



A Faith Children Grow Into, Rather Than Grow Out Of

We have all seen the epidemic of children who are faithfully raised in the Lutheran Church, baptized and confirmed, and then tragically do not continue in the church. Sadly, that leaves some to walk away from the Christian faith altogether. Pastors and congregations have been seeking ways to combat this sorrowful phenomenon and it has been a challenge for generations. It truly is a wide spread problem that affects congregations across the LCMS, as well as other denominations.

I was confirmed in 1997. There were eight of us in that confirmation class. Three of them I never laid eyes on again following that day. Three others wandered away from the faith we were taught by the age of twenty. Only one other member of my confirmation class still holds the faith in which we were well instructed, believe, and confess. There must be a better way to instruct the youth so they may remain in the truth and rejoice in the forgiveness of sins we receive in Jesus Christ.

There has been a growing number of congregations in the LCMS who have begun to separate communion from confirmation. This movement began in the late 1960s and today more than 25% of our congregations participate in this practice. In the Lutheran Service Book Agenda (instruction book for our hymnal) there is a Rite of First Communion Prior to Confirmation. This means this practice has the approval of the LCMS and is consistent with beliefs and teaching. Before I describe what this means, let me briefly explain why the practice of 1st Communion prior to confirmation developed.

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Even back in the 1960s, pastors and congregations could see the young not remaining in the faith and devout reception of Christ's gifts. They saw that by granting the Lord's Supper, following Confirmation, it created an atmosphere that Communion was akin to a graduation gift and there is no graduation in this life from needing the body and blood of the Savior. For the first eleven years of my service as a pastor, I had the practice that most LCMS churches use, confirmation being the entrance to Holy Communion. And for those eleven years I saw child after child walk away from Holy Communion and sometimes from Christ altogether.

We also should ask the question, "what is Confirmation"? It is not a word we find in God's Word, but what it does is found there. That is teaching, questioning, and examining whether one is ready for deeper instruction and reception of the Lord's Supper. The LCMS had pressure both denominationally and culturally to focus on the middle school years. Many other church bodies think of middle school as the age of accountability and many LCMS churches also benefited from having children excused from sports practic-

A FAITH CHILDREN GROW INTO, RATHER THAN GROW OUT OF *continued*

es for religious instruction, though that era has passed. But historically Lutherans admitted children to communion much younger.

There is no magic age where one can understand the Lord's Supper. What I intend to do is offer an 8–10-week, one hour class, for a parent to attend with their children. You could think of this like a preliminary confirmation where more in depth instruction is done. This class is also not for families who attend sporadically, but for those who are diligent, devout, and whose lives are found fixed on the body of Christ as the people of God gather around Word and Sacrament. Children mature at different ages. Rather than setting a certain age as entrance to this class, I ask parents, who know their children best, to enroll them in this class when they believe their children are ready for this instruction. Children will only be admitted to the Lord's Supper when they are ready, but children who are taught younger most often continue in the faith.

So ... what does this mean? That same old Lutheran question we must answer.

1. We don't want children to think they have graduated from the church the first time they receive communion.
2. Teaching children younger, when they are ready, has a better track record with keeping children involved in the congregation and faith.
3. This instruction is not forced on anyone. Whenever parents believe children are ready for instruction, I am happy to teach them.
4. This practice, also involves not only parents, but the entire congregation, encourages the whole congregation to take part in fostering faith in children.
5. In all things involving youth ministry, I promote a faith children grow into, rather than one they grow out of.

I am glad to talk to anyone about questions or concerns,
Pastor John C. Bumgardner

LCMS Family Ministry

**“Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs”
(Psalm 100:2 NIV).**

The Bible is filled with places that praise God and talk about singing songs of praise. The Psalms in particular are full of this. We have a God who has done it all for us, and so we can respond with praise. We have a rich tradition of songs and hymns that praise our God. Many of these songs and hymns can help to teach the Christian faith, especially since songs are an easy way to learn and memorize. Little children learn songs easily and often these songs that we learn when we are very young are the ones that stay with us when we grow old. Parents can encourage children to sing by singing in church or by playing music at home or in the car that praises God and teaches the Christian faith.

LCMS Stewardship

It's in the Way that You Use It

Originally Published October 2023

Consider the humble baseball bat. It is a simple tool designed for a complex task. The batter needs a tool that can consistently deliver force to a small ball which may be thrown at over 100 miles per hour, but which might also come slanting across the plate as a slow curve. For a game like this, the founders of baseball had to redesign the old cricket bat, which is more of a flat paddle. The tool had to fit the job. But even a specially-designed tool can be used for a different purpose. It turns out that some years ago in England, the home of cricket, baseball bats suddenly started selling like hotcakes. What were folks across the pond doing with all those baseball bats? Using them as clubs in riots!

A tool can be used, and it can be misused. It's all in the way that you use it.

