



St. Paul Ev. Lutheran Church
508 North Chicago Road
Thornton, IL 60476

Address Service Requested



The Glad Spirit

St. Paul Ev. Lutheran Church

July – September 2026



From One of Our Pastors

Jesus left the temple and was going away, when his disciples came to point out to him the buildings of the temple. ² But he answered them, "You see all these, do you not? Truly, I say to you, there will not be left here one stone upon another that will not be thrown down." ³ As he sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these things be, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the close of the age?" ⁴ And Jesus answered them, "See that no one leads you astray. ⁵ For many will come in my name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and they will lead many astray. ⁶ And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not alarmed, for this must take

place, but the end is not yet. ⁷ For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be famines and earthquakes in various places. ⁸ All these are but the beginning of the birth pains.

⁹ "Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations for my name's sake. ¹⁰ And then many will fall away and betray one another and hate one another. ¹¹ And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray. ¹² And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold. ¹³ But the one who endures to the end will be saved.

¹⁴ And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come. Matthew 24:1-14 (ESV)

I find the war in the Middle East heartbreaking on many levels. There is so much destruction, so many lives lost, so much hatred. For Dottie and me, the heartbreak is more personal. In 2018, we

were in Israel with a group of Lutheran parish nurses from around the world. We spent the first three days in Bethlehem at the ministry complex of Christmas Lutheran Church which is a German Lutheran Church.

Christmas Lutheran Church also has a parish nurse. This lady is the director of "whole person" health for the city of Bethlehem. Her position is essential because there are no services for retired people in Bethlehem. As we learned when we were there, younger family members traditionally have taken care of their aged relatives, but because of all the turmoil in Israel these past few years, young Palestinians leave Israel as soon as they are able.

We don't hear much in the news about Christians living in Israel. I was surprised to learn that before the 1967 war, Bethlehem had a population of 14,000, 7,000 of which were Christians. Since the 1967 war, Muslims have been forced to live in Bethlehem. The city now has a population of over 200,000, but 7,000 are still Christians. There is also a twenty foot wall around Bethlehem so the Israelis can control anyone wanting to leave and go to Jerusalem.

Getting back to the current war, Dottie and I have friends living in the midst of the turmoil. When we were there, I also learned there are villages south of Bethlehem made up entirely of Christians. All of these people are at risk not only from Iranian missiles, but also from Jewish zealots, who want to rid Israel of all Christians.

When Jesus addressed his disciple's questions over the future destruction of the temple and Jerusalem, we mostly think of when the Roman General Titus and his army did so in 70 A.D. After that total destruction of Jerusalem, Jewish people were not permitted to live there for six hundred years, but as I learned, Christians had no restrictions. A Christian man I got to know who lives in Bethlehem told me his ancestors have lived in Bethlehem since Jesus was born. He also told me his ancestors in Bethlehem were members of one of the first Christian churches on earth and it was right there in Bethlehem.

Jesus knew there would always be hatred and war. War is raging in the Middle East again. Destruction is everywhere. War is the sign of man's rebellion against God, who is love. Even Christians will be persecuted for our trust in

Jesus. What should be our response? Jesus told us in his Sermon on the Mount when he said:

"But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust." Matthew 5:44-45 (ESV)

I pray every night that peace may come to the Middle East and to this troubled world. I hope you do too.

Rev. Steven Simon



Greetings to Everyone,

When Debbie first suggested having our guest pastors write something for our newsletter, I thought it was a great idea. Pastor Klein and Pastor Buss wrote the first two articles. Then, for the next newsletter, Debbie asked me to write something, and suddenly it didn't seem like such a great idea! But here goes nothing.

During the COVID pandemic, we were extremely blessed to be able to livestream our Sunday services when we could not gather together in person. We continue to livestream our worship services every Sunday, and I hope that if you are unable to attend church on a given Sunday, you will join us online from home.

