



St. Paul Epistle October 2026

“All Things of Creation are Children of the Father...”

October 4th is the Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi! St. Francis is the patron saint of many things, but is often known to us in the Protestant church as the patron saint of animals.

So Who Was St. Francis?

St. Francis of Assisi was a church mystic and author known for his humility, service to the poor, and connection to the natural world. He grew up in a wealthy family, but chose to abandon that life to focus on simplicity and devotion. He later established the Franciscan Order, which is a Catholic order that focuses on a life of prayer, devotion, mission, and service to the poor. He was named the patron saint of ecology in 1979 by Pope John Paul II because of his reverence for nature. *The Canticle of the Creatures* is one of St. Francis's most famous works (the other would be the *Prayer of Saint Francis*, which begins, “Lord, make me an instrument of your peace,”). These first few stanzas illustrate the nature of the *Canticle of the Creatures*:

Most High, all-powerful, good Lord, yours is the praise, the glory and the honor and every blessing.

To you alone, Most High, do they belong, and no one is worthy to speak your name.

Praised be you, my Lord with all your creatures, especially Sir Brother Sun, who is the day through whom you bring us light.

And he is lovely, shining with great splendor, for he heralds you, Most High.

One of my favorite stories about St. Francis is that when he preached, even the animals would listen! Birds would come down from the sky, fish would linger near the boat, and a wolf promised that it would change its ways of terrorizing a village.

Blessing of the Animals

Because of St. Francis's commitment to nature and his love for animals, churches around the world celebrate earth and critters with a Pet or Animal Blessing on or near his Feast Day. Last year we held a pet blessing for Immanuel and St. Paul, but sadly, this year, Pr. Anthony will be out of town, and Pr. Riley won't be able to wrangle everything on her own. So we are providing you with the resources so that you may bless your beloved critters at home. I have included three blessings: 1) a general pet blessing, 2) a prayer and blessing for beloved pets who have passed away in the past year, and 3) a general prayer in thanks for all of God's creation for those of you who don't have pets in your house.

God's creation is, indeed, “lovely, shining with great splendor,” and may this article be a reminder to slow down and appreciate that which God has lovingly made.

Also, know that the pastors will always be available to do house calls in case you have a pet you would like personally blessed by one of us. 😊

Peace,

-Pr. Riley



General Pet Blessing

[critter's name], you were created by God, and you are loved by God. May you and your human family experience joy and companionship together, and continue to be a blessing to each other.

(You may make the sign of the cross on their foreheads or over them during the blessing.)

A Prayer of Thanks for the Lives of the Critters We Have Lost (From *Blessing of the Animals*, by Diana L. Guerrero)

[critter's name] was a living blessing. His/Her/Their presence brought joy and light into our home, to our friends, and to our family. Although we are sad at the loss of his/her/their physical self, the memories will live with us forever. Those recollections will continue to bring smiles to our faces, and warm our hearts. *[critter's name]*, we thank God for bringing you into this world and into our lives. The joy and companionship of an animal is unparalleled, and you have deeply touched us. We will never forget you and pray that we see you again in another place, another time. Amen.

A Prayer for Flora and Fauna (From *Blessing of the Animals*, by Diana L. Guerrero)

We pray for the flora and fauna of this world. May all thrive and flourish. Remind us to care for all living things. Increase our bonds with the beasts, wild and tame. Impart tenderness in the hearts of humans toward all our animal relations. May we evolve into the stewards they need. Allow us to become astute students to their teachings and examples. Let us become one with all creation and rejoice in that connection. Amen



Worship Assistants Serving in October

Saturday October 3 ~ at Immanuel
Saturday October 10 ~ Joyce Craney
Saturday October 17 ~ at Immanuel
Saturday October 24 ~ Lester Hallquist
Saturday October 31 ~ at Immanuel

Sunday October 4 ~ Linda Patterson
Sunday October 11 ~ Laurie Perry
Sunday October 18 ~ Patti Larsen
Sunday October 25 ~ Sherry McCarter
Sunday November 1 ~ Laurie Perry

WELCA WELCOMES OUR LADY PASTORS

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2026
ST PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH
421 S. PEORIA, DIXON
12:00 NOON

JOIN US FOR LUNCH AND THEN A DISCUSSION WITH
PASTOR RILEY REED-WINDAU FROM ST. PAUL & IMMANUEL LUTHERAN,
PASTOR CASSIE BUHLIG FROM FIRST BAPTIST,
PASTOR NIKELLE JOHNSON FROM FIRST PRESBYTERIAN,
PASTOR CAROL SODERHOLM RETIRED
AND PASTOR CHRIS SIENSTRA RETIRED ABOUT WOMEN IN THE CHURCH.

