

## **Called by Christ to Serve**

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

**Aberdeen, SD**

**August/September 2023**

### **We will not fear!**

*God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way, though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble at its swelling . . . "Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!" The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress. (Ps. 46:1-3, 10-11)*

Fear sells. The news companies have realized this and have added to it because they realize that fear brings in more viewers and keeps people talking. Turn on the news and you will hear about everything that you need to be afraid of. That is not by accident, for fear sells.

And so often we get caught up in this as well. We fear for our children or grandchildren. We fear for our country or loved ones. We fear death. And so on and so forth. However, fear is from the devil for it takes our eyes off the cross. When we are afraid, we turn inward. We are scared because we realize we cannot handle the situation with our own power and might. Instead of turning to Christ and what He has done for us on the cross, we turn inward.

Contrast this with the psalm which boldly proclaims trust amid all that is going on. Trust in God who is our refuge and strength. He is the one who keeps us safe and who defeats our enemies. It doesn't matter what the world or Satan himself throws at us for we have God on our side. Even if the earth gives way we will not fear! Focusing on God takes our fear away. For there we realize that He is for us and that He provides everything that we need. So, it does not matter what happens for God is with us and He has given us life everlasting.

I love the end of this psalm, "Be still, and know that I am God". Right before this verse the psalm describes God ending wars, breaking the bow, and shattering spears. He calms a restless world. He calms and brings peace to His fallen creation. "Be still, and know that I am God". God brings peace where there seems to only be chaos and war. For He alone has the power to do so. And we see this clearly in Jesus. Jesus who alone defeated all our enemies of sin, death, and the devil.

What then do we have to fear? God is with us, and He is our refuge and strength. Our God who has the power to stop the wars in the world and has the power to defeat all our enemies including this world and all it throws at us along with the devil himself. The devil is defeated and there is nothing he can do about it. That's the reality. So, the earth may give way, the mountains move, and the waters roar and foam, and that is okay. For we have nothing to fear. For "God is our refuge and strength a very present help in trouble", Amen.

## Prayer Service



The next Prayer Service will be held on Sunday, August 13th at 12:30pm. All members are encouraged to attend the monthly prayer services.

## Gathering God's Flock

On the 2nd Sunday of each month, we are going out to make inactive calls. We need your help to reach more people! We simply want to welcome members who have not been in church for a while back to receive all the many blessings God gives to us in His service. Groups can be husbands and wives, entire families, or just two to three people that want to help. Reach out to Pastor Smith or DCE Michael Leapley if you have questions.

## Confirmation Meeting

A Confirmation Meeting for parents and students will be held on Wed., August 30, 2023 at 7pm. All parents and students grades 7-8-9 need to attend. Confirmation classes begin September 6th at 7:00pm.

# SEPTEMBER EVENTS

## Five Loaves Supper



The next Five Loaves supper will be held on Wed., September 6, 2023 at 5:15 pm. Menu is not available at this time. Members are encouraged to bring a salad or a dessert.

## Sunday School

Sunday School resumes on Sunday, Sept. 10th. Registration forms will be on the table in the South Narthex or you may register on that Sunday.

## Fall Retreat for All Board Members

A Fall Retreat for all board members will be held on Saturday, Sept. 16, 2023 from 8:00 am until noon.

**The Bookstore** has a great selection of cards. They have confirmation, mother's day, thank you, graduation, father's day, birthday, sympathy, wedding, anniversary, baby shower, and get well cards, plus other special gifts. The bookstore is open between services.



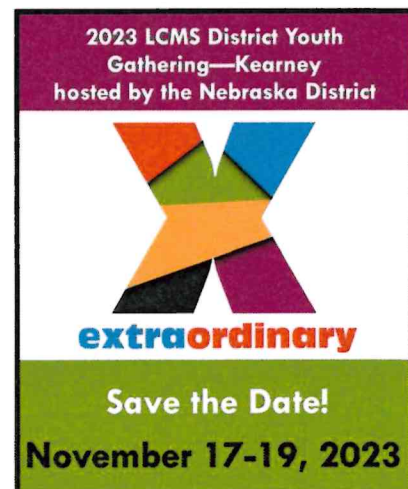
## Check It Out!

