

# The Messenger

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
503 S. STATE STREET  
CARO, MICHIGAN 48723  
[www.stpaulcaro.org](http://www.stpaulcaro.org)

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SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES  
AT 8:30 A.M. AND 11:00 A.M.  
SUNDAY SCHOOL AND BIBLE  
CLASSES AT 9:45 A.M.  
WEDNESDAY WORSHIP SERVICE  
AT 7:00 P.M.

## OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

STUDY the Word  
SEEK the lost  
SERVE all people  
SHARE our gifts  
In JESUS' name.

...St. Paul Lutheran Church

*September 2025*

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				



# FACTS & FIGURES

DATE	SERVICE	ATTENDANCE	OFFERING
7/27	Worship Services	256	\$7,719.00
8/03	Worship Services	64 + 31 = 95	\$7,417.22
8/10	Worship Services	52 + 45 = 97	\$5,301.00
8/17	Worship Services	56 + 34 + = 90	\$4,240.00
8/24	Worship Services	69 + 53 = 122	\$7,631.00
Needed each week			\$8,642.37

## NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The deadline for the October 2025 issue of *The Messenger* is:  
**Monday, September 22 at 12:00 (noon)**

Articles may be emailed to **lynn@stpaulcaro.org** or put in Secretary mailbox.

**To ensure that I get all information correct, please only submit by email or in my mailbox. No phone calls please. Thank you!**

## CHILDREN'S BULLETIN DRAWING

The winners for the Children's Bulletin Drawing for July are - **Nolan, Penelope, Stella, and Cora.** If you haven't yet, you can either pick up your prize at the church office M-F, 8:30-4:30, or you can tell myself (Lynn), or Pastor, or the Elder on any Sunday and they can let you choose a prize from the prize box. The winners for August will be announced in the October newsletter.

## NEWSLETTER SPONSORS FOR 2025

If you would like to sponsor the newsletter for a month, please see or call Lynn in the office at 989-673-4214. The cost is only \$25 for a month.

**Reminder:**  
**The office is closed on Monday, September 1.**

## Scripture Readings: September

7	OT: Deuteronomy 30:15-20 PS: Psalm 1 EP: Philemon 1-21 GO: Luke 14:25-35
14	OT: Ezekiel 34:11-24 PS: Psalm 119:169-176 EP: 1 Timothy 1:(5-11) 12-17 GO: Luke 15:1-10
21	OT: Amos 8:4-7 PS: Psalm 113 EP: 1 Timothy 2:1-15 GO: Luke 16:1-15
28	OT: Amos 6:1-7 PS: Psalm 146 EP: 1 Timothy 3:1-13 GO: Luke 16:19-31

## PASTOR STEELE'S MEMORY BOOK:

Would you like to have your very own copy of the book that Rhonda had made for Pastor's retirement? They are \$17 for a spiral-bound book. Get a hold of Rhonda at 989-325-1305 before September 15.

**LWML:** Ladies - did you know that if you are a confirmed member of the church, you are automatically a member of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML)? Join us on the **3rd Tuesday of each month at 6:00 in the Fellowship Hall**. Our next meeting will be **Tuesday, September 16**. Our program will be a presentation of the National Convention by Ruth Steele. You will surely be uplifted.

## JOY TRIP ~ SEPTEMBER 19, 2025 FOR EVERYONE!

The September JOY Outing is open to EVERYONE! Everyone in the congregation and friends are invited to the JOY trip on **Friday, September 19, meeting at the church at 11:00 AM**. We will travel to Reese for lunch at the Pompei restaurant, then on to visit the **Weiss Centennial Farm** near Frankenmuth for their pretzel making class, where we will make soft pretzels to take home, then tour some of the farm buildings and the original house, over 100 years old. Joan Weiss will tell us lots of interesting history about this farm. This dairy farm operation has a milking robot, "Johann LELY" on the job 24/7 milking cows. We will see that and also the calves. **The cost for all of this is \$10 each**, with a minimum of \$200, so we need 20 people to attend. Please sign up as soon as possible and bring a friend! If desired, we can stop for ice cream at M24-M46 corner on the way home.

PLEASE JOIN US for Christian fun and fellowship!! JOY (Just Older Youth) includes everyone 50 and older. If you can come, please sign the sheet posted on the wall in the narthex.



