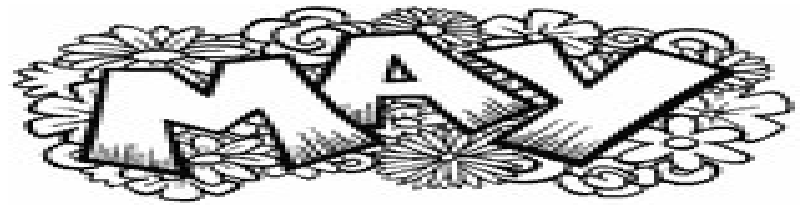


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Barnabas Buddies: An Invitation To Encourage Others

There is a fairly overlooked Biblical character in the Book of Acts, Barnabas. He shows up 3 times in Acts 4:36-37; Acts 9:26-27; Acts 11:21-26. He was very influential in spreading the good news about the gospel in the early church, and he was helpful to Paul. **His name means . . . “Son of encouragement.”** Every record of his behavior in scripture models what it means to be a loving, caring Christian.

He was especially known for his service to others in the early church. He was generous in giving to the poor, he defended Paul when others doubted his genuineness, and even when the Apostle Paul had dismissed Mark it was Barnabas who encouraged Mark, leaving Paul and continuing ministry with Mark.

Like John, Mark, and Paul, we will encounter difficulties and challenges that God doesn't intend for us to face alone. A sure way to experience God at work is through others. One of the risks of churches, it seems to me, is the potential of being lost in the crowd, and alone. Perhaps you have experienced that yourself. This is where we are developing the idea of Barnabas Buddies.

DCE Susie and I would like to introduce to you and invite you to be a Barnabas Buddy for our confirmation youth. There is sign up online as well as a paper sign up for the 2024-2025 confirmation year beginning in September.

Barnabas Buddies will be anonymous (for a time). Adults (or families or older high school or college youth) who sign up will be asked to be an encourager throughout the year for a specific confirmation student. This student will be assigned by DCE Susie to volunteer... and you may certainly support and encourage 2 or more students if you are able and desire! Our youth will have an information sheet filled out and you will get some basic information such as their name, parents, interests, hobbies, birthday. Youth will not know their Barnabas Buddy however. They will simply be encouraged through you.

(For best practices, requests for specific students will not be made and best effort will be to not have family members matched with a student as we pray that family members are already encouraging their own.)

Barnabas Buddies will focus on the characteristics that Barnabas displayed in the book of Acts: encouraging, being someone's champion, supporting. This will be up to you how but would include regular notes of encouragement, perhaps a small gift (for example: a candy bar, a

Christmas or Valentine gift, a drawing or note from a younger child on how they see them serving as acolytes), or other encouragements. Perhaps most importantly, pray for them and let them know you are praying for them.

Youth will likewise be encouraged to return thanks throughout the year through Pastor Amen and DCE Susie. If they have a prayer request, they may share that too.

At the end of the year, in late-April or May, we will have a reunion and celebration of some sort of event to connect youth and their Barnabas Buddies so they will know who they were. This will give opportunity to connect and develop inter-generational and new relationships within our congregation, giving our confirmation youth someone they are connected to during these formative years and connecting others to these young people who are not only the future of the church but are presently the church, learning and growing as they are engaged in God's Word for going out in the world today to share His grace.



Barnabas was a cornerstone of the early Christian community, and a sure example of friendship and encouragement to others. Please consider signing up and being a Barnabas Buddy. We will need to connect over 30 youth in 5th-8th grade with a Barnabas Buddy. If you have more questions, please ask Pastor Amen or DCE Susie. Connections will be made in September 2024 for the year going through May 2025.

<https://shorturl.at/hipI2>

- Pastor Amen

Christian stewardship is the free and joyous activity of the child of God and God's family, the church, in managing all of life and life's resources for God's purposes. This includes one's time, talent, and treasure. Our giving is a joyful response of thanksgiving for all God has done for us.

What shall I render to the Lord for all his benefits to me?

I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord,

I will pay my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people...

I will offer to you the sacrifice of thanksgiving and call on the name of the Lord.

