

Called by Christ to Serve

*St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church & Lighthouse Preschool
Aberdeen, SD*

May 2022

Gospel Stewardship

2 Corinthians 5:17-21:

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

¹⁸ All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation;¹⁹ that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.

²⁰ Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹ For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."

These verses from St. Paul highlight one of the biggest misunderstandings surrounding our Christian identity, the question of *why* we are here. We might respond to the question "Why are we here?" with the answer "to satisfy our own desires." Yet, James 1:14-15 tells us no. To the contrary, it's our desires that lead us to sin by making us think we are God and in control. It was Eve's desire to be wise which the devil exploited in the Garden.

Then *why* are we here? Originally, we know we were created in God's image to be stewards of His creation. We see this very clearly, for example, in Genesis 1:26-28. Our fulfillment as human creatures came from trusting in God and doing the work of caring for His creation. The first sin, however, made this fulfillment impossible. Now instead of taking care of God's creation according to His will and design, we use it as an opportunity to assert ourselves and our desires over God's gifts, so now what? This is where St. Paul from the above passage comes in.

God, in Christ, has made us a new creation (2 Cor. 5:17) through the sacrifice and resurrection of His Son. Our Savior has reconciled us to our Creator, and this brings us through the grave so that we are no longer part of the old creation with its sin and death, but we look forward to the new heavens and new earth we see through faith in the Gospel, the good news that God has kept His promises and given us new life through the reconciliation of Jesus' cross.

This, then, makes the Gospel the *absolute* and *essential* key to our existence and the existence of the church. You cannot therefore, as a Christian, be a good steward of anything in your life until you are a good steward of the Gospel. Why? Because you, as a member of St. Paul's and as child of God in His kingdom, have been entrusted with "the message of reconciliation" (2 Cor. 5:19).

All the questions we might ask ourselves about good stewardship with respect to money or land apply first and foremost to the Gospel. Being daily in God's Word is part of your God given stewardship of the Gospel. Have you been a good steward of the Gospel within your family? Do you say daily devotions, pray together, forgive one another in the stead of Christ? Do you bring the Gospel to bear on issues at work, in your extended family, or with your friends? These things, and much more, we should be doing if we are to be good stewards of the Gospel, and not only that, but God has called us to this stewardship by virtue of our Baptism. St. Peter says you are a "holy priesthood" (1 Peter 2:5) through your faith in Christ, which means you have the authority and command to use God's Gospel gifts in every aspect of your life.

Being a steward of the Gospel is not a duty left to the pastor or called workers of St. Paul's. It's a duty given chiefly and above all to the body of Christ, and that body is you. Just as financial health can be traced back to good or poor stewardship, so too can spiritual health. It is the primary role of the church to make sure that the faith and the biblical doctrines of the church are passed on to the next generation and shared with all those who need to hear it within this community. If this is not happening, it's because there's a breakdown in stewardship, stewardship of the Gospel.

In Christ, Pastor Bobby

**CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING
ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
ABERDEEN, SOUTH DAKOTA
April 18, 2022**

OPENING DEVOTION: Clint Fjelstad-Keeping Darkness at Bay: Matthew 5:16

MANAGEMENT REPORTS

1. Pastor's Report: Reader for Service May 9th and Ushers for May 2nd are covered. Statement of Faith by Confirm-ands will be May 11th at 6:30.
Youth group selling eggs left from Easter Breakfast for \$3.00/dozen. Contact Michael.
2. Elder's Report: No Report.
3. Preschool Report: Still looking for Bus Driver. Enrollment for Fall 2022 is open. Gutters will be fixed over the summer.
4. Council Meeting Minutes: March minutes were reviewed with no changes.
5. Council Treasurer's Report: Tom and Cindy reviewed the March Financials.
Motion was made by Jon and seconded by Jason to approve reports. Motion carried.

CONSENSUS

No items.

POLICY REVIEW

Section 2 Church Council Self Governance was discussed. Council Self Review will be completed annually.

MONITORING ITEMS

No issues noted.

OLD BUSINESS

Building Improvement Lists will be placed in vestibule for members to review. There will be an informational meeting for members May 1st at 9:40 to review list.

NEW BUSINESS

Letter received from Lutheran Family Services discussed. Following discussion, the decision was made to refer the letter to the Elders.

Next Council meeting will be July 25th. Clint will lead Devotion and Bible Study. Any council member who would want to volunteer to do devotion or Bible Study, please contact Clint.

BIBLE STUDY

Lead by Clint followed with Prayer.

ADJOURNMENT: Jon made a motion, seconded by Jason to adjourn. Motion carried.