**American  
Red Cross**



*donate blood*  
**DONATE LIFE**

**Our next blood drive will be held on Monday, September 8, from 12 - 5:45 PM. Call 1-800-RED-CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org to schedule your appointment.** Save time with RapidPass®. Complete your pre-donation reading and health history at RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass or with the Blood Donor App before your appointment. **The next blood drive will be November 7 from 10 - 4. That's a different day and time than usual. Red Cross could not come at our normal day and time.**

**Hymn Fest**

*"I am  
baptized  
into Christ: the Devil's  
might  
unraveled"*

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12, 3PM  
GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH  
303 RUTH STREET, AUBURN

**FEATURING**

MASS CHOIR  
BRASS ENSEMBLE  
PIPE ORGAN

  
Choral Music Link

## **WE NEED YOUR HELP!**

There will be a "Wrapping Party" for the shoeboxes that are used in Operation Christmas Child. On Wednesday, September 3, starting at 10:00 AM, we will meet in the Fellowship Hall to get this project started. We will also be folding the cardboard "go" boxes that are pre-printed. If you have extra Christmas paper that you could share, please bring it along. Come join us – show your support. If you have questions, please call Marilyn Hinderer at 989-673-6675.

Dear loved ones,

I thank you for the beautiful celebration of my retirement from St. Paul Lutheran Church. I felt your love and appreciation. Believe me, I also love and appreciate you all. First, thanks to all who participated in and attended the Sunday worship service. The music was beautiful and meaningful. We all thanked God for giving us our time together for these many years. Second, for the beautiful reception and fellowship afterward. It's always great to share a meal and celebrate. Many thanks to everyone who planned and worked to make that such a wonderful gathering. My visiting family all said the same, that it was truly well-done. Third, Ruth and I are especially grateful for all of your kind words and cards, your advice and thoughts, and your hugs. We read every single card and appreciate your feelings. We feel the same. Yes, there have been tears on our part, too. Your kind and generous gifts are a wonderful blessing for which we are truly thankful; we know these are gifts from the heart. We love you all and thank God for all of the ways you have enriched our lives with God's love.

Pastor and Ruth Steele



# EDUCATION SUNDAY

September 14, 2025

Sunday School Starts

9:45 - 10:45 AM

Regular Sunday School Classes begin on Sept. 14 for all ages.

Confirmation Class will be held on Sundays at 12:15pm  
starting September 7.

Family Sunday School will be on 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays. These Sundays we invite  
the whole church to learn about Christ together.

9th-12th Grade will be in the Youth Room in the Church building.

## 2025-2026

### Schedule

9/14/25	First Sunday School	12/21/25	Children's Christmas Service @11am
9/14/25 - 11/2/25	Regular Classes	12/28/25	No Class
11/9/25 - 11/23/25	Christmas Service Practice Starts	1/4/26 - 3/22/26	Regular Classes
11/30/25	Family Sunday School	3/29/26	Family Sunday School
12/7/25 - 12/21/25	Christmas Program Paractice	4/5/26	No Class - Easter
		4/12/26 - 5/17/26	Regular Classes

## **Meet the Bshovens:**

Pastor Richard (Rick) and Christine (Chris) Bshoven are both Michigan natives, who met during their college days at Central Michigan University.

Chris grew up in Sydney, Michigan and Rick grew up in Grand Rapids, and Cadillac. They were married in 1984 and made their first home in Holland, MI, where they both became active at Zion Lutheran Church. As a member there, Rick was encouraged to enter the ministry. The family moved to St. Louis where he attended Concordia Seminary, graduating in 2000. His first call was to a small congregation in Hebron, Indiana, followed by a call in 2010 to Trinity Memorial in Merrillville, Indiana. During his time there, he received his Intentional Interim Ministry certification (referred hereafter as Transitional Interim Ministry/TIM).

In 2022, they returned home to Michigan to be closer to Chris' parents. They now live in Alma Michigan and Pastor Bshoven began a TIM service call with two congregations located in Lowell and Ionia. In 2024 both of those congregations opted to try and form a "Hub and Spoke" partnership to call a pastor who could serve them part time. They allowed Pastor Bshoven an extra year of IIM/TIM service in order that he might locate a willing Hub congregation in the Grand Rapids Circuit. As his current call as an IIM/TIM for those congregations is coming to an end, Rev. Bshoven is now available to serve another IIM/TIM call.

Rick and Chris have two adult sons, Aric and Ben, who reside in Valparaiso, Indiana. Chris earned her undergraduate degree from Michigan State University and her Master's in Communications from Valparaiso University. Currently, she enjoys freelance writing for the Gratiot County Herald and working for Alma College. The Bshovens enjoy camping, theater, and working on their home & garden. Additionally, I can share that Rick enjoys a variety of activities, including some artistic creativity in woodworking, painting, wood sculpting and various other things that caught his interest.

