



St. Paul's Monthly Messenger

October, 2026

Pastor's Notes:

Getting to Know Luke (reprint)

We will be celebrating the feast of St. Luke on Sunday, October 18. Here is an article I wrote previously to get familiar with the physician and evangelist.

Luke was not one of the twelve disciples but is first mentioned after the resurrection. He was a close companion of St. Paul, who calls him “the beloved physician” (Colossians 4:14). Luke wrote two books in the New Testament – the Gospel of Luke and the Acts of the Apostles (or Acts). It is clear from Luke’s writing style that he is a well-educated person with a gift for language. In Acts, Luke writes about himself in the first person as he describes his journeys with Paul (Acts 16-17, 20-21, 27-28). Luke was one of Paul’s longest-lasting and most trusted companions, even accompanying him in prison (2 Timothy 4:11).

Luke probably wrote his gospel after Matthew and Mark, about 60 A.D. Why did he write a gospel when others had been written? Luke covers this himself in the beginning of his gospel. He writes, “Inasmuch as many have undertaken to compile a narrative of the things that have been accomplished among us, just as those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word have delivered them to us, it seemed good to me also, having followed all things closely for some time past, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, that you may have certainty concerning the things you have been taught” (Luke 1:1-4). Luke realizes other accounts of Jesus’ life have been written, but he is writing his own orderly account for Theophilus to give certainty concerning the things he was taught. Luke has done the work of gathering eyewitnesses of Jesus’ life on earth in order to compile this gospel for instruction of Gentiles like Theophilus so they may understand what Christ has done for them too. We may think of gospels as merely biographies, but we get directly from Luke that his gospel was assembled to give certainty about what Christ has done.

Luke takes all these eyewitness accounts and likes to fill in places that the other gospels don’t mention. At the end of this month, on Christmas Eve, we hear the well-known story of the birth of Jesus in Luke 2. Luke is not just telling a nice story, but in the Nativity wants to point out the real presence and location of God, the second person of the Trinity, who is conceived by the Holy Spirit and actually contained in Mary’s womb. As we look for the presence of God in Luke, the gospel follows Jesus on a journey from His birth and early preparation for ministry (1:1-4:13), ministry in Galilee (4:14-9:51), and then his turning his face to Jerusalem to set out for His ultimate death and resurrection (9:51 and after). When you read Luke’s gospel, beyond simply asking “what happened?” also ask “how does this give me certainty about what Jesus has done for me?”

Then the book of Acts continues what Jesus “began to do and teach” (Acts 1:2) as He works through the lives of the apostles. This continues in our day as we join Jesus in His work in the church, singing songs like Mary’s Magnificat (1:46-55), Zechariah’s Benedictus (1:68-79), and Simeon’s Nunc Dimittis (Luke 2:29-32), hearing the words of this gospel, and having our eyes opened to faith in the Lord’s Supper (24:30-31). As we read through the gospel of Luke this Advent, remember that Luke wants to inspire certainty in the gifts of Christ which we also receive today through His church.

NEWS AND NOTES

Manna: Order forms are available on Sunday, October 4, orders with payment are due on October 11, and orders can be picked up on October 18.

October Mission Offering: Guardian Angels Community Services

Reminder - Doors will be locked for safety after the opening hymn for our Sunday services. The elder on duty will be monitoring the doors for anyone who might show up after they are locked. You can also ring the doorbell if you can't get in. Thanks for your understanding.

Leave a Google Review - Help St. Paul's by leaving a positive review for our church on Google. Google is the first place many people will encounter a church, and having positive reviews from real people is very helpful. If you have a Google account, just look up the name "St. Paul's Lutheran Lockport" and leave a review.

Lunch with Pastor: PLEASE NOTE THE NEW DATE. Lunch with Pastor has been moved to the *second Monday of the month*. The next lunch with pastor will be held on **Monday, November 9th at 11 am** at George's Restaurant

Spaghetti Dinner — Friday, October 30, 4:00–7:00 p.m.

Lockport American Legion 15052 Archer Ave., Lockport

TICKETS ARE NOW ON SALE!

\$12 – adult | \$6 - ages 12 & under | no charge - 3 & under

If you purchase your ticket in advance, at the dinner you will receive a voucher for 5 free raffle tickets. Dinner includes spaghetti with meatball, salad, bread, and drink. Invite family, friends, coworkers, and neighbors. Tickets will be on sale during fellowship. See Karen Rohder or Milton Lillie to purchase tickets. Sign-up sheets for bake sale treats and day-of-event volunteers are now available on the table in the narthex. Please stop by and sign up to volunteer. All raffle donations need to be at the church by Sunday, October 25.

If you have any questions or would like to help, please contact Teresa Martin, Linda Sanfilippo, or Karen Rohder.

THE MEN OF OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH INVITE YOU



TO BE PART OF OUR **FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST**

OCTOBER 24TH | 8:00 A.M.

A morning of food, faith, and fellowship for men from all congregations. Join us for a hearty breakfast and spiritual encouragement.

