



# September 2023 *focus*

ST PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH | MISSOULA MONTANA

## The Divine Drama Is Coming!

### *Announcing: The Divine Drama: The Biblical Narrative and Our Narrative*

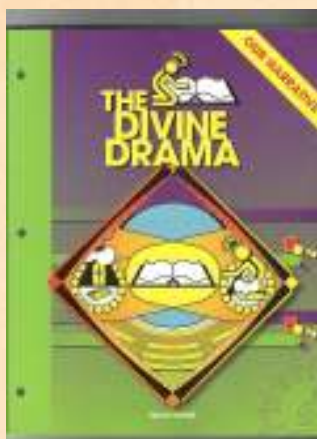
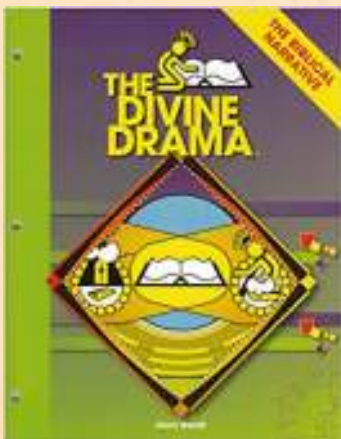
- Part I is a 16-unit overview of the biblical narrative. Part II is a 14-unit overview of the biblical basis for core Christian teaching,

With Advent/Christmas 4-week video teaching focus series “**A Clear View of Jesus’ Birth**”, presented by Presbyterian Teaching Elder and Teaching Canon in Residence for The Episcopal Church, The Rev. Dr. Ken Bailey

- Created by The Rev. Dr. Harry Wendt (Australian Lutheran Pastor), The Divine Drama takes us into the “highlight reel” of the biblical narrative and immerse us into the unity of the Hebrew and Christian scriptures. *As part of our discernment, The Divine Drama invites us into God’s Mission Goals and dreams for God’s people and the world.*

- Materials available via [solapublishing.com](http://solapublishing.com) (\$55.60 plus shipping). **Please order by Labor Day 2023.**

Click on the “Crossways tab, then the materials (Student Manual, workbook, and binders are on pages 2 & 4)



- Begins the week of **September 11** and concludes the week of **May 20, 2024**. There will be 2 sessions offered each week, **Monday evenings 7:00-8:30 PM** and **Tuesday mornings 9:30-11:00 AM**. Participants are welcome to come to either/or, depending on your personal schedule (Or you may come for both, if you are so inclined ;-)

- Fellowship-n-snacks 30 mins before. Please bring snacks and drinks to share. All welcome, members and non-members, high school age on up.

# Children, Youth, and Family Notes

## **AUGUST GATHERING AT SPLASH MONTANA ➤**

On Wednesday, August 9th, families from St. Paul and Immanuel gathered together at Splash Montana. After a mere twenty minutes of swimming and sliding, distant thunder could be heard and everyone had to get out of the water for safety. We gathered under the cabana and had time to chat with each other and take this group photo! Even when plans don't go as we hope, it's still good for us to gather together and be reminded of God's Love, our baptism, and our community of faith.



## **FAITH FAMILY GATHERING** **(outdoors at the Marks House)**

**Sunday, September 10, 4-6:15**

Faith Family Gatherings are an awesome way to connect with other families and your family. Held once a month on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday, they include large group worship, peer group time, family time, and dinner. The first one of the year is at the house and apple orchard of the Marks family. Please use the link below to sign up, and if you can, sign up to bring a dessert or side to share. Bring a lawn chair, the address for this gathering is on the signup page:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080d4aa5ab2da2fa7-immanuel26#/>

## **GROW KICKOFF**

**Sunday, September 24, 11:40am**

GROW will be held right after church this fall. After worship, kids and families can head downstairs for coffee hour snacks and fellowship with the congregation. At 11:40 am, Janelda will lead the Kid's Choir in rehearsal in the sanctuary, and then we'll head to room 210 (usual GROW room) for stories and crafts/activities. GROW will conclude at 12:45pm. Please RSVP for the weeks your kids will attend GROW:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/805094EA9AE2CA2FB6-grow3>

