

upcoming events



apr12

Night of the Stars
6:30 pm • gym

Musical performance, gymnastics, dance— an evening of fun and fellowship highlighting the blessings of talent we have in the St. Paul's school community. Come and join us!

Any child or adult who would like to share their talent are encouraged to share their performance at Previews: April 1 & 2 at 6:30pm in the gym. Sign up by completing the form in the church or school office by Mar 22. Contact Rachel Gena for more information. See you there!

apr14

Hosanna Party
9:30 am • gym

Sunday School on Palm Sunday will be hosting a Hosanna Party! Families and any interested individuals will participate in a devotion and help build beautiful mosaic panels designed by St. Paul's members that will eventually be displayed in our designed building interiors.

Learn the meaning behind the designs and enjoy making something to give back to God and his church!

Even if you are not interested in participating, you can help support us by underwriting some of the expenses. Contact Wendy Bockelmann for more info.

may12

Saving/Giving/Living
9:30 am • lunchroom

All-ages Sunday School will meet in the lunchroom for an opportunity for kids junior high and younger to make a bank craft to take home! Together we will learn about the importance of Biblical saving, giving, and living with the gifts we have been given. Sign up ahead of time so that we have enough materials for everyone— online or with Wendy Bockelmann or Jaymes Hayes.

may18

Commitment Café
6:30 pm • gym

may19

Commitment Sunday Brunch
noon • gym

We are so blessed to have a body of believers who continue to be dedicated to Christ and His kingdom! This is a big weekend for St. Paul's as we gather together as a church family to offer how we individually are going to Rededicate ourselves to St. Paul's and the ministries of the future here in Munster, spiritually, physically, and financially.

Stay after the Saturday service for appetizers and beverages, or after the late service on Sunday for a sunny brunch, hosted by Women's Ministry and the Board of Fellowship. There will be lots of prayers of thanksgiving, fellowship, and some fun surprises— don't miss it!



Jaymes, Holly, and Lindsey Hayes

rededicated

our 3-year ministry expansion campaign here at St. Paul's

mar
2019
newsletter

In my position at work, I am required daily to focus on the bottom line,

to make critical projections about the future, and to address weaknesses and liabilities head-on. Over time, this analytical mindset could tempt one to believe that everything succeeds or fails based solely on data and correct decision-making.

Let me tell you why I don't believe that is true— you. God led me and my family to join St. Paul's membership over 20 years ago, and during that time I have matured in my faith and been blessed by St. Paul's. Like many of you, our children have been taught law and Gospel, we have been personally challenged and faced obstacles with faith in Christ alone. I personally have grown spiritually through the interaction with the inspirational friends and members here. I know that whatever decisions we face, if prayerfully surrendered to God, He will choose to bless it in whatever way that He sees fit.

That is why I'm excited about the Rededicated Campaign— not because it will fix every issue that faces St. Paul's (because it won't!), not because it will necessarily address your pet peeve, not because we intend to ram ideas down anyone's throats (because we aren't),

or because we enjoy asking for money or care only about the bottom-line.

We've been blessed and we also face some very real challenges. But in this Campaign, we are asking not only for (yes) capital toward the HVAC reno as mandated by Voters, and on an expanded and enhanced vision for what the building could provide for the future, but also for a healthy examination of how we are living out our spiritual priorities in a hostile world. Think of the possibilities if we build each other up to do great things in God's name!

God is calling us to participate, rededicate, and give, and He will bless it in His way, in His time. That may look like a small change to those I know who already give sacrificially and serve others cheerfully. But it may be just the impetus for others to reassess and yes, rededicate to regular and meaningful worship, to sharing and caring about our neighbors, and to give to our Lord through the church in a way that pleases Him, and makes us a sustainable faith force to be reckoned with in the Munster community 40 years from now. We are planting seeds. May God bless all of our efforts!

Dave Boblink
Campaign Director
Rededicated to Hope

Thanks for the Support at Inform Weekend!

A big "Thank you!" to all the encouragement and help with everything from audio-visual equipment to folding materials to a pumped-up spread for Koinonia from the Board of Fellowship for Inform Weekend!

If you missed our presentations and would like me to do one for your group at St. Paul's, please contact my Team so we can get you the information you need.

Continue to send us your questions as you think of them— fill out a card and put it in the offering plate, in the box in the Narthex display, or online at STPLmunster.com, and click on the "Rededicated" menu. We are dedicated to answering them!