LOCATION: OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH
LUTHER HALL
1910 Black Rd | Joliet

RSVP by Sunday, October 11th to Jim or Jeff Jones
Jim: (815) 483-8823 | Jeff: (404) 953-2967
or by calling the OSLC Church Office
(815) 725-1606

Men of all Ages Welcome!

Men's Fellowship Breakfast

The men of Our Savior Lutheran Church in Joliet have invited men of the circuit congregations to a fellowship breakfast on Saturday, October 24 at 8:00 am.

Please sign up on the sheet in the narthex by October 11 if you wish to attend.

Seminary Christmas Marketplace

The time has come again to collect gift cards for the seminary Christmas marketplace. Buy gift cards from the Manna program or elsewhere by December 1 and give to the church office, we will send them to the Fort Wayne seminary to bless seminary families there.



Family Lunches

Please join us for monthly family lunches after Sunday school and Bible class. Great for kids, but also for families of all ages!

October 18 – Pumpkin Carving

November 15 – Wrapping Christmas presents for Morning Star Mission

December 7 – Christmas cookie decoration

Stars of Hope

This year, Sunday school families are invited to buy and wrap presents for children through the Morning Star Mission “Stars of Hope” program.

The church will provide funds and “need/want” lists, it is up to the Sunday school families to buy the gifts for children in need. We will then wrap them together at our family lunch on November 15.

Trunk or Treat at Lockport Township

St. Paul’s will again be participating at the Trunk or Treat at the Lockport Township parking lot on Thursday, October 15.

Contact Pastor or Denise Pilz if you are interested in helping decorate the car or hand out candy.



Worship Updates

Individual Communion Cups

In the near future, we will be replacing the disposable plastic individual cups with reusable, stainless steel cups. Just as reusable cups are more formal in home use than disposable ones, the reusable cups will be a more reverent container for the blood of Christ. These cups will be thoroughly washed weekly. There will still be wine mixed with water in the center of the tray for those who need it.



Reformation Banners



In October, we will debut our new red Reformation banners in front of the church. One features Luther's Seal and a cross, the other has VDMA with a cross. VDMA, a Latin acronym, stands for a Reformation motto meaning "The Word of the Lord Endures Forever."



White Color Saints' Day Banners



On November 1, All Saints Day, we will debut our liturgical banners for saint days when the liturgical color of the day is white. The first banner features a background cross with a center symbol of the Agnus Dei, the “Lamb of God,” a symbol for Christ (John 1:29; Isaiah 53:7). He carries His cross with blood pouring from his side into a chalice, showing His sacrificial death in which we remember and partake of the benefits in the Lord’s Supper. Above is shell with three water drops, symbolizing baptism into the Triune name of God, and below is a hand with chalice, symbolizing the Lord’s blood in the Lord’s Supper.

The second banner features the same background cross, with a triumphant Agnus Dei. The Lamb is carrying a banner with a red cross, symbolizing His triumph through His bloody death (Revelation 5:12). Above is the lamp which symbolizes Christian knowledge from the Word of God, “Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet...” (Psalm 119). Below is a hand holding a host, representing the body of Christ in the Lord’s Supper.



Wheels in the Field 2026

Wheels in the Field was a success, with the rummage sale, bake sale, and plant sale raising over \$2400 in one day. Thank you to all who volunteered!



Long Range Planning Committee Minutes 9-19-26

In attendance: Carl Michaelson, Linda Sanfilippo, Carolea Majack, Rich Czimer, Laura Wetherbee, Rachel Popadowski, Harold Sager, Joel Pilz, Vern Lemke, Pastor Antonetti

Church Sign

Taking down old church sign - Need leftovers from the rummage sale moved from the garage before we can begin taking down the old church sign and storing it in the garage.

Landscaping company will level and seed new church sign area with grass. Rich C. would like to do additional landscaping around the new sign with help. We are looking for more members of a landscaping committee, currently two people are committed.

Photo Directory

Laura Wetherbee has the thumb drive from Allan Luzbetak with all the photos. Shepherd's Staff is able to print a directory, possibly with photos – Pastor, Laura, and Linda will investigate.

Banners

Red reformation banners will be arriving soon. Trustees plan to put up anchors on the wall to have a permanent place to hang the banners. Non-seasonal banners may be put up on the sides of the nave where the wreaths are usually hung at Christmas time.

Fundraisers/Outreach

Spaghetti Dinner – Working out the problem with soup from last time. Big signs are available for people to take and put up. Church members have been tasked with folding raffle tickets. Committee has some raffle prizes, but is still looking for more. Another meeting of the committee is scheduled for September 28 at 4:30 pm.

Rummage Sale - \$2431 total raised at the rummage sale in September. Left over items should be all donated and out of the garage during the week of 9/21.

Sons of Solomon

Meeting September 26 at 9:00 am at Bezold Hall.

Activities with Circuit

Various activities were considered including, a lessons and carols with the circuit on December 23 or another date, a presentation by Pastor Ryden of Hope Shorewood about his trip to Israel, caroling, an Advent by Candlelight event.

Long Range Planning Committee Minutes 9-19-26 (Continued)

T-Shirts

There are requests for more smaller t-shirt sizes. Church office will make a sign up for those interested in more t-shirts. All Area Design still keeps the shirt design so we only need to order more as needed.