The same is true with the things of God. The Second Commandment states that we should "not misuse the name of the Lord." In the Small Catechism, Luther goes on to tell us exactly what this misuse is, as well as the proper use:

"We should fear and love God so that we do not curse, swear, use satanic arts, lie, or deceive by His name, but call upon it in every trouble, pray, praise, and give thanks." (SC I)

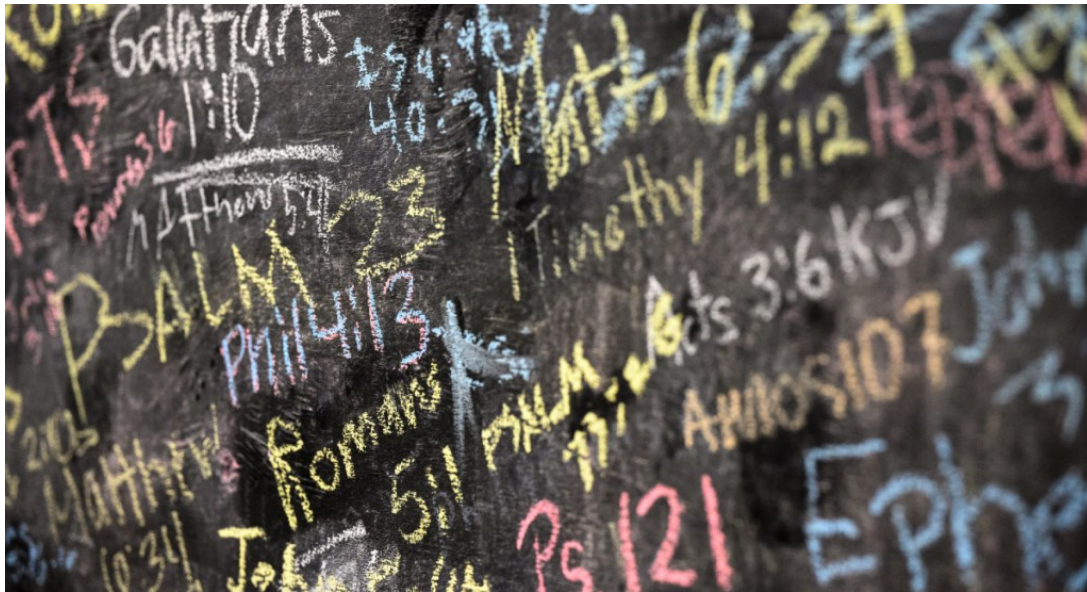
The Lord has given us His name: He has placed it upon us in Holy Baptism and He has invited us to pray to Him as our Father. In this sense, the Lord's name is something for us to use. We should not misuse it ... and we should not fail to use it. The Pharisees of old were so afraid of misusing the name of God that they decided to simply never say the name of God (YHWH, Jehovah) at all! This non-use is just as bad as misuse. The Lord gives His gifts for our use.

A Christian steward is one who is called to use all of God's gifts for His purposes. This includes things like the Name of God, the Sacraments and the Word, and it also includes things like our family and friends, our talents and skills, our money and resources. Everything that God has given to you, He has given to you so that you may be blessed to use it for His kingdom.

It's all in the way that you use it!

LCMS Church Worker Wellness

October is Church Worker Appreciation Month! There are countless ways for individuals to express appreciation and for congregations to show love and gratitude for their church workers. Here are simply a few ideas: Pray for your pastor, deaconess, Lutheran school teachers and other called church workers serving in your midst. Write a handwritten note of encouragement. Give a gift — whether big or small, a simple gesture of remembrance goes a long way. For even more specific ideas, visit thelc.ms/appreciation. What a gift when congregation and church workers mutually encourage each other, so that the Gospel may spread and that faith may grow among us all (Romans 1:12).



Why Memorize When You Can Just Google It?

By [Joshua Pauling](#)

The “Google effect” is real.^[1] With the internet at our fingertips, we easily come to rely on it for everything, including many things we used to remember on our own. But what is lost when we outsource our memory to machines?

To be sure, humans have always outsourced some memory tasks to technologies: We write to-do lists on paper, we keep records, we have books, we take pictures and so on. But what happens to us when our default mode is just to “Google it” — or now, to “ask Chat” (or Claude or Gemini or Siri)?

It’s not being a Luddite or old-fashioned to wonder if we lose something important when we offload more and more cognitive effort to machines. This has been a perennial concern of many astute thinkers. Plato warned about what the technology of writing would do to human memory. Thoreau worried about what the telegraph would do to local community. Such thinkers weren’t wrong: They were drawing attention to the very real tradeoffs created by any technology. And now, the question takes this form: What happens to human memory — and with it, human intellect and virtue — in the age of Google and AI?

