

CHRIST'S CALLING CARD

SEPTEMBER – OCTOBER, 2025

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Have you noticed how wonderful the crops in the fields look this year? When I am traveling, I can't help but notice that the corn and the soybean fields look like bumper crops, plentiful, a true bounty. What a wonderful blessing!

We all know these crops weren't perennials where you plant them once and they return year after year. There was a lot of time and effort put into them. The seed had to be sown. We also know that in a physical field, the soil had to be prepared and the right amount of sun and rain supplied. This year it all seems to have come together.

In Genesis 8:22 we are told "seedtime and harvest will never cease." We know from the scriptures that the harvest isn't just physical crops. Think spirit, soul, and body. We need to be planting in all these areas, if we are not, will there be a crop.

So how do we do that? Time spent with Jesus in prayer and studying His Word is preparing the soil. And spending time under the word at Church is a way of watering what we have sown.

Reaching out to others and sharing the fruit of the spirit we have already grown: love, joy, peace, patience, etc. is one way to sow the seed. Another word for this is "blessing." As strange as this might sound, blessing others sows seed for us.

In the scriptures, the "body" can be the body of Christ the Church, and in other areas, it refers to our earthly body.

As the body of Christ, we focus on encouraging each other, taking care of the needy, spreading God's word and praising Him for who He is. The scriptures are not silent on the necessity of taking care of our physical body; we are instructed to take care of our bodies because it is the temple of the Holy Spirit. We are to tend to both.

Just like the farmer who plants the seed and is planning on a harvest. We must also plant to get a harvest.

In His service,

Karen

SEPTEMBER SCRIPTURE READINGS

September 7

Reader: Arlis Ballwahn
13th Sunday after Pentecost
Deuteronomy 30:15-20
Psalm 1
Philemon 1-21
Luke 14:25-33

September 14

Reader: Barb Bever
14th Sunday after Pentecost
Exodus 32:7-14
Psalm 51:1-10
1 Timothy 1:12-17
Luke 15:1-10

September 21

Reader: Lori Arndt
15th Sunday after Pentecost
Amos 8:4-7
Psalm 113
1 Timothy 2:1-7
Luke 16:1-13

September 28

Reader: Leonard Arndt
16th Sunday after Pentecost
Amos 6:1a, 4-7
Psalm 146
1 Timothy 6:6-19
Luke 16:19-31

CALENDAR

7 th	Sunday School	9:00 AM
	Worship	10:15 AM
14 th	Sunday School	9:00 AM
	Worship	10:15 AM
21 st	Sunday School	9:00 AM
	Worship	10:15 AM
	Grandparents Day Celebration, Children Sing, Noisy Offering, Birthday & Anniversary Fellowship	
28 th	Sunday School	9:00 AM
	Worship	10:15 AM

OCTOBER SCRIPTURE READINGS

October 5

Reader: Kirstin Arndt
17th Sunday after Pentecost
Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4
Psalm 37:1-9
2 Timothy 1:1-14
Luke 17:5-10

October 12

Reader: Joel Arndt
18th Sunday after Pentecost
2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15c
Psalm 111
2 Timothy 2:8-15
Luke 17:11-19

October 19

Reader: Barb Ornes
19th Sunday after Pentecost
Genesis 32:22-31
Psalm 121
2 Timothy 3:14—4:5
Luke 18:1-8

October 26

Reader: Linus Arndt
Reformation Sunday
Jeremiah 14:7-10, 19-22
Psalm 84:1-7
2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18
Luke 18:9-14

CALENDAR

4 th	Blood Drive	7:00AM
5 th	Sunday School	9:00 AM
	Worship	10:15 AM
	MEATBALL DRIVE THROUGH DINNER	
12 th	Sunday School	9:00 AM
	Worship	10:15 AM
19 th	Sunday School	9:00 AM
	Worship	10:15 AM
	Children Sing, Noisy Offering, Birthday & Anniversary Fellowship	
26 th	Sunday School	9:00 AM
	Worship	10:15 AM