(Ps. 116:12-14, 17)

Thank you for the consideration in supporting the work and ministry at St. Paul. We are pleased to share that online giving is now available with your checking account, debit or credit card, as one-time gifts or you may setup as recurring/automated giving. This is done securely through Vanco to provide security of your data and information.

<https://www.stpaulpipestone.com/donate-and-give>

Confirmation Essays 2024

Zachary Amen

My confirmation verse is 2 Timothy 2:7. "Think over what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in everything." I chose this verse because it tells me that as long as I trust God and look to the Scriptures that He will help me to understand things I don't understand yet. I also picked this verse because it ties all the verses before it together. At the beginning of the chapter it speaks about how we are all strengthened by God's grace, how soldiers are not to get caught up in civilian pursuits, how an athlete is to compete according to the rules, and how a hard-working farmer is to get the first share of his crops. It shows that while things are not always clear, God will help us to understand it.

To be confirmed means that I know and understand the Small Catechism. Being confirmed means that I understand and know my faith and what my beliefs are about the Bible. It also means that I know what communion and baptism are, how they are part of my faith, and that they were instituted by God for us to do as Christians.

For me to be a member of the church means that I know what the Lutheran faith is. Being a church member also means that I have a church to attend and am part of the LCMS church body and community. Being a member of the church also means that you have a place to worship God with others that share your beliefs in the Bible, Baptism, and Communion.

I plan to continue growing my faith in God and my understanding in the Bible with my studies of God's Word in my Bible class. I also plan to continue to grow my faith by continuing to attend church and SPY. I plan to serve the church by continuing to be in the bell choir. Also to play other instruments in church. I will also continue to help with VBS.

Madesyn Fenicle

For my confirmation essay I chose Psalms 25:2-3. O my God, in you I trust; let me not be put to shame; let not my enemies exult over me. Indeed, none who wait for you shall be put to shame; they shall be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous. I chose this verse because any time I have doubts or worries I read this verse and it helps me to remember that I need to put all my trust in him and he will not let me down and that I should always believe in him no matter what.

For me what it means to be a member of the church is that I get to be a part of something way bigger than most people can think of. I get to be around people who have the same beliefs and faith as me and will always help support me through growing in my faith. Also I can be there for future kids and be able to help them grow and learn in their faith which is an amazing thing to be a part of.

How I am going to continue to grow in my faith is to continue going to church and growing my knowledge. Cause there is way more that I still have the ability to learn. I can also help people grow in their faith in the church and encourage more people to go to church. Also continuing to pray to him when ever I need him in the good and bad times and just to continue listening gods word and what he tells us to do by reading the Bible.

How I plan to be a part of the church community is just being able to be there for anybody when they need my help volunteering or anything like that. Also helping other people grow faith in him and helping them to be a part of this church community.

Josey Fey

I chose the verse, 2 Corinthians 1:3-4: "Praise be to God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles so that we may comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God."

I chose these verses because they help me understand that God puts His arms around us even when we feel angry and hurt. Through my memory work these 3 years, I have a better understanding of His comfort and through confirmation I have come to know that God walks with me every step of the way in my life.

I know I have wings behind me to help me to be able to show kindness and love to others also in their time of need, as others have shown me. I pray that I will continue to become even stronger in my faith in God and I will show love for others through 4H, school activities, and our large community of horse family and friends, all with the love and support of our church family.

Mackenzie Lange

Today in this world more evil shows through in people than good. Kids make fun of you for wearing the wrong clothes and shoes. On TV you hear about more wrong than good. This is why I chose Romans 12:21 Do not be conquered by evil, but conquer evil with good. I want to try to remind people to not be overcome with evil, but to see the good in things. Everyone is fighting a battle that you may not know about. Today I ask you to stop looking at the negative and look at the positive in your life.

During confirmation I have built my relationship with God. I have studied his word, the meaning and his background. I have learned what the Lord's Prayer means, why we are baptized and how to under-

stand the commandments. I now have a better understanding of God's word and the things he did. Learning all of this has helped me to look past the bad and see the good in people.

Being confirmed I can continue building my relationship with God by continuing to study his word, reading the Bible and coming to church. I will tell people about prayer and how speaking to God can help you through tough times. We don't always know why but we know God will help us. I plan to continue going to church, being part of the congregation, and taking Holy Communion.