Mounting research is revealing not only the negative cognitive and social effects of relying too much on these technologies but also the importance of intentionally developing one’s memory and attention span. Long before the digital age, philosophers and theologians had already developed a robust understanding of the role and value of human memory, valuing it as a gateway to true learning and wisdom even when they could have chosen to rely on manuscripts, books and libraries as storehouses of knowledge.

Christians especially have prized memory through the ages, knowing that memorization plays a vital role in developing intellectual and moral virtue. As the Psalmist penned millennia ago, “I have stored up Your Word in my heart, that I might not sin against You” (Psalm 119:11). Medieval Christians sometimes used

WHY MEMORIZE WHEN YOU CAN JUST GOOGLE IT? continued

the imagery of gardening and beekeeping to illustrate the work of dwelling with and tending a body of knowledge: As we dwell in the “vineyard” of a text that has been stored in our own minds, we till its soil, harvest its fruit, and discover wisdom that would not be available to us had the information remained stored only on the printed page. They understood that storing up lasting words and songs in our hearts *does* something to us: We are shaped by the words as they become part of us.

Why memory matters

Human memory is an astounding mystery and gift; it has expansive power and remarkable plasticity. Developing our attention and memory directs us toward the attainment of true knowledge, wisdom and virtue. As the great Roman orator Quintilian said, “We only know as much as we retain by memory.” How opposite to the prevalent cultural beliefs about learning and memorization today.

Contemporary educational theory tends to denigrate memorization as “rote” and dull. During my years as a high school history teacher, I heard many times in professional development sessions that memorization is boring and that it stunts a child’s creativity. We were told to move beyond “drill and kill” memorization and focus on higher order thinking skills.

I learned pretty quickly in the classroom, however, that if students don’t have anything in their brains to think about, they won’t be able to do any critical thinking anyway. Humans knew and accepted this truth for millennia; only recently have we forgotten it. Classical educator Dr. Andrew Campbell explains:

The great ancient rhetoricians considered a strong memory indispensable for their craft. Medieval and Renaissance thinkers turned out books ... containing elaborate systems to train the memory to store copious amounts of material and access it instantly. Today we stand amazed at the oratorical skills of political figures of the 19th century and shake our heads in dismay at the sloganeering and sound bites that pass for political discourse today. ... Surely something precious has been lost. That something is our memory.[\[2\]](#)

The practice of memory

Thankfully, the human mind is like a muscle: It gets stronger with use. And when exercised and developed, as Campbell puts it, “you need never be bored or alone if you carry within yourself the wisdom of the ages.”[\[3\]](#)

Hence, the goal is not to stuff our minds full of random facts; it is to develop a rich storehouse of meaningful truth, wisdom and living ideas. Philosopher Stratford Caldecott explains that “true human memory is not mechanical repetition; it is an organic assimilation and appropriation.”[\[4\]](#)

We too, like those who came before us, can turn our minds into memory palaces — into springs filled with words and ideas that never run dry. When we immerse ourselves in Scripture, we are bolstering our faith. When we sink into the rhythms of elegant language and song, we are “cultivating wisdom and inscribing truth and beauty in the soul.”[\[5\]](#) By memorizing things that are true, good and beautiful, we are ushering ourselves into the Great Tradition; we begin communing with living ideas — ideas that live forever because they are true.

WHY MEMORIZE WHEN YOU CAN JUST GOOGLE IT? continued

But where do we even start? How do we do this? While we should not conceive of this process as a series of steps that when mechanically followed produce a certain outcome, there are some basic guidelines that make memory work more joyful and fruitful.

1. Imitate the good.

We cultivate a creative, living memory when we imitate what is true, good and beautiful. Creativity and imagination do not spontaneously emerge. They grow in the soil of following great models of the past with their patterns of language and images of beauty.

2. Follow the pattern of natural language acquisition.

Campbell explains that “natural language acquisition follows a predictable pattern. First we listen, then we speak, then we read, then we write. ... I have become convinced that, in order to memorize, we must replicate this acquisition process by listening to the material, reciting it, and reading and copying it by hand repeatedly.” [6] This organic process of language acquisition can be mirrored in our memory work practices. Ancient, medieval and modern practices of using mnemonic devices, chunking memory work into smaller sections and creating mental images are also time-tested.

3. Connect memory work to larger ideas and beautiful things.

It is vital to connect what is being memorized to a larger context of other living ideas. This helps us “comprehend the unification of knowledge and ideas, and to establish the habit of practicing moral and intellectual virtues.” [7] This also helps us avoid falling into the traps of meaningless memorization, where what is being memorized is not connected to a larger story and imaginative picture. We never want to treat the human mind as if it were simply a “meat computer.” We are not doing data downloads or uploads; we are being formed by what we store up in our hearts.

4. Develop a pattern of review and practice.

For memory work to really stick, it must be revisited and reviewed. The whole point is for the text to become part of us, so that we really know it, retain it and can draw from it. If memory work is just crammed and never returned to, the whole point has been missed. We must develop habits that enable us to return to what we've memorized at intervals, facilitating deep memory.

