



ST. PAUL EPISTLE SEPTEMBER 2025

The following is Pr. Riley's response to Toby Moore's article that was in the local paper on August 13th. Her response was published.

Do Pray Like You're Begging: A Response to Toby Moore

While I admire the confidence of Toby Moore in his article published on August 13, when it comes to prayer, he got it wrong when he suggests to "pray like it is already yours." Pray like you are begging! In fact, God loves when we pray like we are begging. Just as God loves when we pray with confidence, with hesitation, with certainty, in joy, in thanksgiving, with sorrow, and with anger. Because God loves it when we pray. Full stop.

My main problem with Moore's view on prayer is that there is a way we can get prayer wrong. When we say that there is a wrong way, and therefore, a right way to pray, we diminish the work of God into that of something like a vending machine. A vending machine works so that if we punch in the right numbers and enter the right currency, we will get something from it. The same goes for this view of prayer - that if we do or say the correct things, and pray with the right amount of audacity, then we will achieve a certain result.

But this misses the point of prayer. I agree with Moore when he says that prayer isn't passive. However, the activity in prayer is found in the conversation and relationship that we are building with God, not in a one-sided command. In his piece, Moore cites the story of David and Goliath as evidence in manifestation realized in prayer. David's proclamation to Goliath is one of great faith (1 Samuel 17:45-47). That kind of faith is indeed admirable! To have the conviction to approach a situation, especially one that would leave most shaking in our boots, with such confidence in God is something to be celebrated.

And, there is also validity in the prayers of those with less faith, less certainty, and less confidence. God loves us and wants to be in relationship with us. Wouldn't we, then, approach God similar to the way we do with those we trust and love - those we are in close relationship with? How many times have we picked up the phone to our closest friend after the worst day, spewing the woes of the world, only to leave the conversation feeling better because not only did we share, but we were *heard*? What a relief it is to be able to approach God in the same way - able to tell God about the joy and the pain of the world, knowing that God not only hears us, but understands us as Jesus Christ, who is fully God and fully human, walked with us so that no matter what we experience, we don't do it alone. God even understands and welcomes our prayers when we have no more words to speak (Romans 8:26).

Prayer isn't about us getting a result or an answer. Prayer is about having a conversation with our Creator, even if that conversation doesn't include any words. God is great enough to hold all of our prayers. When Job screams to God in anger and exasperation, God still holds his prayers and joins in the conversation (Job 40:6-42:6). While the answer is more cosmic than definitive, God does not abandon Job in his time of desperation and does not admonish him for coming to God in his distress.

My last thought is that when we say that we manifest our realities through the confidence of our prayer, it invalidates so many of God's people who pray with massive amounts of earnestness and faith only to achieve a less than ideal result. However, when we reframe prayer to become a relationship-building conversation, we are opened up to the reality that no matter what we are going through, God is with us. In Luke 11:13, after Jesus teaches his disciples the Lord's Prayer, he tells a parable about perseverance in prayer. And at the end of the parable, he reaffirms the goodness of God by saying that despite humanity's shortcomings, God responds with love.

There is no right way to pray. God welcomes relationship with those whom God created (us) and one way to build that relationship is through prayer, no matter what it looks like. God is asking us to trust God with the unknown of our lives, knowing that we have been heard, and to not leave God out of the conversation.

Financial Update for St. Paul Announcement of a Congregational Meeting

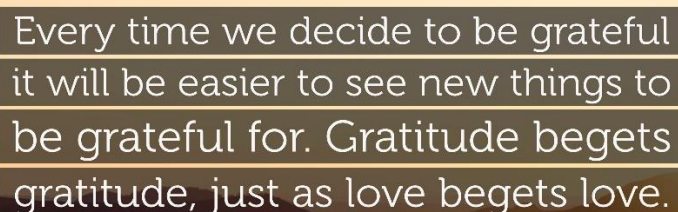
Dear St. Paul, we are extremely grateful for your continued generosity and willingness to show up. We continue to tread water, each month we need the previously approved money from the St. Paul Investment Fund to make ends meet.

At the Synod's recommendation, a special Task Force was created to suggest immediate action to provide some breathing space and add a cushion to ensure bills are paid. Its members include Pr. Anthony, Pr. Riley, Brenda N, Patty H, Joyce C, Roger A, John S, and Julie P. This Task Force has recommended to Council to call a congregational meeting to approve using an additional \$50,000 from the St. Paul Investment Fund to meet our projected deficit for 2025. Council approved this recommendation.

