



ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Thank you for inquiring about membership at St. Paul's!

What is Membership?

To be a member of a church is a wonderful gift. Being a member of a church isn't just about tithing and having your name on a roster. But rather, it is about supporting your brothers and sisters, holding them accountable, and regularly receiving God's Word and Sacraments with them. Furthermore, to be a member of a church is to have a pastor – a shepherd who cares for you by giving you the Word and Sacraments.

Membership, though, is often frowned upon in our twenty-first-century context. Many people scoff at the idea of membership and will say, *"I don't need to be a part of a church; I do spirituality on my terms with the Lord."* While these sentiments are sometimes very sincerely stated, the truth of the matter is that Christianity is corporate, not personal. That is to say; there is no such thing as Christianity that is simply one-on-one, you and Jesus, independent of other believers. God designed humanity to live in community with one another, and the Church on earth is how God provides that community for His people.

Why Membership at St. Paul's?

We live in a culture of great change. Each week there are new popular songs. Television programs are launched and canceled. Cell phones are constantly updated. And governmental policies – yes, they change on a regular basis. There is more too. People come and go; businesses start and close; buildings rise and fall; new discoveries in science replace old findings; fads emerge and fade away; death and birth mark the beginning for some, and the end of others.

Is there anything consistent and stable in our lives?

Sometimes we might feel like we are a ship in the great raging storm of life. Up and down, to and fro, we bounce with the unpredictability of life. While it may be exciting to ride the waves of life for a time, we cannot survive long-term with such instability. That is why every ship needs an anchor. An anchor provides a ship steadiness, it prevents the ship from being ripped away from its course and tossed into the vast emptiness of the ocean. Is it any different for us in our lives – do we not need an anchor too?



ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

MEMBERSHIP FORM

As you come to St. Paul's Lutheran, the first thing you will notice is that we have an anchor outside of our entrance. As you come inside, you may also notice that the ceiling of the sanctuary is shaped like the bottom of a boat. Both of these things remind us that we are anchored in Jesus Christ.

We are anchored at St. Paul's Lutheran by the Lord's consistent, stable, predictable, and unchanging Word and Sacraments.

We invite you into membership. We invite you to come and receive from the Lord's Word and Sacraments in our historical church services. Come, receive, and be anchored with us in Christ's forgiveness, life, and salvation, while we live our lives in the midst of this ever-changing and turbulent world that we all find ourselves in.

What is the Membership Process?

- 1) The first thing for membership is to contact Pastor. You can do this by calling the church office at 701-852-2821 or emailing the church office at stpaulsofc@srt.com.
- 2) Once you contact Pastor, a meeting will be set up with you and possibly others who are inquiring about membership too.
- 3) At the first meeting you will be presented the material that you need to go over. The material is as follows:
 - a. The Small Catechism: (Read Luther's Small Catechism)
 - b. Youtube Videos: (Videos on the catechism)
- 4) Once you receive the material, Pastor will set up some follow-up classes to discuss the Small Catechism and Youtube videos.
- 5) Once the classes are complete, you may apply for membership with the following form (see following pages).
- 6) After the membership form has been reviewed, a date will be set to receive you into membership during a Sunday morning Church Service. Keep in mind that this public reception is not an intimidating public Q&A but a profession of faith and celebration. It is a joyous occasion for you to be received into church membership.

At St. Paul's we rejoice in your interest in membership! We look forward to hearing from you and Pastor is excited to walk with you through the membership material and classes!

The Lord bless and keep you!



Anchored in Christ

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH MEMBERSHIP FORM

Contact Information

Name *(First, Middle, Last)*:

Preferred Name:

Address:

City:

State:

Zip Code:

Home Phone Number:

Cell Phone Number:

Email Address:

Personal Information

Date of Birth:

Family Status	<input type="checkbox"/> Single	<input type="checkbox"/> Married	Date:
	<input type="checkbox"/> Widow	<input type="checkbox"/> Separated	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Divorced	<input type="checkbox"/> Remarried	Date:

Baptized:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	When:	Where:
Confirmed:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	When:	Where:

If you have any children, please list them in the order of their ages:

Name <i>(First, Middle, Last)</i>	Date of Birth	Baptism & Date	Confirmation & Date

Are you currently a member in another church, if so where?

Are you applying for a membership to St. Paul's Lutheran Church by:

Affirmation *(Already Baptized and Catechized in the Lutheran Church)*

Transfer *(From another LCMS Church)*

Catechesis *(Examination and/or Membership Class by Pastor)*



Anchored in Christ

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH MEMBERSHIP FORM

St. Paul's Membership Questions:

1. Do you this day in the presence of God and of this congregation acknowledge the gifts that God gave you in your Baptism?
 - Yes, I do
 - No
2. Do you renounce the devil and all his works and all his ways?
 - Yes, I do
 - No
3. Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty, in Jesus Christ, His only Son our Lord, and in the Holy Spirit?
 - Yes, I do
 - No
4. Do you hold all the prophetic and apostolic Scriptures to be the inspired Word of God and the doctrine of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, drawn from them and confessed in the Small Catechism, to be faithful and true?
 - Yes, I do
 - No
5. Do you intend to hear the Word of God and receive the Lord's Supper faithfully?
 - Yes, I do, by the grace of God
 - No
6. Do you intend to live according to the Word of God, and in faith, word, and deed to remain true to God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, even to death?
 - Yes, I do, by the grace of God
 - No
7. Do you intend to continue steadfast in this confession and Church and to suffer all, even death, rather than fall away from it?
 - Yes, I do, by the grace of God
 - No
8. Do you desire to become a member of this congregation?
 - Yes, I do
 - No
9. Will you support the work our gracious Lord has given this congregation with your prayers and the gifts God has given you?
 - Yes, I will, with the help of God
 - No

I hereby apply for membership in St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Minot, ND. It is my sincere desire to receive the gifts of Word and Sacrament from the Lord and serve in a spirit of complete unity together with other confessing believers.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Note: This application will be processed by the Pastor and Church Council. Thank you for taking the time to reflect on the membership form.

Office Use Only

Reception Date: _____

Pastor and Council Approval : Yes (Date: _____) No (Date: _____) Pending (Date: _____)