5. Choose lasting words.

We want to build memory palaces filled with the living Word of God, which works repentance, faith and sanctification. Combined with Scripture, Luther's *Small Catechism* is a fitting tool to develop an understanding of what it all means. We also want our hearts and minds to overflow into hymns that express the truth, goodness and beauty of Christianity. Hymns plant the faith deep within our bones, further shaping a Scriptural imagination.

A well-rounded memory program also includes texts beyond Scripture, the catechism and the hymnal. Notable speeches from history, passages from great works of literature, wisdom sayings, riddles and poetry all play an important role in nurturing creativity and wisdom. Poems especially foster rich and playful use of language and metaphors while also providing direct experiences of beauty, opportunities for reflection and models for finding meaning in the mundane.

Building these treasure-filled memory palaces in our day is a daunting task. Cultivating our memory and attention takes real effort. But the fruit of the harvest comes with long-lasting rewards. The ancient and medieval academies that built the culture we treasure understood this. They knew that minds are like beehives — just as bees bring sweet drops of nectar back to the hive and store them for later use, so too our minds are capable of gathering and storing knowledge and wisdom, as sweet as nectar, in the orderly cells of the honeycomb. This is a biblical image as well, for we read that wisdom is like honey (Prov. 24:13–14) and the Word of the Lord is “sweeter than honey to my mouth” (Psalm 119:103). May the Lord make it so for us.

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- [1] Betsy Sparrow et al., “Google Effects on Memory: Cognitive Consequences of Having Information at Our Fingertips.” *Science* 333, vol. 6043 (July 2011): 776-778 DOI:10.1126/science.1207745
- [2] Andrew Campbell, *Living Memory: A Classical Memory Work Companion* (FL: Quidnam, 2008), 8.
- [3] Campbell, *Living Memory*, 8.
- [4] Stratford Caldecott, *Beauty in the Word: Rethinking the Foundations of Education* (NY: Angelico Press, 2012), 50.
- [5] Adrienne Freas, *Narration: The Art of the Trivium* (TX: Beautiful Teaching, 2025), 3.
- [6] Campbell, *Living Memory*, 9.
- [7] Freas, *Narration*, 51.

Cover image: LCMS Communications/Erik M. Lunsford

About The Author

Joshua Pauling Joshua Pauling is a husband, father, classical educator, and vicar at All Saints Lutheran Church in Charlotte, N.C. Co-author (with Robin Phillips) of *Are We All Cyborgs Now?*, he has also written for LOGIA, Modern Reformation, Public Discourse, Salvo and Touchstone, and worked in public education for thirteen years as a high school history teacher and coach.

Pauling, Joshua., (2026, September 17). Why Memorize When You Can Just Google It? . *The Lutheran Witness-Articles*, <https://witness.lcms.org/2026/why-memorize/>





LUTHERANS
FOR LIFE

Life Quotes for October

October 4 “Your life is valuable, and your life has purpose. It was not an accident; it was planned from the beginning. But that doesn’t mean it will be easy. You will experience hardship and suffering. As you age, your body will wear out. Your mind will dull. Your abilities will lessen. And yet, it is in your body with all of its brokenness that the Holy Spirit resides. It is this, your body, that God the Father formed by hand, and it is this, your body, that Jesus, God’s Son, redeemed. And your body, a unique and miraculous gift, will be raised from the dead and made new.” *Michelle Bauman, Director of Y4Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life* • lutheransforlife.org

October 11 “Whether the sin of aborting one’s child or the sin of remaining silent and not speaking on behalf of our unborn children, whether the sin of neglecting an aging parent or even—God forbid—encouraging them to consider physician-assisted suicide as an option, whether the sin of apathy toward the gross evil and immorality in the world—turn to Jesus! There is forgiveness to be found for every sin, but it is only found in Jesus. Only in that holy blood, shed for us on the cross, do we find the antidote for the poison of sin.” *Rev. Paul Clark, Lutherans For Life of Michigan – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life* • lutheransforlife.org

October 18 “Do not be silent. You have the most positive, powerful, life-giving, and life-affirming message in the universe! It is a message of love for every sinner, i.e., everyone! It is a message of forgiveness for everyone and every sin. It is a message of the certain hope of a paradise whose reality surpasses the most beautiful of words.” *Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb, former Executive Director of Lutherans For Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life* • lutheransforlife.org

October 25 “Today God continues to defend and aid His people, those who trust in His Son as their Savior. God is ever with us. He preserves His Word and Church despite the constant attack of the devil, the unbelieving world, and false teachers. God provides for all our needs of body and soul, even in times of great need and conflict. God is our refuge. His Word endures forever. His grace and power never fail.” *From “Meditations on Favorite Scriptures: Devotions for a Year” – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life* • lutheransforlife.org

Announcements

October is Pastor Appreciation Month

October 11th is Pastor appreciation Sunday

Let Pastor Bumgardner know how much he is appreciated! Send him a card, note, text or just spoken well wishes. Most important, include him in your prayers for his spiritual, physical and emotional well-being and for the well-being of his family.