## **Fall Fun for All Ages**

**FALL FAITH FESTIVAL SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17TH, right after worship** Mark your calendars... St. Paul's favorite fun event for the entire congregation returns! Plan to attend this community festival, and prayerfully consider contributing your time, money, or unused Thrivent Action Grant toward the effort. Sign up using this link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/805094EA9AE2CA2FB6-fall1>



## *Dear Immanuel and St. Paul Members,*

As many of you may know, this summer we had to cancel the joint VBS that was planned for June because of low enrollment. This difficult decision was made in tandem by leadership from both congregations. The main reason for canceling was because of the low number of kids who were signed up, although we also had a low number of volunteers. We were less concerned about the volunteers, because we know what amazing members we have at both churches, who are always willing to step up and help when needed. Since we only had 14 kids enrolled, we decided to cancel. Many activities during VBS are for age-groups, and there would have only been 2 or 3 kids in a group in some cases, which makes it challenging for leaders and or the kids to participate in such a small group. Thank you to those of you who did sign up to bring your kids and to help.

After taking time to talk to our families and reflect, leadership from Immanuel and St. Paul gathered again to discuss why we had low enrollment this year. There are several reasons why we think enrollment was low. First, families tend to leave town on vacation in the summer. Second, families plan their summer schedules early in the year, to make sure their kids are enrolled in camps, especially if parents work during the day. Our dates and registration information are usually published by Easter, but we realize this is probably too late, and families already have other plans by Easter. Another reason families did not attend this year was because their kids attended a different camp all day, so the evening VBS we had planned was too much for them.

We are optimistic though! We want kids to experience VBS. We want them to be exposed to Jesus in a fun and joyful manner through games, crafts, song, and story. We are already making plans for next summer's joint VBS. We have chosen dates: June 17-20, 2024, from 9:30am-12:00pm. We hope by having dates and a time during the day, it will be easier for parents to plan around and attend. Put this on your calendar and plan to volunteer and/or attend. We need the support of both congregations to make this happen. We need help in promoting Vacation Bible School. We need prayers for guidance and decision making. We will need volunteers and we will need families to sign up their kids to attend. Please let Sonja or Colter know if you can help in any way or if you have any questions or input regarding VBS.

God's Blessings,

Colter Murphy  
Children, Youth, and Family Director  
St. Paul Lutheran Church

Sonja Wolsky  
Christian Education Director  
Immanuel Lutheran Church

### **NOTE OF THANKS:**

I wish to extend my heartfelt thanks to everyone who offered prayers, condolences, gifts, and hugs for Darrel and me during his illness and passing.

Special thanks to Pastor Mark, the office and kitchen staff who blessed me, Darrel's family, and friends with services and the wonderful reception. Words are inadequate to say how much we appreciate everyone's kindness.

May God's blessings grace you,

*Nona Babcock and family*

*Darrel's sons: Darrel Jr., Vern, and Devery Fite*

*Darrel's siblings: Carolyn Majors and Larry Fite, and Darrel's extended family*

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

The Women's Bible Study will resume on September 7th at 1:00pm in Rm # 210, the Fellowship Room. We will continue the study "Great People of the Old Testament." The first session will be a review and a time to share thoughts related to the first 6 lessons. All women are invited to participate. New students are most welcome! Questions? Please contact Betty Rude, 406 543-3219 or Hazel Sorensen, 406 728-3278.

## MEN'S BIBLE BREAKFAST SET TO RESUME

Greetings men of St. Paul. After a summer hiatus, the weekly men's Bible breakfasts are set to resume beginning Thursday, September 7th at 7:30am in the upstairs Fellowship Room, Rm # 210. All men are invited to take part in these sessions featuring great food, semi-great coffee, fellowship, prayer, and spiritual renewal

through the reading/discussion of scripture. We hope that you will consider joining us--try it, you might love it! If you have questions contact Don Spritzer 406 549-5582 . We hope to see you there.