BIRTHDAYS and ANNIVERSARIES

SEPTEMBER

- 2nd Bart Arndt
- 3rd Janelle Buchholz
- 4th Kay and Gene Dougherty
- 7th Rhonda Cook
- 13th Bryce Gruen
- 15th Lois and Gordie O'Rourke
- 16th Darcy Buchholz, Gloria Meltesen
Nolan Buchholz, Amber & Ethan Sebranek
- 20th Julitta and Marty Arndt
- 24th Barb Bever
- 28th Joanne Schachtely, Kari and Kurt Radke
- 29th Ava Gruen
- 30th Kathy Cale

OCTOBER

- 1st Judi Arndt, Mary Ann Arndt,
Brady Zimmerman
- 2nd Angie and Jared Gruen
- 4th Jan Brandau, Ed Ross, Jr.,
Duane Roscovius
- 7th Sierra Cook, Mark Gruen
- 9th Kirstin and Justin Arndt
- 10th Kaden Brandau, Marcus Buchholz
- 11th Donovan Riedesel
- 13th Don Buchholz, Darcy and Don Buchholz
- 14th Marah Gruen, Brek Anderson,
Joanne and Jim Schachtely
- 15th Kristy and Scott Tormoen, Aria Brueggen
- 16th Tim Deichler
- 17th Ann Anderson
- 19th Barb and Ron Savall
- 20th Deb and Morry Paeth,
Wanda and Ken Thorsen
- 22nd Randy Schwerin, Nalani and Greg Bever
- 24th Richard Cale, Rhonda and Todd Cook
- 25th Linus Arndt
- 27th Sarah Gruen
- 28th Madelyn Gruen

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday school will begin on September 7th at 9:00 AM.

Although it only seems like yesterday when we were roller skating to celebrate the end of the school year, here we are starting up again!!

Miranda Arndt, Ava Gruen, Justin Arndt and Greg Bever are our teachers for Pre-K through grade 6. The 7th & 8th graders will be having confirmation class after participating in the opening at the church office with Karen.

We collect an offering each Sunday in support of Olivier, who lives in Rwanda and is 8 years old. Olivier will be in 5th grade this year, tells us he is a good student, and is learning about Jesus at school as well. Pray for Olivier and all the children in Rwanda. So often, the children and the families are caught in the middle of tribal wars and end up losing their lives.

The children will continue to sing on the 3rd Sunday of each month, and collect the noisy offering in church on that day as well.

Having our children learn about God is as important as learning the abc's or 1-2-3's. It is no less important for a young person to wear God's armor, than an adult. The internet, social media, etc., target young people with many inappropriate messages. The devil is at work and never rests.

God's Word is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow. Learning God's Word, learning about his love and the sacrifice he made for them, will strengthen them in their ability to turn away from the temptations provided by those who would harm them, and walk in his way. Bring your child to Sunday School, sit with them in church, and join the battle against the devil.



Sunday School
MAKES A DIFFERENCE

ORGAN INSTALLATION

We will soon begin installing the organ that has been stored at various locations in the church basement, cry room and balcony. This will be a slow and tedious process but the organ will be ready for the celebration in 2026, perhaps sooner. We have set-aside \$15,000.00 to cover the cost. Pianos are nice, but nothing beats an organ, especially in our church.

GRANDPARENTS DAY

We will celebrate grandparents day at St. Paul's on Sunday, September 21. The Sunday school children will be singing, and we're sure to find a special song for those grandparents who are able to share worship with their families. Of course, cake and coffee will be served after service.

The song goes "love is lovelier, the second time around"... so too children!! Those of you who are grandparents know what we mean.