Rick is naturally very personable, commands a joyful mannerism, and seems very insightful in many areas.



## **NEW: Faith at Home Milestones**

This year, we will be starting a new program at St. Paul called Faith at Home Milestones. This program is designed to walk alongside parents in raising their kids. The program has milestone classes for parents corresponding to every year of their child's life. As your children age, they will be asked to join you for milestones classes to have deep conversations about real-life issues. Please keep an eye out and sign up for the milestones that correspond to your children.

### **FAQ:**

#### **1. What is a Faith at Home Milestone?**

- Faith at Home Milestones are opportunities for your family to engage in your faith together.
- Each Milestone will include education for parents, encouragement for your home faith life, and a gift for your child.
- Some milestones involve your child as well to help them engage their faith more deeply.

#### **2. What do I have to do in a milestone class?**

- Participate in all the education times (a total of 3 hours per milestone).
- Be open to trying something new in your home

#### **3. Why these age ranges?**

- There are Milestones for birth - 12<sup>th</sup> grade, but they are spread out for your convenience.
- The age ranges listed for each class are a guideline, not a rule. You, as the parent, should take advantage of as many as possible as you disciple your children.
- The Milestones program has 18 total milestones. Some repeat every year; some are every other year.

#### **4. What if I miss the class time?**

- Talk with Zane about the classes you will miss. We may be able to meet with you at a different time to finish that milestone with you.

#### **5. Why should I participate in any of these?**

- Each milestone is designed to address key areas of faith formation for your family.
- Parents (or guardians) are the primary teachers of the faith to their kids.
- The completion of each milestone is rewarded with a gift designed to help your family grow in the faith.
- Each milestone will include important conversations to have at home and some tips and tricks to talk about difficult topics.



# OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

It is time to think about the upcoming National Collection Week for Operation Christmas Child. National Collection Week is November 17–24, 2025. We are beginning to plan for the ingathering, setup for the Packing Party, and the Packing Party itself. We hope the following information is helpful in your preparation for the upcoming shoebox campaign.

**Items Needed!** We have had many spools of thread donated to create sewing kits for the older girls. We are in need of items to complete the kits, including straight pins, assorted needles, buttons, thimbles, safety pins, and spools of thread. The first of September we will have a basket clearly marked **Sewing Kit Items** on the table under the second coat rack. Thank you for considering this project.

As many of you may be aware, we have moved from our house adjacent to the church parking lot after 57 years. As a result, we will no longer be accepting shoeboxes or filler items at our back porch. We thank all of you “Porch Elves” for using this “drop-off service” over the years. It was a convenient way for us to receive your donations. When the ingathering begins, kindly bring your filler items to church, where we will have a “Box of the Week” under the table under the second coat rack in the hall.

We are transitioning from using shoeboxes to the “Go Boxes” provided by Samaritan’s Purse. The Gospel Opportunity, or “Go Boxes” are easier to fill and pack into cartons. As a result, we no longer need shoeboxes and we thank all who have donated them over the years by bringing them to church or to our house. We also give a huge thank you to Marilyn Hinderer and Cheryl Voss for faithfully wrapping our shoeboxes in bright colored Christmas wrapping paper for many years. That was a beautiful way to bring the joy of Jesus to the children who received the wrapped shoeboxes. Thank you, Marilyn and Cheryl!

We will have an ingathering at church beginning in late September for shoebox filler items. We have included the ingathering schedule for this year on a separate page in this newsletter.

We look forward to seeing you and working with you as we work together to spread the Word of Christ to children across the globe with the gift of a simple shoebox. Blessings to you all!

Dave & Diana Mattlin  
Project Leaders for Operation Christmas Child

**St. Paul Lutheran Church  
Operation Christmas Child  
2025 In-Gathering Schedule**

**September 21 – September 27**

**Something for School**

Crayons, pencils and pencil sharpeners, markers, writing pads or paper, coloring books, picture books, erasers, scissors, glue sticks and colored pencils.

**September 28 – October 4**

**Something for personal hygiene**

Washcloths, toothbrushes, combs, hair barrettes, pony tail ties, and headbands. **Please note: Bar soap is no longer permitted.**

**October 5 - 11**

**Something for boys**

Small trucks, balls, yo yos, sunglasses, kazoos, harmonicas, ball caps, small flashlights (with extra batteries), small etch-a-sketch, slinky, toys that light up or make noise (with extra batteries), stuffed animals, watches, T-shirts, socks, whistles, flip flops, and marbles.