INTRODUCTIONS

PRAYER

MENU

CHICKEN POT PIE

SALAD IN A JAR

APPLE CRISP

COFFEE & JUICE

SPONSORED BY THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS
RSVP TO MARIAN 815-677-1591 OR SIGN UP IN THE GATHERING AREA

Happy Birthday

4 Robert Conley, John Cover
9 Martha McWethy
13 Jim Marshall
17 Debra White
18 Peggy Grobe
21 Connie Laidig
24 Debra Liebzeit
25 Leo Patterson



We have updated the birthday list from our digital directory.
Please adjust your privacy settings and update your birthday if you would like it listed in the Epistle.
If you need help please contact the church office.

**“Be thou, comforted, little dog, thou too in the Resurrection
shall have a little golden tail”
~ Martin Luther**

**Fun Facts: Martin Luther loved beer and dogs.
His dog’s name was Tölpel.**

Thank You

Thank you to the dozen+ people who attended the Breakfast and Museum trip. It was lots of fun to connect and go see the Northwest Territory Historic Center. If you've never been, I recommend it!

- Pr. Anthony



To all who donated items for the LWR School Kits
To all who helped pack the LWR School Kits
To all who helped with the Rummage Sale
To all who volunteered for the Joint Habitat for Humanity workday.

YOU ARE APPRECIATED!!

Daylight Savings time
ends
Sunday November 1st



**The Church Office will be closed
Monday, October 12th**





CLERGY
APPRECIATION
DAY



Sunday
October 11th

every
good and
perfect gift
is from
above
JAMES 1:17

Invite a friend
and plan to
attend...

The King of Instruments



Come and hear the impressive "King of the Instruments" in a free one hour concert offered by Dr. Ross Jallo. He will play St. Paul's 1951 Aeolian-Skinner organ, opus 1238. This organ boasts 1,033 original pipes with over 1,500 more added in subsequent years. Refreshments to follow.

St. Paul Lutheran Church
421 S. Peoria Ave
Sunday, November 8th at 2 PM
Free and Open to the Public



OCTOBER

YOUTH & FAMILY

NEWSLETTER 2026



SEPTEMBER HIGHLIGHTS!

AT ST PAUL

On September 13 students and volunteer leaders gathered packed 60 LWR school kits, watched a video about LWR's ministry to schools abroad, and enjoyed yummy treats. Sunday school classes began September 20! We are praying for you all and for another great year of Sunday School!

RALLY DAY!

AT IMMANUEL

Also on September 13, ILC gathered to share in life together and to kick-off this year's Sunday School and Youth Group programming. Our Adult Education also assembled 28 personal care kits to go with our 50 baby kits from VBS and the 130 quilts made our quilters for LWR.

Worship outside * Brunch * Bounce House
Dunk Tank * Fellowship





OCTOBER YOUTH & FAMILY NEWS

2026



HIGHLIGHTS CONTINUED...

CONFIRMATION RETREAT

The confirmation class traveled to LOMC Sept. 18-19 for our annual fall confirmation retreat. We learned about the covenants God made with God's people and with all of creation. We did have a chance to hike at night, walk the prayer labyrinth, and play outside despite the rainy weather.



“To be a Christian without prayer is no more possible than to be alive without breathing.”
— Martin Luther

FREE TO BE YOU! YOUTH GROUP

Youth Group is Back!

We kicked off this year on Monday, September 21st and we had an amazingly wonderful crowd!

Don't forget FtBY is open to all students K-12th grade. A great space to share, to fellowship and to learn to love our neighbors!

October Sunday School schedule

SPLC

10.04 - Abraham & Sarah
10.11 - Rebekah & Isaac
10.18 - Jacob
10.25 - Reformation
Sunday - Faith Lab

ILC

10.04 - Listen to Jesus
10.11 - God's Party
10.18 - All about God
10.25 - Reformation
Sunday

CONFIRMATION

The first class is Sunday, October 4, and we'll meet 1st and 3rd Sundays from 1-2:30pm. We meet the first half of the year (Oct-Dec) at Immanuel and the second half of the year (Jan-May) at St Paul. Our focus this year:

THE OLD TESTAMENT

Confirmation class is for 6th grade students and older.

