

worship *Nurtured & Equipped To Witness & Serve* prayer love mission

August 2020

This newsletter is a monthly publication of St. Paul's Lutheran Church

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**Do you like working with youth?
Do you have gifts in teaching, planning, and leading?**
We are in need of individuals willing and able to fill the following open positions (Fall 2020):



SPY'S

(St. Paul's Youth – Elementary)

Coordinator Needed

For Sunday Mornings

Carol Hartmann will serve on Wednesday evenings)



SPAM

(St. Paul's Awesome Middle-School)

Coordinator Needed



SPLASH

(St. Paul's Awesome Sr. High)

Coordinator Needed



THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!
Teri Fichter and Colette Balfanz for your years of service at St. Paul's! We are so very grateful for all you have done for our youth!

Pastor's Reflections...

August 2020

The Power of PRAYER...

To the church in Ephesus, Paul writes, *“I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason, I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power [Eph. 1:15-19]*

The apostle Paul set a wonderful example for us, don't you think?! If we read any of the letters attributed to him, we quickly see that Paul was a man of deep faith... a man of PRAYER. PRAYER is what kept him connected to God and what grounded him in his ministry. PRAYER is what empowered him to do what God called him to do—to spread the gospel of Christ's reconciling love “to the ends of the earth”... even when it meant imprisonment and hardship and separation from those he loved and cared for. Paul regularly PRAYED for the people—“the churches”—that he and his helpers established, that they might continue to grow in their faith and in their ministry and service to others. And—and this is important—he asked for their PRAYERS as well.

Brothers and sisters, PRAYER is what grounds us, too, in our life and ministry as members of St. Paul's Lutheran Church. As your pastor, I regularly PRAY for all of you (and your families, too)—gradually making my way through the directory. I PRAY for those on our prayer list (and others that I know are struggling or in need God's comfort and care); but I also PRAY for the rest of you, too. So, if you have particular joys, concerns, or prayer requests that you would like me to be aware of, please do not hesitate to call, text, or email to share them with me.

--I PRAY that we will remain united as one body—even when we disagree about things... that we will live the 8th commandment each and every day. That we will *“fear and love God, so that we do not tell lies about our neighbors, betray or slander them, or destroy their reputations. Instead, we come to their defense, speak well of them, and interpret everything they do in the best possible light.”*

--I PRAY that we will all remain healthy and safe, listening to and following the recommendations of scientists and health officials whom God has placed among us “for such a time as this.”

--I PRAY that we will remain open to God's wise guidance (through scripture and prayer)—especially as we navigate the knowns and unknowns of this pandemic and its implications for us.

--I give thanks for your continued support (financial and otherwise) of St. Paul's; and I PRAY that we will be strengthened and empowered with the gifts that we need for our ministry to each other during this time of physical distancing (especially our elderly and homebound members and those most at risk due to underlying health concerns)... *and* our continuing ministry to the Baraboo community and beyond. The needs in our community remain high, and your gifts are being used to help where we can.

--And I PRAY that we will be of one heart and mind as we discern God's will and vision for this congregation—now... and into the future.

The **practice of PRAYER** is important for the vitality and spiritual health of this congregation... *and* for the safety wellbeing of our community, nation, and world.

--PRAY for the life and ministry of St. Paul's and for all who lead and serve.

--PRAY for this nation of ours that has become so divided and filled with hatred and violence.

--PRAY for our leaders (and leaders around the world), that the decisions they make are for the good of all.

--PRAY for those battling COVID-19, cancer, and other serious health conditions... and for those caring for them, too.

--PRAY that God may continue to bless us in order that we might be a blessing to others—in our community and beyond.

“For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen. [Eph. 3:14-21]

May the God of peace be with you all...
Pastor Karen

From Your Council President

Re-Opening Task Force Update: The Road We're On

Ever been on a road that seemed as if it would never end? Especially when you want so badly to get to your destination? The Beatles called it "The Long and Winding Road", and they didn't really seem like they wanted to be on it. Willie Nelson, on the other hand, couldn't wait to get back "On the Road Again" and keep "Seein' things that I may never see again". Now that I've got at least one of those two tunes stuck in your head, which way are you feeling about the road we find ourselves traveling in 2020?

