

STPAULNOW

July 2026

St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church
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StPaulNow.org

I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

—St. Paul, 1 Timothy 2



**where the Spirit of the Lord is,
there is freedom** (2 Corinthians 3:17)

From Pr. Steve

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Before I say anything else, let me say “thank you” to Pastor Jack Moore and Derek Goodman for taking the two Sundays I was away on vacation. Jack preached on June 14; Derek took June 21st. Both did a really great job, as I expected. If you were away too, you can hear their sermons on our website (stpaulnow.org/recent-sermons) and on Facebook (facebook.com/stpaulcardington/videos).

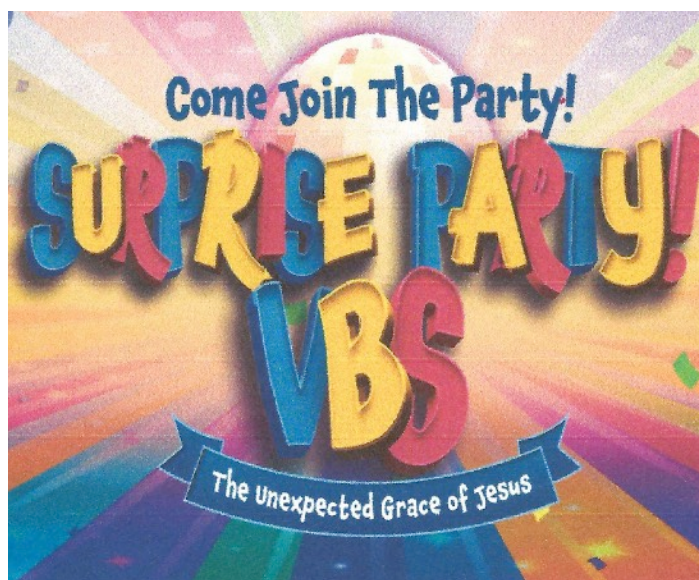
Should Christians use seat belts?

Many years ago now, I was accompanying a pastor on visits to members of his congregation. He picked me up at home. I got into his car and barely got the door shut when he laid a couple strips of rubber on the street. The acceleration pressed me deep into his Thunderbird's bucket seat. As I struggled to get my seat belt hitched up, I scolded him: “Dick! What are you doing?” He grinned. “Just showing off a bit,” he said, and added, “I’ll slow down.” He did slow down, a little, but for the next couple of miles through city traffic the starts and stops were jackrabbit style, not to mention hopping in and out of lanes to find the fastest one. Dick was more than twenty years my senior, so I didn’t feel I should scold him again. I chose a more indirect approach, and asked, “If you’re going to drive like this, don’t you think you should maybe fasten your seat belt?” I had known Dick for years, and wasn’t surprised by his answer: “Naw, we’re almost there now. Besides, I don’t need a seat belt. God knows how busy I am—he’s got an angel riding on my bumper.” He wasn’t trying to be funny, he was serious.

Dick was never in an accident I knew anything about, though I suspect there were several on the roads behind him. I never bought that bit about the angel, and the seat belts, but in other respects Dick was a fairly normal person. If he or a loved one was sick, he called a doctor. He managed his money well, and paid his bills when due. He put his wife’s needs ahead of his own. He loved God and managed the staff of his 2500-member church in a way that reflected God’s love and justice. He loved his country and never missed a chance to vote, or to debate policy with someone who disagreed with him. He paid his taxes, and prayed for the nation constantly. He saw all these behaviors as duties a Christian man should accept and fulfill. He didn’t realize it, but every one of those things is a kind of seat belt too.

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Worship Services are streamed live Sundays at 10:00 AM; videos are posted at stpaulnow.org and on [Facebook](https://facebook.com/stpaulcardington/videos) Sunday afternoon.



5:30 PM Monday - Wednesday, July 13, 14, 15

Legion Park, Cardington

Includes light supper—free to participants

Closing program, Thursday, July 16

6:00 PM, Cardington Community Methodist Church

7:00 PM, Pool Party at Cardington Pool

Each evening begins with supper at 5:30, followed by crafts, music, games, and Bible lessons. We will serve the supper on Monday, July 13.

To pre-register, use this QR code,



or go to www.cardingtonnaz.com/vbs.

Walk in registrations accepted at the park, Monday through Wednesday at 5:15 PM.

* Sponsored by Cardington Community Methodist Church, Cardington Church of the Nazarene, St. Paul Lutheran Church, Fairview Global Methodist Church, Center Global Methodist Church.

June Council meeting

Regular meeting, June 9, 6:30 PM

Present: Howard Radel (Vice Chairman), Sondra Carey (Secretary), Marie Christiano (Treasurer); Thomas Bathke, Steve Kirk, Terri Roberts, Pr. Steve. Excused: Mark Niendam.