Church/Parsonage Repairs

Curtains on big parsonage windows need to be replaced – Pastor to call window treatment company.

Wayfinder plumbing will be working on the upstairs sink in the church.

Harold and Pastor will review schedule for cleaning crews so those who want to work together will be assigned the same weeks.

HVAC will be switched to heat in October. We have one quote for \$139,000 to replace the control system. It was agreed to have another company come out to quote a control system.

Garden – we will organize a fall planting day for bulbs as well as a spring planting day in May. Bring Your Own Bulbs.

Tile in sanctuary – There was discussion of whether we should do the cleaning or if we need professionals to do it. The first step needed is to replace all broken tiles. Rich C. to call for advice and assistance.

Window hinge in classroom 2 needs to be repaired.

New Business

Christmas Presents for Morning Star – this will become a project for Sunday school families. The family lunch in November will consist of wrapping the presents that were bought for this project. There are sufficient funds already in the Junior Youth account.

Children's Christmas Program – Rachel P will talk to Rachel S about putting on a children's Christmas program this year.

Family 5K – Rachel P would like to organize some sort of family 5K. Some members are interested in helping. This may coincide with a future rummage sale, or be independent event.

Trunk or Treat – October 15 at the Township Offices.

Pumpkin Carving – Sunday, October 18 after Sunday school.

Seminary gift cards – announce collection in October so people can order Manna cards in October or November to send by Thanksgiving.

Next Meeting will be October 17 at 9am



October, 2026

at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Lockport

815.838.1832

www.stpaulslockport.org
spchoff@gmail.com

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 8 am Morning Prayer 9-11 am Pastor Teaching High School @ Brookfield	2	3
4 18th Sunday after Trinity 9 am Divine Worship 10:15 am Fellowship 10:40 am Adult Bible class/Sunday School Manna order forms available	5 8 am Morning Prayer 7 pm Elders meeting	6 8 am Morning Prayer	7 8 am Morning Prayer 8:30 am Pvt. Conf/Abs.	8 8 am Morning Prayer 9-11 am Pastor Teaching High School @ Brookfield	9 Pastor on Vacation	10 8:30 am Trustee meeting
11 19th Sunday after Trinity 9 am Divine Worship 10:15 am Fellowship 10:40 am Adult Bible class/Sunday School Pastor on Vacation Manna order forms with payment	12	13 9 am Circuit meeting @ St. Peter Joliet 7 pm Church Council	14 8 am Morning Prayer 8:30 am Pvt. Conf/Abs	15 8 am Morning Prayer 9-11 am Pastor Teaching High School @ Brookfield 5:30-7:30 pm Trunk or Treat at Lockport Township	16 Pastor on Vacation	17 9 am Long Range Planning meeting
18 Feast of St. Luke 9 am Divine Worship 10:15 am Fellowship 10:40 am Adult Bible class/Sunday School Noon: Family lunch and pumpkin carving Manna orders ready for pickup	19 8 am Morning Prayer	20 8 am Morning Prayer 9-11 am Pastor Teaching High School @ Brookfield	21 8 am Morning Prayer 8:30 am Pvt. Conf/Abs	22 8 am Morning Prayer	23	24 8 am Men's Breakfast @ Our Savior Joliet
25 Reformation Sunday 9 am Divine Worship 10:15 am Fellowship 10:40 am Adult Bible class/Sunday School 6 pm Book of Concord	26 8 am Morning Prayer	27 11 am NCL	28 8 am Morning Prayer 8:30 am Pvt. Conf/Abs	29 8 am Morning Prayer 9-11 am Pastor Teaching High School @ Brookfield	30 4-7 pm Spaghetti Dinner @ Lockport American Legion	31



Happy Baptismal Birthday

Carl Michaelsen	October 1
Joseph Novak	October 1
Kaysha Murray	October 2
Zachary Chaney	October 5
Sarah Barmann	October 11
Isaiah Zavala	October 11
Barbara Ferrentino	October 13
Kathryn Mueller	October 13
Tina McSherry	October 18
Christopher Antonetti	October 19
Liam Kane	October 20
Hudson Mueller	October 23
Tonyia Murdaugh	October 27
Marianne Lillie	October 28
Delores Meyers	October 28

Michael Polinski	October 2
Janel Johnson	October 3
Jennifer Rada	October 9
Daniel Rohder	October 9
Sandy Michaelsen	October 11
Sing Sundal	October 15
Alexander Rohder	October 16
Parker Bee	October 19
Allison Polinski	October 20
Grayson Panka	October 21
Kenneth Gerk	October 22
Milton Lillie	October 23
Joel Pilz	October 25
Sophia Misiurewicz	October 27
Vern Lemke	October 28
Nora Mueller	October 29
Heather Collier	October 31
Kristyn Rahn	October 31



October 4, 1986
Joseph & Catherine Novak



St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

1500 S. Briggs Street, Lockport, Illinois

Office phone: 815-838-1832 - Email:

spchoff@gmail.com

Pastor's phone: 847-971-0848

Email: pastor.antonetti@gmail.com

Website: www.stpaulslockport.org

Like us on Facebook