**October 12 -19**

**Something for girls**

Dolls, stuffed animals, toy jewelry, sunglasses, kazoos, harmonicas, jump ropes, small etch-a-sketch, slinky, toys that make noise (with extra batteries), T - shirts, socks, balls, watches, flip flops, play dough, glow sticks, and jacks.

**PLEASE DO NOT INCLUDE**

Used or damaged items, war related items, such as toy guns, knives or military figures, chocolate or food, liquids or lotions, medications or vitamins, breakable items such as snowglobes, glass containers, or aerosol cans.

**PLEASE NOTE THESE CHANGES: NO TOOTHPASTE, CANDY, or SOAP**

**Mark your calendars! St. Paul's 9<sup>th</sup> annual packing party is scheduled for October 26, 2025 beginning at 1:00PM. We look forward to seeing you! Thank you for your help and participation.**

**Thanks, Dave & Diana**

## Bible Writing Plan

# September 2025

## Harvest of Hope

- 1 - Genesis 8:22
- 2 - Leviticus 19:9-10
- 3 - Psalm 126:5-6
- 4 - Proverbs 10:5
- 5 - Proverbs 20:4
- 6 - Jeremiah 5:24
- 7 - Matthew 9:37-38
- 8 - Luke 10:2
- 9 - John 4:35
- 10 - Galatians 6:9
- 11 - 2 Corinthians 9:6
- 12 - James 3:18
- 13 - Joel 2:23
- 14 - Hosea 10:12
- 15 - Luke 12:16-21

- 16 - Matthew 13:30
- 17 - Revelation 14:15
- 18 - Exodus 23:16
- 19 - Deuteronomy 16:9
- 20 - 1 Corinthians 9:10
- 21 - Psalm 67:6
- 22 - Matthew 13:39
- 23 - Jeremiah 51:33
- 24 - Revelation 14:16
- 25 - Psalm 85:12
- 26 - Exodus 34:22
- 27 - Jeremiah 8:20
- 28 - Isaiah 18:4
- 29 - Revelation 14:14
- 30 - Song of Solomon 2:11-12



Those who sow in tears  
shall reap with shouts of joy!  
He who goes out weeping,  
bearing the seed for sowing,  
shall come home with shouts of joy,  
bringing his sheaves with him.

PSALM 126:5-6

## September 14 - Today, we celebrate the festival of the exaltation of the **Holy Cross**.

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This day originally commemorated what was considered the discovery of the original cross of our Lord Jesus Christ. In the early fourth century AD, St. Helena, mother of Emperor Constantine, discovered the cross. She thought it was authenticated when it effected a miraculous healing. The Church of the the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem was then constructed on the site where it was found. This building was dedicated on September 13, 335, but the Holy Cross was exposed for public veneration for the first time on the next day, September 14, hence the present festival.

Martin Luther was no great lover of the feasts dedicated to the holy cross. He saw in them the danger of superstition akin to the relic trafficking he had so long opposed. He once quipped that if all the alleged pieces of the “true cross” were gathered together, it would constitute a pretty massive object! Rather than fixating on the relics, he directed attention to the crucified and risen Christ.

Still, many Lutheran Church orders intentionally chose to retain the festival, and “Holy Cross” continues to be a popular name for Lutheran congregations to this day. What Lutherans celebrate on Holy Cross Day, however, is not primarily the history of a rediscovered relic

attested by miracles. Rather, we celebrate the triumph of our Lord upon the indisputably real cross that once stood on Golgotha. There in love the Father’s eternal Son and the Son of the blessed Virgin Mary poured out His life. His blood blotted out the sin of the world. His death proved death’s destruction, as His divine life and love were finally and gloriously indigestible. We celebrate on this festival the way God used and uses suffering to bring blessing; the way He worked and works so contrary to anything human reason could or would ever conceive or anticipate.

Lutherans, of course, do not deny the possibility that the original cross was the one discovered by St. Helena. Yet, to us, whether that relic is authentic is not of prime importance. What does matter is that many years ago, under Pontius Pilate, our Lord Jesus was nailed to a tree through His hands and His feet. He was lifted up just as He foretold He would be. And through this unfathomable act of divine love, He still draws all people to Himself through the redemption that is in His blood, the forgiveness of our sins according to the riches of His grace. Better than any relic is the living body and blood which He imparts to us in the Eucharist as the lasting memorial of the holy cross.