Today I ask you, the next time you see someone wearing ragged clothes with dirty hair, not to judge. Look through this and see the good. Say a prayer for them to help with their struggles. We all need to conquer evil with good, to bring God's peace to earth.

Dane McCorquodale

Psalm 86:11: Teach me your way, LORD, that I may rely on your faithfulness; give me an undivided heart, that I may fear your name.

This verse means to me that we are in God's petition and that I can have everlasting love from Him and know that He is a forgiving God. I know that when I sin, I can ask for forgiveness and that God's word will lead me to be faithful. It also means, that while God is teaching me His ways through the Bible and Sunday services, that I too must keep an undivided heart to trust in His word and His will with the plans He has for me.

Being confirmed means to me that I will become a member of this church and that I am promising my faithfulness to God and His word through before the congregation and doing so through communion, His teachings and service to our church.

Being a member of the church means that I should not only respect the Word of the Lord but to also respect the leadership of the church and support them. I can do this by supporting the church through attendance and service work during church services and other needs that the church may call upon. I understand that my Pastor and other church leaders are here to support me and my faith and should also support and respect them in doing so.

I plan to grow in my faith by regularly attending church, regularly attending the youth group, helping serve within the church and keeping the Gospel close to my heart when I interact with those in my congregation, my family and my community. By keeping faith within my heart, I know that God is here to guide me into adulthood to be a strong person and congregation member.

Kami Tollefson

Jeremiah 29:11, “For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to give you a hope and a future.” I chose this verse because it reminds me everyday that I am not here just to be here but that God wakes me up every morning because He has something for me each day.

Being confirmed means that I have learned basic parts of the Bible is, what we believe, and most especially that what Jesus has done on earth as true God and true man.

Being a member of the church means that I have non-related family that is here for me. To grow my faith with God, I plan to continue coming to church and continue praying to God, especially when I am in need of someone to talk to, even if I have no one else I have Him. I will continue to come to church and be part of our church community. I plan to stay in touch with everyone through the Lord building stronger relationships with everyone.

Oliver Whipple

I’m Oliver Whipple and my confirmation verse is Psalm 127 verse 1. “Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labor in. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the guards stand watch in vain.”

The reason I picked this verse is because I like building things. Some of the things I’ve made is wooden knives and helping my dad with building cabinets, our deck and fences in our backyard. If something doesn’t have a firm foundation in Christ, all the effort put into it is useless. Just like in the things I build if you don’t have quality in your materials, it won’t last and all your work will be in vain.

For me, to be confirmed means I am moving forward in learning about God and helping the church and taking a step deeper in my own faith. Putting that faith into action is what being a member of St Paul’s is all about. Some things I plan to do and continue doing is to volunteer for various things that the church needs help with like continuing to mow the church lawn, help with Vacation Bible School.

How I plan to continue to grow in my faith is continue to faithfully attend church, read the bible and ask questions when I’m confused about what the Bible is telling me. Our education is always growing and never ends until the final day we meet Christ himself. How do I plan to be part of the church community is to continue to help out where needed and attend Senior SPY.

May 2024 Worship

Sunday, May 5, Sixth Sunday of Easter

Acts 10:23b-48, 1 John 5:1-8, John 15:9-17

Hymns: 842, 706, 556, 770, 706

Service: Confirmation

Sermon: Here to Listen

Sunday, May 12, 2024 The Ascension of our Lord

Acts 1:1-26, Eph. 1:15-23, Luke 24:44-53

Hymns: 491, 492, 493, 537, 830

Service: Setting 1

Sermon: Accept No Substitutes

Sunday, May 19, 2024: The Day of Pentecost

Ezek. 37: 1-14, Acts 2:1-21, John 15: 26-27; 16:4b-15

Hymns: 496, 834, 497, 643, 895

Service: Setting 1

Sermon: Help for Life

Sunday, May 26, 2024: The Holy Trinity

Is. 6:1-8, Acts 2:14a, 22-36, John 3:1-17

Hymns: 837, 507, 571, 761, 525

Service: Setting 1

Sermon: God’s Vision To and For Us



High School and College Graduate Recognition **Sunday, May 19**

Attention all high school and college seniors! Please get a picture to Pastor Amen and join us on Sunday, May 19 as we recognize your achievements and send you off on the next part of your journey. We will be recognizing our Sunday School teachers as well so please attend so we can thank you for all the hard work you put into teaching our students

