

# BRANCHES

Youth and Family Ministries of St. John's and St. Paul Lutheran Church

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## CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILY

### HIGHLIGHTS

#### THANKS BE TO GOD FOR OUR GRADUATES:

This month we honor and celebrate 8<sup>th</sup> grade students, high school senior graduates and post-high school graduates. May God continue to bless you for who you are and in all that you do. On Sunday, June 12, we'll be having a special graduate blessing during worship at St. Paul. And, on June 12 we'll be celebrating all graduates during the online Tri Church worship service.

#### **Celebrating 8<sup>th</sup> grade students:**

Addisyn Petty      Dixon Reagan Middle School  
Bradyn Ariens      Bureau Valley Junior High School

#### **Celebrating High School Seniors:**

Owen Pillars      Rock Falls High School

#### **Celebrating Post-High School Graduates:**

Logan Pillars      Wheeling University/West Virginia  
                                 *Bachelor of Science and Business Administration*  
Luke Steinke      Belmont University  
                                 *Bachelor in Business Administration, Major in Music Business*  
Rebecca Waite      Illinois State University  
                                 *Degree: Exercise Science, Health & wellness minor*  
Collin Zollinger      University of Montana  
                                 *Masters – Public Administration*  
Paul Zollinger      University of Idaho  
                                 *Masters – Natural Resources, Outdoor Education*



*If we missed you or your loved one, please contact the church office. We want to include you in our blessing Sunday on June 5 and June 12 with Tri Church online.*

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### HONORING MOTHERS AND ALL WOMEN

The children and youth at St Paul made special gifts for moms and mom-figures on Mother's Day, while ladies enjoyed some yummy treats and time for relaxation! Thanks kids! Thanks be to God for all who participated! Thanks be to God for our moms and all women!

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### THANK YOU SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS!

Thank you to Jennifer Pillars, Valerie Petty, Stacey Avelar, Liz Arduini, Kelci Eakle, Susan Bartel, Lana Shore and Melissa Ariens for teaching Sunday school this school year. We celebrated our faith formation team on May 22. Thank you for sharing your faith and for sharing the story of God's love with the young people of St. Paul's!

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### **EVENTS, ACTIVITIES & FAITH FORMATION**

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### FAITH FORMATION 2021-22:

**TRI CHURCH CONFIRMATION CLASS:** The class concluded for the school year last month with a pizza party and final review trivia night. Stay tuned for plans for confirmation classes in the fall.





**TRI CHURCH TEEN FUN DAY JUNE 5**

All 7<sup>th</sup> grade through 12<sup>th</sup> graders (and parents/guardians)... join us for some fun to kick off the summer. Lunch is included.

**Where:** St. Paul Lutheran Church, 1701 16<sup>th</sup> Ave.

**When:** NOON – 1:30pm

**What:** Wiffle ball, kick ball, volleyball, bags, basketball, a group activity and some planning for our summer Courageous trip to Iowa. Please let Gerad know if you can make it so we have a head count for lunch. We hope to see you there!

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**SUMMER VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL:** This summer CommUNITY VBS will be a one-day, outdoor event at Bethel Reformed Church (230 E. 23<sup>rd</sup> St., Sterling). SUNDAY AFTERNOON, JULY 10. Dinner included. All PreK – 3-year-olds through 5<sup>th</sup> grade students are encouraged to attend. And, 6<sup>th</sup> grade and older can volunteer to be leaders. More details will be coming soon! Follow our CommUNITY VBS Facebook page for updates and the latest news. [facebook.com/SterlingRFCommunityVBS](https://www.facebook.com/SterlingRFCommunityVBS)



**SAUK VALLEY UNITE 2022:**



**UNITE is June 22-25!** Housing and camp location is at Bethel Reformed Church in Sterling. We will be painting 5 homes in Sterling and Rock Falls. Over 40 students have registered! We kickoff on Wednesday, June 22 at 5:00 PM with registration and pizza at Bethel Reformed Church in Sterling, then worship led by Dan Scharnhorst and Pete Smith. Dan and

Pete will be with us throughout the week leading worship, sharing stories and hanging out with us. Painting days will be June 23-25. Please stay tuned to announcements, emails and Facebook posts for further details including the official schedule. We will be in need of snacks at the worksites again this year. And, we have need for adult volunteers in a variety of ways (painters, snack providers, evening chaperones...). Adults, please speak with Gerad or Pastor Makayla if you can help and how. And, if you'd like to support UNITE, but you're not sure how, please email [saukvalleyunite@gmail.com](mailto:saukvalleyunite@gmail.com). The theme for 2022 UNITE is reNEW - Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! (2 Cor 5:17, NIV)



*Dan and Pete (2022 UNITE speakers & musicians)*

**TRI CHURCH HIGH SCHOOL SUMMER TRIP JULY 24 - 26** St. Paul 7th-12th Graders—



make plans to join us for COURAGEOUS! We go courageously for God is with us! (Joshua 1:9). We will be stepping out of our comfort zones and adventuring with God and each other on this 53-hour extravaganza! We will leave at noon on July 24 and head to Des Moines to worship at Lutheran Church of Hope. After supper we'll head to Altoona and stay at an area hotel. Following first

Word, we will head to Adventureland. On Tuesday we will spend some time in Iowa City as we make our way back home. Group building games and Bible study will be woven throughout our time together. Those who sign up for the trip will help finalize the itinerary. Cost: \$50, plus 5 meals. To sign up, submit your \$25 deposit to St Paul ASAP!!!



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**FAITH FORMATION TEACHER GATHERING: Monday June 6 at 3pm**

In collaboration with a faculty-student research team, Pastor Makayla is working on a project to "Teach the Bible Teacher" and create resources for people to lead Bible Studies and teach Sunday School. If you taught Sunday School this year, led a Bible Study, or have thought about teaching/leading but have been hesitant, we'd love to have some conversation with you! Join us Monday June 6 at St. Paul at 3pm for conversation. We will plan to meet by the playground so kiddos can join us too.

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**JUNE CHILDREN'S OFFERING:** St. Paul's purpose statement is "Living Christ



centered lives so we may love all, serve our community, and share the Word." At St. Paul, when we say "all" we mean ALL! We are dedicated to creating a world where all God's beloved children and families can live in dignity just the way God created them. Our

June Children's Offering will support PFlag Sauk Valley, a local organization supporting LGBTQIA+ persons and their families so that we can have proud people, loving families, safe communities, and a diverse and inclusive world.