



# *Spirit of St. Paul*

St. Paul Lutheran Church, East Lansing, MI

JUNE 2021

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Governor has lifted mask restrictions and eased gatherings, which will further be eased on July 1<sup>st</sup>. Your Council has approved gathering outdoors and the Worship Committee will address moving indoors at the June meeting and will receive Council approval for their decision. We are worshipping outdoors (which the CDC said was low risk May 22, 2020) and the Governor was quoted as saying we can now sing. Communion will currently continue to be distributed via the sealed cup. We gather at the West side of the church and people have commented on how it is less noisy and how nice it is to hear the birds sing. I hope to see everyone there. Some are still reluctant to gather in person, so if you would like me to visit and/or wish to take communion at home, please call me and I will visit and/or bring communion to you.

Chuck N. has prepared the Community Garden and the plants purchased for planting, which will be done early this month by Tracy, Caroline, Mary and I along with others who may volunteer. The garden can always use volunteers to water and to harvest.

Kaitlyn H. has graduated from DeWitt High School and we will be honoring this remarkable young woman, who has volunteered at the food pantry, on June 6<sup>th</sup>.

Jon will hopefully be back when you read this and will continue to lead Bible Study. His remarkable intellect and knowledge make attending worthwhile, which we will do in person, with shut ins able to attend via ZOOM. You will be notified of the date via e-mail. Mary will continue to lead the Gather Bible Study in person and via ZOOM. Bar Theology will now meet in person and via ZOOM. You should receive a notification before each of these giving you the meeting number and password.

## **Guiding Principles**

We are a people who:

- ☼ Listen for God's Call
- ☼ Believe and Trust in God's Call
- ☼ Answer God's Call
- ☼ Support each other in times of joy and sorrow
- ☼ Live out our faith in prayer and service
- ☼ Share food with the hungry
- ☼ Believe the gospel is for all, not just Christians.

Three amazing young people were confirmed on Pentecost amidst the donated red geraniums: Isaac A, Caroline C and RJ M. Kay S hosted the occasion with her terrific treats, which included Bibles fashioned out of Fig Newtons and tuxedos out of chocolate Strawberries. They are valuable new members of our congregation. We place our hope and trust in God as we pray for our them. Craig A. and Kathy G, who both led/assisted joined in the laying on of hands. RJ would like to work with children's church and VBS, Isaac will work with producing and editing weekly videos and Caroline will work with the Community Garden and Food Pantry. They are the church!

Caroline J, the Program Director for the Non-profit Edgewood Village Housing complex, serving those who are low income, visited us on May 16<sup>th</sup>. Many of the residents use the food pantry and we have explored ways we can work together in serving the community. A handful of people talked with her to see how we can connect.

We have applied for the ELCA Open Doors grant, after Tracy C prepared the application and will hear if we receive this in Mid-June. Thank you to all who participated in the process. The grant application talks about how we can connect with those in the community, including the international students, economically diverse and online participants by further expanding the important food pantry by conducting cooking classes, demonstrations, etc.

Myself, Jon and Kathy G attended the North/West Lower Michigan Synod Convention via ZOOM on 5/15/21. It was mostly conducting business, voting in people to specific open positions, and passing a couple resolutions. Kathy gave a verbal report after our 5/23 worship.

We will have Spring Clean Up on June 12<sup>th</sup> from 9AM-Noon. There will be general exterior clean up and some painting of steps done. I hope you are able to volunteer since many hands make light work.

Get ready. Next month I will be talking about the many activities that will start in the Fall and the many volunteer opportunities as we continue to open up to return to Pre-Pandemic times.

Calvary Lutheran Church, St. Joe and Creyts is having their last worship service on June 6, 2021 and have decided to disband. Please pray for them at this time. Churches have a life cycle and so churches die and it's not the end of the world.