The challenge with watching from home is that it can be easy to get out of the habit of attending church regularly. Before long, it becomes easier to find reasons not to come. At one point in my life, I was what you might call a "twice-a-year" church attender—I went on Christmas and Easter. I had plenty of excuses for not going to church. At the same time, I had many questions about the Bible and my faith, but I wasn't finding answers because I wasn't regularly hearing God's Word.

When my dad passed away, I began taking my mom to church on Sundays. Instead of simply dropping her off, I started attending with her. It is amazing how many of my questions were answered just by listening to sermons and participating in Bible studies. Before long, my excuses disappeared, and regular church attendance became an important part of my life.

The Apostle Paul writes in Romans 10:17, "So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. " As we gather for worship, we hear God's Word proclaimed, our faith is strengthened, and we are reminded of His promises to us.

By attending church regularly, you also have the opportunity to fellowship with other members of the congregation and discuss questions you may have about Scripture and our Lutheran faith. Most importantly, when we are absent from worship, we miss receiving the Lord's Supper. Many of our members have not received Holy Communion since the pandemic began six years ago.

Jesus gave us the Sacrament of the Altar as a blessing for His people, offering us His true body and blood for the forgiveness of sins and strengthening of our faith. Our congregation has been blessed over the years with faithful pastors who have shared God's Word and delivered meaningful sermons that continue to encourage and guide us.

I would like to encourage anyone who has not been to church in a while to come and worship with us. Join us in Christian fellowship, hear God's Word, and receive the blessings He freely gives through the Lord's Supper.

May God bless you all.

Bill Sommer
Chairman



On this Independence Day, may we all express our gratitude to God for our homeland where we can worship as we choose.



Church History

For about five years (1858-1864) German services were conducted here by ministers of the Methodist Church. After an apparent gap of inactivity, the Methodists were superseded in 1866 by ministers of the Evangelical Synod successively stationed at Thornton Station (Homewood), near the western end of Ridge Road, about three miles west of Thornton. In 1880 the Rev. G. Hornborstel, who at the time ministered to the Germans here, reported to the Rev. Henry Wunder, president of the Illinois District (Missouri synod) and pastor of First St. Paul's Congregation in Chicago, that the Germans in Thornton for the most part were originally ("von Hause aus") Lutherans and therefore should be served by a Lutheran minister. Following his voluntary resignation, Pastor Hornborstel moved to Chicago and there joined a Lutheran congregation. Thereupon, the Thornton Lutherans sent a petition to the faculty of Concordia Seminary, Springfield, Ill., for a student to serve on a temporary basis. Wilhelm Lauer served in this capacity for about two years. In January, 1882, a similar petition, signed by Christ Drews, Johann Lange, Sr., Gustav Lorenz, and Claus Juergensen, in the presence of Pastor Karl Brauer of Crete, was addressed to the same faculty; however, this petition implied "permanency" for the man chosen from the current graduating class. The official document was submitted by Prof. Friedrich August Craemer, president of the seminary, to Candidate Carl Keller. On August 20, 1882, the young candidate was ordained and installed as the first Lutheran pastor of St. Paul's

Congregation by the Rev. Ferdinand Doederlein, pastor of St. John's Congregation, Coopers Grove. Less than four months later, Pastor Keller received from Pastor Brauer in Crete a post card bearing this information: "Pastor Burfeind ist krank, wie Du weisst. Habe gestem

fuer ihn gepredigt. Er beauftragte mich, Dir zu schreiben, dass es sein Wunsch sei, die Bloomer-Gemeinde wendete Sich granz an Dich als ihren Prediger. Gehe also getrost hin, trag's den Leuten vor und gewinne die Herzen dieser Leute fuer Dich, resp., fuer Christum. Siehe, so vergroessert Sich Deine Parochiel" (Pastor Burfiend is ill, as you know. I preached for him yesterday. He requested me to write you that it is his desire that the congregation at Bloom turn entirely to you as its pastor. Therefore, go there with confidence, submit this matter to the people, and win the hearts of these people for yourself, resp., for Christ. Behold, thus your parish is being enlarged!)

