

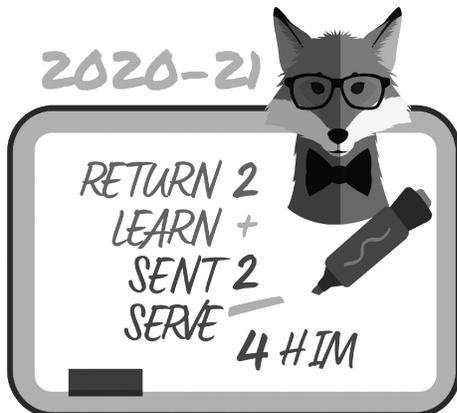


# ST. PAUL'S

## LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

8601 Harrison Avenue  
Munster, IN 46321

August 21, 2020  
Welcome Issue



*Psalm 28:9*

### THE MISSION OF ST. PAUL'S

*We, as a Lutheran School in partnership with our parents and congregation, provide a high quality education to nurture our students to become lifelong learners, responsible citizens and Disciples of Christ.*

### St. Paul.'s Lutheran Church Worship

Summer Worship Schedule  
Saturdays - 5:30 pm  
Sundays - 8:00 & 9:30 am  
9:30 am Sunday School/Adult Bible Class

Rev. Peter Speckhard, Senior Pastor  
Rev. Donald Stock, Pastor  
Jaymes Hayes, Director of Christian Education  
Barb Mertens, Principal

Renweb Facts [www.renweb.com](http://www.renweb.com) - SPL-IN  
website - [www.stplmunster.com](http://www.stplmunster.com)  
Facebook - @StPaulsSchoolMunster

### COMING EVENTS

Mon., Aug. 24 3:15 pm Jubilate try-outs (grades 6-8)  
Thur., Aug. 27 8:45 am Late Start Thursdays begin  
Fri., Aug. 28 Signed Partnership Agreement due  
Spirit Day

### PRINCIPAL'S NOTES

Dear Parents/Guardians,

- Welcome Back! I know I have previously shared that it is so great to hear the voices of children and teachers in our building and on the playground. I am very proud of them and all of the adjustments that are making to be in school and to do that safely. Our teachers and staff have worked tirelessly to make this all possible. I know for many of you this first day/week of school was nerve wracking. For me, it was all of the preparation of trying to just get the plane ready for take-off and in the air. We know that we have done everything we can to mitigate risk. But we also know it may not be enough. Only time will tell. What we do know is that we daily need to be reminded of the certainty we do have with our identity in Christ. This is the stabilizing force in our lives. I also want you to know that I realize that those who are in our STPL community know that school is much more than academics. The reality is that our children may be suffering mightily from the social and emotional ramifications of this pandemic. School is their social world. Children have all of their needs met in the home but this is all still a reality of school. Even before COVID, we've seen a steep rise across our county of stress and anxiety and depression at alarming rates and it has worsened since the pandemic. So I commend you for taking a step in faith to have your child in school.

- RAINY DAYS - As you know we need to use 3 entrances for drop off and pick up. This works great when the weather is good. We need to be prepared for a rainy day. If rain is in the forecast I

encourage you to have an umbrella packed for your child. The more children who can wait outside if it is raining for their pick-ups the better so we are not congregating in areas. We do have plan B for rain. At the gym entrance we will have students wait in the gym, socially distanced apart. Teachers will be on cell phones with one another calling out for the student to come for their ride. At entrance C students will line up with their helicopter arms down the hallway, with teachers using cell phones to communicate. Preschool and kindergarten door will wait in the hallway with the same process. If it is not storming, children with umbrellas can wait outside.

- Chapel Mission - Chapel envelopes are sent home with students to use to give an offering during chapel. First - 8th has chapel together each Wednesday morning with preschool and kindergarten chapel following. We chose a mission to support through our chapel funds for the semester. This semester we will be using our chapel offerings to financially support the rebuilding of Central Lutheran School in Newhall, Iowa that was destroyed by the derecho that hit on August 10. Newhall is in a part of Iowa that sustained 140 mph winds. The teachers were in the building at the time of the derecho but did not sustain injuries. Students in their school will not be able to return to school until they can rebuild the majority of their current facility. I notified their principal regarding our prayers and financial commitment through our chapel offerings. Your child can use their envelope to for chapel offerings each Wednesday.

