



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**
God's work. Our hands.

Welcome



Saint Paul Lutheran Church
Pine Island, Minnesota

507-356-8925 • saintpaulpi@yahoo.com • www.saintpaulpi.org

Senior Pastor: John Torris Lohre • Associate Pastor: Kip Groettum

Office hours: 9:00 am - 4:00 pm Monday through Friday
Messages can be left afterhours

This information is intended as a brief introduction to Saint Paul's faith community and the workings of several of our teams. Look it over to become familiar with some of the many goings on that make up the life and ministry of this faith community. As with any faith community however, the best way to be introduced is through worship and getting to know others. Come to worship and rely on your new member mentors and others you may know to help you become engaged in Saint Paul's. Faith is relational. It is about a relationship with Jesus Christ with family, friends, neighbors and fellow members of this congregation.

Please contact the church office at 356-8925 if you have any additional questions. We are glad to help!

Worship Services

Saturday at 5:30 pm

Sunday at 8:15 am & 10:30 am (plus Sunday School and Adult Ed)

Summer Sundays: 8:15 am & 10:00 am

Wednesday at 7:00 pm – Lent and summer (with meals prior)

Saint Paul Lutheran offers a variety of opportunities to get involved in worship and music. If you are interested in any of the following, or have any questions, please feel free to contact any of the directors or coordinators listed below.



Music

Chancel Choir (Grades 7 through adult) – Doug Strandell, director

- Traditional 4-part anthems (with piano)
- Practices Wednesday @ 7:00 pm, Sanctuary

Praise Team

(Grades 7 through adult) – Doug Strandell, director

- Contemporary 4-part anthems (with piano, guitar, drums)
- Practices Wednesday @ 8:00 pm, Music Room

Handbell Choir

(Grades 7 through adult) – Terry Biberdorf, director

- Practices Sunday 9:30 – 10:15 am, Music Room

Junior Choir (Kindergarten through Grade 6) – Heather Dale, director

- Practices Tuesday 3:15 – 4:00 pm, Music Room

Soloists/Instrumentalists/Worship Leaders – contact Doug Strandell

Faith Journey (Grades 7 through adult) – Low & Joe Jackson, coordinators

This group leads the singing of the Praise Song hymns every Saturday; music is contemporary, accompanied by piano, guitars, violin, flute, (etc.) and everyone sings the melody! The group prepares about 6 Praise Songs each week. They practice in the Sanctuary 1 hour before worship. You don't have to sing every week; come when you can!

Contact the church office if you'd like to help with **communion** set-up, distribution or cleanup. We serve communion 1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays. Please fill out the welcome pads when you receive communion.

Sign up on the clipboards if you'd like to **usher**. Training provided!

Other opportunities to help with worship: **Scripture readers, Children's Sermons and Seasonal decorations/banners.**

Adult Education

The Adult Education committee is responsible for educating confirmed members. We are currently doing this via Sunday morning forums and Wednesday night studies. On Sunday mornings, we select a variety of topics: theological, world-wide, community, and congregational. On Wednesday evenings, we have been studying books of the Bible, except during Lent when we select a book for a book study. We meet the 1st Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm, and we'd love to have new members on our committee. Please see our web page for more information. www.saintpaulpi.org/adult_ed

Youth Education

Sunday School classes are held for 3 year olds through Kindergarten during the 10:30 service. Sunday School for 1st through 6th grade is held from 9:30 - 10:15. Confirmation begins in 7th grade. Students



confirm their faith in the fall of their 9th grade year.

The Education Committee is involved in providing Christian education for our youth from age 3 to 6th grade. This involves the use of many talents, from teaching, to decorating to cooking to crafts to music. We work together to organize many activities both the up front and the behind the scene jobs.

A listing of some of the activities we are in charge of are: Vacation Bible School (usually 3rd week in August), Sunday School, Rally Day (first day of Sunday School to get excited and meet the teachers), Confirmation Stole making, Christmas program, and Seder meal/ first communion for 5th graders. We also host a few meals at church for different celebrations throughout the year.

Our committee meets the first Wednesday of the month in the church library at 6:30 p.m. We discuss upcoming events and review recent events. Please join us if you want to be involved in the Christian education for our children at Saint Pauls.

If you have questions, please contact our Education Directors:

Laura Gathje – lgathje@charter.net 288-5560

Tracy Barness – tracy.stpaul@yahoo.com 365-8026



Communications

The communications committee is involved in anything to do with communications throughout the church. Last year, we installed a television viewing system in our church. It allowed us to put congregation pictures on a screen electronically. Now people can view members pictures and see events going on in the church. The communication committee also works with the website, Channel 8, and other forms of media, to get our church information to the public.