*Ecclesiastes 3:1-2 says, "For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:<sup>2</sup> a time to be born, and a time to die,"*

Calvary decided to have a dignified death and will be contributing their assets to bless several charities. Churches are born, they live, they might even thrive, but in time,

they might finally close their doors through no fault of their own. This is becoming more common as people do not see a need for a church and buildings become an albatross around a congregation's neck. Please keep the people in your thoughts and prayers as they go through this difficult time. I pray each may find a new home to worship that they are comfortable in that has loving and caring people like we have at St. Paul and that the Holy Spirit will continue to nurture them in their faith. Pr. Schleicher, Pr. McKenzie and Pr. Couser, who have rotating pastoral care will work with them to work through this difficult time. We give thanks to God for the time they had as a congregation and for the mission work they did during that time. Because Christ died for us, we can take comfort that our faith leads to eternal life.

A continued thank you for all the dedicated volunteers who are responsible in carrying out our mission to the community and the world. Mary and I continue to pray for each and every one of you and your families as we look forward to continuing to enjoy being with you and our bright future together.

God bless you,

Pr. Carl

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**Synod**

## **Hunger and Climate Change Webinar**

**June 24**

[Faiths4Vaccines National Summit](#)

["God's Work. Our Hands." Sunday](#)

*"For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God..." (Romans 8:19)*

God's handiwork ties us together with all of creation, from the abundant blessings we enjoy to the many ways we depend on the health of the land and water. As our climate continues to change, more frequent and more severe droughts, flooding, and changing growing seasons all remind us of this relationship and the threat that a changing climate poses for communities around the world. This threat is expected to drive nearly 100 million more people into poverty this decade alone.

The North/West Lower Michigan Synod's Hunger Team and Environmental Stewardship Task Force will be joined by Ryan Cumming, Ph.D., Program Director for Hunger Education with ELCA World Hunger for a conversation about climate change, poverty, hunger — and the many ways God is at work in the United States and around the world. This webinar will be held Thursday, June 24 at 6:30pm.

Together, we will learn more about the climate’s impact on hunger and poverty; hear stories of ministries accompanying farmers, migrants, and others impacted by climate events; and share ways the church can work together for a just world—including climate justice — where all are fed.

To register for this event, please go to this link: <https://bit.ly/3a8Ktss>

After you register, you will receive a reminder and a Zoom Invitation to this event a few days before the webinar is scheduled to take place.

For more information about this event, contact Erick Johnson, Hunger Team Chair at [erickj74@gmail.com](mailto:erickj74@gmail.com).

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### “God’s Work. Our Hands” Sunday

Mark your calendar for Sunday, September 12, 2021 when congregations of the ELCA will come together for “God’s work. Our hands.” Sunday. Our church continues to live through the COVID-19 pandemic. Physical distancing has changed the way we worship and serve. But the need is great, and God’s church is at work.

We’re not sure what the impact of this crisis will look like in September, but we continue to be church together. We are witnessing the outpouring of love and concern that God’s people have for one another. Our congregations continue to maintain feeding ministries, serve communities disproportionately affected by COVID-19 infection and assist people who are financially burdened by the economic downturn.

“[Service in the Time of COVID-19](#)” was developed to offer service project ideas and considerations for safely supporting your community in this time of pandemic.

As we gather together in service to our neighbors, we are reminded of one of our most basic convictions as Lutherans: All of life in Jesus Christ — every act of service, in every daily calling, in every corner of life — flows freely from a living, daring confidence in God’s grace. Be sure to save the date and visit [ELCA.org/DayofService](https://ELCA.org/DayofService) for updates.

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**Worship**

**Next Worship Committee meeting ~ Monday, June 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:30.**

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**Weekly Bible Study** – Have you joined us Thursday Mornings at 10:00 am? You are missing out! Jon K. is our Bible Study leader. We continue our study on the Book of Romans.

