

Greetings St. Paul Lutheran Church!

I'm writing this PastorBlast before vacation. Hopefully when you are reading this I am safely back from Minnesota and recovering from my trip. I always like to take a few vacation days after my vacation to fully get back into the swing of things. I will be back on Sunday to preside. I am very happy though that John Beyer will be preaching so I don't need to prepare a sermon right when I got back from Minnesota. Thank you John!

Reminder that our first Sunday School will be Monday, September 27 at 6p on Zoom. Hope you can join us to reflect on the previous day's worship service.

I've been sharing a little bit of my continuing education thoughts each week. This week's is from Rev. William Willimon. Remember the theme of the conference I watched was the "Future Church." Rev. Willimon shared that future church will be whatever a living God makes of it. God is always ahead of us. Our God is the one who adores to astonish and surprise. And only a living God can surprise the future. It's not in our control. God gets what God wants. The future is unpredictable, yet God commandeers the future and won't let go of it. Jesus always finds a way to speak. We hear "He is risen." "You have a future" for God loves raising the dead. We get to go tell people that the future is whatever God makes of it. It may not be what we want to see, but a living God is often opposed to the status quo. No matter what negative events happen in our lives, Jesus isn't stuck by them. They are just opportunities for Jesus' love to be heard even more clearly in the world.

When I think of the future, my mind always goes to children. Here is an update from our Early Childhood Learning Center Directors about the summer camp that was held in June and July and the new school year.

Hello from Lisa and Olivia!

We had a great summer with our first Summer VPK program that was a success! We wrapped up the program with what we like to call a mini graduation to help send off the VPK students into their Kindergarten school year! Our Fearless Ms. Sierra did an outstanding job with the students. Of course we can't forget to give a huge shout out to the rest of our staff with having such amazing and creative ideas to help keep the summer fun for the other children! We had a blast exploring the Jungle, and even getting to see the animals up close and personal with Jungle Gardens coming by! The students talked about it for days! We can't forget to mention getting down and soapy with our annual summer carwash! The students learned how to work hard and as a team to complete the task of cleaning cars!



Thank you to all who helped, donated, or swung by for a "detailed" cleaning! We wrapped up the summer with one of our favorite sweet treats, THE ICE CREAM TRUCK! There was a wonderful local neighbor to the church who came by and treated us all! It was such a wonderful and thoughtful surprise to all of us!

We have definitely kicked our school year off to a great start with the help of our great team of staff and amazing families! We wanted to start something new and highlight a teacher of the month AND a family to show our appreciation for each and every one who walks through our doors and makes a difference in the children's' lives! Below is our highlighted teacher of the month!

This is Ms. Jamie! She has recently moved into Room 3 this school year and she is a blessing to have in that classroom! She works so hard everyday inside and outside the classroom to make sure the students are getting all developmental needs met! We are so thankful to have her as a part of our team and she is truly loved by all the students in our school and in her classroom!



Take care and God bless,
-PrAshley

9.17.21