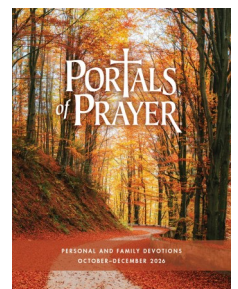


ST. PAUL'S 8TH ANNUAL TRUNK-OR-TREAT

Come and join us for the St. Paul's 8th Annual Trunk-or-Treat on October 31st from 2-4pm! This event is Family Friendly full of candy, some games, refreshments and tons of family/community fun! If you would like to participate this year in decorating your Trunk, you can register online at SPLCPainesville.org on the [News and Events page](#), or take a registration form from the table by the mailboxes, return to Kelly Hines or the church office. You may also donate bags of candy or your time helping with setup! Looking forward to having all of your come and join in the fun with your kids, grandkids or neighbors!"

October-December Portals of Prayer Now Available

The October-December 2026 Portals of Prayer daily devotions and is now available. Copies can be found on the table at the back of the sanctuary .



Women's Bible Study

All women of the congregation are invited to attend the Women's Bible Study. We meet on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month, except during Advent and Lent. Keep a lookout for information regarding the study materials; they will also be available at the meetings. Additional dates for 2026: 10/14, 10/28, and 11/11. If you have any questions, reach out to Erin Cardina at 440-231-5613 or e.l.cardina@gmail.com.



Your Mite Money at Work The Appalachian Lutheran League

A \$5,000 Grant has been awarded to the Appalachian Lutheran League (A.L.L.). The grant request was submitted by St. Paul Lutheran Church, Parkersburg, WV. (Which just happens to be Pastor Bumgardner's home congregation)

The mission of the A.L.L. is to witness to Christ through communication, ministry, and evangelization. These funds will specifically help cover travel costs for workers to go to remote areas in central Appalachia, where Lutherans do not have access to an area church. It will help provide Bibles, catechisms, and hymnals as needed. You can learn more about this ministry at <https://appalachianlutheranleague.org/about/>

Please keep this vital ministry in your prayers as you continue to faithfully fill your mite boxes.

October Food Bank Items

Zion Food Pantry is requesting, boxed cereal (kids brand), peanut butter (small jars are fine), canned peaches. As always other items are appreciated. For those in need, the Food Bank is open on the last two Tuesdays of the October from 5:30—7:00pm. (October 20 & 27).





September Meeting Minutes

Reports

1. Pastor's Report. (Pastor Bumgardner)
 - a. Planning for youth confirmation and first communion. Presented material needed.
 - b. Weekly readings are being changed to reinforce the catechism. Presented changes.
 - c. Proposed a committee to refresh and declutter. Dennis made a motion for Ken, Ed, and Pastor to form committee with the purpose of updating the look of the church. 2nd by Kelly. Result: Passed.
 2. President's Report. (Terry Wakelee)
 - a. Pastor was relocated and installed at St. Paul's
 - b. August events were well attended – the open house and church picnic
 3. Vice President's Report. (Ed Hines)
 - a. Will get a few bids for a snowplowing contract for the upcoming year
 4. Treasurer's Report. (Russ Walton)
 - a. Provided financials through July.
 - b. Cash is still good, but it will start to go lower. Offerings are up slightly over last year. Church maintenance has the cost of a capacitor and compressor wire repairs. Moving expenses were for the trucks rental. Overall, an ok month.
 5. Education Report. (Ken Chaffe)
 - a. Kids Sunday School and Sunday adult Bible study starts 9/13.
 - b. Working on improvements to recordings on the website.
 - c. Pastor requested a portable dry erase board for teaching. Ken found one on Amazon. Ed made a motion to purchase it. 2nd by Leigh. Result: Passed.
 6. Preschool Report. (Leigh Wojkowski)
 - a. 34 students are enrolled
 - b. New laptops were obtained and need to be connected to the printers
 - c. The annual popcorn sale will be coming up soon
 7. Elder's Report. (Craig McConnell)
 - a. Dale Kerver stepped down as elder. 1 member showed interest.
 8. Stewardship Report. (Diane Wayner)
 - a. Give it up fundraiser will continue until the end of the year.
 - b. Bowling event will be around Thanksgiving or Valentine's Day.
 9. Financial Secretary's Report. (Jenn Drake)
 - a. 3 counting leaders in place.
 10. Outreach Report. (Kelly Hines)
 - a. Upcoming events: Chili cook-off 9/26, Trunk or Treat 10/31 (info went out to preschool families), Crochet for Christ will be Nov to March (making octopuses for neonatal unit), Kick off to Advent church potluck 11/29.
-

SEPTEMBER MEETING MINUTES continued

- b. Motion by Jenn to do one more Rose's Fun Mat with new info. 2nd by Tom. Passed.