ALTAR AND COMMUNION HELPERS FOR SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER

**September Altar: Arlis and Larry Ballwahn

September Communion Servers: Acolyte and Linus Arndt

**October Altar: Lori and Rick Brueggen

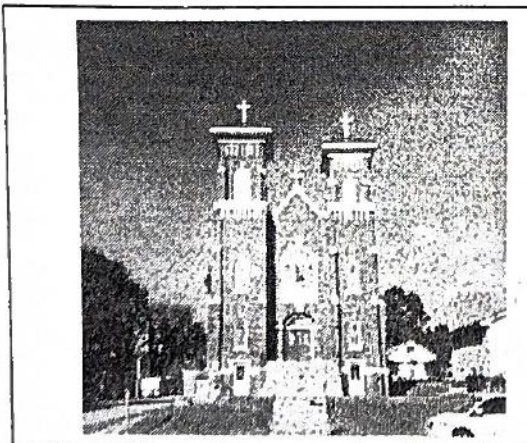
October Communion Servers: Acolyte and Ava Gruen

**Nalani will prepare communion and change paraments as necessary.

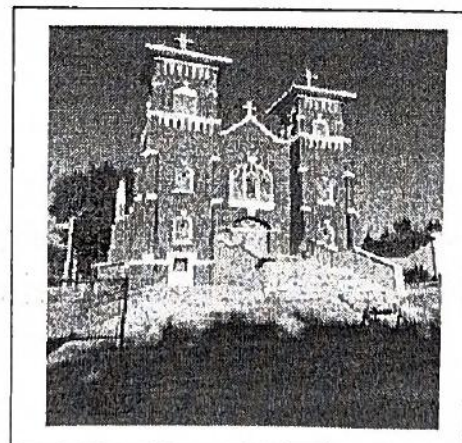
TIME AND TALENT QUESTIONNAIRE

"It takes a Village to raise a child" and it takes folks of many talents to keep a congregation alive. Opposite the La Crosse Queen flyer is a "Stewardship of Time and Talents" sheet. Please take the time to complete and return. You may fold it and drop it in the offering or just hand it to Nalani. God blessed each of us with a gift to share with one another. Let's do so.

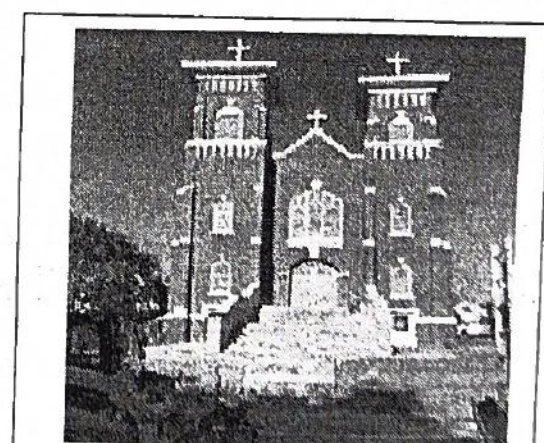
Before Construction



08-26-2025



08-26-2025



CONFIRMATION

Rather than hold confirmation via Zoom on Wednesday evenings this term, the class will be held during Sunday school time. The students will take part in the opening prayer and signing in the church basement and then go to the church office for class.

The first class will be held on September 7th. Parents will join at 9:40 am for a brief session together.

MEATBALL DRIVE-THROUGH DINNER

We're gearing up with tickets and plans to have our second annual meatball drive-through dinner on October 5, 2025. We are hoping to have another successful dinner, with the proceeds directed to a new sign for the church. The cost per plate will again be \$15.00 with the meal consisting of meatballs, mashed potatoes and gravy, vegetable, cole slaw, cranberry salad and dinner roll.

CHRISTMAS DECORATION SALE

We appreciate all the items that have been donated in support of the sale of decorations, however, we have set September 30th as the last day we will be accepting additional items.

We will notify and advertise when the date for the sale is set. The proceeds will go toward the purchase of a new sign.

