

S E P T E M B E R 2 0 2 1

# NOTATIONS

COMING TOGETHER TO LEARN, LIVE, AND SHARE THE LOVE OF CHRIST



## Family Bible Hour

Our Family Bible Hour resumes on Sunday, September 19. We'll begin the year at St. Paul's, and switch to Grace after Christmas. Classes for all ages begin at 9:15 am each week; we encourage all of you to join us for this hour of study and faith-building!

Catechism for our 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders begins on Wednesday, September 8. This class meets each Wednesday from 6:00-8:00 pm at Grace. Please make sure your young people can make it for these important lessons.

We so easily prioritize the secular things in our lives: school, work, chores, clubs, and teams. How much more important are the spiritual things! Church and Bible study prepare us not only to handle the joys and sorrows of this life, but bring us to and nourish that saving faith that is necessary for us to be with Jesus in bliss for the next life, the one that lasts forever!

See you Sunday!



## Mission Festival

Mission Fest 2021 is set for October 10, and will focus on our Synod's home mission work in the United States. Our speaker will be Pastor Jeff Mahnke, St. Peter – Schofield, who serves as our district's Home Mission Board chairman. Pastor Mahnke will preach for both of our services, and do a presentation on the work during the 9:15 Family Bible Hour at St. Paul's.

## September St. Paul's Greeters

**September 5**

Ben Krenz

**September 12 – Friendship Sunday**

Gene & Sharon Bartelt

**September 19**

Joy Taylor

**September 26**

Mark & Joline Bartelt



### Grace Financial Update

July Income:	\$ 6,014.89
July Disbursements:	\$ 6,287.10
2021 Mission Goal:	\$ 5,000.00
YTD Mission Offering:	\$ 3,562.00
Percentage of Goal:	71.24%
Checkbook Balance:	\$ 7,333.01



### St. Paul's Financial Update

July Income:	\$ 8,421.00
July Disbursements:	\$ 5,502.65
Christian Ed Fund:	\$ 0.00
(2022-2023, begun July 1, 2021)	
YTD NLHS Offerings:	\$ 3,358.00
2021 NLHS Commitment:	\$ 4,000.00
NLHS Debt Offerings:	\$ 4,200.00
YTD Mission Offerings:	\$ 2,467.00
2021 Mission Goal:	\$ 2,800.00
Good Samaritan Fund:	\$ 440.00
Humidifier Fund:	\$ 670.00

## St. Paul's 160<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

With joyful thanks and praise to our merciful Father in heaven, St. Paul's Lutheran Church will celebrate 160 years as a Christian congregation in Naugart. We will observe the day with a single, joint service for both Grace and St. Paul's on November 14 at St. Paul's. Former Pastor Nathan Biebert will present on the congregation's history during Family Bible Hour at 9:15 a.m., and preach the celebratory sermon during the festive 10:30 a.m. service. A meal will follow at the Berlin Center.



## NEEDED: VOLUNTEERS

St. Paul's seeks volunteers for two upcoming events. Can you help?

**FRIENDSHIP SUNDAY**  
 Are you willing to help with the meal? Speak with Lee McCauley or Joline Bartelt.

**160<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY**  
 DuWayne Zamzow is heading up the Anniversary Committee. Please talk to him about serving on this committee.



# BIBLE CLASSES

for all ages

Build your faith!  
Join us each  
Sunday, 9:15 a.m.

## GOD'S GREAT GRACE IN THE LIFE OF SAMSON

Dear Members and Friends of Grace and St. Paul's,

The Old Testament period of the Judges is described in the final verse of the book, "Everyone did as he saw fit," and the often-repeated refrain, "Once again the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the LORD." One of the well-known children of God of that era was Samson. He was a Nazarite, his life dedicated to serving the LORD. The LORD used Samson to defeat the enemies of his people Israel, the Philistines. Part of Samson's Nazarite vow to the LORD was that he would never cut his hair.

Samson is well-known because of the great strength the LORD granted him. He barehandedly killed a lion. He caught 300 foxes, tied them tail to tail in pairs, fastened torches to every pair of tails, lit the torches and let the foxes loose in the fields, burning the standing grain of the enemy Philistines. With the jawbone of a donkey he struck down a thousand Philistines. When the Philistines thought they had him trapped in the city of Gaza, in the middle of the night he tore out the city gate with its posts and carried them to the top of the hill. You can read the details on these and other mighty things that the Lord enabled Samson to do in Judges 13-16.

But Samson, like the rest of us, had a flaw. He was sinful. His self-righteous pride often got the best of him, and even more-so his sinful lust for women, even women of the enemy Philistines. His first marriage ended abruptly and tragically, yet the LORD using it to deliver his people from the Philistines. The LORD used even his visit with a prostitute to grant greater deliverance.

But then came Delilah. Samson fell in love with this woman whose greatest goal was to destroy him. She pleaded with him to reveal to her the secret of his great strength. He deceived her several times. But "with such nagging she prodded him day after day until he was tired to death." [Judges 16:16]

"So he told her everything. 'No razor has ever been used on my head,' he said, 'because I have been a Nazarite set apart to God since birth. If my head were shaved, my strength would leave me, and I would become as weak as any other man.'" [Judges 16:17]

Not surprisingly Samson was betrayed by his lover and captured by the enemy Philistines. They "gouged out his eyes and took him down to Gaza. Binding him with bronze shackles, they set him to grinding in the prison." [Judges 16:21, 22]

The Philistines gathered for a great celebration to their false god. They brought Samson out to entertain them. "All the rulers of the Philistines were there, and on the roof were about three thousand men and women watching Samson perform. Then Samson prayed to the LORD, "O Sovereign LORD, remember me. O God, please strengthen me just once more." [Judges 16:27,28] Bracing himself against the two central pillars of the temple, Samson pushed and down came the temple, killing more of the enemy Philistines when he died than while he lived.

What lessons shall we learn from Samson?

- Number 1: We, too, are all unworthy like Samson.
- Number 2: As the LORD used Samson to carry out his good and gracious will, so he uses us.
- Number 3: As the LORD moved Samson to repent of his sins, so may he move us to repent of ours.
- Number 4: As the LORD moved Samson to see the great privilege of serving him, even in death, may he lead us to see the great privilege of serving him every day of our lives until the day he graciously takes us home to heaven.

Your friend in Christ,

Pastor Willitz





## WANTED: BUS DRIVER

Northland Lutheran High School is still looking for a bus driver for the Merrill/Wausau route. It's an easy route, beginning at Grace and driving straight to Northland. It would require about an hour of your time each morning, and another each afternoon; you would be paid, and all training and medical physicals are covered.

Please call 715-359-3400 or email [nlhsoffice@nlhs.org](mailto:nlhsoffice@nlhs.org) if you are interested, or someone you know is!