## WOMEN OF SPIRIT TO BEGIN READING A BOX OF BUTTERFLIES

*by Roma Downey*

Roma Downey was Monica in the TV series "Touched By An Angel". This is an uplifting book filled with comfort, hope, and assurance of God's presence in our lives. We'll begin discussing the book on Monday, Sept. 11th from 6-7:00pm in Rm # 208.

We read and discuss about 40 pages each week. All women are welcome. Questions? Please contact Jan Turbak, 406 251 -3649.

## THE 37<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GARY TURBAK BACK-TO-SCHOOL CLOTHING STORE WAS BIGGER THAN EVER.

More than 300 children got a new top, pants, socks, underwear and shoes from the church on Monday and Tuesday. Many bags of clothes were then taken to refugee children at Soft Landing and to Family Resource Centers in the schools. So, another 200 children may get clothes from the project!

St. Paul members contributed more than \$7,000 and business donated more than \$17,000! That includes an amazing \$7,000 grant from Town Pump! Eight churches collected socks and underwear.

Thank you to more than 30 people who volunteered MANY hours to carry out this event! A special thanks goes to Sheila Gray, Kim Butler, Vicke Schend and Diane Davis for doing most of the shopping. Four employees from Kohl's volunteered for two hours each in helping us set up the store. Thank you to ALL of you for your time, money and prayers. Praise to our Lord for giving us this opportunity to help those in need in our community!

We received beautiful smiles, handshakes, hugs, blessings and happy tears from children, parents and grandparents. A good time was had by all! *Jan Turbak*

ATONEMENT LUTHERAN CHURCH

is hosting our

2nd ANNUAL

# BLOCK PARTY

September 9, 2023

4:00PM - 7:00PM

**ADMISSION IS FREE!**

The entire community is invited to our 2nd Annual Block Party, which will include fun for the whole family! There will be plenty of food, fun, and entertainment for all to enjoy.



What to Expect:

- Food
- Games
- Music
- Activities
- Entertainment
- Raffles
- And More!



Enjoy magic from our award-winning magician, Evan Disney!



**ALL ARE WELCOME**  
**2205 34th Street, Missoula, MT**

## SAVE THESE DATES FOR FALL RUMMAGE SALE: October 6 and 7

We will begin accepting items in the Lower Level after worship on Sunday, October 1 and will be setting up and unpacking from 9:00 am Monday October 2 through 3:00 pm Thursday October 5. Please deliver all your sale items to the Lower Level of the church by noon on Thursday the 5th.

Sale Hours will be 8:00 am to 3:00 pm on Friday and the BAG SALE will be from 8:00 am to noon on Saturday.

We need lots of volunteers to help lighten the load for everyone. **Questions, or if you would like to volunteer to help in any way, please call Betty Rude, 406 543-3219.**

## FAMILY PROMISE THANKS

Thanks to all of our congregants who volunteered to help out with the needs during our rotation for Family Promise last week. Everyone's contribution makes such a difference for the 31+ families sharing space together at the Family Housing Center. Until our next rotation, Nov 13-19, there are some needs that you may be able to help out with. There is a need for new or gently used full and twin sheet sets and towels (wash cloths, hand and bath towels). If you have any donations, you may drop them by the Housing Center, 1800 S 3rd Street E or I can pick them up, call me at (406) 390-6074, *Vicke Schend.*



## St. Paul Lutheran Church

202 Brooks Street,  
Missoula Montana 59801

Phone: 406/549-4141

Fax: 406/327-0496 [www.stpaulmissoulamt.org](http://www.stpaulmissoulamt.org)

Email: [stpaul@stpaulmissoula.org](mailto:stpaul@stpaulmissoula.org)