ANNIVERSARY RECOGNITION

We got our dates goofed up and only recently figured out the congregation of St. Paul's first met in 1925, with the church building completed in 1926. We have decided to celebrate both events in November, 2026.

We are going through the records of baptisms, confirmations, weddings, as well as membership rolls. Former pastors will also be invited. We had over 300 names in just over an hour!! Lori Brueggen is busy collecting addresses and our plan is to send out a "Save the Date" post card in the near future. A letter with the details of the celebration will follow in early 2026.

PROJECTS AND MONEY, MONEY, MONEY, MONEY, MON--EY!!

By the time for November-December newsletter rolls around, we will have a better handle on the final cost of the step replacement project. As with any construction, there have been change orders and most generally, they increase the cost.

We also installed new furnace and air conditioning units for the church, and had the vents cleaned. The furnaces were 25 years old and we figured the vents hadn't been cleaned for 40 years or so. Didn't seem responsible to do one without the other!!

We are replacing all doors to the church and basement, a total of 7! The smaller white doors are original to the church building. We are replacing the doors with bronze aluminum doors with glass inserts.

We are looking for suggestions with regard to a new sign. Thinking we will use the same stone as the steps for a base, and have the sign fit the church building. Probably might look close to the sign that was given by Galetta Sterba many years ago. Not sure. Do you have any ideas? Let us know or if you see a sign as you are driving throughout the area, take a picture and send it our way. The final decision will probably be made at the annual meeting in January, 2026.

To be sure, we were blessed with the Nola Garey financial gift, as well as offerings in addition to the regular budget offerings necessary to pay our everyday bills. We have also received gifts specific to the steps replacement. We chose to borrow from ourselves and will need to decide financial arrangements for repayment.

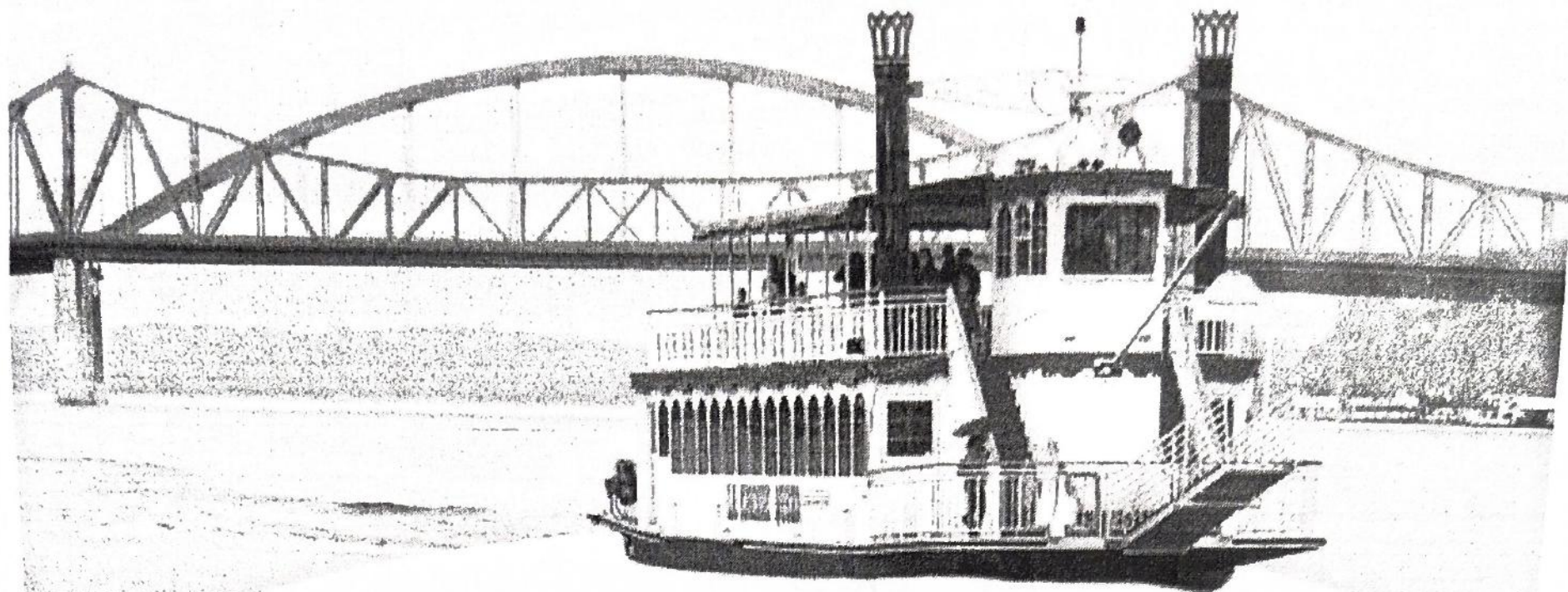
As I said, more in the November-December newsletter.