Confirmation Changes coming this Fall! We are making some major changes to our Confirmation program here at St. Paul. As we raise up our children, we want them to have all the knowledge and skills to proclaim and defend their faith throughout their life. And as the needs of our students and families change, we need to adapt our programs to best serve and equip them for their life as a Christian. At the beginning of May, see our Facebook page for a video explaining the changes we will be making and the ways you can be involved in the confirmation program. (Refer also to Barnabas Buddies article on the front page of this newsletter!)

SPY Car Wash Fundraiser

Sunday, May 19 ~ 10:15-Noon

As winter melts away to spring, our cars are often in need of a good cleaning! Come to Sr. Paul on Sunday, May 19 for a car wash and a treat while you wait! Students will be washing cars for a fundraiser for various church activities so come to support and tell your friends! The cost will be a free will offering with a suggested donation of \$10 per vehicle.

JAM Rally Day Balloon Update from Teresa Whipple: April 23rd we went on a trash walk for Earth Day. While on our walk my 5 year old, Jamison, found a ribbon from a balloon! And lo and behold, it had a little note tied to it! We found Tenli's balloon from JAM Rally Day! The day-care kids were excited for me to read it to them! Although it only made it a block, it's a good reminder that we don't have to go far to spread the message of Jesus' love to others!

Sr. SPY Youth Group

Wednesday, May 1 & May; 8 ~ 7-8:30 PM

Our final Sr. SPY Youth Groups for the year will be the first two Wednesdays in May. On May 1, we will be playing "Bigger and Better" where we will split the group into two teams and go around trading items in the community and see who can get the bigger and better item by the end! Join us for a fun evening. May 8 will be an end-of-school- year party so join us for a fun and exciting evening with friends!

Jr. SPY Youth Group

On hold until June With so many events and activities happening in May, we will be putting Jr. SPY on hold until the month of June. Keep an eye out for the fun activities we will be doing this summer!

3rd Grade Home Visits

DCE Susie will be visiting those students who will be entering 3rd grade in the fall of 2024 for a home visit this summer. We will discuss prayers and how to use the Bible you will be given in the fall. It is a great time to connect and encourage!

5th-6th Grade Home Visits

Pastor Amen will be visiting those students who will be entering 5th and 6th grade in the fall of 2024 for a home visit this summer. We will discuss confirmation, the Small Catechism, communion, as youth begin this process of lifelong learning in the fall. A sign up is available with dates in the church office or contact him to arrange other times. A great opportunity for parents and youth to ask questions and prepare for the upcoming time of catechesis.

Confirmation Sunday

Sunday, May 5 ~ 9 AM

Confirmation Sunday has been set for Sunday, May 5. Please join us as our eighth graders publicly confess their faith and to support them as they receive their first communion.





St. Paul Preschool



BUT THOSE WHO HOPE IN THE LORD WILL RENEW THEIR STRENGTH. THEY WILL SOAR ON WINGS LIKE EAGLES; THEY WILL RUN AND NOT GROW WEARY; THEY WILL WALK AND NOT BE FAINT.

ISAIAH 40:31.

Hope this letter finds you all healthy and strong!!!! I can't believe this is my final newsletter for 2023/2024 school year, and what a year it's been!

Through the school year we have tried to encourage your children to grow academically, socially and spiritually. We give God the credit for the dramatic changes we have seen in all the children. Socially, the little cliques we witnessed at the beginning of the year are not as strong. During play time we were seeing friendships develop between children who rarely spoke together at the beginning of the year. Academically, we are really thrilled that EVERY child has made tremendous strides with the paperwork and projects we have done. Spiritually, I think the children are way ahead of us. They loved the Jesus time with Pastor and Susie and looked forward to them coming to our class.

Graduation is May 29th at 6:30 for M/W/F classes and 5-day classes. Please have your child to the preschool by 6:00 to get in our cap and gown□.