A Congregational Meeting of St. Paul Lutheran Church will take place on Sunday, September 14th immediately following worship.

On the agenda we will: Receive an update on our financial status, hear of the joys and accomplishments of the past year, and vote to approve using an additional \$50,000 from the St. Paul Investment Fund.

Please make plans to attend the Congregational Meeting that day. Your voice is important as we work towards sustainable ministry. Please address any comments, questions, or concerns to Pr. Anthony, Pr. Riley, or Council.



Every time we decide to be grateful
it will be easier to see new things to
be grateful for. Gratitude begets
gratitude, just as love begets love.

Henri J.M. Nouwen

An Anniversary Celebration and Installation has been Scheduled!!



Make plans to attend a special worship service
Sunday, October 26th at 2 pm!

We will celebrate one year of
shared ministry between St. Paul
and Immanuel AND install

Pr. Riley and Pr. Anthony as our called pastors.

The service will begin at Immanuel but will end at St. Paul
with a reception to follow—more details in next month's
newsletter.



WELCA Coffee

Tuesday, Sept 10th at 9:00 am...All are welcome!

You may not know this, but when Council hired Lyndon a couple months back, it was only at half the number of hours. This was to save money. Despite how great he is at cleaning; Lyndon can't get to everything in just 10 hours a week. Therefore, we are asking for weekly help vacuuming, dusting, and cleaning windows.

**VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED**

Pr. Anthony is Going Back to School!

Starting this Fall, I will be pursuing a Master of Theology degree from the Vancouver School of Theology in British Columbia, Canada. I will be very part-time and online. I expect to complete the degree in three to four years.

You might not know this about me-- I applied and was accepted to Vancouver three years ago but had to postpone due to a misunderstanding in Canadian financial aid. Instead of school I served as interim at Faith in Andover, Iowa (which was equally as educational) I had almost given up on this dream when Pr. Riley reminded me of the program's affordability. She reignited the spark in me to pursue this.

What does this mean for the churches? This Fall I have one class which will be on Thursdays, 1 pm to 4 pm. Classes are on Zoom and will typically be done at home. Homework, reading, and writing will also be done at home so as not to interfere with my pastoral duties. This degree is beyond our normal Seminary studies so will be more focused on areas of interest to me (theology and ethics). I'll try to find ways to make it relevant to our life together as Church. I'm excited about this and I know it will be life-giving for me.

**The Social Committee will host the residents of McReynolds Towers
for lunch and fun on Friday, September 12th.**

Out and About

Out and About will gather for a friendly lunch at Coffee Crush (122 N. Peoria, Dixon, IL) on Tuesday, September 2, at 11:30 a.m. All are welcome!!! For more information or to arrange for a ride, call or text Beverley Eykamp at 815-677-8545. We hope you will join us!



Worship Assistants Serving in September

Saturday September 6 ~ at Immanuel	Sunday September 7 ~ Joyce Craney
Saturday September 13 ~ Linda Patterson	Sunday September 14 ~ Marian Myers
Saturday September 20 ~ at Immanuel	Sunday September 21 ~ Glen Hughes
Saturday September 27 ~ Lester Hallquist	Sunday September 28 ~ Sherry McCarter



St. Paul / Immanuel will cooperate to serve the community by working at Dixon Habitat for Humanity on **Saturday, September 6th**. Contact Bob Gingras for any questions at 815-288-5262 or segragingras70@comcast.net

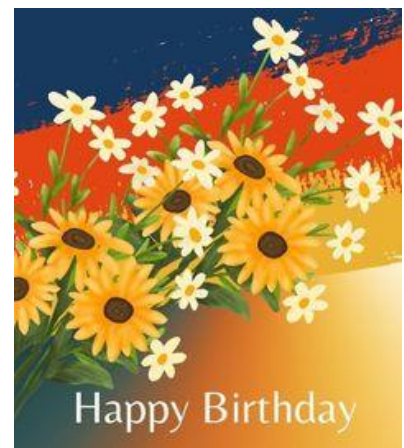


ILC Quilt Sale Saturday, September 20 and Sunday, September 21
Quilts will be available to purchase for yourself, or you can donate \$20, and a quilt will be given to a charity here in Dixon.

St. Paul and Immanuel will be transporting LWR School kits and quilts to Rockford October 4th or October 5th. If you could help by driving, please contact Tori in the ILC office at 815-284-2804.

