

October 30, 2026



## Challenges, Celebrations, and Blessings!

What a whirlwind the past week has been! From personal celebrations to unexpected challenges, these past several days have reminded me of God's abundant blessings and the incredible community we share at St. Paul's.

First, a personal celebration! On Thursday, October 22, Susan and I were blessed to welcome our fifth granddaughter, Macy Pearl Maxwell! Her proud parents, Joe and Cassidy, along with big sister Ruby, are excited to become a "party of four." As our family continues to grow, I am reminded that every child is a precious gift from God, uniquely created with a purpose and surrounded by His grace. And I must admit, being "Girl Gramps" to five granddaughters is a pretty wonderful blessing!



Then came Friday and our Fall Festival! What began as a wonderful evening quickly became an unexpected adventure when the storm rolled in. Yet, what could have been remembered as a disaster became a beautiful demonstration of our St. Paul's community at its best. Parents, teachers, staff, and students jumped into action, helping wherever needed, keeping people safe, and bringing calm to the chaos. The weather may not have cooperated, but our community certainly did! Thank you to everyone who stepped up and demonstrated the heart of St. Paul's. It was a powerful reminder that our greatest strength isn't found in our buildings or events, but in the people who make this community so special.

As we approach October 31, we also have another reason to celebrate. Along with the costumes, candy, and fun of Halloween, we recognize Reformation Day, an important part of our Lutheran heritage. More than 500 years ago, Martin Luther helped spark a movement that called the church back to the heart of the Gospel: God's incredible gift of salvation through Jesus Christ.

The Reformation reminds us of three foundational truths: Sola Scriptura (Scripture Alone), Sola Gratia (Grace Alone), and Sola Fide (Faith Alone). God's Word is our foundation, His grace is our gift, and faith in Christ is our hope. These truths continue to guide our mission to educate children, nurture their faith, and equip them to share the Gospel of Christ.

Isn't it remarkable how God uses both challenges and celebrations to remind us of His goodness? Whether we welcome a new granddaughter, watch a community come together in a storm, or celebrate the enduring truths of the Reformation, we are reminded that our hope remains firmly "Anchored in Christ."

As you enjoy this season's festivities, may your family find joy in the celebrations, strength in the challenges, and confidence in the promise that God's grace is always sufficient.

Happy Reformation Day, Happy Halloween, and thank you for being part of the St. Paul's family!

Anchored in Christ.

*Deryl Maxwell*

Principal