*Barb Mertens, Principal*

## **BUSINESS**

### **\*LATE START THURSDAYS WILL BEGIN NEXT WEEK!**

**Starting on Thursday, August 27, school will begin at 8:45 a.m. every Thursday for grades K-8.** Late starts are set aside for professional development and planning for teachers. Extended Care for both preschool and school will be open starting at 6:30 a.m. Students attending Extended care will be billed prior to 8:20 a.m. The school entrance doors will open at 8:35 a.m.

### **\*HOT LUNCH**

Free and Reduced lunch applications from last year will remain in effect for the first thirty days of school. Be sure to renew your application before then to maintain your family's status. New applications for Free and Reduced Lunch can be

submitted at any time your family's situation changes. <https://munster.nutrislice.com>

### **\*BUILDING SECURITY - VOLUNTEERS AND VISITORS**

Since we are very concerned about the safety of our children, please remember that for the time being visitors are not allowed in the building past the offices.

### **\*NEWSLETTER AND ARTICLES**

A newsletter is published each week on Friday (or the last school day). Future newsletters will be sent home through parent e-mail addresses as well as published in Renweb under the Parent Portal "Resource Documents". Look in your spam folder if you don't see it by Friday afternoon. Extra issues are available from the school office.

Articles for the newsletter must be submitted for consideration by **Tuesday** of each school week. Articles need to be complete in text and include a contact name and phone number. This is the only week that a paper newsletter will be sent home.

### **\*SCHOOL HANDBOOKS**

School handbooks were sent home this week through the oldest child in each family, grades K-8. It will also be available online through the Resource Documents in the parent portal. Many policy and procedures are explained in greater detail. Please make sure you are familiar with the contents and if you have any questions, please call the office.

### **\*BE INFORMED**

Each week, a school newsletter is emailed to each household email in the RENWEB system. If you are not getting a weekly newsletter email (Fridays) please double check your family information on the PARENT PORTAL to be sure your email address is correct. It is also posted in the PARENTS WEB and our school website. We are doing our best to communicate needed information and we are asking that you do your part to read the communication sent. Also, be sure to watch the online calendar on our website for up to date information. [www.stplmunster.com](http://www.stplmunster.com).

### **\*CORE VALUES FOR ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN SCHOOL**

The following are the core values developed for St. Paul's Lutheran School:

- 1) We are all beloved children of God, designed for a purpose. (Psalm 139:13-16, Galatians 3:26 & 27)

- 2) We honor God, others and ourselves with our thoughts, words, and actions. (Matthew 5:16)
- 3) We will own our problems and seek solutions for them. (Galatians 6:4-5)
- 4) We will give our best in work and relationships. (Colossians 3:17)
- 5) Our Christian discipline focuses on repentance and forgiveness. (Ephesians 4:32)
- 6) When we fail, we receive grace, mercy, and forgiveness. (Ephesians 2: 4 & 5)

### **\*REPORTING DAY/FORMS**

We are still missing some forms in particular, the Partnership Agreement between parent and school. It is due August 28.

Many thanks to all school parents who gave the extra effort to make Reporting Day run so smoothly.

If anything else is missing, we will let you know. If we missed anything, please let us know!

**Partnership Agreement is to be signed and returned by August 28.**

**Extended Care (purple form) needs to be filled out for each family using extended care even if you registered online.**

### **\*SCHOOL BOOK FEES/TUITION**

School book fees are to be paid in full by **September 30** to avoid a late charge. The next tuition installment payment is due **Tuesday, September 1.**

### **\*PARKING LOT/SCHOOL ZONE**

Please do not park in the first row of the parking lot next to the playground curb in front of the trash dumpsters during the school day so the trash service has access to the containers.

Make sure you **pull up** as far as possible at all drop off/pick up doors when the line moves up so more cars can line up along the curbs.

Please set a good example by following the parking lot safety rules for dismissal procedures the safety of all our children. Children learn by our example.

Remember - Harrison Avenue is a designated school zone with speed limits when children are present. The Munster Police are very diligent in enforcing the speed limit.

### **\*ABSENCES/CALLS**

Parents need to call the school office by **7:45 a.m.** to leave a voice message to excuse a child in the event of an illness. Any homework requests will be honored at the end of the school day from the office.

