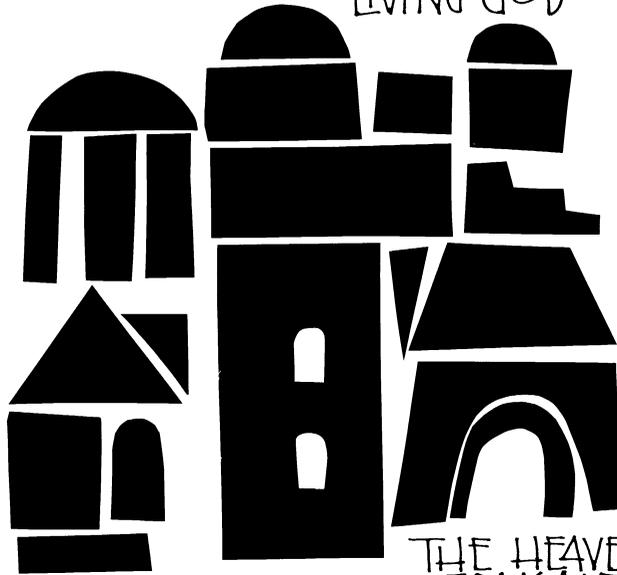


Saturday & Sunday, September 10 & 11, 2022
The 14th Sunday after Pentecost

YOU HAVE
COME TO
MT. ZION
THE CITY
OF THE
LIVING GOD



HEBREWS 12:22

THE HEAVENLY
JERUSALEM



St. Paul's Lutheran Church

1100 Georgia Ave., Norfolk, Nebraska

Office & Website:
(402)371-1233 www.stpls.com

Times to Formally Gather around the Gospel:

Saturday: 6:30 PM Worship Service

Sunday: 9:00 AM Worship Service & 10:15 AM Bible Cl

Monday: 6:30 PM Sisters-In-Faith...*women's faith and fellowship time, at church narthex*

Wednesday: 10:00 AM Bible Class (in church basement)

The Sunday service is broadcast live every week on KNEN, 94.7 FM, and livestreamed via our website – stppls.com.

These Sunday service video recordings are also archived on Youtube.

IT'S GREAT TO JOIN WITH YOU AS WE WORSHIP OUR LORD!

In our service we'll be doing three things: praising God for all His blessings through our words and songs, confessing our sins and being reminded of His forgiveness and grace, and then also using His Gospel to grow and be strengthened in faith.

We have a two-fold purpose here at St. Paul's, to strengthen faith of Christians who already belong to this congregation through Word and sacraments, and also to reach out with the Gospel of Jesus Christ to those around us who may not know what Jesus has accomplished for all mankind - forgiveness of their sins through faith!

PRIVATE PRAYER: Father, You know the multitude of sins I have committed in my life and even this past week. Help me hate my sin more and grow in grace as I contemplate what Christ has done to forgive me and free me from sin's death grip. Open the eyes of my heart to see the glorious hope we have in Christ, Your love for all of the saints, and Your power at work in us who believe (Ephesians 1:18-21). Cause my heart to burn within me as we worship You in word and song, and as we grow in and apply the Gospel.

Faith Leads Us to Salvation's Narrow Door

Many people in our world today believe that there are many roads to heaven since we basically believe the same thing anyway...be good and God is nice, so we'll all get to heaven anyway. That's the wide door. The narrow door of Scripture says there's only one way...through Jesus.

The Order of Worship: Based on CW p. 38, "Service of the Word"

Hymn #366 "O Jesus So Sweet, O Jesus So Mild"

Invocation

Pastor: The grace of our Lord (+) Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

Congregation: And also with you.

Confession of Sins

P: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

C: Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.

P: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all our sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, He has removed our guilt forever. We are his own dear children! May God give us strength to live according to His will.

C: Amen.

P: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

C: Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless - ed are
they who take ref - uge in him. Your Word, O Lord, is e -

ter - nal; it stands firm in the heav -
 ens. Your faith - ful - ness con - tin - ues for -
 ev - er. Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good.
 Bless - ed are they who take ref - uge in him.

The Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, strengthen and increase our faith and hope in Your promises, and our love for You and our neighbor. Continue to bless us as You have promised, and lead us to love what You command; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: A - men.

The First Scripture Lesson Isaiah 66:18-24

Isaiah reminds us of two promises from God, that people from every nation would be saved, including Gentiles, but any who rebelled against God in unbelief, including Jew and Gentile, would receive unending punishment.

¹⁸“And I, because of what they have planned and done, am about to come and gather the people of all nations and languages, and they will come and see my glory.