Thus it happened that the two St. Paul congregations constituted one parish from 1882 until 1893, which was served as such by Pastor Keller. Some of the Lutheran farmers volunteered to take him to Bloom (Chicago Heights) "every second Sunday." Occasionally he went there by handcar on the Chicago and Eastern Illinois Railroad. One wonders whether he was assisted with the "pumping" as was the Rev. Johannes T. Feiertag on some of his trips to Batavia from Aurora during the decade 1869-1879. Candidate Karl Henry Schroeder, graduate of Concordia Seminary, Springfield, Ill., was ordained and installed as the first resident pastor of St. Paul's Congregation in Bloom (Chicago Heights) on August 16, 1893, and Pastor Keller continued his pastorate in Thornton until October 7, 1906, when he accepted a call to Strasburg, Ill. His successor in Thornton, the Rev. Valentine Hornung of Sadorus, Ill., served in Thomton until 1920, when he resigned from the active ministry and moved to Chicago; later, to Des Plaines.

St. Paul's first church building was erected in 1873 on Hunter St., and served its purpose for about thirty years. In 1903 this building was struck by lightning and damaged to such an extent that complete renovation became necessary. Then on the Friday preceding Palm Sunday, March 25, 1904. the renovated building was completely destroyed by a violent windstorm. "...mit vielen Traenen stand die Gemeinde mit Pastor un Konfirmanden am

Truemmerhaufen." ("...with many tears the congregation with its pastor and confirmands stood at the heap of ruins.") Within a few

months the amount of approximately \$5,000 was gathered in the neighboring congregations, but only \$3,000 was needed for the construction of a new church. The surplus was used by St. Paul's Congregation for the support of other small and needy congregations. The new church was dedicated on August 25, 1904.

History of the Church from The Lutheran Trait by Schwartzkopf

To be continued in future newsletters



STEWARDING THE FIFTH 'T'

By Mark Hofman

If you read or listen to enough stuff about Christian stewardship, you may run across a familiar saying: We are God's managers (stewards) of our time, talents and treasure. These are often called "the Big Three Ts." An insightful pastor I know, the Rev. Heath Curtis, coordinator of LCMS Stewardship Ministry, talks of stewardship in terms of our vocation as a Christian, or what some mistakenly labeled as a fourth "T": toil. What Curtis means by "vocation" is our entire life as baptized and redeemed children of God living under His Word.

I have several vocations: father, husband, son, member of my congregation, called worker of the LCMS, team leader and coach, and more. What I do or don't do in each of those specific vocations involves the wise management of something or someone God has placed into my care. So the fourth "T" (toil) represents all the joyful actions under our various vocations that serve both Jesus and neighbor.

That gets me to a Fifth and often-ignored "T": tissue. I don't mean the kind that comes out of a box. I mean the physical body God has given me. Stewardship of the body - the very tissues it

contains –is and can be as tough as managing time and Finances. All I have to do to see that I need to improve in this area is to compare the size of the pants or shirts I wear today to what I wore several years ago.

But the biggest piece of tissue I struggle to steward is the one inside my mouth: my tongue. Words matter. What I say to others and about others, or even about myself, is a matter of stewarding my tongue and even my brain, I can choose to speak idle gossip, selfish or self-absorbed tirades, or condescension and judgment. Or I can choose words of compassion, empathy, forgiveness, tenderness, respect and love. Sometimes, I choose to say nothing at all.

The Rev. John Fale, who leads the Synod's Office of International Mission, caught me one time in a situation where my stewardship of my tongue was found wanting. After listening to me vent, he calmly counseled: "Sometimes the best response [to that kind of situation] is to not respond at all."

I'm often amazed, although not surprised, to see how our great enemy can and will use the tongues of Christians to split the church. Lutherans, well-meaning and passionate as they are, will "speak in tongues" that divide one part of the body from another. Our personal wants and needs, our desire to control, or even our fears and distrust of one another become tools in Satan's hands.