The attendance policy is detailed in the school handbook and was passed out on Reporting Day. Please try to refrain from calling the office with messages for your child. If it is an emergency, we will gladly deliver the message. See the school handbook for more detailed information.

Phone calls the day of an absence or early dismissal other than illness are not considered pre-planned.

### **\*MEDICATION**

Please keep in mind that no medication, prescription or nonprescription (cold, inhalers, allergies, etc.) is to be kept in classrooms, lockers, book bags, etc. All medicines with appropriate forms need to be in the school office.

### **\*SCHOOL SPIRIT DAYS**

Every Friday at St. Paul's will be Spirit Day unless notified differently. We understand that some of our students do not have St. Paul's t-shirts as of yet or maybe they no longer fit. We are going to be taking orders for school logo attire in September. Students may wear a St. Paul's logo shirt or sweatshirt, or any shirt with the words, "St. Paul's" or created for a school sponsored event. All students may wear school colors (blue and white). **COLORED HAIR IS NOT ALLOWED.** Such will be announced prior to other school pride events.

### **\*CALENDARS**

An updated school activity, athletic and hot lunch calendar is published monthly. Please check the newsletter near the end of each month for the attachments. A brief "Coming Events" calendar is updated and published weekly with each newsletter. Calendars are available online at [www.stplmunster.com](http://www.stplmunster.com).

## **EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES**

### **\*JUBILATE TRY OUTS**

TRY-Outs for Jubilate for students in grades 6-8 are **Monday, August 24** from 3:15 to 4:00 pm in the music room.

### **\*WAYS TO HELP - Quick Notes**

We *recycle newspapers* and paper products (no plastic or cardboard) in the recycling bins in the corner of the school parking lot. May through July's recycling payment was \$194.98 = 17.69 tons of paper. You can help school and our good earth by saving and

recycling all that paper. No cardboard or plastic please.

*Box Tops for Education* - Watch for information on the new program to redeem proofs of purchase from General Mills and other participating products. Scan your receipt.

*Office Depot* - Use St. Paul's ID number of 70037052 and we can receive a charitable rebate on your purchases.

*Aluminum cans* - are collected for recycling by our grounds keeping crew. Deposit them in the bins near the garage.

*Tyson A+ label collection* - we redeem qualifying product proofs of purchase for .24 each.

*TRIP* (Tuition Reimbursement Incentive Program) allows you to earn money for the Beckmann Scholarship program and to discount your (or someone else's) tuition bill. Orders are placed throughout the school year for gift cards for a variety of local (and national) restaurants and stores.

More information on these opportunities will be in future newsletters.

## RELIGION

### \*MEMORY WORK Week of August 28

	Bible Verse	Catechism
Grades 1-4	John 3:16	1 <sup>st</sup> Commandment
Grades 5-8	Same	and add Explanation

### \*CHAPEL

Weekly Wednesday chapel services are at **8:30 a.m. on Wednesdays**. This semester's mission project is Central Lutheran School in Newhall, Iowa.

This week's chapel offerings were \$27.00

### \*PRAYER LIST

Pray for our teachers, staff, students and families as we begin this new school year.

## ACADEMICS

### \*BAND

As we look to the beginning of the year and the start of our Band program. I want to welcome all of our returning students to the ranks of our band. Our band will begin rehearsals on **Monday, Aug 24 th.**

Weather permitting we will be going outside

and practicing under the trees. This will give us a chance to spread out and be social distancing while we practice. Band Students will need their instruments and music on Monday and Wednesday.

**BEGINNING BAND** (4th and 5th graders who wish to start Band)

Beginning Band will have a later start than 5th through 8th grade students who have been playing 1 year or more. 4th graders will be starting on recorders for the first semester. In January they will have an opportunity to pick an instrument and join our St. Paul's Band. If you have any questions please call the school office and I will return your call.

Dennis Robbins - Band Director

### \*BAND ORIENTATION MEETING

A band orientation meeting for all parents and new students in grades 4-8 interested in the band program is scheduled for **Wednesday, September 4 at 6:30 p.m.** in the Adult Ed room across from the music room. You should attend even if you are just "looking" and would like more information. Come and see what is offered and what a wonderful opportunity this could be by learning a life long musical skill.

## CHURCH NEWS

**\*denotes a new/changed article for this issue**