¹⁹“I will set a sign among them, and I will send some of those who survive to the nations—to Tarshish, to the Libyans and Lydians (famous as archers), to Tubal and Greece, and to the distant islands that have not heard of my fame or seen my glory.

They will proclaim my glory among the nations. ²⁰ And they will bring all your people,

from all the nations, to my holy mountain in Jerusalem as an offering to the LORD—on horses, in chariots and wagons, and on mules and camels,” says the LORD. “They will bring them, as the Israelites bring their grain offerings, to the temple of the LORD in ceremonially clean vessels. ²¹ And I will select some of them also to be priests and Levites,” says the LORD.

²² “As the new heavens and the new earth that I make will endure before me,” declares the LORD, “so will your name and descendants endure. ²³ From one New Moon to another and from one Sabbath to another, all mankind will come and bow down before me,” says the LORD. ²⁴ “And they will go out and look on the dead bodies of those who rebelled against me; the worms that eat them will not die, the fire that burns them will not be quenched, and they will be loathsome to all mankind.”

The Verses of the Day Matthew 7:13,14

P: ¹³ “Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it.

C: ¹⁴ **But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.**



C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!



These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that



Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

The Second Scripture Lesson Luke 14:1-14

For whom is Jesus' invitation to eternal life in heaven meant? Just for a certain few? Just for good people? Jesus invites ALL because ALL are sinners and He died for ALL!

¹ One Sabbath, when Jesus went to eat in the house of a prominent Pharisee, he was being carefully watched. ² There in front of him was a man suffering from abnormal

swelling of his body. ³ Jesus asked the Pharisees and experts in the law, “Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath or not?” ⁴ But they remained silent. So taking hold of the man, he healed him and sent him on his way.

⁵ Then he asked them, “If one of you has a child or an ox that falls into a well on the Sabbath day, will you not immediately pull it out?” ⁶ And they had nothing to say.

⁷ When he noticed how the guests picked the places of honor at the table, he told them this parable: ⁸ “When someone invites you to a wedding feast, do not take the place of honor, for a person more distinguished than you may have been invited. ⁹ If so, the host who invited both of you will come and say to you, ‘Give this person your seat.’ Then, humiliated, you will have to take the least important place. ¹⁰ But when you are invited, take the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he will say to you, ‘Friend, move up to a better place.’ Then you will be honored in the presence of all the other guests. ¹¹ For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

¹² Then Jesus said to his host, “When you give a luncheon or dinner, do not invite your friends, your brothers or sisters, your relatives, or your rich neighbors; if you do, they may invite you back and so you will be repaid. ¹³ But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, ¹⁴ and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”

Children’s Message (Sunday)

Please use your good judgment as far as age of child goes. And if your child is more comfortable with Mom or Dad along...come on up!!

Hymn #214 “Jerusalem the Golden”

The Sermon Meditation Hebrews 12:18-24

THE MOUNTAIN RANGE OF GOD’S LOVE

- I. Includes the imposing peak of Mt. Sinai...
- II. ...as well as the splendor of Mt. Zion.

¹⁸ You have not come to a mountain that can be touched and that is burning with fire; to darkness, gloom and storm; ¹⁹ to a trumpet blast or to such a voice speaking words that those who heard it begged that no further word be spoken to them, ²⁰ because they could not bear what was commanded: “If even an animal touches the mountain, it must be stoned to death.” ²¹ The sight was so terrifying that Moses said, “I am trembling with fear.”

²² But you have come to Mount Zion, to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly, ²³ to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven. You have come to God, the Judge of all, to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, ²⁴ to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

Confession of Faith The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there He shall come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the Communion of Saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Thank-Offering

If you haven't already, please place your thank-offering in the plate located in the back of church. Scanning this QR code works too. Thanks for your generous gifts! God blesses a cheerful giver!



Malachi 3:10 *Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it.*

Thank-Offering Prayer & Hymn

God of all grace, we can never fully repay You for all Your blessings given to us. As we give You our financial gifts, help us to faithfully use all the gifts You have given us. Thank You for giving each of us the power of Your Spirit as we live to Your glory. You have given each of us different gifts to serve You and Your church. May we faithfully serve You financially with this thank-offering, and spiritually through our selfless service. Amen.

Our thank-offerings are brought to the Lord as we sing!

#480, vss 1&5 “Almighty Father, Heaven and Earth”

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 Almighty Father, heav'n and earth
With lavish wealth before you bow;
Those treasures owe to you their birth,
So richly furnished for us now. | 5 O Father, whence all blessings come,
O Son, Dispenser of God's store,
O Spirit, bear our off'rings home—
Lord, make them yours forevermore! |
|---|--|

On Sunday the Praise Choir will sing the Lord's Prayer & the Benediction!