We celebrate with our St. Paul family members who have September birthdays

1 Beverley Eykamp, LaDonna Groshans
7 Willa Huffman
10 Verna Sagmoe, Philip Garnhart
11 Cody Pitchford
15 Lester Hallquist
16 Lanietta Stiles, Curtis Hussung, Lorraine Hussung
17 Sue Wilson
18 Evelyn Cornwell
24 Cristiano Garcia
27 Barb Strom
28 Robert Moon



BOOK STUDY GROUP!

Join us for discussion on John Mark Comer's practices for spiritual formation! Together we will explore what it looks like to form our everyday lives after those of Jesus and his disciples. What does it look like to be an apprentice of Jesus?

Contact the St. Paul or Immanuel Office to sign up!

Practicing the Way

Be with Jesus
Become like him
Do as he did

John Mark Comer

New York Times bestseller
Formerly pastor of The Village Church of Horry

Meeting weekly beginning the week of September 22nd

Please send Epistle items to the church office on or before Wednesday, September 24th

Church
OFFICE CLOSED

The Church Office will be
CLOSED
Labor Day Monday,
September 1

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We remember Tim Stiens, former custodian at St. Paul, who passed away on August 6th.

Please remember the Stiens family in your prayers.

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Mark your calendars
St. Paul's Rummage Sale
Friday, October 17
and
Saturday, October 18
9:00 am to 2:00 pm

SUPPORT THE DIXON MINI FOOD CENTER: In addition to the September children's offering (which will also support the mini food center), please consider donating nonperishable food items during the month of September. Donations may be placed in the drop box in the gathering area. All donated food must be not past date, labeled with all ingredients (including major food allergens). Here's a few ideas: peanut butter, canned soups/stews, canned veggies/fruits, dry packaged items (rice, cereal, pasta...), snacks (granola bars, nuts, dried fruit), individual serving microwavable pasta (mac n cheese, chef boyardee).



ILC YOUTH & FAMILY

SPLC

September

Free Spaghetti lunch!

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! We give thanks to God for the volunteers who helped and supported our free community lunch on August 12! Thanks for helping feed people in Dixon who could use a free meal!



Fall Rally Day

Sunday School Kick-off at St Paul:

Sept 14, 9:30 - 10:30 AM

Yummy snacks, LWR school kit packing service project, fun games, meet your Sunday school leaders, find your classroom, and stay for 10:45 AM worship.



Parents/guardians, scan **here** to register your student(s) for Sunday school and teen youth group on Sunday mornings, 9:30-10:30am!

RALLY DAY!

Rally Sunday

Sunday School Kick-off at Immanuel:

Sept 14, 8:00am - 12:30pm:

"The Lost Sheep"

8am-Fellowship, 9am - Outdoor Worship,
10:15am - LWR Hygiene Kit Packing Service Project,
11am - 12:30pm - Lunch on the Lawn,
11:30am-12:30pm - Youth Games

Parents/guardians, scan here to register your student(s) for Sunday school.



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FALL CONFIRMATION RETREAT



Sept. 19-20

IT'S ALL ABOUT
JESUS!



Check with Somar
at Immanuel and
Gerad at St Paul
about cost,
completing forms
and for details
about travel. We
will be at LOMC
from 4pm Friday -
4pm Saturday.



Confirmation Class

Parent/Student orientation

September 7, 1:00 PM

At St. Paul



The first class is Sunday October 5, and
we'll meet 1st and 3rd Sundays from 1-3pm.
We meet the first half of the year at St
Paul and the second half of the year at
Immanuel. Our focus this year:
THE NEW TESTAMENT.

Confirmation class is for 6th grade
students and older.

FREE



Free to be You resumes on Mondays from
3:30-5:30pm beginning Sept. 1 at Wooden
Wonderland in Dixon! Welcome back!
In the case of bad weather, we will cancel.
Please contact Somar for details.

2

Whatever I have,
wherever I am, I can
make it through
anything in the One
who makes me who I am.
Philippians 4:12b-13 (The Message)



discovery
center museum **FAMILY
OUTING**

CLIFF'S
DONUTS SALE
@ SELMI'S

**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 to the church office by Sunday, October 5. Donuts can be picked up after worship at St Paul on Sunday, October 19. Thank you for supporting St Paul youth.



Saturday, September 27, 9am - 4pm
Sign up at church! For more details contact Somar!