11. Building & Grounds Report. (Dennis Concoby)

- a. Driveway seal-coated again.
- b. Dryer connection rewired at parsonage.
- c. Installed mini deck behind parsonage back door.
- d. Gas powered blower vacuum purchased.
- e. Cricut Explorer 5 kit purchased.
- f. Looking into obtaining a business credit card. LCEF may be another option.
- g. Pediatric defibrillator pads have been ordered.
- h. Septic pumped.
- i. Installing another bookshelf in pastor's office.
- j. Looking into installing a fixed permanent mic on the altar.

12. Contribution Secretary's Report. (Tom Cardina)

- a. Contributors are up. \$809 collected thus far from the "Give it up" fundraiser.

Old Business

- 1. Potential candidate for the preschool treasurer (appointed)
- 2. Replacement of church office computer – in progress
- 3. Thrivent Choice dollars for preschool
- 4. Research alternative method of setting up church credit card
- 5. Congregation member gospel recording project (on hold)
- 6. Recommendation to invest money in an account that will yield interest / add account signers. Tom and Terry got added to the account and started an 8-month CD. Recommend a money market for better interest. Erin made a motion to open a money market account with the remaining ear-marked money. 2nd by Craig. Result – passed.

New Business

- 1. Discuss switching our church administrative and contributions programs from Shepherd's Staff to Church 360 Members and changing web provider from Wix to Unite WEB page builder. Peggy and Kelly have just started trying it out. So far it is an improvement to the current software. Email and texting in 360 could replace One Call, works the same and similar cost structure. Kelly looked into Unite as well. Church 360 Suite includes Members, Unite, and Ledger. Confirmed our custom domain name can be transferred from Wix to 360.
 - a. Motion by Jenn: Peggy and Kelly to provide their recommendation by 9/18. If they are OK with 360 Suite at that time, it is approved to move forward with acquiring 360 Suite; and if not, figure out an alternative. 2nd by Erin. Result: passed.
 - i. 360 Suite Total = \$1,225 annual recurring + \$250 one-time
- 2. Pastor's Housing Allowance designation. Jenn made a motion to allow Pastor to designate \$20k annually for housing allowance. 2nd by Tom. Result: passed.
- 3. October 18 is LWML Sunday. Kelly will work with Pastor to arrange the service.

Next meeting: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 @ 6:30pm



From the Preschool



Preschool Annual Popcorn Fundraiser

The annual Preschool popcorn fundraiser will run from October 2nd through October 15th.

Order forms can be found on the table at the back of the sanctuary or on the kitchen counter.

Please put the order form and money in the envelope provided and place the it in the offering plate or in the preschool tuition box.

Preschool Thank You

St. Paul's Preschool staff would like to thank everyone that took a leaf from the board and made Amazon purchases for our program. We are continuing to strive to improve our program each and every year and your support helps us reach those goals. Thank you for helping us share God's love through this wonderful ministry.



Craft Shows and Festivals

October

October 3 Madison Oktoberfest Bill Stanton Community Park Madison, OH. This 21-and-older rain-or-shine event features live music, food trucks, games, and seasonal drinks to benefit the Madison Joint Recreation District.

October 3 Cleveland Pickle Fest Mall C, Cleveland OH. This one-of-a-kind event features dozens of vendors, food trucks, pickle-eating contests for youth and adults, live bands, and our new Cleveland Pickle Fest 5K. Thousands of pickle lovers will gather for a full day of flavor, entertainment, and community spirit, all while raising funds to support the volunteers and programs of Greater Cleveland Volunteers.

October 3-4 Hale Harvest Festival Hale Farm & Village, Bath, OH

October 4 Woollybear Festival Vermilion OH.

October 10-11 Apple Butter Festival and Ox Roast Century Village Museum Burton, OH. For generations,

CRAFT SHOWS AND FESTIVALS continued

the second weekend of October has meant one thing in Geauga County: the aroma of apples simmering over a wood fire. Our apple butter makers work the copper kettles from morning to evening — and they're always glad to hand you the paddle for a turn at the stirring. The Ox Roast is back, too. Pull up to a hot sandwich, grab a jar of fresh apple butter to take home, and let the kids loose on a weekend made for family.