I read an article written by Emily M. D. Scott this week where she compared uncertain times with roads. She pointed out that in the bible, many people found their lives literally changed while traveling on roads. She said it so beautifully, I have to quote her here: *"Somewhere along the way, however, they always encountered something unexpected: the astonishing presence of the sacred."* Jacob wrestled with God on a journey; two disciples walked with Jesus and didn't even know it; and Paul's life was transformed! They didn't plan it that way, but there it was. I like to think they came to thanlike solitary roads.

From the middle of our current road, I want to assure you that our leadership teams and PK are working to offer opportunities for worship and renewal in new ways. Our re-opening task force is meeting frequently, and there are a few updates that we want to share with you:

Outdoor worship services

As you already know, these are set for August 12 (Wednesday) and August 23 (Sunday). Other outdoor services will likely be planned for September, and postcards will be sent out when these are finalized. Remember to bring your own lawn chairs or blankets and face coverings (we will have some facemasks on hand if needed). If these services need to be cancelled for weather or any other reason, a decision will be made by 4:00pm on Wednesday and 6:00am on Sunday. We will post the cancellation on the website, facebook, email, and signs on the doors.

Communion services

These unique and special services will continue to be offered every Wednesday (5:00, 6:00, & 7:00) and Sunday (8:30, 9:30, & 10:30) when we do not have an outdoor service scheduled. Please call the office to sign up for a time slot, and remember to wear your face covering.

On-line services

Our recorded services will continue to be found on our website every week. No face covering required to attend! You can also find the weekly bulletin, and PK's sermon or thoughts on the text there as well.

Indoor services

At this time, the task force and the council do not feel we can safely offer indoor services. We are, however, beginning to make plans for what that might look like when it happens. Once we determine it is time to safely enact those plans, we will get the details out to everyone. We are taking seriously the advice and recommendations of experts (such as the CDC and Sauk County Health). We are in conversation with other churches of the ELCA and our community. We are watching state and local regulations. We are prayerfully using all of this information to help us determine our best course of action.

Bear in mind that even the most carefully crafted plans need to change as conditions change out on the road, so we encourage everyone to stay "tuned in" to all of our methods of communication: newsletters, postcards, website, email, facebook. And, of course, don't be afraid to call the office and Alice will try to help you out or find the information you seek.

Churches everywhere are kind of "out on the road" right now. Our building may be closed at the moment, but does that make our impact any less vital as the church? I don't think so. Thank God that our love for others and our ministries do not stop at the door! They hit the road with us as we do what we can to fulfill our calling to share God's love with the world. Scott says it this way: *"What happens when we see ourselves as purposefully scattered - sent out on an unexpected journey?"*

Continued on next page

In the bible, the road is often a place of desolation and isolation, but also of encounter. A road has direction; it carries us from an old life to a new one.” Scott says it this way: *“What happens when we see ourselves as purposefully scattered - sent out on an unexpected journey? In the bible, the road is often a place of desolation and isolation, but also of encounter. A road has direction; it carries us from an old life to a new one.”* Thank you for your continued love and support of St. Paul's and her staff, Pastor Karen, council and task force members, and each other.

Our future, I believe, is full of possibilities and a life we cannot see. I maintain a hope that even during uncertainty, things that we could not imagine, or believe, or plan, can...and will...happen. We'll hopefully see you along the way on the road and look forward to someday sharing how we each encountered that “astonishing presence of the sacred” on our journey.

On behalf of council,
Cheryl Warming, Council President

Prayer List



(Updated July 2020)

Sympathy to the family and friends of:
Dolores Krueger and Bonnie Kennedy

Health concerns, etc.