Prayers & Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Benediction

P: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.



C: A - men. A - men. A - men.

Closing Hymn #83, vss 4&5 “As with Gladness Men of Old”

- 4 Holy Jesus, ev'ry day Keep us in the narrow way;
And, when earthly things are past, Bring our ransomed souls at last
Where they need no star to guide, Where no clouds your glory hide.
- 5 In the heav'nly country bright Need they no created light;
You its light, its joy, its crown, You its sun which goes not down.
There forever may we sing Alleluias to our King!

A Humble , Gentle Reminder!

Please keep in mind how our congregation's budgeted General Fund is different and separate from any funds gathered for our capital campaign building project. As You're carefully determining your thank-offering to the Lord, please remember that the General Fund pays day to day bills and is absolutely essential for our daily operation, and that any funds given toward the campaign need to be above and beyond what is needed for the General Fund.

It's been stated accurately in a previous meeting, that if a person is donating to the campaign at the expense of the General Fund, please continue to give your regular amount to the General Fund. It can be easy to think that offerings toward a new school is more fun and exciting, but just as important, if not more, is staying current with regular budget. May God bless our generous giving!!

Serving In the Lord's House Today

Worship Leader: Pastor Paul Hirsch

Organist: Mrs. Karen Pufahl

Radio Broadcasters: Glynn Grebe

Video Tech: Lisa Lindemann

Elder: John Kouba

Ushers: Eric Nunnenkamp & Joe Myers

Power Point: Jett Leuthold (Sat.), Emma Hockabout (Sun.)

SERVING NEXT WEEK

Elder: Joel Wiedeman

Ushers: Curt Dinkel & Randy Anderson

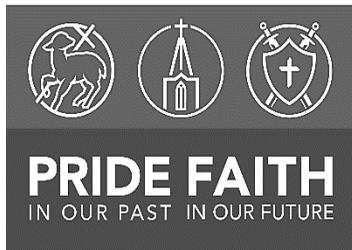
Power Point: Lisa Lindemann (Sat.), Reese Bachman (Sun.)

St Paul's Weekly - General Fund, September 3 & 4, 2022

Yearly Need	YTD Need	YTD Offerings	YTD Need vs Offerings	Last Week Received	Weekly Need	Difference
\$422,052.00	\$77,232.40	\$65,801.25	-\$11,431.15	\$6,983.00	\$6,108.23	\$874.77

Worshipping the Lord

Last Week's Attendance: Sat. 6:30 PM – 53; Sun. 9:00 AM – 96; **Total = 149**
 Sunday Bible Class – NA Wednesday Bible Class – 12



Campaign Pledge Update

Total pledges as of 8/25 = \$1,410,108
 Total pledges as of 9/8 = \$1,416,108
 Total "cash" on hand = \$481,440

For lack of a better tile, the name of the continuing campaign leadership committee is the **"Moving Forward Committee."** This group has met twice, initially on July 25 and just this last week Monday, August 22. The plan is to have regular financial updates as well as plans and direction from this **Moving Forward Committee.** The next meeting is scheduled for September 19.

- 1) The committee is made up of Jim Herbolsheimer, Rick Meysenberg, John Uecker, Scott Uecker, Kristen Paul (who is continuing as our campaign assistant), Principal Aaron Markgraf and Pastor Paul Hirsch.
- 2) A meeting with the architect has been set for today (Sunday, September 11, 1:00 PM) from which we should be getting a much better idea of information from which we can move forward.



St. John's , Stanton is celebrating its 150th anniversary next Sunday, September 18, and we're invited to join them! A worship service led by Pastors Bill Bader & Ray Beckman will take place at 10:00 AM, with a meal and activities to follow.

Announcements

- 1) There'll be one more picture session (Thursday, September 15, 6:30-7:30 PM, in the church basement) of **Pastor Hirsch's trip to the Holy Land back in 2009**. Any and all are invited to attend this "show" which offers practical insight to some Bible stories and current events from the land in which our Savior lived and served.
- 2) The month of August was the beginning of our **building campaign's three-year pledge payment period**. Whether you're gifting monthly, quarterly or annually, please write your check made out to "St. Paul's Church"...attention "building fund." If you want, put your pledge in your own envelope labeled for the "building fund" and place it in the "Campaign Pledge" box at the Communication Center. Extra empty campaign envelopes are also available at the Communication Center if you'd like.
- 3) The **9th Annual Norfolk Area WELS Golf Classic** is Sunday, September 25 at Fairplay Golf Course in Norfolk, with a shot-gun start at 1:00 PM. We're looking for hole sponsorships of any amount, prize donations for golfers, and teams of golfers. Questions or donations can be brought to your pastor, principal, or Joanna Smith - jsmith@trinityinhoskins.com or 507-272-3841.

