NVC bid was \$1870 plus \$60/mo rental agreement. Paul recommended the DSC bid. Nate Bode motioned to approved the bid from DSC. Jon Mesmer made a second. Motion carried.

-Council reviewed getting another camera for livestreaming services and Bible studies through email. Camera was \$900 plus tax and adapter for the current camera we have is \$20-30. Nate Bode made a motion to ratify email approval to approve of the purchase for the camera and adapter. Steve Jacobson made a second. Motion carried by majority.

-Council reviewed modifications to Sunday, Monday and Wednesday Services through email. Jason Oberfoell motioned to ratify email approval to discontinue Wednesday mask only services, set up reserved area on Sunday's for those who wish to social distance, and to put up signs up throughout strongly encouraging those who are unvaccinated to wear masks to church. Deb Pederson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Council will meet next Monday, Sept. 27th at 7:00 to continue going over Mega Outcomes and Outcome Policies for the new structure.

Steve Jacobson motioned to adjourn. Paul Swanston made a second motion. Motion carried.

Next Council Meeting will be October 18th at 7:00pm.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Members Present: Larry Jung, Deb Pederson, Paul Swanston, Jason Oberfoell, Nate Bode, Michael Leapley, Steve Jacobson, Jon Mesmer, Taylor Beutler, Pastor Smith

Submitted by:

Jason Oberfoell

LWML Meeting September 9, 2021

THEME: CHRISTIAN LIVING

Present: 15 members

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by President Betty Ochsner.

OPENING DEVOTION: Should I stay or should I Go led by Pastor Bobby. Bible study by Roberta Adolphsen.

Th League Pledge was said in unison by the group. Free will offering was taken.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion was made by Betty S. and seconded by Jan to approve the June minutes. Motion carried. The treasurer's report was approved and placed on file for audit.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Sally has volunteered to open the Christian Bookstore between services on Sunday. Sign up sheet was passed around the group with no response.
2. Reminder of the Workshop coming up September 17th at 12pm until the 18th at 3pm at Faith Lutheran Church in Pierre.

CIRCLE REPORTS:

Good Cheer: Cards sent: 2-sympathy, 4-get well, 3-thinking of you, 4-encouragement, 35-birthday.
Publicity: Completed the Newsletter.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Boys and Girls Ranch and Concordia Seminary correspondence will be discussed at the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. New purpose and mission statement for the church.
2. LWML Sunday will be Oct. 3rd. We will serve a breakfast. (Egg bake, fruit, breads or muffins). Let Betty O. know if you are able to assist.
3. Reformation Service at St. Paul's on October 31st. We have been asked to serve a German meal at 5 PM. A motion was made by Gloria and seconded by Dianna to provide this. Motion carried. Menu was discussed.
4. Help was requested for 5 Loaves meals.
5. Ham and Meatball meal for Nov. 14th discussion was postponed until the October meeting.
6. Quilting starts 9am on Thursdays.
7. Help was requested for the Advent lunches in December. Gloria and Betty O. have volunteered.
8. Gloria made a motion seconded by Sally to purchase sauce bowls for fruit from Cashway. Motion carried. Vicki H will check price and ordering bowls.

The meeting was closed with Prayer. Meeting was adjourned by Betty O.
The next meeting will be October 14th at 11:30am with Good Cheer serving.

Submitted: Deb Pederson, Secretary

Lighthouse Preschool News

Teaching God's children about their Creator, Savior, and Friend while preparing them for a lifetime of wonder, learning, and service.

October 2021

We are off to a great start!