Barb Farrar (Dans's sister)
Shelley Born
Sue Clingman
Amber Squires (Sheri Marsh's daughter)
Kendra Miescke
Tom Madland
Kathy Anderson (Ralph Heiser's sister)
Laurie Carpenter (Linda Jenks' niece)
Terri Thompson (friend of Linda Jenks)
Brad Thompson (friends of Linda Jenks)
Bev Mickelson
Joan Lord (Trish Jackson's aunt)
Tom Karls (Trish Jackson's uncle)
Mark Steinhorst (Lorraine Steinhorst's son)
Erich Herbst
Kirk Kettleon (Kathy Plamann's son-in-law)
Dan Tustison (riend of Penny Snyder)
Rita Zimmerman (friend of Penny Snyder)
Heather Reppen
John C. Drescher (John P. Drescher's son)
Rick Lewison
Richard Beckwith
Loretta Christian (Glenda's mom)
Melissa Schadde
Kyle Jensen (friend of Bruun's)

In the military:

Mitch Ploenske
Sawyer Gard
Noah Reppen
McKenna Smith
Sierra Bowden



Update regarding the 2021 Gathering



JULY 24-25-2022

MINNEAPOLIS MN

After much prayer and consideration, we have decided to postpone next summer's ELCA Youth Gathering to 2022 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The 2022 ELCA Youth Gathering will be held July 24-28, 2022, in Minneapolis, with the two pre-events, the Multicultural Youth Leadership Event (MYLE) and the table, scheduled for July 21-24, 2022.

To learn more about the postponement and the 2022 Gathering, please visit:

elca.org/YouthGathering/COVID19.



Weather permitting and subject to change (held in the east parking lot area)

Wednesday, August 12 @ 7:00pm

Sunday, August 23 @ 9:00am

In an attempt to keep you & others as safe as possible...

Face coverings are highly recommended and physical distancing required.

Please bring a chair or blanket to sit on.

The church building will not be open during these services

There will be no communion served—Communion services will be provided on all other Sundays and Wednesdays by sign-up.

Sunday services will continue to be recorded and posted on the website.

Decisions regarding cancellations will be made by 4pm on Wednesdays or 6am on Sunday



Pastor Karen will continue to offer short Communion services to small groups at this time – by appointment – on Sunday mornings and Wednesday afternoons / evenings.

[We follow physical distancing protocols and disinfect all surfaces before and after each session.]

Call Alice at the church office at 356-3230 or Pastor Karen at 434-3397 to learn more and sign up for a service.



We need volunteers to call upon:

As we plan for the fall—the possibility of both additional outdoor services and in person indoor services in the sanctuary and Gathering area—we need to develop a list of volunteers to help with set-up and take down of equipment (outdoors) and disinfecting surfaces before and after worship (indoors).

If you can help, please call the church office at 356-3230 to be added to the volunteer list.

Parish Nurse Notes

These have been challenging times. Taking care of ourselves has been a top priority. It has been a serious subject. Therefore this month I hope to provide a few chuckles as we take a look at ourselves, some "food" for thought.

1. I thought "clean eating" was devouring cookies while mopping the floor.
 2. People ask me if I exercise. I tell them I faithfully do crunches: Captain Crunch and Nestle Crunch.
 3. Chocolate comes from cocoa which is a tree. That makes it a plant. Therefore, chocolate is a SALAD.
 4. I woke up in the middle of the night to drink some water and I accidentally ate a whole pizza and cheesecake.
 5. Whoever snuck the "S" in fast food was a clever little so and so.
 6. A balanced diet is a piece of cake in each hand.
 7. An apple a day will keep anyone away if thrown hard enough.
 8. If you think a minute goes by really fast, you have never tried PLANKING.
 9. Billy has 32 pieces of bacon. He eats 28. What does he now have? Happiness, sheer happiness.
 10. You can't buy happiness but you can buy ice cream and that is kind of the same thing.
- Last piece of advice -- eat less sugar. Why?? Because you are all sweet enough.
- Take care of yourselves, stay safe, chuckle often -- it is good internal jogging.

Yvonne

Council Summary

July, 2020

Financial Update – June income was \$ 2,698 greater than expenses. Giving was \$26,275 and expenses were \$23,577

The budget for 2020 required weekly contributions of \$6,247.12 – the average weekly income for 2020 was \$5,293.84.