ILC Acolyte

9/6: Addison Wolf
9/7: Mattie Melendrez
9/14: Rally Sunday
(No Acolyte)
9/20: Fall Retreat
(No Acolyte)
9/21: Owen Rivera
9/28: Sam Gilbert
9/28 reader: TBA



**SEPTEMBER CHILDREN'S
CHANGE/OFFERING**

IMMANUEL:



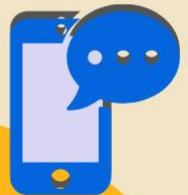
**BUDDY BAGS
OF DIXON**

ST PAUL:

**LEE COUNTY MINI
FOOD CENTER**



Contact us:





Call or text **Somar** (ILC):
(815) 440 7885
yfdirector@ilcdixon.org

Call or text **Gerad** (SPLC):
(815) 627-0898
youth@stpauldixon.org

Immanuel: (815) 284-2804
St Paul: (815) 288-2757

ILC September SPLC

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 Immanuel (ILC) FtBY resumes @ Wooden Wonderland 3:30-5:30 pm	2	3	4	5	6
7 Confirmation orientation 1pm @ St Paul (SPLC)	8 ILC FtBY @ Immanuel 3:30-5:30 pm	9	10	11	12	13
14 ILC Rally Sunday 8am - 12:30pm SPLC Rally Day 9:30-10:30am	15 ILC FtBY @ Immanuel 3:30-5:30 pm	16	17	18	19 Confirmation Fall Retreat 4pm - 4pm  	20
21 ILC Sunday school 9am SPLC Sunday school 9:30am	22 ILC FtBY @ Immanuel 3:30-5:30 pm	23	24	25	26	27 Discovery Museum <i>Family Day</i> 9am - 4pm
28 ILC Sunday school 9am SPLC Sunday school 9:30am SPLC youth committee 9:15 am	29 ILC FtBY @ Immanuel 3:30-5:30 pm	30	1			

September 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Office Closed 6:00 pm Property Committee LABOR DAY	2 9:00 am Line Dancing 9:00 am Staff Meeting at St. Paul 11:30 am Out & About will meet at Coffee Crush	3 3:00 pm Christian Ed/ Faith Formation Meeting 5:00 pm Praise Band Rehearsal	4 11:00 am Chair Yoga	5	6 8:00 am - 2:00 pm Habitat for Humanity workday with ILC 5:30 pm Worship at Immanuel
7 10:45 am Worship Praise Band 1:00 pm-3:00 pm Parents Confirmation Meeting with ILC at St. Paul	8 10:00 am Prayer Team	9 9:00 am Line Dancing 9:00 am Staff Meeting at St. Paul 10:00 am Social Ministry Meeting	10 9:00 am WELCA Coffee 2:30 pm Finance Committee	11 11:00 am Chair Yoga	12 1:30 pm Liberty Court Worship McReynolds Towers Cook-out	13 5:30 pm Worship at St. Paul
14 9:30 am—10:30 am Packing LWR Backpacks /Sunday School kick off 10:45 am Worship Congregational Meeting Rally Day Executive Council	15 10:00 am Prayer Team	16 9:00 am Line Dancing 9:00 am Staff Meeting at St. Paul	17 10:30 am Heritage Square Worship 5:00 pm Praise Band Rehearsal 6:00 pm Council Meeting	18 11:00 am Chair Yoga	19 LOMC Confirmation Retreat	20 LOMC Confirmation Retreat 5:30 pm Worship at Immanuel Quilt Sale at ILC
21 9:30 am-10:30 am Sunday School 10:45 Worship Praise Band Quilt Sale at ILC	22 10:00 am Prayer Team 6:00 pm Joint Book Study at ILC	23 9:00 am Line Dancing 9:00 am Staff Meeting at St. Paul	24 11:00 am Care Ministry Epistle Items to the Church Office	25 11:00 am Joint Book Study at ILC 11:00 am Chair Yoga	26	27 9:00 am - 4:00 pm Family Trip Discovery Center Museum Rockford 5:30 pm Worship at St. Paul
28 9:15 Youth Committee 9:30 am-10:30 am Sunday School 10:45 am Worship	29 10:00 am Prayer Team 6:00 pm Joint Book Study at ILC	30 9:00 am Line Dancing 9:00 am Staff Meeting at St. Paul				

St. Paul Lutheran Church
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Dixon, IL 61021
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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
Patty Hallquist – Vice President
Joyce Craney – Secretary
Carol Moats
Jeanette McWethy
Julie Pitchford
Linda Patterson
Cyndi Starr