Readings: Numbers 21:4-9 /  
1 Corinthians 1:18-25 / John 12:23-33

Weedon, W. (2016). *Celebrating the Saints*.  
Concordia Publishing House.

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

*God's Blessings as you celebrate your special day!*

## September 1

Lindy Calery  
Violet Tetil  
James Hill Jr.

## September 2

Brandon Hall  
Jordan Hall  
Dana Katz  
William Tyler Heida

## September 4

Evan Langmaid

## September 5

Eileen Hiser  
Jeremy Creutz  
Mitchell Russell

## September 6

Idena Rodd

## September 7

Archie Ferguson  
Tracy Downing

## September 9

Sue Morris  
Nicole Davis

## September 10

Charles Spaulding  
Faith Voss

## September 11

Linda McQueen  
Andrew Campbell  
Anthony Del Real

## September 13

Angela Souva

## September 14

Erin Weidman

## September 15

Cheryl Voss  
Aaron Steele

## September 16

Stephanie Hall

## September 17

Ann Skidmore  
Diana Mattlin  
Trevor Grice  
Landon Russell  
Mason Crossno  
Jacki Isenberg

## September 19

Brian Skidmore  
Scott Cuthrell  
James Eremia

## September 20

Kali Ewald  
Brenda Will  
Staci Meyer

## September 21

Dorothy Cottrell  
Taylor Pryor  
Lindsay Hall

## September 22

Adam King  
Travis Phillips

## September 25

Jake Sattelberg  
Amber Brinkman

## September 26

Pastor Hollender

## September 27

Sara Eremia  
Jason Bitzer  
Melony Blasius

## September 29

Hilda Buchinger  
Emily Vaughan  
Zachary Voss  
Janet Eremia



# September 2025

<b>St. Paul Lutheran Church</b> <b>989-673-4214</b> <b>lynn@stpaulcaro.org</b> <b>www.stpaulcaro.org</b>		<b>Rev. Rick Boshoven</b> <b>219-669-0877</b> <b>pastor.bosh@stpaulcaro.org</b>		<b>Family Life Minister: Zane Simon</b> <b>517-215-0629</b> <b>zane@stpaulcaro.org</b>		
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Prayer Chain:</b> Church Office: 673-4214 lynn@stpaulcaro.org	<b>1</b> Labor Day - <b>Office Closed</b>	<b>2</b> 8:30 Quilters 5:30 Contemporary Rehearsal 6:30 Board of Elders	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7 Installation of Pastor Boshoven</b> 8:30 Contemporary with Holy Communion 9:45 Reception for Pastor Boshoven 11:00 Traditional with Holy Communion 12:20 Special Voters' Assembly 1:00 Confirmation Class (NOTE THE TIME)	<b>8</b> 5:30 Choir 6:30 Handbells 6:30 - 8:00 Youth Group	<b>9</b> 8:30 Quilters 5:30 Contemporary Rehearsal	<b>10</b> 7:00 Worship Service	<b>11</b> 10:00 - 11:30 Women's Bible Study	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 5:00 - 7:00 FORGE Men's Group
<b>14 Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost</b> 8:30 Traditional with Holy Communion 9:45 Bible Class / Sunday School Begins 11:00 Contemporary with Holy Communion 12:15 Confirmation Class	<b>15</b> 5:30 Choir 6:30 Handbells	<b>16</b> 8:30 Quilters 5:30 Contemporary Rehearsal 6:00 LWML	<b>17</b> 7:00 Worship Service	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 11:00 JOY Group	<b>20</b>
<b>21 Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost</b> 8:30 Contemporary with Holy Communion 9:45 Bible Class / Sunday School 11:00 Traditional with Holy Communion 12:15 Confirmation Class	<b>22</b> 5:30 Choir 6:30 Handbells 6:30 - 8:00 Youth Group	<b>23</b> 8:30 Quilters 5:30 Contemporary Rehearsal	<b>24</b> 7:00 Worship Service	<b>25</b> 10:00 - 11:30 Women's Bible Study	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28 Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost</b> 8:30 Traditional with Holy Communion 9:45 Bible Class / Sunday School 11:00 Contemporary with Holy Communion 12:15 Confirmation Class	<b>29</b> 5:30 Choir 6:30 Handbells	<b>30</b> 8:30 Quilters 5:30 Contemporary Rehearsal	<b>Ushers:</b> Singers Larry M		<b>Flower Chair:</b> Julie McCreedy	