Thanks be to God that we are forgiven by the death and resurrection of God's own body in our Savior, Jesus, and empowered by His Word and Sacrament to seek a more excellent way: the way of love, forgiveness and compassion toward one another and our neighbors. For in Christ, all things are possible –even stewardship of the tongue and all our tissues.

Mark Hofman, CFRE, MBA, is the executive director of LCMS Mission Advancement.

Reprinted from Lutherans Engage, Fall 2016



- Man is broken. He lives by mending.
The grace of God is glue.

—Eugene O'Neill



Women of the Bible

6 Week Summer Bible Study

When: Saturdays, July 18 thru August 22

Where: St. Paul Zoom Room

Time: 8:00 am – 9:00am

Co-Hosts: Casey and Deb

Why: Good question! We often talk of beginning a Bible Study and then for one reason or another think, maybe later or next year or ????. So we thought why not just a 6 week trial study and see where it leads. When the Holy Spirit keeps asking sooner or later we get the message and jump in. So this is us jumping!

We will begin at the beginning and start with the 1st Woman on earth, Eve. When we look at women in Scripture and study their stories and lives we will see much of ourselves and how our lives intersect.

How will this study roll out? It will begin with a short description of the woman, then onto her story from Scripture and something about her life and times. We will end each story with Questions (this could be the hard part) example (how does their lives mirror yours?) I won't give away all the questions!

There are a few copies of this book in the Conference Room for anyone to use. We will also send out an email at the beginning of each week with the following information. Example:

Eve

- Meaning "Life Giving"
- Key Scriptures, Listed,
- Eve's Life and Times/Our Life and Times
- Questions

We will try to cover 1 woman each Week, but no guarantees, sometimes we get chatty and that is our goal, to study and understand these amazing women of the Bible!

If you are interested please contact
deb@splcms.org



MONDAY – FRIDAY DEVOTIONS

This is a lively discussion group as we dig a little deeper into the Bible passages and discover a plethora of information. The conversation and fellowship is an AWESOME way to start and end the day! Give it a try!

8:00-8:15 am Portals Prayer Devotional (we have them at church)

8:00-8:15 pm Lutheran Hour Ministries used during Lent and Advent

For the Link:

Text Church Cell: 312-533-1896

Email: letsdiscuss@splcms.org

SATURDAY BIBLE STUDY

8:00 am – 9:00am Women of the Bible

Co-Hosts: Casey and Deb

Contact deb@splcms.org for more info.



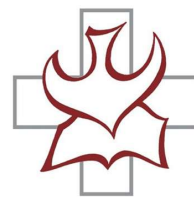
We'd love to see you in worship. Our worship services are every Sunday at 9:30 AM. If you are unable to attend it can be viewed on Facebook live at www.facebook.com/splcms/videos. Bulletins for the services are available for viewing or download on our website at www.splcms.org/worship.

CRISMONS FOR EVERYDAY

August 29th 9:00 am

Doors open 8:30 am

More information coming soon.



Confirmed



Christine Abel



My name is Christine Abel. I have lived in Thornton all my life. St Paul's has always felt like family to me. I am so blessed to be able to join such a wonderful family. God has always been a big part of my life and my family's lives as well. When my Mom passed away last Christmas Eve it was a struggle but with my faith in God I was able to get through the hardest time in my life. I want to thank everyone for letting me join this wonderful congregation.

Jolene Bruning



My name is Jolene, and I am honored to be receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation. I have lived in Thornton for over 22 years and am a proud mother of two sons. I currently work as a paraprofessional while pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education. My faith has been

an important source of strength, guidance, and encouragement throughout my life. Through Confirmation, I look forward to continuing to grow in my relationship with God and living out my faith each day. I am grateful for the love and support of my family, friends, and church community as I take this important step in my spiritual journey.