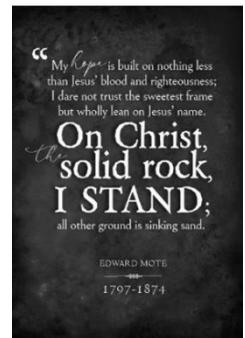
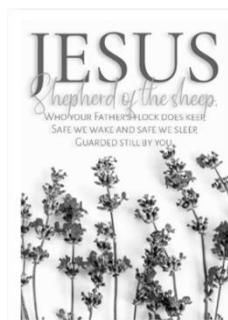
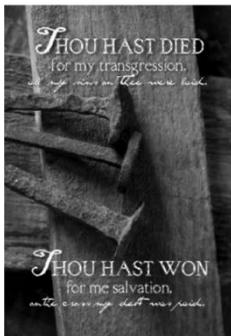
We have been asked to help provide some of the food for the event. There is a sign-up sheet at the communication center for anyone who is willing to help donate! Donations may be given to either Lisa Lindemann or Aaron Markgraf by Friday September 23rd.

- 4) **ESTATE PLANNING PRESENTATION** Mr. Scott Wagner, one of our Nebraska District's Planned Giving Counselors, will be here on Sunday, October 16. He'll be presenting information on estate planning after the service, part of which would be the importance of and set-up of wills.
- 5) **JOINT AREA REFORMATION SERVICE** It's been mentioned several times how nice it would be to get back to doing this joint worship service thing again amongst the 5 area congregations, so **Wednesday, October 26 @ Trinity, Hoskins** is the plan set. A meal will be served from 5:30-6:30 at the Hoskins Community Center, with the service starting at 7:00 PM. Pastor Zuberbier, the new guy at Shepherd of Peace, will be the preacher. More information will be coming as far as a joint adult/kids choir.
- 6) **EPIC Update** - We have officially collected 107 bags of shoes! Thank you to everyone who has supported our youth group by donating shoes over the last few weeks. We are still collecting shoes until September 17th, but that is the last day that we will be accepting shoes.
- 7) **Help at School Still Needed!** School started up this past Wednesday and we could still use some hot lunch volunteers. We need at least 3 for each day of the week. There are sign-ups in the communication center if you're willing. Speak with Aaron Markgraf if you have any questions!
- 8) **Sunday School is starting on Sunday, September 18th.** All children aged 3 through 6th grade are encouraged to come! The children will be dismissed after the Lord's Supper blessing. They will head down to the church basement for a devotion, snack and craft. Parents are welcome to pick up their children after they are done with fellowship time.
- 9) The **Fall LWMS Rally** is Saturday, September 24 at Good Shepherd in Omaha. Registration starts at 8:30 AM. We will conclude with lunch around 12:30 PM. Dan Laitinen will be our guest speaker. He will be presenting on the TELL Network (Think, Evaluate, Learn, and Lead). It is a digital outreach effort to bring the gospel to English speakers around the world. The TELL Network has 1.2 million followers and likes on its main Facebook page and there are 7,000 active users worldwide working on self-led Bible lessons on the TELL app and website.
- 10) **Pack Away Hunger** - We have reserved 3 tables for Saturday, October 1st at 12 pm. Between those who have signed up and EPIC, we should have a good group going. If you are not able to attend, they are asking for donations to help cover the cost of shipping. There is a donation box by the Communication Center, or you can contact Lisa Lindemann at 920-663-1892.

- 11) St. Paul's is going to have an entry in the **Lion's Club Parade** this year (September 24). Might you contribute toward the effort by being part of the parade walkers, and/or by donating some candy to be handed out in the parade? Leave it on the church library table, or drop it off with Miss Lindemann at school.
- 12) **Adult Choir season has started up again!** Ever thought of joining our choir? This is the year to begin! Have you been with us in the past? You're welcome back! We sing a mix of contemporary and traditional music about once a month and a bit more often around Christmas and Lent. Can't make it to all practices or singing dates? No problem! We are happy to take people seasonally. Practices are held Wednesday evenings in the church balcony at 7:00 PM. The only experience needed is that you can sing a tune and have Jesus in your heart! Come and give it a try! Any questions? Please contact Mr. Brown. **Psalm 95:1 Oh come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!**
- 13) Pastor Hirsch has recently received a call to serve as pastor at Faith Lutheran Church in River Falls, WI. Faith has about 180 souls and a pre-school. River Falls is located about 30 miles east of the Twin Cities. Please feel free to share all your honest thoughts with him. Your prayers would also be appreciated.