We are having a year end picnic for the T/TH class on May 30 th at 6:00 pm at southwest park shelter, watch for information coming soon.

We are currently taking registrations for the 2022/2023 school year. Please spread the word with family and friends! We are currently full in the three-year-old class and have just a few spots left for the 4-5's

We welcome any comments you have regarding the preschool. As parents, your thoughts and opinions are very important to us. With your help, we'd like to make each year a little better than the last. May the lord bless each of you. Let's keep in touch. We really want to know how your child is doing in the future. Some of these little "graduates" might be



Let the children come to me...

Matthew 19:13-14

St. Paul Preschool is owned and operated by St. Paul Lutheran Church, LCMS.
621 W. Main St., Pipestone, MN
507-825-2142

Teacher/Director
Shelly Tuinstra
s.tuinstra@iw.net

Assistant teachers
Paige Larsen
Rose Sorenson

Preschool board members
Meg DeGroot
Melissa McCorquodale
Heather Brinkmeyer
Brianna Jasper
Elizabeth Determan

Board Meeting Minutes

St. Paul Lutheran Church, Pipestone, MN April 16, 2024

I. Board Meeting called to order

II. Opening Prayer by Pastor

III. Welcome and comments by President Blake Jasper

IV. Minutes of March Board Meeting approved. .

V. Financial Report by Doug: update coming with the quarterly report.

VI. Reports

A. Board of Elders: Have worked on scheduling elders for services. Working on the details for the giving program.

B. Church Growth & Fellowship Committee: Food shelf looking for more volunteers, for later in the day shifts.

C. Education Committee: Wrapped up Jr. Spy for this year. They studied different World religions. Sr. Spy has been studying transitions in life. The Youth had an eggging fundraiser that went well. Easter breakfast had a good turn out. The Youth are planning for May 19th, to have a car wash fundraiser. This will also be the last day of Sunday School. A Confirmation parent meeting is planned on April 28th. This will be a time for discussion of changes for next year, and answering any questions. JAM will be looking for teachers for next Fall. We will be recognizing JAM teachers from this past year, and college, and high school graduates, during the May 19th service. Susie has been sending out baptism cards, the last few months. This Summer Susie will visit students entering into third grade, and they will get a book on prayers.

D. Property Committee: Loren talked with Corey Popma to proceed with installing the fans in the atrium. Awaiting lights. Mike Crawford replaced some bulbs in the balcony. Discussion of the furnace and if sensors are working correctly. They will look into this.

E. Preschool Board: Graduation and Spring program is coming up. Will have a district representative here this coming Sunday, during service. Shelly be awarded the preschool director of the year award at this Sundays service.

F. Pastor: Through with Lent, and Easter services, and reports they all went well. Lots of good help!
Old Business: Rental house update. Deck is almost completed, and doors have been replaced. Rick is working on getting ready to paint. The house lost some shingles in the last wind storm. Blake discussed working on a budget for material, for shingling the whole roof, and choose a Saturday for volunteers to help. Hoping to get a renter in there soon, after repairs are completed.

New Business: Training coming up with Steve Moffit on how to do the new digital program for Church services. There will be no more burning CDs.

Dates & Times:

Next Voters Meeting- April 28th

Next Board Meeting- May 21

Adjournment and Closing

Board Members:

President: Blake Jasper, 605-988-4367

V. President: Verdeen Colbeck 507-820-0761

Treasurer: Doug Stotz, 507-215-2094

Secretary: Karla Loll, 507-215-2484

Properties: Loren Dockter 507-820-9394

Mike Crawford 507-920-6779

Pastor: Christopher Amen, 507-562-4851



Offerings for Missions

May 12: LWML Mite Box Sunday. The mites/door collections will support national and international mission grants. Read about this month's featured grants below, and join us to learn more on May 2, 2024, Year to date we have collected \$57.96 to donate towards these grants.