Looking back on this summer, our youth have had a lot of opportunities for growth in their faith! The top pictures show our youth at Resurrection Lutheran Church and Faith Lutheran Church in Sioux Falls where we did Jesus Door-2-Door in May. We pray that the Holy Spirit works faith in those who heard the gospel. The bottom pictures show our youth and others at Camp Minneboji! We had 200 campers and they all learned that Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life (John 14:6)!



## Events and Information

- Youth Group
  - Monday, August 7<sup>th</sup> (5-7pm)
  - Sunday, August 27<sup>th</sup> (5-7pm)
- Concordia Nebraska Visit Day
  - October 8<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>
- District Youth Gathering
  - November 17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>



# LIGHTHOUSE PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR REPORT

Date: July 2023

**Upcoming Events:** Preschool will begin August 24<sup>th</sup>. Radio and Facebook advertisements will air mid-late July for current openings. Registrations and tours are ongoing. We will have a float in the Northern Homecoming parade October 7<sup>th</sup>.

I am currently working on an LWML grant. I have requested up to \$5000 to cover tuition assistance and advertising costs. If granted, I will be looking at purchasing some permanent signage to attach to the brick sign in the parking lot.

## **Students/Families:**

**Enrollment Update: 12 morning students, 7 afternoon**

**Facilities:** The gutter on the south side of the preschool has been replaced. Touch up painting was completed in the housekeeping room and remaining touch-ups will be completed over the summer. The swing set is being looked at for stability/repairs and the replacement jungle gym has been ordered.

**Employees:** Lauren will not be returning so we are currently hiring an afternoon bus aide. All other employees will return in the fall.

**Church Relations:** Will be looking to update the substitute aide/bus helper list throughout the summer. A snack drive will be held in the month of August.

## **Strategic Plan:**

**Strengths:** Staff stability, homelike atmosphere, small class sizes, Christian education, Transportation Program, online tuition

**Weaknesses:** We are limited in enrollment numbers due to our facility size and structure.

**Opportunities:** So many possibilities! Lots of new people coming into the area means a big population increase. All day preschool is an option we should continue to pursue to meet the needs of the community.

**Threats:** Economic hardship and financial strain is real. An all-day preschool program continues to be requested by community members.





# Preschool Snack Drive

Help us feed our preschoolers healthy, filling snacks! We will be collecting non-perishable snacks and Kessler's gift cards to help us purchase snacks throughout the year! Please drop off in designated boxes in the South narthex of the church during the month of August. Thank you!

## Some Ideas

Gold fish crackers

Cheeze it crackers

Applesauce

Graham crackers

Canned fruit

Pudding cups

Cereal

Granola bars

Pretzels

Raisins

Dried cranberries

Ritz

# **FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS**

## **August Report**

This summer we have worked on and completed several Projects at St. Paul's:

1. Removed trees due to ice storm damage and hollow limbs. Currently working on landscaping.
2. New Boardroom and offices are completed (except book shelves) and staff are moving in.
3. Preschool gutters (south side) were replaced after ice Storm.

## **Pending Projects**

1. Removing carpet downstairs in classrooms due to Mold. Anyone interested in helping with this project, Please contact the church office or one of the Trustees.





SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
		1 7:00 pm Elder's mtg.	2 10am Bible Study 6:15 pm Worship 7:00 pm Bible Study	3 9:00 am Good Cheer Circle meeting	4	5
6 4:30 pm Dan Wold Foundation Walk/ Silent Auction Coin Banks	7 5-7pm Youth Group	8	9 10am Bible Study 6:15 pm Worship 7:00 pm Bible Study	10	11	12
13 12:30 pm Prayer Service	14	15	16 10am Bible Study 6:15 pm Worship	17 7:00 pm RGI Mtg	18	19
20 2pm Gathering God's Flock	21	22	23 10am Bible Study 6:15 pm Worship	24	25	26
27 5-7pm Youth Group Food Cart	28	29	30 10am Bible Study 6:15 pm Worship 7pm Confirmation Parent Student Meeting	31		