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Bar Theology is on the fourth Sunday evening at 6:30 pm. Please join us.  
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**JUNE READINGS**  
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**Sunday, June 6<sup>th</sup>**

*Second Sunday after Pentecost*

Genesis 3:8-15

Psalms 130

2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1

Mark 3:20-35

**Sunday, June 13<sup>th</sup>**

*Third Sunday after Pentecost*

Ezekiel 17:22-24

Psalms 92:1-4, 12-15

2 Corinthians 5:6-10 [11-13] 14-17

Mark 4:26-34

**Sunday, June 20<sup>th</sup>**

*Fourth Sunday after Pentecost*

Job 38:1-11

Psalms 107:1-3, 23-32

2 Corinthians 6:1-13

Mark 4:35-41

**Sunday, June 27<sup>th</sup>**

*Fifth Sunday after Pentecost*

Lamentations 3:22-33

Psalms 30

2 Corinthians 8:7-15

Mark 5:21-43

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**Women's Bible Study**

*Gather* welcomes you to the “Just love part 2: Just L.I.F.E. (Liberation Is For Everyone!)” *Gather* Bible study by Angela Khabeb. This three-session summer Bible study series is inspired, in part, by Jesus’ proclamations: “If the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed” (John 8:36) and “I came that they might have life and have it abundantly” (John 10:10). Session 1, “**Just Wisdom,**” delves into how God can open our hearts and minds to a spiritual understanding that is not bound by our human comprehension. Just Wisdom comes to us through reverence for our awesome God. Our key verse for the first session informs us: “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom” (Proverbs 9:10). Together we will consider our faithful response to Wisdom’s invitation.



In July Session 2 explores “**Just Truth.**”

In August Session 3 explores ***“Just Hope.”***

Angela Khabeb is a pastor of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Minneapolis. She has an amazing husband, Benhi, and three spectacular children, Konami, Khenna and Khonni.

Please join us! Contact Norma ([officemanager@stpaul-el.org](mailto:officemanager@stpaul-el.org)) for more information and a copy of the Study.

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## Council

Next meeting is June 17<sup>th</sup>.

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## Help Wanted

We are in immediate need of *Readers* and *Worship Assistants* for both virtual worship and in person worship. Please let Pastor know if you are willing to help.

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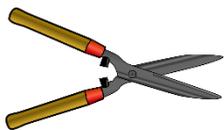
### **SPRING CLEAN UP TIME!!**

When? June 12<sup>th</sup>

Time? 9am – Noon

Who? **YOU!**

What? General outdoor clean up.  
(and maybe painting)



Please bring your energy, gloves and yard tools.

Many hands make light work.

Hope to see you there!



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## Social Outreach & Ministry

### **Food Pantry Newsletter Report**

**for June 2021**

**Bev J.**

A total of 334 clients were served from 01/01/21 through 04/30/21, which meant 112 families were helped. There has been an increase in the number of people seeking services from the Food Pantry this past month. We are continuing to serve Food Pantry clients on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays of the month from 5:30-7:30 p.m. and

on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays of the month from 1:00-4:00 p.m. Thank you to all of our volunteers who help to keep providing this valuable service to our clients. We couldn't run this program without you.

Since January 2, 2021, our food pantry has received donations of 2441.3 pounds of food from members as well as outside donors from the community. We are very grateful for these donations and they really come in handy.

The 2021 Winter Simply Giving Campaign sponsored by Meijer's was a success, resulting in over \$1.55 million to help feed hungry families across the Midwest. St. Paul's Food Pantry received \$1,630.00 in donations from generous contributions made by local Meijer's customers, community partners and corporate donations. Thank you to everyone who donated to this campaign.

The Food Pantry is still seeking volunteers who could work on Thursday afternoon pantry distribution days or Monday morning food delivery days (about once every 4 weeks). Please contact Bev Johnson, Char Smith or Tracy Collins if you would be able to help.