Meghann LaBadie
Inform Director
Rededicated to Hope



Digging Deeper... Motivation

We will be talking a lot in the coming months about giving more of the three "Ts", time, talent, and treasure. But what is our motivation? I hope to give all of us some direction with regards to that.

Obviously, the best place to look for motivation for the Christian is in Holy Scripture. God himself gives us all the guidance we need, and I would encourage your Bible reading and study. I would suggest another, shorter place to look, read, and study: Martin Luther's Small Catechism, especially the explanation of the Apostle's Creed. So, pull out and dust off your copy, or you can also find it in our hymnal or in the ESV Study Bible. We should be looking at the Catechism more anyway, and as Luther put it, he never tired of studying it because God himself never tires of teaching it!

In the explanation of the First Article (I believe in God, the Father Almighty, etc.), we read that "God made me... takes care of me...richly and daily provides me with all I need to support this body and life. He defends and protects me... and he does this out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me." Now, let that sink in for a while. In this day and age, here in the US, we are taught by society, and indeed our own selfishness, that everything we have, we earned. "It's mine and you can't have it. I don't want to share and I don't have time to help either!" It is a constant struggle in the Christian life to overcome this worldly way of thinking. But look again at Luther's explanation-He Richly and Daily provides All that we need-and He

won't quit on us! And we don't deserve any of it! He gives it to us because He is our good and gracious Father. We may not be wealthy, but God still provides.

In the explanation of the Second Article (And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our

Mike Hawkins
Visitation Director
Rededicated to Hope

Lord, etc.) Luther writes that "Jesus is true God and true man...who re-deemed me, a lost and condemned person...with His holy, precious blood...that I would be His own and live with Him and serve Him in everlasting righteousness." We cannot save ourselves. As the Apostle Paul says in Romans we are dead in our sins. Because of the life, death, and resurrection of our Lord we are now alive. God gives us everlasting life through the merits of our Lord Jesus alone.

In the explanation of the Third Article (I believe in the Holy Spirit, etc.), we read that "we cannot by our own reason or strength believe in Jesus... or come to Him; but that the Holy Spirit calls us by the Gospel, enlightens me, sanctifies me and the whole Christian church... He daily and richly forgives me my sins...He will raise me and give me eternal life." Our God provides for our earthly lives and more importantly He provides all we need for our spiritual lives as well. Through Word and Sacrament ministry here at St. Paul's, the working of the Holy Spirit enables us to be generous with our time, talents, and treasures.

When we get done reading and pondering the Creed and Luther's expla-

nations, we clearly understand that our God provides everything we need and have! All we have is His, we are stewards chosen by Him to provide for the future life and work of His church here in this place!



Feeling late to the party?

If you missed the Inform Weekend presentations, you can find a comprehensive brochure about the Rededicated Campaign, the benefits it will have for our church family, and the four areas of rededication that we are asking members to consider, at the display in the church Narthex. It is also available for download at the Campaign webpage: STPLmunster.com/rededicated.

We'd also be happy to mail one to you, if you live a distance away or have a family member who would like one. Call the church office for more information, or you can contact me.

Terri Kasper
Campaign Coordinator

Coming soon... to your SP pigeon hole:

About the first week in April, you will find in your pigeon holes a packet for the Rededicated Campaign. The packet will include information about the campaign, an article regarding time, talent, treasures, and a pledge card which won't need to be turned in until May.

If you don't currently have a mailbox at church, let us know so we can mail you the packet.

Please prayerfully think about what you will be able to give for the Lord's work here at St Paul's. We have been truly blessed in our own time and would like to leave and be a blessing for future generations.

Mike Hawkins
Visitation Director

Now to Him who is able to do

immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

- Ephesians 3:20-21

FAQ highlight:

How do the Rededicated Campaign proposed upgrades to the physical building and grounds promote the Gospel?

Improving accessibility to services, providing more opportunities for personal interaction for our members, making the space as inviting and comfortable as possible to visitors, both handicapped and able-bodied, and increasing opportunities to use our acreage for the church and school to interact with each other and the community definitely helps us all receive, live, and proclaim the Gospel, which is at the center of all we do here and why St. Paul's was founded.

Materially demonstrating care for those who may need extra assistance and reverence for the environment of fellowship and service at St. Paul's sends a non-verbal message to all who enter and even those who only drive by.