October 10-11 Hale Harvest Festival Hale Farm & Village, Bath, OH

October 10-11 Red Wagon Farm Pumpkin Fest IV Red Wagon Farm, Columbia Station, OH

October 17-18 Christmas in the Woods Craft Show Festival Grounds, Columbiana, OH. The craft show will host about 200 country's best craftspeople including woodworkers, floral designers, tole painters, blacksmiths, potters, and basket weavers who will sell unique handmade crafts and one-of-kind holiday gifts. Also enjoy delicious foods such as some holiday favorites cooked in the old-fashioned way. Hours: 9am-5pm both days

October 19-22 Elegant Illusions Christmas Drive Through Park I – Portage County Randolph Fairgrounds, Atwater, OH

October 24-25 Red Wagon Farm Pumpkin Fest IV Red Wagon Farm, Columbia Station, OH

October 30-31 Lakewood Fall Art Market Screw Factory Lakewood, OH. There will be over 60 artists selling a variety of items, including pottery, leatherwork, perfumes, photography, paintings, sweet treats, coffee, and much more. Free admission. Hours: Fri 6pm-10pm, Sat 10am-6pm

October 31 Red Wagon Farm Pumpkin Fest IV Red Wagon Farm, Columbia Station, OH

November

November 7 Mentor Craft Fair Lake Catholic High School Mentor, OH. The craft fair will include over 150 vendor tables, bake sale, famous cheesy potatoes, kids corner, raffles and much more. Admission: \$3, \$2 senior citizens, children under 12 are free. Hours: 9am-3pm

November 7 Rocky River Fall Art and Craft Show Rocky River Memorial Hall Rocky River, OH. Come get a jump start on your holiday shopping. It will host an assortment of artists and crafters selling their original handmade items. A full concessions stand will also be available on-site. Admission: \$3, children under 12 are free. Hours: 10am-4pm

11/14-11/15 – Holiday Tree Festival I – Akron – My Review

11/16-11/22 – Holiday Tree Festival II – Akron – My Review

11/20-11/21 – Akron Zoo Wild Lights I – Akron

11/23-11/29 – Elegant Illusions Christmas Drive Through Park II – Atwater

For Additional Festivals, Fairs and Craft Shows please visit:

<https://ohiofestivals.net/ohio-festivals/cleveland-festivals/> or

<https://www.fairsandfestivals.net/states/OH>

October Birthdays

Kathy Clark	Oct 08
Judith Kerver	Oct 09
Eleanor Fischbach	Oct 12
Claire Hines	Oct 18
Erin Cardina	Oct 20
Anja Durfee	Oct 24
Nancee Thomas	Oct 24
Eric West	Oct 25
Callie Atwell	Oct 25
Cheryl Dewit	Oct 27



October Anniversaries

Eric and Debbi Davis	30 years on Oct 14
Kevin and Diane Kiel	30 years on Oct 15
Ed and Kelly Hines	20 years on Oct 15
Rory and Laurie Srebernak	21 years on Oct 15
John and Rosemary Galayda	45 years on Oct 17

Altar Flowers

Is there a date or event you would like to celebrate or a special someone you would like to honor or remember. Donating altar flowers is a great way to do that! All you have to do is sign up next to the appropriate weekend on the altar chart, add the occasion or person and who the flowers are from. Be sure to print clearly. The Altar Flower Chart is posted on the double doors at the back of the sanctuary. Altar flowers are \$40.00. The cash or check can be placed in an envelope labeled "Altar Flowers" with the date of the weekend and placed in the collection plate.



Those Who Serve: October 2026

ELDERS:

9:30 A Sunday Craig McConnell/Eric Drake

COUNTERS:

Kristi McConnell

LECTORS:

10-04-26	9:30 A	Sunday	Eric West
10-11-26	9:30 A	Sunday	Terry Wakelee
10-18-26	9:30 A	Sunday	Dennis Concoby
10-25-26	9:30 A	Sunday	Jenn Drake



Scripture Readings for October

October 4 [LWML Weekend]