The following is a list of items needed for the Food Pantry which are not available from the Greater Lansing Food Bank:

**Dish Soap**

**Laundry Soap**

**Shampoo**

**Conditioner**

**Disposable Razors**

**Syrup**

**Tea**

**Tooth Paste**

**Jell-O**

**Toilet Paper**

**Paper Towels**

**Kleenex**

**Deodorant**

**Catsup**

**Spices**

**Coffee**

**Toothbrushes**

**Cake mixes**

**Brownie mixes**

**Cooking Oil**

**Boxed Salt**

**Mustard**

**Hot Cocoa Mixes**

**Cereal**

**Baby Shampoo**



**St Paul Happenings for June 2021**

- 7 Pantry Offering  
Graduation Sunday
- 7 Worship Committee Meeting – 6:30 pm
- 9 Women’s Bible Study – 11:00 am ZOOM Meeting
- 17 Council Meeting
- 20 Father’s Day
- 27 Bar Theology
- 28 Newsletter Deadline

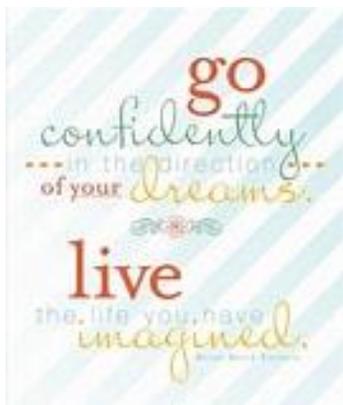
**Celebrations**

**Birthdays**

- |    |              |    |              |
|----|--------------|----|--------------|
| 01 | Charlotte C. | 15 | Logan R.     |
| 06 | Bob S.       | 16 | Steve O.     |
| 07 | Mary H.      | 17 | Ardyth C.    |
| 08 | Kim C.       | 18 | Shani T.     |
| 09 | Helen W.     |    | Julie W.     |
| 12 | Kathie K.    | 20 | Charles McG. |



**Please note:** If your birthday or anniversary is NOT listed and it should be, we may not have it on file. If you would like to have your day recognized in the future, please let the office know. We apologize for any errors that may have occurred, as it was not our intent.



**Congratulations!**

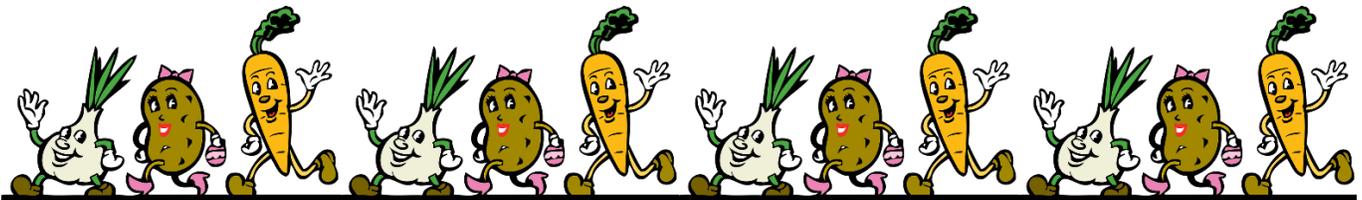
Kaitlyn H. on your graduation from High School.

May the Lord bless you and guide you on your next adventure.

Our Food Pantry garden bed is ready, and the hands of our gardeners will be getting the plants and seeds into the ground to begin the growing process shortly. Weather permitting, our beds will be planted and ready to receive God's sun and rain blessings. God is Good.

Please know that you are welcome to join us whenever we are in the garden to help weed or harvest. Opportunities to support this important Ministry will be ongoing throughout the summer and into the fall. Stay tuned for updates in newsletters or contact any of our gardeners.

Thanks for your prayers for favorable weather conditions, strong backs and knees, and strength to make it through another growing season.



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## Just A Thought



### Memorial Day Quotes.

On this Memorial Day we remember those who served in uniform to keep this great nation safe. We celebrate their commitment to our country.

Honor to the soldier and sailor everywhere, who bravely bears his country's cause. Honor, also, to the citizen who cares for his brother in the field and serves, as he best can, the same cause.

*Abraham Lincoln*

Each of the patriots whom we remember on this day was first a beloved son or daughter, a brother or sister, or a spouse, friend, and neighbor.

*George H. W. Bush*

We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

*Thomas Jefferson*

Courage is contagious. When a brave man takes a stand, the spines of others are often stiffened.

