



THE MESSENGER

St. Paul Lutheran Church

What is a SAM? From Marcia Buchs

It has been my pleasure to serve St. Paul for the past two months as a SAM. And I thought there might be some who would like to know a little more about what being a SAM entails because being served by a SAM and serving as a SAM, I believe, is new to both your congregation and me.

SAM stands for Synodically Authorized Minister. Essentially it is the designation the ELCA Central Southern Synod of Illinois uses for its lay ministers. Each synod in the ELCA has its own title and requirements for their lay ministers, so there will be differences as one goes from one synod to another.

The synod offers a three-year program to educate potential SAMs. The pandemic moved many of the classes on-line which was nice for us that live a distance from Springfield. They offer three classes per year and each class was usually held on Saturday mornings for three hours for six weeks. Most classes required us to write papers/sermons and one class required tests. Subjects included Lutheran Confessions, preaching (2), worship, ethics, church history, Old and New Testaments, and pastoral care. Once the course is completed SAMs are expected to engage in continuing education. I finished my course with 11 others last November.

SAMs are allowed to preside at worship and sacraments when authorized by the bishop to do so at specific churches on specific days. So for instance, my contract with St. Paul and St. Petri has been signed by the bishop and authorizes me to preside at worship and the sacraments for the next six months at both churches. When I preside at other churches I receive an individual letter from the bishop for each of those services. You will notice that while I wear an alb and a cross, I do not wear a collar or a stole. The collar and stole are reserved for ordained pastors in the Lutheran Church. And please just address me as Marcia as the title "pastor" is reserved for the ordained as well.

There is an application process that Pr. Ken Tegtmeier can help parties interested in becoming a SAM to complete. His email address is kft6582@gmail.com. There is more information about the SAM program on the Central Southern Synod website at <https://www.csis-elca.org/adult-formation/>. I would be happy to talk to anyone interested in the program to answer specific questions about my experience.

Next month I will share a little more with you about myself, my journey to become a SAM and what it has meant to me.

Many thanks to all for the warm welcome I have received from your congregation and the grace offered as I learn your customs and preferences. May God bless this journey he has put us on together!



The people of St. Paul gather to worship, reach out, and serve the Lord.

PASTOR WAYNE SEZ - WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE LUTHERAN?



The Second Article on Redemption

I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suf-fered under Pontius Pilate, was cruci-fied, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead; On the third day He rose again; He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there He shall come to judge the living and the dead.

What does this mean?

I believe that Jesus Christ is true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true human being, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord, He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature. He has purchased and freed me from all sins, from death and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood, and with His inno-cent suffering and death; in order that I might be His own, live under Him in His kingdom, and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, inno-cence and blessedness; even as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.

One of the hardest things for us to grasp is the concept of GRACE. That our redemption does not come from something we do or something we believe in but by an action of the triune God. Jesus alone set us free from the power of sin in our lives. A story is told of Martin Luther; Looking at all his sins and confronted by accusation of the devil of the great a terrible nature of those sins, and his un-worthiness to stand before God. Luther found relief only in the fact that the death of Jesus Christ paid for all those sins and the grace of God freed him from the power of the lies that the devil told him about himself. Christ’s redemption also frees us from the power of the devil and the lies he tells us about ourselves, our neighbors, and yes even the lie about a God who we think can’t wait to pun-ish us. But if redemption frees from sin, death, and the power of the devil. Christ’s redemption then frees for something. We are free to have life based on Zadik (Hebrew for righteousness).

A professor of mine told a story of going to Israel and on a taxi ride the car broke down. The driver hopped out of the car, fiddled under the hood, and the car started right up, to which the driver yelled Zadik or righteous. It meant it worked. God’s Zadik Works, it alone frees us from Sin, Death, and the Devil. God’s Zadik gives us life to live in His Kingdom to experience what it truly means to blessed and innocent and Zadik. When we confess this creed week after week, the redeemed self finds life. This new life is not purchased with gold or silver but with Christ’s holy, precious blood with His inno-cent suffering and death so you can live under Him in his kingdom. This is my definition of GRACE {God’s Free, Overwhelming, Overflowing, Super Abundant Lavish Amount of Love for us humans who do not deserve it, and cannot earn it, but Christ gives it anyway.}

Please sign up for
St. Paul’s Texting Service!