Proverbs 11:10-30
1 Peter 4:1-12
Matthew 5:10-20

October 11

Luke 2:40-52
Isaiah 25:6-9
Luke 10:38-42



October 18

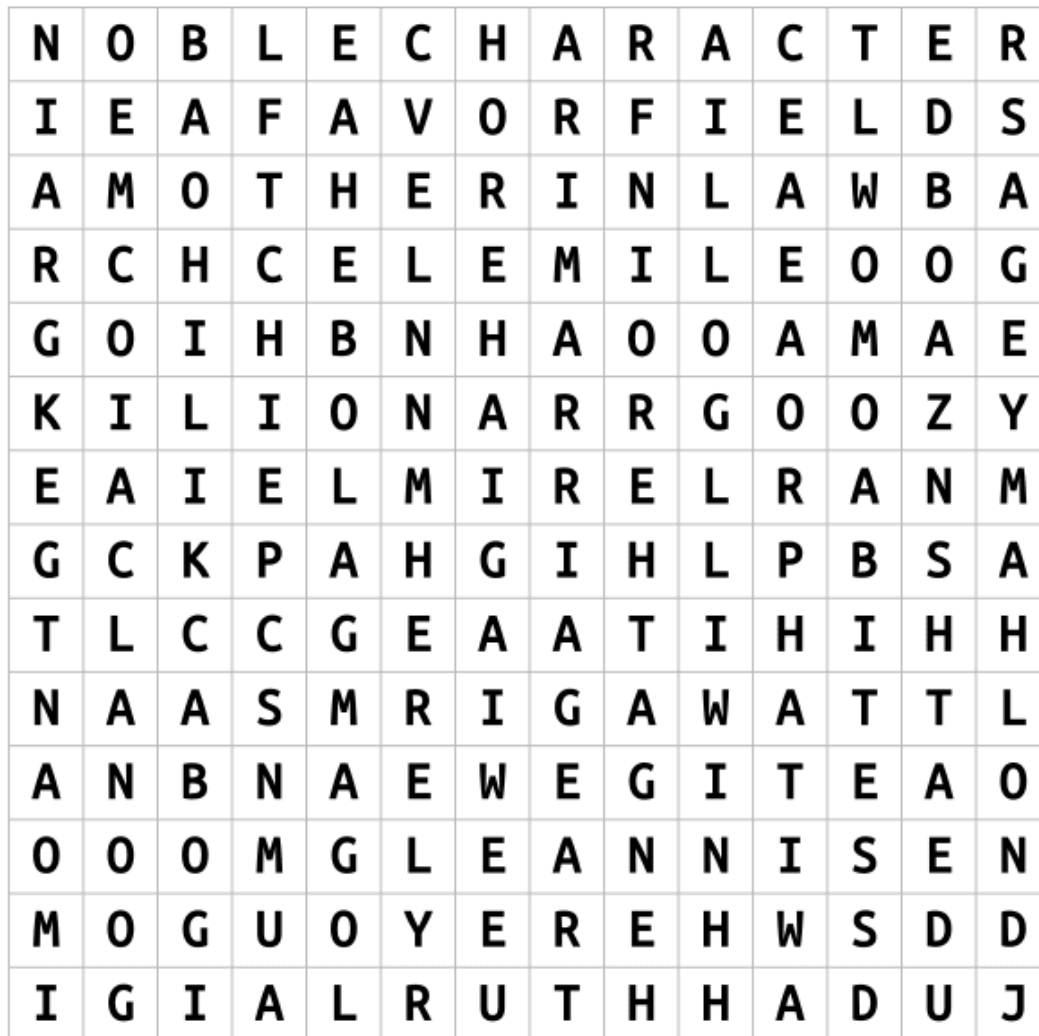
2 Samuel 15:2-15
Isaiah 45:1-7
Romans 13:1-7

October 25 [Reformation Day]

Revelation 14:6-7
Romans 3:19-28
John 8:31-36



October Word Search-Book of Ruth



GRAIN
DEATH
MARRIAGE
NAOMI
ORPHA
MARA
KILION
WHERE YOU GO
ELIMELECH
FIELDS
GATHER
I WILL GO
RUTH
CLAN
JUDAH
MAHLON
BOAZ
NOBLE CHARACTER
MOABITESS
GLEAN
FAVOR
MOTHER-IN-LAW
GO BACK

Play this puzzle online at : <https://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/9945079/>

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St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church and Preschool
250 Bowhall Road Painesville, OH 44077
440-354-3000 | www.splcpainesville.org | office@splcpainesville.org

"I was glad when they said to me 'Let us go to the house of the Lord'" Psalm 122:1

Staff

John C. Bumgardner, Pastor
Matt Chaffe, Organist
Peggy McDonnell, Admin Assistant

Worship Services

Sunday 9:30 am

Sunday Bible Study

Adult 8:15 am & 10:45 am
Children 10:45 am

St. Paul's Preschool

Amy Marizek, Director
preschool@splcpainesville.org
www.stpaulspainesville.com

Also Supporting



St. Paul's Preschool



A Great Place To Grow

October 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 COMMUNION SERVICE WORSHIP SCHEDULE Sundays - 9:30am Sunday School - 10:45am Adult Bible Study—8:15am & 10:45am				1 No Preschool- Teacher In Service	2 1:00 pm Food & Fellowship Friday Winkin' Lizard	3
4 	5	6 9:30 am Preschool Chapel	7 6:30 pm Council Meeting	8 9:30 Preschool Picnic 6:30 Our Shepherd PTL	9	10
11  Columbus Day Pastor's Conference	12  Columbus Day Pastor's Conference	13 Pastor's Conference	14 6:30 pm Elder's Meeting 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study Pastor's Conference	15	16  November Newsletter Articles and Announcements Due	17
18 	19	20	21 6:00 pm Outreach Meeting	22 Preschool Picture Day 5:00 pm Our Shepherd Trunk-r- Treat	23	24
25 	26	27 Preschool Morley Library	28 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	29	30 1:00 pm Food & Fellowship Friday Dino's Restaurant	31 