*Billy Graham*

America is hope. It is compassion. It is excellence. It is valor. *Paul Tsongas*

There is nothing wrong with America that cannot be cured with what is right in America. *Bill Clinton*

Let every nation know, whether it wishes us well or ill, that we shall pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend, oppose any foe to assure the survival and the success of liberty. *John F. Kennedy*

Those who have long enjoyed such privileges as we enjoy forget in time that men have died to win them. *Franklin D Roosevelt*

Patriotism is supporting your country all the time, and your government when it deserves it. *Mark Twain*

One flag, one land, one heart, one hand, one nation forevermore!  
*Oliver Wendell Holmes*

My fellow Americans, ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country. *John F. Kennedy*

Patriotism is not short, frenzied outburst of emotion, but tranquil and steady dedication of a lifetime. *Adlai Stevenson II*

A hero is someone who has given his or her life to something bigger than oneself. *Joseph Campbell*

Our nation owes a debt to its fallen heroes that we can never fully repay. *Barack Obama*

A hero is someone who understands the responsibility that comes with his freedom. *Bob Dylan*

Our obligations to our country never cease but with our lives. *John Adams*

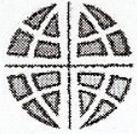
Guard against the impostures of pretended patriotism. *George Washington*

Heroes never die. They live on forever in the hearts and minds of those who would follow in their footsteps. *Emily Potter*

The willingness of America's veterans to sacrifice for our country has earned them our lasting gratitude. *Jeff Miller*

| Sun                                                                                               | Mon                                                                                                         | Tue           | Wed                                                   | Thu                                                                            | Fri       | Sat                                            |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|-------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|------------------------------------------------|
| <b>May 30</b><br>10:00 AM – In Person<br>Worship                                                  |  <b>31</b><br>Memorial Day | <b>June 1</b> | <b>2</b><br>5:30 PM - Pantry Dist                     | <b>3</b><br>10:00 am – Romans<br>Bible Study                                   | <b>4</b>  | <b>5</b><br>Worship<br>Facebook &<br>You Tube  |
| <b>6</b><br><b>PANTRY OFFERING</b><br>10:00 AM – In Person<br>Worship<br><b>Graduation Sunday</b> | <b>7</b><br>6:30 - Worship<br>Committee Meeting                                                             | <b>8</b>      | <b>9</b><br>11:00 AM - Women's<br>Bible Study on ZOOM | <b>10</b><br>10:00 am – Romans<br>Bible Study<br>1:00-4:00 PM- Pantry<br>Dist. | <b>11</b> | <b>12</b><br>Worship<br>Facebook &<br>You Tube |
| <b>13</b><br>10:00 AM – In Person<br>Worship                                                      | <b>14</b>                                                                                                   | <b>15</b>     | <b>16</b><br>5:30 PM Pantry Dist.                     | <b>17</b><br>10:00 am – Romans<br>Bible Study<br>7:00 PM Council Meeting       | <b>18</b> | <b>19</b><br>Worship<br>Facebook &<br>You Tube |
| <b>20</b><br>10:00 AM –In Person<br>Worship<br><i>Happy Father's Day!</i>                         | <b>21</b>                                                                                                   | <b>22</b>     | <b>23</b>                                             | <b>24</b><br>10:00 am – Romans<br>Bible Study<br>1:00-4:00 PM- Pantry<br>Dist. | <b>25</b> | <b>26</b><br>Worship<br>Facebook &<br>You Tube |
| <b>27</b><br>10:00 AM – In Person<br>Worship<br>6:30 PM - Evening Bar<br>Theology Hour            | <b>28</b><br><b>NEWSLETTER<br/>           DEADLINE</b>                                                      | <b>29</b>     | <b>30</b><br>5:30 PM - Pantry Dist                    | <b>July 1</b><br>10:00 am – Romans<br>Bible Study                              | <b>2</b>  | <b>3</b><br>Worship<br>Facebook &<br>You Tube  |

## JUNE 2021



## **St. Paul Lutheran Church**

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517/351-8541

[www.stpaul-el.org](http://www.stpaul-el.org)

**Our Purpose: Feeding God's people both inside and outside while listening to what the people need.**