A comparison through June:

	2019	2020
Income	127,111	137,640
Income w/LSS	139,411	149,940
Expenses	147,789	130,825
Debt reduction	11,427	64,252
Accounts Payable	7,814	1,289
Balance on Hand	(1,116)	46,926
Mortgage	151,194	50,334
Inc. vs. Expenses	(8,378)	19,115
Checkbooks	53,624	119,358
Net Cash	-8,970	45,637

Stewardship—Kelly is looking into online giving and text to give options.

Synod Assembly / Bishop election – This is now set for Saturday, August 29. The meeting and voting will be done virtually.

Outdoor Worship – Outdoor worship is planned to take place in the church parking lot. In August and into the fall.

Open Positions—Spy's, Spam and Splash

Phone Calls—Council members will continue calling and checking in on our members

The next council meeting is scheduled for August 17th, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.



GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS 2020

Another challenge our congregation must face, due to the covid 19 pandemic, is how to continue our ministry while maintaining physical distancing. The needs of our world and our community have only increased during this time.

God's Work, Our Hands will have a different look this year. Social Ministry will implement projects that can be carried out in small groups, families or individually, in people's homes or in small groups at the church. While September 13th is date chosen by synod to carryout God's Work Our Hands, there will be no specific date for carrying out these projects. It will be left up to the individual or group to determine dates and times.

The projects for 2020 are as follows:

- ◆ Writing out gift tags for the Giving Tree.
- ◆ Power washing the bricks at the Healing Garden at St. Clare Hospital. This project will likely be done in the spring of 2021.
- ◆ Yard work and clean up at Hope House. This will be outdoor work only and will likely be completed later in the fall.
- ◆ Notes will be written to shut-ins in our congregation.
- ◆ Cat and dog toys will be made and donated to local animal shelters.

- ◆ Trash pickup will be done along the Baraboo Riverwalk. This can be done by perhaps 3 families or groups. The route can be divided into three sections.
- ◆ Exterior window washing at the church.

Hospice kits will be assembled for Global Health Ministries. Thrivent dollars will be used to purchase items for the kits, which can be assembled at home or in small groups at the church.

The entire congregation will be asked to donate new socks and underwear for the Neighborly Free Store in Baraboo.

It is anticipated that the Baraboo Homeless Shelter will be in need of some assistance this fall. More information will be available next month.

Please prayerfully consider participating. When you decide how you wish to participate, please contact Alice at the church office by phone 608-356-3230 or email stpauls@stpaulslutheranchurch.us.

Let us know what project you are interested in and we will assist you with getting the needed supplies.

Projects completed at home can be brought to the church or arrangements can be made for pick up at your home.

Last year over 80 individuals participated in our day of service. With no specific date for the various projects this year, it will be easier than ever to participate.

Please contact a member of the Social Ministry committee with suggestions or questions. More information will be in the September newsletter.

Karen Hinze, Kathy Plamann, Nancy Sleight, Patte Steiner and Alice Woodward.



Thank you for your continued financial support of St. Paul's and our on-going ministries . We know that some are financially suffering during this challenging time, unable to give as they have or would like. If you are able to contribute and have not recently given, please give a gift today. You can mail your offerings to the church (727 8th St., Baraboo), use Simply Giving, or use your online bill-pay service through your bank.



Blood Drive!

August 14, 2020



NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

AUGUST 22, 2020

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Alice Woodward V.P. 608-393-3685 Faith Formation/Growth & Education Adult Education Stewardship of Resources Stewardship Community and World Outreach Social Ministry	Nicole Knuth 608-393-7315 Stewardship of Resources Endowment Community World Outreach Evangelism Thrivent Rep.	James "Andy" Larson 608-448-7499 Stewardship of Resources Property
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Ryan Liegel Youth Rep. 608-393-9465 Stewardship of Resources Property		

Find us on 

St. Paul's Staff	Organist/Keyboard	Susan Lappin	Splash	Teri Fichter
Pastor Karen M. Hofstad	Adult Choir Director	Gerald Stich	Parish Nurse	Yvonne Smith
Treasurer Sam Howard	Youth Education	Colette Balfanz	Admin. Assistant	Alice Woodward
Financial Secretary Kelly Rodenschmit		Carol Hartman		

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