Important Dates

October 25, 1-3pm

Trunk or Treat (at SPLC)

October 27, 4-7pm

Chili Dinner (at ILC)



OCTOBER YOUTH & FAMILY NEWS

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UPCOMING EVENTS!

CLIFF'S
DONUTS
@ SELMI'S

SALE ST PAUL
YOUTH

The St Paul teen youth ministry is selling delicious apple cider donuts to raise money to attend the Wisconsin Dells Youth Quake in February. Donuts are \$12/dozen or \$1/donut. Order forms are available at St Paul, or scan to order online:

Additional forms can be downloaded from stpauldixon.org. Orders are due with payment ("St Paul Lutheran Church") to the church office by Sunday, October 4.

Donuts can be picked up between 11:30-12:30pm at St Paul on Sunday, October 18.

Thank you for supporting St Paul youth ministries.



Chili & Soup Supper



"Confirmation class,
We are helping with
this!!!"

Immanuel Lutheran Church is hosting its
annual Chili & Soup Supper!

Join us for a night of fellowship, fundraising, and fabulous food! Half the proceeds go to Buddy Bags, a program that helps feed the youth in Dixon. Half to Immanuel Youth Fund. Takeout containers available. Open from 4pm - 7pm.



Tuesday, 27
October 2026



1013 Franklin Grove Rd.
Dixon, IL 61021

Adult Meal Ticket: \$10
Kid's Hot Dog Meal
Ticket: \$5



Immanuel Lutheran Church More
Info : www.ilcdixon.org

IMPACT

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Trunk or Treat

October 25
1:00 - 3:00 PM

TREATS - CRAFTS - GAMES

ST PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH
PARKING LOT

421 S. Peoria Ave, Dixon
815-288-2757

OCTOBER CHILDREN'S OFFERING

SPLC:

Goodfellows
of Lee County



ILC:

PADS
Homeless
Shelter



2027 ELCA Youth & Young Adult Gathering Minneapolis, MN June 28-July 2, 2027



Signup on the youth board at church
by October 21! 8th grade and older.



Wisconsin Dells
February 12 - 14, 2027
6th grade - 12th grade youth

Sign up before **November 13!!!**

Contact us...

ILC: Somar Bryson
Email: yfdirector@ilcdixon.org

SPLC: Gerad Von Holten
Email: youth@stpauldixon.org

OCTOBER

2026 YOUTH & FAMILY



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4 ILC S.S. - 9am SPLC S.S. 9:30am SPLC donut orders due! Confirmation 1-2:30 pm @ ILC	5 ILC FtBY 3:30-5:30pm	6	7	8	9	10
11 ILC S.S. - 9am SPLC S.S. 9:30am Youth committee 9:15am	 12 Church Closed 	13	14	15	16	17
18 SPLC S.S. 9:30am ILC S.S. - 9am SPLC Donut fundraiser - 11:30-12:30pm Confirmation 1-2:30 pm @ ILC	19 ILC FtBY 3:30-5:30pm	20	21 ELCA Youth Gathering Sign up day!!!	22	23	24
25 SPLC S.S. 9:30am Faith Lab ILC S.S. - 9am TRUNK OR TREAT SPLC, 1-3PM	26 ILC FtBY 3:30-5:30pm	27 ILC Chili/Soup Dinner 4-7 pm	28	29	30	31 Happy Halloween Reformation Day

Confirmation
class service
project!!!

APPLE CIDER DONUTS SALE

ST PAUL LUTHERAN YOUTH FUNDRAISER

<u>Item</u>	<u>Price</u> X	<u>How many</u> =	<u>Total \$\$</u>
By the dozen	\$12		
Individual	\$1		
Donation			
TOTALS:			\$

NAME: _____

PHONE: _____

Apple Cider donuts will be made fresh and will be available for pick up at St. Paul Lutheran Church, 421 S. Peoria Ave in Dixon on Sunday, **October 18th from 11:30 am – 12:30 pm.** Paid orders are due at the church office by Sunday, **October 4** (payable to: “St Paul Lutheran Church”) Cliff’s Donuts are made fresh at Selmi’s in Rock Falls, IL.