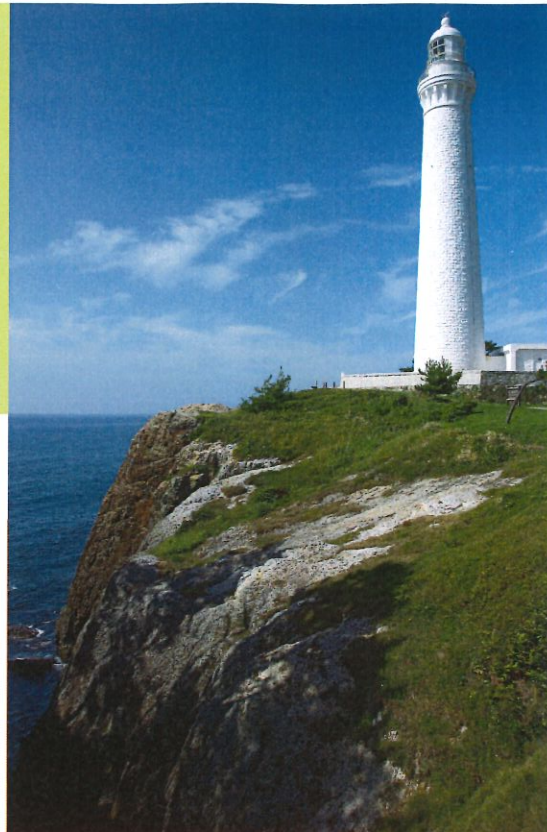


We always begin the year talking about lines. How to stand in them, how to draw them straight and curvy, and how to use them to make shapes and letters.

More importantly, though, we talk about the very beginnings of the world and how God formed all that we see.

We are blessed to teach these truths to these children before they hear from the outside world other theories about how the world was made.

"I believe in God, The Father Almighty, maker of Heaven and Earth."



Upcoming Dates:

Oct. 11th- No School

Oct. 22nd- P/T Conf.

Reminders:

Do you have a Thrivent Membership and are willing to take a Thrivent Action Team Money Card out to help us with a project? Please let Alison know!



Check It Out!

Here are some of the things that we've been up to! Pastor Smith and Michael set up a booth at the NSU Involvement Fair to spread the news about the St. Paul's college Bible study. And on September 11th, we had a group of youth and adults participate in Jesus Door-2-Door!



Upcoming Events

- Men's Retreat – Called by Christ to Be a Man
 - Saturday, Oct. 30th from 9:00 AM to Noon at Our Savior Lutheran
 - A circuit-wide event for men of all ages, bring a friend!
 - This event will be led by DCE Intern, Michael Leapley, in order to fulfill his internship requirements
- Wreath Fundraiser for the National Youth Gathering
 - Our youth will be selling holiday greens in order to raise funds for the LCMS youth gathering in Houston
 - Orders will be due Friday, November 5th
- Commitment Deadline for the National Youth Gathering is Oct. 24



St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church (LCMS)
& Lighthouse Preschool

Rev. Samuel Bobby (605) 415-5578

Rev. Jacob Smith (586) 556-6077



Every Sunday
 Divine Service @ 8am
 Bible Study @ 9:15 am
 Divine Service @ 10:45 am

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
3 9:15am LWML Breakfast Coin Banks	4 6:15 Worship 7:00 Elder Meeting	5	6 6am Men's Bible Study 10am – 1Samuel Bible St 5:15pm Women's Bible St 5:15 Five Loaves Supper 6:30pm Confirmation 6:45 Vocal/7:30 Bell Prac.	7 9:00 am Good Cheer Circle 6pm Board of Ed mtg	1	2
10 5-7pm Circuit Youth Group @ St. Paul's	11 6:15 Worship No Preschool Church Office Closed	12 7:00pm Devotional Challenges Bible St.	13 6am Men's Bible Study 10am – 1Samuel Bible St 5:15pm Women's Bible St 5:15 Five Loaves Supper 6:30pm Circuit Confirm. 6:45 Vocal/7:30 Bell Prac.	14 9:00am Quilting 11:30am LWML mtg	15	16
17 5-7pm Youth Group	18 6:15 Worship	19 7:00pm Devotional Challenges Bible St.	20 6am Men's Bible Study 10am – 1Samuel Bible St 5:15pm Women's Bible St 5:15 Five Loaves Supper 6:30pm Confirmation 6:45 Vocal/7:30 Bell Prac.	21 9:00 am Quilting 7:00 RGI Meeting	22	23
24 5-7pm Youth Group 5:30 Circuit Forum @ Our Savior Food - The Journey 31 4pm Circuit Reformation @St. Paul's supper & Bible Study	25 6:15 Worship	26 7:00pm Devotional Challenges Bible St.	27 6am Men's Bible Study 10am – 1Samuel Bible St 5:15pm Women's Bible St 5:15 Five Loaves Supper 6:30pm Confirmation 6:45 Vocal/7:30 Bell Prac.	28 9am Quilting 2pm Publicity	29	30