CHRISTIAN CARDS

There's a WELS gal in Wisconsin who's started up creating, producing and selling (\$3 a card) Christian cards based on Lutheran hymns. A sampling of these can be found at the SCRIP table. Right now we're just test-marketing to see if there's any interest. If there is, more effort will be made to expand selection. Talk to Jodi. A few tastes... 🍷





Aggressively reaching lost souls

Dear Friend,

“Go.” It begins with that one word from our Savior as he sends us to carry out the mission he has given us. He wants us to go to our families, to our friends and co-workers, to our communities, and, in fact, to all the world.

But going is not enough. It’s what he gives us to take along when we go that is at the heart of that mission. He sends us to go *with a message*—a life-changing and soul-saving message—of a Savior who came to this world to rescue people from guilt, despair, and eternal death. “Go . . . and **preach the gospel!**” (Mark 16:15).

At our synod’s convention in 2021, delegates heard about an ambitious proposal to further the spread of the saving gospel. Pastor Mark Gabb, chairman of the WELS Board for Home Missions, outlined a plan to establish 100 new home missions and enhance 75 existing ministries in ten years. It was a breathtakingly ambitious idea, but it was one that the delegates of the convention endorsed without hesitation.

Since that convention, the Board for Home Missions has been working to develop plans and strategies for accomplishing that goal—a goal that we know can only be reached with the blessing of our gracious God.

No doubt there are challenges to this effort. One challenge is workers. Due to smaller seminary classes and an increasing number of retirements, our synod is wrestling with a serious shortage of pastors. How do we answer the question of whether we have enough pastors to embark on this ambitious plan? First, we need to remember that our synod is already opening about six home missions annually. That means that this plan calls for only four more mission pastors each year. Second, the graduating classes at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary have been in the mid-20s in recent years, but in the coming years they will number in the 40s—enough to staff new missions *and* help reduce the number of pastoral vacancies. Finally, most importantly, we do as Jesus told us: We ask the Lord of the harvest to send more workers into his harvest field, and we make that request with the full confidence that God will hear and answer our prayers.

A second challenge is funding. It costs an average of \$800,000 to \$1,000,000 to plant and support a new mission until it can support itself. We thank God that in recent years God's people have generously supported the work of the synod, enabling significant dollars to be earmarked for new mission openings. We are now beginning the push to provide additional funding for this effort. We are confident that as God places this amazing opportunity before us, God's people will continue to respond with their prayers and generous offerings. Please consider a special gift to help bring the gospel to more people.

The 100 Missions in 10 Years effort is not about numbers and statistics. Rather, it is simply a concerted effort to boldly take the gospel to people in new locations throughout the country. And when the gospel is preached and proclaimed, the Holy Spirit works in his way and in his time to build his church.

Serving him,
WELS President Mark Schroeder

SOME FUNCTIONS THIS WEEK:

Sunday, 9/11 = Worship Service, 9:00 AM
Coffee / Bible Study, 10:15 AM

Monday, 9/12 = Sisters in Faith, 6:30 PM

Tuesday, 9/13 = Parkinson's Meeting, (@ church basement) 10:00 AM

Wednesday, 9/14 = Worship Service Broadcast on Local Cable 12, 9:00 AM
Bible Class (Schlieve), 10:00 AM
Public School Confirmation Class, 4:00 PM

Thursday, 9/15 = Fountain Point Service, 10:00 AM

Saturday, 9/17 = Worship Service with Communion, 6:30 PM
Organist: Mrs. Diane Herbolsheimer

Sunday, 9/18 = Worship Service with Communion, 9:00 AM
Sunday School, 10:15 AM
Fellowship, 10:15 AM

Church Cleaning Teams:

Sept. 11 – Team 5 (Gary & Sue Bretschneider, Joan Ellenberger,
Rick & Diane Ellenberger, Shannon Spreeman)

Sept. 18 & Sept. 25 – Team 6 (Kristin Bauer, Linda Jensen, Kelly Meysenburg,
Daniel & Karen Pufahl, Barb Reeves, Carol Wachter, Veryle Winter)

St. Paul's Contact Information

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(402) 649-9268
pahirschki@gmail.com

Principal Aaron Markgraf
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amarkgraf@stpls.com

Jeanette Leuthold, Secretary
School Office: (402) 371-1233
stpls.office@gmail.com

St. Paul's Website: www.stpls.com
WELS Website: www.wels.net