Members in attendance: Clint Fjelstad, Steve Jacobson, Tom Agnitsch, Jon Mesmer, Jason Oberfoell, Paul Swanston, Deb Pederson, Cindy Jung, Pastor Bobby, Pastor Smith, Michael Leapley, Tom Kaiser
Absent: Nate Bode

Submitted: Deb Pederson

May 10—Lighthouse Preschool Program and Silent Auction—6:15 pm

May 11—Confirmation Statements of Faith—6:30 pm

Coffee and Bars in the Fellowship following event

May 15—Confirmation Day and Reception—9:30 am

May 22—Graduation Reception—9:30 am

May 26—Ascension Service at Concordia Cresbard

Five Loaves Supper



May 4th at 5:15 pm. Menu: Walking tacos. You may bring a salad or a dessert.

Prayer Service



A Prayer Service is scheduled for Sunday, May 8th at 12:30pm. Prayers will be offered for the seasonal weather and for planting of crops.

Church Rummage Sale in June!



In support of the youth group's trip to the National Youth Gathering this summer in Houston, TX we are hosting a rummage sale on Saturday, June 4th, 2022. So let's get those garages, attics, and closets cleaned out and find lots of hidden treasures for us to sell. Ask friends, family, and neighbors if they have any donations too. We need clothes in good condition, jewelry, books, toys, tools, electronics, small appliances, etc. Large appliances, large pieces of furniture, mattresses, broken items, and worn clothing will NOT be accepted (when in doubt, throw it out)! General donations will start being accepted on Tuesday, May 17th, 2022. If you have items that need to be moved before May 17th, contact DCE Michael Leapley at michaell@stpaulsaberdeen.org for an earlier time. Thank you and God bless!

APRIL USHERS:

EARLY:

Larry Jung, Head Usher
Lowell McIntire
Geraldine McIntire

LATE:

Kenny Kilber, Head Usher
Norma Kilber
Mike Jeschke
Rebecca Jeschke

RGI Representative Needed: The Rural Gospel Initiative (RGI) is a nonprofit organization composed of congregationally elected representatives of Circuit 1 churches within South Dakota District 1 (NE South Dakota) of the Lutheran Church- Missouri Synod. The foundation's sole purpose and vision is to support Word and Sacrament ministry in LCMS Circuit One congregations and rural communities through gospel outreach. St. Paul's is looking for a congregation member interested in representing our church on this committee. If interested or for more information, you can access the website at www.ruralgospel.org or call Deb Pederson, directly at 605-380-3550.

The LCMS Circuit 1 Rural Gospel Initiative (RGI) is requesting electronic pictures of the Gospel at work from each of our Circuit's 15 congregations to be included in a 3 min video slide show that will be used to introduce the RGI. Name of the church is the only ID needed. *Send images to Denise Melius via text (605-887-7130) or email (dmelius@nvc.net) by May 15th. Thank you! Please contact the church office for details.



Church Building Improvement Meeting – A brief meeting on building improvements will be held May 1st at 9:40am in the Fellowship Hall. A narrative of the meeting will be available in the South Narthex.



Camp Minneboji: 2022's camp theme is "Masterpiece" & comes to us from Ephesians 2:10, which reads "For we are God's MASTERPIECE, created in Christ Jesus to do good works." Registration forms are located in the South Narthex and they are hoping to have an on-line registration form available soon.



**Lighthouse
Preschool**

Lighthouse Preschool is accepting registrations for the 2022-2023 school year. Forms are available at the church office.

VBS- June 5-9, 2022-

6:00-8:30pm at

Our Savior Lutheran Church

St. Paul's Lutheran will join Our Savior for
Vacation Bible School.

Registrations are due now!

Teachers and Helpers are needed.