*Thank you for supporting the youth events of St. Paul Lutheran Church. Funds raised will support students attending the Youth Quake in February '27. Checks payable to **St Paul Lutheran Church.***

OCTOBER 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 11 AM CHAIR YOGA 11 AM JOINT BOOK STUDY AT ILC	2	3 5:30 PM WORSHIP AT IMMANUEL
4 9:30- 10:30 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL / YOUTH GROUP 10:45 AM WORSHIP ~ PRAISE BAND 1-2:30 PM JOINT CONFIRMATION CLASS AT IMMANUEL DONUT ORDERS DEADLINE	5 10:30 AM PRAYER 5 PM JOINT BOOK STUDY AT ILC 6 PM PROPERTY COMMITTEE MEETING	6 8 AM JOINT STAFF MEETING AT IMMANUEL 9 AM LINE DANCING	7 1 PM WORSHIP & MUSIC COMMITTEE MEETING 3 PM CHRISTIAN ED/FAITH FORMATION MEETING	8 11 AM CHAIR YOGA 11 AM JOINT BOOK STUDY AT ILC NOON WELCA LUNCH	9 1:30 PM LIBERTY COURT WORSHIP	10 5:30 PM WORSHIP AT ST. PAUL
11 9:15 AM YOUTH COMMITTEE 9:30- 10:30 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL / YOUTH GROUP 10:45 AM WORSHIP EXECUTIVE COUNCIL CLERGY APPRECIATION DAY	12 OFFICE CLOSED NO JOINT BOOK STUDY	13 8 AM JOINT STAFF MEETING AT IMMANUEL 9 AM LINE DANCING 10 AM SOCIAL MINISTRY MEETING	14 2:30 PM THRIVENT 2:30 PM FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING 5:30 PM PRAISE BAND REHEARSAL	15 11 AM CHAIR YOGA 11 AM JOINT BOOK STUDY AT ILC	16	17 5:30 PM WORSHIP AT IMMANUEL
18 9:30- 10:30 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL / YOUTH GROUP 10:45 AM WORSHIP ~ PRAISE BAND 11:30 AM -12:30 PM DONUT PICK UP 1-2:30 PM JOINT CONFIRMATION CLASS AT IMMANUEL	19 10:30 AM PRAYER 5 PM JOINT BOOK STUDY AT ILC	20 8 AM JOINT STAFF MEETING AT IMMANUEL 9 AM LINE DANCING	21 10:30 AM HERITAGE SQUARE WORSHIP YOUTH GATHERING REGISTRATION DAY	22 11 AM CHAIR YOGA 11 AM JOINT BOOK STUDY AT ILC EPISTLE ITEMS DUE	23	24 5:30 PM WORSHIP AT ST. PAUL
25 9:30- 10:30 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL / FAITH LAB 10:45 AM WORSHIP 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM TRUNK OR TREAT REFORMATION SUNDAY	26 10:30 AM PRAYER 5:30 PM CHURCH COUNCIL	27 8 AM JOINT STAFF MEETING AT IMMANUEL 9 AM LINE DANCING 4 PM - 7 PM CHILI & SOUP SUPPER AT IMMANUEL	28 10 AM CARE MINISTRY MEETING	29 11 AM CHAIR YOGA	30	31 5:30 PM WORSHIP AT IMMANUEL

St. Paul Lutheran Church
421 S. Peoria Avenue
Dixon, IL 61021
Email: office@stpauldixon.org
Website: www.stpauldixon.org
Office Hours: Monday – Thursday, 8:30 am - 1:30 pm
Phone: 815-288-2757
Email: pastoragwindau@gmail.com
pastorreedwindau@gmail.com

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Staff

Rev. Riley Reed-Windau & Rev. Anthony Windau
Co-Pastors

Gerad Von Holten - Director of Youth and Family
Ministries

Rhonda Thomas - Secretary

Brenda Nailor & Sharon Colglazier - General Funds
Treasurers

Lorraine Hussung - Special Funds Treasurer

Church Council

Robin Colglazier – President
Linda Patterson – Vice President
Patty Hallquist – Secretary
Jeanette McWethy
Cyndi Starr
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