Visitor present: Susie Peyton, to deliver a report requested by Chairman, Howard Radel.

Council took the following actions:

- Approved the Treasurer's report for May, and received the pastor's report for May.
- Received a report from Susie Peyton concerning parking on Third Street side of the church, and sealing and lining the parking lot.
- Received a report from Mark Niendam—he will install security cameras upon his return from vacation.
- Established process of securing bids for replacement of one or both of our boilers.
- Approved a benevolence contribution of \$100.00 for a grief support program at OSU, Marion.

Treasurer's Report for May 2026

FUNDS	BALANCE 5/1/2026	INCOME MAY	EXPENSES MAY	BALANCE 5/31/2026
General Fund	\$ 8,033.66	\$ 9,280.19	\$ 9,405.54	\$ 7,908.31
Committed Funds				
Benevolence Fund	\$ 3,375.41	\$ 90.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 3,465.41
Richard Renz Fund	\$ 4,257.85	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 4,257.85
Funeral Fund	\$ 846.30	\$ 220.00	\$ 367.91	\$ 698.39
Christian Education Fund	\$ 489.13	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 489.13
Memorial Fund	\$ 10,690.80	\$ 50.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 10,740.80
Building Fund	\$ 12,268.00	\$ 1,470.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 13,738.00
Total Committed Funds	\$ 31,927.49	\$ 1,830.00	\$ 367.91	\$ 33,389.58
Total Funds (Gen. + Committed)	\$ 39,961.15	\$ 11,110.19	\$ 9,773.45	\$ 41,297.89

July Worship Service Assignments

Communion setup: Karen Stone/Bob Dutt, Jr. Assisting Server: Mark Niendam

Accompanists	Acolytes	Lectors	Prayer Leaders	Ushers
5 Kathy Hill	TBA	5 Sondra Carey	5 Sondra Carey	5 Howard Radel, Tom Bathke
12 Emilee McCabe		12 Toni Binkley	12 Marlene Radel	12 Jeff Radel, Warren Cargill
19 Emilee McCabe		19 Charlene Pace	19 Charlene Pace	19 Jay Burns, Charlie Seitz
26 Emilee McCabe		26 Dave Radiger	26 Donna Bathke	26 Tom Bathke, Dave Radiger

Seat belts, continued from p. 1

Should Christians go to doctors when we're sick? We follow Jesus Christ, who healed all ailments of body, mind, and spirit, and could even do it from a distance, with just a command. He still does that occasionally, when it fits in with his plan. But mostly, he inspires his people to learn to heal those who suffer. So yes, Christians should use this seat belt that exists today, due largely to his inspiration.

We manage our money wisely, or try to. Only fools do otherwise. Yes, we trust our Heavenly Father's provision for us, but he didn't tell us not to work, just not to worry. We pay our bills when due, because we keep our promises, and because we don't claim the right to take without paying. Seatbelt. Seatbelt.

We fulfill our duties to spouse and family. This seat belt gives stability to our society; also to our minds and souls.

We aim to manage our businesses and professions in a caring and just manner because we don't want chaos to reign in our workspace—seat belt.

We pay taxes to support our nation. We pray for it, celebrate it, and seek to preserve it, if for no other reason than that it has lifted more people out of crushing poverty and tyranny than any other nation in the history of civilization, while bathing them in liberty. Or, maybe that should be, *by* bathing them in liberty. We're not a theocracy, but God's fingerprints are all over this thing. Click it, Christian, and enjoy the ride.



Cardington Food Pantry

Needs for July: Box of cake mix, box of crackers, Pasta Sauce.

All months: cereal, flour, meals in a can (e.g., spaghetti, beef stew), soup, white and brown sugar, salt/pepper.

Cardington Street Fair, June 27



We offered prayer support and distributed bracelets with Christian messages on them to the kids. Teams volunteered to represent us from 11:00 AM - 5:00 PM, mostly in one-hour blocks. Thank you to all who participated in this.

July Birthdays

2 Amanda Himler	12 Brandy Dornon	22 Josh Brandyberry
4 Don Keil	Tracy Landon	23 Annie McClenathan
5 Madison Dornon	Abigail Smith	25 Aric Jones
Pam Graham	14 Bill Goodman	28 Steven Fissell
6 Jim Thiel	Rachel Himler	Julie Jones
7 Adison Babb	15 Marlene Radel	Abby Smith
Atlas Simpson	Natalie Rose	
10 Rylie Jones	16 Lilly Carey	
11 Nora Ebert	Klaudia Efav	
Dusty Snyder	20 Benjamin Ebert	

Let us know if we missed anyone.