Since we're talking money.....how about considering online weekly or monthly offerings? We have the same struggles as all churches do. Folks are in the pews and money goes in the offering plate. Not in church, no money in the plate.

We budget and have funds for cell phone service, cable TV or YouTube, Netflix, other subscriptions, etc. But, do we budget for the church? If we do budget \$25.00 weekly for the church (\$1300.00 annually) do we honor that? Or does the \$25.00 only hit the plate when we are in the pews? That is the beauty of online giving, for both you and the church.

If you would like information on the online service we use for offerings, please let me know. No one likes to talk about money in the church, whether it is the pastor or council members. The reality is the church is no different from each household. Monthly bills need to be met, along with maintenance and sometimes unforeseen breakdowns, etc.

Nalani



La Crosse Area Synod Women of the ELCA Summer Event!
ON THE LA CROSSE QUEEN

Saturday, September 20, 2025
on a Private Charter Cruise from
10:15am Boarding - 1:00pm
\$50.00 per Person

WE WILL GO THROUGH THE LOCK & DAM, HAVE LUNCH, AND ENJOY
THE VIEWS AND GREAT FELLOWSHIP! SEE THE HISTORICAL SITES
AND LOCAL WILDLIFE OF THE BEAUTIFUL UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER!

LUNCH WILL BE CHEF-CARVED BAKED HAM, HERB BAKED CHICKEN,,
GARLIC MASHED POTATOES, BROWN SUGAR GLAZED CARROTS,
COLESLAW, DINNER ROLLS WITH BUTTER, DESSERT, AND COFFEE OR
ICED TEA.

Registration must be received by:
Wednesday, September 10, 2025

Registration form is on page 5.

405 VETERANS MEMORIAL DRIVE
LA CROSSE, WI 54601
AT THE NORTH END OF RIVERSIDE PARK

STEWARDSHIP OF TIME AND TALENTS

Name _____ Phone number _____

E-mail _____

Please circle all activities that you are willing to participate in.

Please fill out even if you are currently serving, so we know if you wish to continue.!!

WORSHIP

Lector/Reader Usher Communion Assistant Greeter Altar Guild

MUSIC

Play Instrument Vocal solo/small group Choir

EVANGELISM

Transportation to Worship New Member Friend Visit Homebound

EDUCATION

Teach Sunday school Teach Vacation Bible School Bible Study Leader

PROPERTY AND MAINTENANCE

Yard Care Plant Care General Worker Painter Odd Jobs

MISCELLANEOUS

Church Council Education Committee Photographer

Worship Committee Stewardship Committee Historian

Property Committee Social Ministry Committee Prayer Chain

Cakes for Birthday Sunday Server for Birthday Sunday Quilts

Blood Drive Youth (chaperone/driver) Food Pantry

Unable to commit time/talent at this time, but will attend services as able and pray for St. Paul's Mission

OTHER (write-in)

Thank you for your consideration.