If you would like to receive text messages with reminders and special announcements, please sign up for the St. Paul Texting Service by completing the following:

- 1. Send a text to 81010
- 2. Text the message: @stpaul210



Bible Presentations Scheduled for
September 18

If you have a 3 year old, 3rd grader, 7th grader, or have joined the church and have missed this milestone at St. Paul and would like your child to receive a Bible, please submit the name to the church office by August 14. Contact Betsy Westergreen if you have questions.

Sunday Pastoral Schedule

August 7	Pastor Wayne Shelksohn
August 14	SAM Marcia Buchs
August 21	SAM Marcia Buchs
August 28	Pastor Wayne Shelksohn

Bibles & Bagels

The Bibles & Bagels group will meet on Thurs-day, August 11th at Edinger’s Filling Station at 9:30 a.m. Any woman who would like to partici-pate in an informal Bible study is welcome to attend this meeting.

**AUGUST BIRTHDAYS AND
ANNIVERSARIES**

August Birthdays

- August 3 – Austin Bristow
- August 6 – Cody Leach
- August 6 – Bonnie Austin
- August 7 – Jamie Russow
- August 7 – Janice Schmidt
- August 8 – Danita Lewis
- August 13 – Traeger Green
- August 17 – Nathan Joerndt
- August 18 – Ginger Bauknecht
- August 20 – Jake Dixon
- August 21 – Matthew Erickson
- August 25 – Gavin Bauknecht
- August 26 – Jason Russow
- August 30 – Hermie Schmidt
- August 30 – Ken Lewis
- August 30 – Jordan Snyder
- August 31 – Larry Leach

August Anniversaries

- August 4 – Dennis & Mary Leach (1990)
- August 10 – Doug & Tammy Oliver (1991)
- August 19 – Carl & Gail Thorson (1972)
- August 21 – Ryan & Lindsey Armetta (2010)
- August 31 – John & Wendy Boch (2013)

Rebecca Circle

The Rebecca Circle will meet on Thursday, August 18, at 1:30 p.m. Jean Harrison will lead the lesson, "Crafted in Christ, Ties that Bind" We commit to a new way of Life with God and Each Other. Devotions will be given by Donna Buckler and the offering meditation will be given by Jeanne Rapp. All women of our congregation are invited and welcome to attend this meeting.

Community Closet

St. Paul will host a Community Closet August 6 and August 13 from 8:00 a.m. until noon each day. We will collect gently used and clean clothing for all ages through July 22. Please encourage your friends and family members to donate to the Community Closet. Items can be dropped off at church and placed in the southeast classroom. We will also need many volunteers to help! This is another great way to be the hands and feet of Jesus for those in our community who are in need! Please see Jessica Mills or Mary Leach or e-mail the church office if you are interested in helping!

Altar Flowers

A list is posted on the kiosk to sign up for altar flower donations. If you would like to donate \$25.00 toward the purchase of flowers in memory of or in honor of someone, please sign your name on the flower chart. Make checks payable to St. Paul Lutheran Church, noting "altar flowers" on the memo line.

LEO for 2022

LEO (Let's Eat Out) gathers St. Paul members and friends on the third Wednesday of each month at 5:30 p.m. to enjoy dinner at area restaurants. All are welcome to attend!

- August 17—Mario's Pizza
- September 21—Wolf Creek Golf Course
- October 19—Pontiac Family Kitchen
- November 16—LaMex Restaurant
- December 21 —LOBO's Tap

Health & Wellness Sunday

Health & Wellness Sunday is the third Sunday of each month. Mary Leach or one of our parish nurses will be on hand before and after worship on these Sundays to check blood pressures and blood sugars, and to help you form questions for your health professional if needed.

Get in God's Game—2022 Bible Vacation