Justin Bruning



My name is Justin, and I am 16 years old. I will be a junior in high school this fall. I am involved in track, cross country, and chess, which keep me busy throughout the school year. I enjoy learning and work hard in my classes,

and I am proud to be a straight-A student. In the future, I hope to become an electrician and

eventually serve as a pastor in the Lutheran Church. My faith is an important part of my life, and I am grateful for the opportunity to be confirmed. I look forward to continuing to grow in my relationship with God and learning how to serve others through my faith.

Casey Stonerock



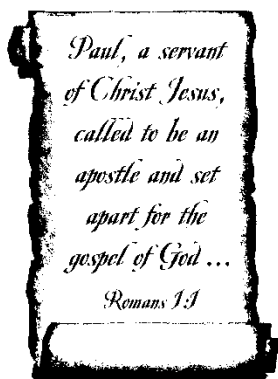
My name is Casey Stonerock. I lived in Thornton, IL for my whole life. I have been a Christian for my entire life. I went to a Christian school and High school. I am dedicated to Saint Paul's Lutheran Church

as a member of the church and also a servant to the church. Thank you for accepting me into your church family!



July, August, September at a Glance

7/5	9:30 ^{AM}	Sixth Sunday after Pentecost
7/12	9:30 ^{AM}	Seventh Sunday after Pentecost
7/19	9:30 ^{AM}	Eighth Sunday after Pentecost
7/26	9:30 ^{AM}	Ninth Sunday after Pentecost
8/2	9:30 ^{AM}	Tenth Sunday after Pentecost
8/9	9:30 ^{AM}	Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost
8/16	9:30 ^{AM}	Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost
8/23	9:30 ^{AM}	Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost
8/29	9:00 ^{AM}	Crismons for Everyday
8/30	9:30 ^{AM}	Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost
9/6	9:30 ^{AM}	Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
9/13	9:30 ^{AM}	Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
9/20	9:30 ^{AM}	Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
9/27	9:30 ^{AM}	Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
9/29	No Service	St. Michael and All Angels



Although St. Paul is credited with writing the letter to the Romans, he had one of his friends do the actual penmanship. Toward the end of the letter, the penman identifies himself. Who was it?

- A. Tertius
- B. Timothy
- C. Lucius
- D. Aquila

The answer can be found in Romans 16:22.

Answer at <https://www.splcms.org/index.php/newsletter/puzzle-solutions>



July

- 10 Violet Rich
- 12 Bob Brandy
- 19 Tina Morse
- 24 Dave Bloom
- 31 Bev Oaks
Levi Robinson

August

- 9 Michelle Michels
- 17 Tara Schassburger
- 18 Joy Wilmington
- 21 Chris Carr
- 29 Steven Michels
- 30 Ed Hoeksema Jr.

September

- 3 Ocean Middleton
- 7 Austin Brandy
- 13 Marina Middleton
Ray Zander
- 15 Mary Sella
- 17 Abigal Rodenberg
- 25 Dana Krieger
Louis Sella
- 26 Alec Schassburger
- 28 Amelia Abel



St. Paul Ev. Lutheran Church



SUNDAY WORSHIP

9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

To be Announced.

LETS DISCUSS

By Zoom .
15 minute Devotion
8 am & 8 pm

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office@splcms.org

www.splcms.org
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Church Office Hours
Monday thru Friday.
In Person by Appointment
By Phone 9 to Noon

Contact the church office to submit
personal testimonials about what God
has done for you. Or original art that is
inspirational or humorous to the artist.

CONGREGATIONAL OFFICERS

Chairman Bill Sommer
Vice Chairman David Bloom
Recording Sec. Tracy Middleton
Financial Sec. Robert Brandy
Treasurer Mary Sella
Elder Henry Sella
Eric Schaussburger
Brian Wiltjer
Jerry Wiltjer

Trustee

Stewardship Diana Carr
Evangelism Debi Brandy
Social Ministry Norma Allen
S. Sunday Super.
Asnt. Super.
Adult Director
Youth Director