2023–2025 Mission Grant No. 8

EXPANDING GOSPEL PROCLAMATION WORLDWIDE

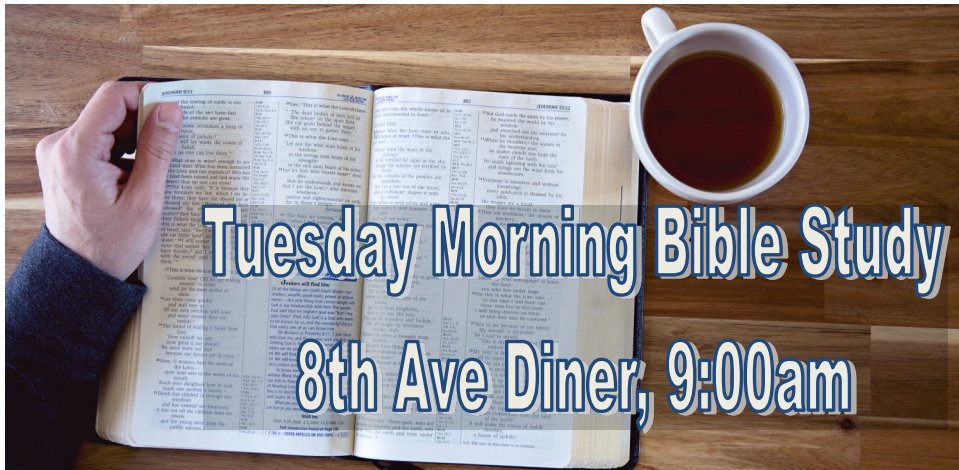
Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Missouri | \$100,000

Concordia Seminary is committed to addressing the concern of educating international students from countries that are unable to handle the significant financial obligation. This education will help to ensure that those living in every region of their nations will hear and learn the message of salvation through Christ. An LWML

Mission Grant will provide scholarship aid for international students. To learn more, look up this mission grant at www.lwml.org/2023-2025-mission-grant-8.



Bible Studies and Groups



The **Quilting Group** meets on **Wednesdays at 1pm**. Join in the fellowship and work on some projects. We would love for you to join us on Wednesdays for a fun afternoon of sewing and fellowship. You do not need to have quilting experience, just willing hands. Can't join every week? That's ok! Please come when you are able!



SAGES
Saints Alive!

Growing Ever Serving

Wednesday, May 29, 10:00am

Join us for a time of coffee and fellowship, a little Bible study, a few mind games and a good time with others who admit to not being as young as they use to be.



Thursday, May 2, 2:00pm

Ladies of all ages are welcome to attend as we plan and discuss the upcoming year and update on LWML mission projects.

Pastor will lead us in a Bible Study

Adult Bible Study Sunday, May 12 ~ 10:15-11:15 AM

Are you interested in attending a Bible study following the worship service? We are looking to integrate an adult Bible study on Sunday mornings following worship and we want your input on what we study! Join DCE Susie in the basement fellowship hall at 10:15 as we look at a few topics, discuss what topics you all are interested in, and have a short Bible study to give you a sneak peek on what to expect in the fall.

We look forward to seeing you there!



Elders

Matt Determan & Duane Kruse

GREETERS

Sun, May 5 ----- John & Theresa Draper
 Sun, May 12 -----
 Sun, May 19 -----
 Sun, May 26 -----

ACOLYTES

Sun, May 5 ----- Matthias Amen & Mackayla Lange
 Sun, May 12 ----- Ashlynn Meulebroeck & Ireland Draper
 Sun, May 19 ----- Harper Smidt & Hatty Fey
 Sun, May 26 ----- Collin Schulze & Mackenzie Lange

POWERPOINT

Sun, May 5 ----- Richie Whipple
 Sun, May 12 ----- Morgan Thompson
 Sun, May 19 ----- Jasmine Boeke
 Sun, May 26 ----- Jersey Fenicle

Altar Guild

SOUND

Sun, May 5 ----- Denny Winter
 Sun, May 12 -----
 Sun, May 19 -----
 Sun, May 26 -----



ALTAR FLOWERS

Sun, May 5 -----
 Sun, May 12 -----
 Sun, May 19 -----
 Sun, May 26 ----- Verdeen & Verlinda Colbeck

RADIO SPONSORSHIP

Sun, May 5 -----
 Sun, May 12 -----
 Sun, May 19 -----
 Sun, May 26 ----- Verdeen & Verlinda Colbeck