Sunday Worship 10 am (in-person and livestreamed  
(To view online, click on [www.stpaulmissoulamt.org](http://www.stpaulmissoulamt.org))

Wednesday Worship 4:00 pm on MCAT channel 189

Intentional Interim Pastor, *Mark Galbraith*

Lutheran Campus Pastor, *Eric Huseth*

Pastor Emeritus, *Joe Wahlin*

Office and Parish Adult Education Associate, *Elaine Ryan*

Director of Music, Organist, and Choir Director,

*Janelda Barnett*

Children, Youth, and Family Director, *Colter Murphy*

Choir Accompanist, *Jan Turbak*

Facility Maintenance, *Tom DonTigny*

Financial Administration, *Maria Phillips*

Video Coordinator, *Mark Gorseth*

Volunteer Coordinator, *Karen Behan*



**Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.

# September 2023

St. Paul Lutheran Church  
202 Brooks St.  
Missoula, Montana 59801

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 10:00 Worship, In-person and Livestreamed	4 LABOR DAY HOLIDAY The office is closed.	5	6 6:30 Choir Rehearsal	7 7:30 Men's Bible Study Breakfast 9:00 Women's Quilt making 1:00 Women's Bible Study	8	9
10 10:00 Worship, In-person and Livestreamed  4:00 Faith Family Gathering	11 1:00 Staff Meeting  5:00 Stephen Ministers  6:00 Women of Spirit  7:00 Divine Drama Study	12 9:30 Divine Drama Study  6:00 Church Council Meeting	13 6:30 Choir Rehearsal	14 7:30 Men's Bible Study Breakfast 9:00 Women's Quilt making	15	16
17 10:00 Worship, In-person and Livestreamed <b>Fall Faith Festival (right after worship)</b>	18 1:00 Staff Meeting  6:00 Women of Spirit  7:00 Divine Drama Study	19 9:30 Divine Drama Study	20 6:30 Choir Rehearsal	21 7:30 Men's Bible Study Breakfast 9:00 Women's Quilt making 1:00 Women's Bible Study	22	23
24 10:00 Worship, In-person and Livestreamed  11:40 GROW and Confirmation	25 1:00 Staff Meeting  5:00 Stephen Ministers  6:00 Women of Spirit  7:00 Divine Drama Study	26 9:30 Divine Drama Study	27 6:30 Choir Rehearsal	28 7:30 Men's Bible Study Breakfast 9:00 Women's Quilt making	29	30

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**Sale Hours:** 8:00 am to 3:00 pm on Friday and the BAG SALE will be from 8:00 am to noon on Saturday.  
 We need lots of volunteers to help lighten the load for everyone. **Questions, or if you would like to volunteer to help in any way, please call Betty Rude, 406 543-3219.**

# FLBC'S FALL HARVEST FESTIVAL & AUCTION

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14TH, 2023**

@ Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp  
550 Lutheran Camp Rd., Lakeside MT 59922

**An event to help make camp financially accessible to all!**

*Following the FLBC Annual Meeting at 2:30, join us for the Fall Harvest Festival & Auction events!*

4 PM - 5:30 PM Silent Auction, Happy Hour, & Appetizers  
5:30 PM Dinner served  
6:15 PM Live Auction & Program

*Silent Auction closes after program*

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**Individual Tickets: \$50 each**

**Table Package (8 tickets): \$350**

***(Kids 16 & Under are free; activities & dinner for youth from 4-7 PM)***

Contact FLBC at 406-752-6602 to purchase tickets, or visit [one.bidpal.net/flboauction/](http://one.bidpal.net/flboauction/) to buy tickets online and browse our online auction items (online bidding opens 10/1/23 and ends 10/15/23).

*Visit [flbc.net](http://flbc.net) to view the full schedule for October 14th, which includes the FLBC annual meeting.*



406.752.6602 | [office@flbc.net](mailto:office@flbc.net)