Lighthouse Preschool News

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

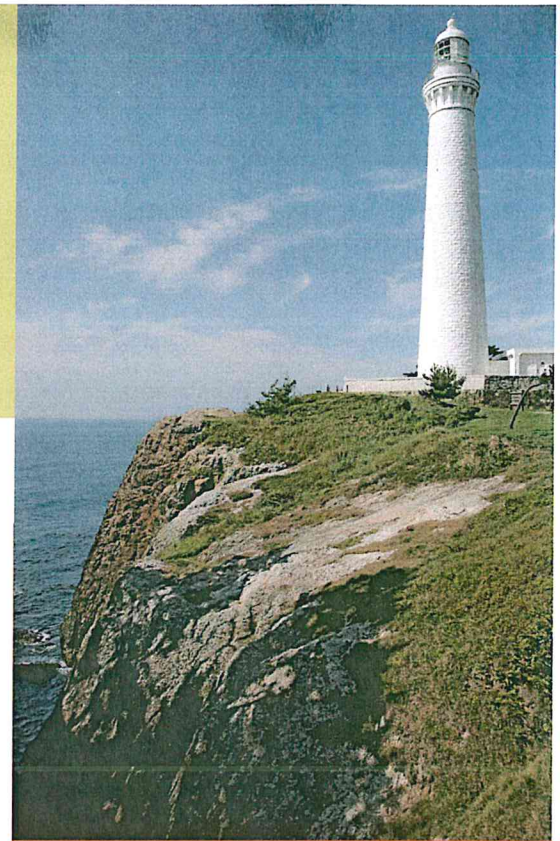
May 2022

All good things must come to an end...

May is here, and with it brings the end of our school year! The children have all worked extremely hard this year and have grown so much in their faith, academics, social and physical development! As we finish out our year, we will continue working on our Spring Program and enjoy our final weeks together.

April was full of learning adventures! Our favorite topic of the month was our caterpillar and butterfly unit. We not only talked about caterpillars and butterflies, but we also are raising some in our classroom! We are watching the caterpillars grow and change. When they finally emerge as butterflies from their chrysalis, we will release them all outdoors! Another highlight of our month was our visit from officer Hovendick from the Aberdeen Police Department. Officer Hovendick talked to us about how to stay safe this summer while we are outdoors enjoying the nice weather. He also brought his police car and let the kids sit in it!

I want to thank everyone for their support of the preschool this year. I would especially like to give a HUGE thank you to everyone who volunteered at our school. Anyone who donated their time, money, snacks or talents to benefit the school, THANK YOU! Our bus is a huge asset to our preschool and without the numerous volunteer helpers (especially in the last few weeks) we would not have been able to get our preschoolers home again after school. Your time and help was most definitely appreciated!



Upcoming Dates:

May 10- Spring Program & silent auction 6:15 pm

May 13th- Last Day of Preschool



Lighthouse Preschool News (Continued)

Hymn #866 Lord Jesus Christ, the Children's Friend

Lord Jesus Christ, the children's friend, to each of them your
presence send;
Call them by name and keep them true in loving faith, dear Lord,
to You.

That all of us, your children dear, by Christ redeemed, may Christ
revere:

Lead us in joy that all we do will witness to our love for You.

REMINDERS:

Registrations are now
being accepted for the
2022-2023 School year!
Please call the preschool
for more information or pick
up a registration packet in
the South entrance to the
sanctuary.



Having fun making bookmarks with bubble paint!

Thank you everyone for your encouragement and support this school year!

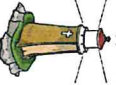
St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church (LCMS)
& Lighthouse Preschool

Rev. Samuel Bobby (605) 415-5578
Rev. Jacob Smith (586) 556-6077



Every Sunday:

Divine Service @ 8am
Bible Study @ 9:30 am
Sunday School @ 9:30 am
Divine Service @ 10:45 am

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
1 9:40 am Projects Mtg Coin Banks	2 6:15 Worship Service	3	4 6:00 am Men's Bible St 10:00 1 Samuel Bible St. 5:15 Women's Bible St. 5:15 Five Loaves Supper 6:30pm Confirmation 6:45 Choir/7:30 Bells	5 9am Good Cheer Circle 6:30 pm School Board Mtg	6	7
8 5-7pm Youth Group	9 6:15 Worship Service	10 6:15pm Lighthouse Preschool Program And Silent Auction 	11 6:00 am Men's Bible St 10:00 1 Samuel Bible St. 5:15 Women's Bible St. 6:30pm Statements of Faith—Confirmants 6:45 Choir/7:30 Bells	12 9:00 am Quilting 11:30 am LWML Meeting And lunch	12	14
15 9:30 Confirmation Reception 10:45 am Rite of Confirmation	16 6:15 Worship Service	17	18 6:00 am Men's Bible St 10 am 1 Samuel Bible St 6:30 Choir Practice 7:30 Bells Practice	19 9am Quilting 7pm Rural Gospel Initiative meeting	20	21
22 9:30 Graduation Reception Food Cart	23 6:15 Worship Service	24	25 6:00 am Men's Bible St 10 am 1 Samuel Bible St. 5:15 Women's Bible St.	26 Ascension Service at Cresbard	27	28
29	30 6:15 Worship Service Church Office Closed	31				

St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church (LCMS)
& Lighthouse Preschool
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*Non-Profit
Organization
Aberdeen, SD
57401
Permit #414*

May