Building and Grounds

The Building and Grounds Committee is responsible for the upkeep inside and outside of the church and properties. Saint Pauls owns two rental homes which require management and upkeep. Snow removal for the parking lots and side walks is hired out.

Mowing of the grass during the summer months is done by signing up for a week at a time to do lawn care. The members of the congregation volunteer twice a year to help with our spring and fall clean-up days. Many members through the years have helped in a variety of ways with the projects that interest them. Large projects at times require contractors to do the work, like the building of the new addition on the north side of the fellowship hall. If you are ever interested in helping on a project or have a special talent the you would like to share, don't be bashful. Like the old saying goes, *Many hands makes for lighter work!*



Youth Ministries



The youth ministries team plans many events for our middle school and high school students. We usually try to have at least one activity per month for students from grades 6-12. Among the activities we plan are lock- ins, concerts, bowling, movie events and game nights. We also plan

excursions to Valley Fair and other nearby locations for day long events. Once every three years our high school students attend the ELCA National Youth Gathering. We arrange mission trips for our high school students to various locations around the country every other year.

Our youth serve our congregation in many ways as well. They provide meals during our Lenten season, host an annual Easter Breakfast, sell Christmas trees during the holidays, and plan and lead worship in our congregation once a year.

The Youth Ministries team meets once a month to plan activities for our young people. We are always looking for new ideas and adults interested in working with kids. If you are interested in joining us, please contact the church office.

Stewardship

The stewardship committee promotes the Christian stewardship of time, talents, and finances on the part of all members of the congregation. This committee is responsible for the *Time and Talent* sheets where you can indicate your interests and find opportunities for getting involved at Saint Pauls. In addition to using the traditional weekly offering envelopes, we encourage the use of the *Simply Giving* program from Thrivent to make giving to the church easy (no more checks or forgetting your envelopes). *Time and Talent* and *Simply Giving* forms can be found in the office. When placing your offering in the plates at worship, please remember to use your offering envelopes, so contributions can be recorded and submitted to you accurately for your tax statements.

Evangelism

The evangelism committee is responsible for the outreach to prospective members of Saint Pauls. New members are welcomed into the congregation twice yearly, in the Spring and Fall. Prospective members attend two orientation sessions to get to know more about the Lutheran church (ELCA) and about programs and opportunities at Saint Paul specifically. New members are paired with Mentors, who will help them along with their journey into active membership.

Missions

We have a very active membership and are concerned about sharing God's love locally and abroad. Our local volunteer involvement includes working at the community food shelves, nursing home, assistance to flood victims, and Interfaith Hospitality Network,



which is a community service provided for temporarily homeless families. We also have members that attend GLOCAL and World Mission conferences that are sponsored by our ELCA. These conferences provide us with ideas for assisting and learning more about ways to share God's love.

Our outreach beyond the community includes youth ministry groups that typically travel out-of-state for an extended mission experience every three years. These trips usually last a week. Our most recent mission trip included several families, parents and children that traveled to Baja, Mexico, in 2008. During our one-week stay, we built four simple homes for displaced workers and their families. We are in the midst of fund-raising for our second trip in October of 2011.

Saint Pauls is involved in many aspects of mission work in our local community and worldwide. Congregational donations at various times, such as Coffee Hour Mission Sundays, are distributed among several worthy local organizations. The Mission Committee works with the Synod and ELCA to distribute funds toward active missions such as World Hunger, Lutheran World Relief and other global missions. We also have sister church in Columbia to which we periodically designate offering.

WELCA – Women of the ELCA

All confirmed members of Saint Paul Lutheran Church are members of WELCA.

Bible study and fellowship

Two circles meet one afternoon each month using the Bible Study from our monthly magazine *Lutheran Women Today*.

WELCA business meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month. There is a Women's Retreat each year, usually in March. This is a day away from home/family responsibilities and a time to get to know other women in the congregation.

Mission work

Quilters meet every Tuesday morning during the winter to make and tie quilts which are given to various places locally and to Lutheran World Relief for disaster areas.



We have a birthday party for the residents of Pine Haven once a year, and hold a Care Dinner on Maundy Thursday for Pine Haven and Evergreen Place residents, and everyone who wants to join us following communion service on that day.

Service Groups

Our membership is divided into six groups, which are called on to furnish and serve funeral lunches.

Annual Bazaar

We hold a Homespun Fun Bazaar on the first Saturday in November that includes a lunch, bake sale, crafts and demonstrations.

WELCA tries to reach a majority of women in our congregation with a variety of opportunities for fellowship, education and service. All money raised through events and fundraisers is given away at the end of the year. We welcome all of you to become active in this part of congregational life and also welcome new ideas and suggestions.

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