



Spirit of St. Paul

St. Paul Lutheran Church, East Lansing, MI

MAY 2020

Fellow Ministers in Christ,

The gospel of Mark is the first and shortest gospel written. Mark rapidly tells stories in vivid details. Jesus moves quickly and is always on the go. He makes it clear that Jesus as the Son of God is a servant to all, and has the power to do many miracles rapidly in succession. This demonstrates Jesus is a person of power and action. In his last words he challenges the disciples in the great commission.

¹⁵ And he said to them, "Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation."

Mark 16:15 (NSRV)

This is still true for us today. I first thought of this when I became your Interim Pastor. The Council decided to not gather in person, until May 10th at the earliest, following Churchwide and Synod advice. This is now pushed back until May 17th at the earliest, depending on the Council when they meet. More information will be forthcoming. So, after becoming your Interim Pastor we were faced with having some type of worship on Sunday 3 days later. We saw Facebook Live and prayer to keep people safe and connected during this scary pandemic. And, and a way for us to spread the gospel to others in a wider audience. The number of viewers was unexpected and a pleasant surprise. We discovered a new way to go out to the world and proclaim the gospel to a much wider audience.

¹⁵ And he said to them, "Go into all the world and proclaim the good news^[a] to the whole creation (Mark 16:15 NRSV).

So now we have a group which is figuring out the best way and the best platform to keep posting worship with a quality product when we gather again.

"Houston, we have a problem" Those are the infamous words the NASA engineer spoke during a televised rocket launch. Then the problem was then solved, and the same engineer would give the countdown, counting backwards from 10 and then viewers, with the same vigor crowds do for the last 10 seconds before the new year also counted backwards. Then the engineer announced, "we have liftoff." We had to learn technology in a hurry to create alternative worship. Then, when so many people viewed the worship, the second Sunday we added drive in church at the same time as Facebook Live. And the Praise Team recorded

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.

music for worship, staying at a safe distance. Thank you to all those gifted people who made worship happen.

At the same time, we had to learn a new way of meeting in a safe way, so we opened a ZOOM account to have safe meetings, including Bible Study, Council, Confirmation, Worship Committee and Bar Theology meetings. Gather Bible study will start mid-May. Thank you to those that sent the invitations and led these groups. Thank you to the folks who stepped up to keep the food pantry, which is in the DNA of St. Paul, going to feed those in need while increasing the safety of all and so those hard workers at risk could stay at home for their safety. The lift off is counting down until we can gather again in person and we plan our first worship back to be Easter, together. But here is the thing, we don't know where we are in the countdown. We pray while we wait.

Everything has been a whirlwind since I became your Interim Pastor and I appreciate the many kind words and the efforts of those who help things happen. But the excitement to me is everyone working together using our varied gifts as the Spirit has moved us forward into God's future. We have been challenged and stepped up out of our comfort zone. I have been able to enjoy talking to just about everyone in the faith community and some outside that are interested in the best for St. Paul. Watching things happen and being your Interim Pastor during this time humbles me and makes me proud to work together as your Interim Pastor.

Again, the excitement comes by working together with folks using their incredible gifts. For safety we have had to find alternative ways to worship, meet and be a food pantry while other things have had to be cancelled. Many people have stepped up and have accomplished great things with God in our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been active during this time.

So, at difficult times we remember what Paul wrote in a letter to the Church in Rome.

⁵Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. ³And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us (.Romans 5:1-5 NRSV)

I believe it is important at a time like this if we consider both sides of a Christian life. We still face the daily problems that help us grow but we still have the peace of God which exceeds human understanding. By our faith we enjoy the unconditional grace of a loving God.

I look forward to us going and growing together.

The love of Christ be with you all.

Pr. Carl

St Paul Happenings for May 2020

- 03 Pantry Offering
- 04 Worship Committee Meeting - 6:30pm ZOOM Meeting
- 10 Mother’s Day
- 13 Women’s Bible Study – 11:00 am ZOOM Meeting
- 21 Council Meeting
- 21 Newsletter Deadline
- 25 Memorial Day

And in other areas:

Mitten Synod

May 14 - 16 Synod Assembly 2020 - CANCELED

City of East Lansing

- May 9 Environmental Stewardship Work Day
- May 16 & 17 57th Annual East Lansing Art Festival - CANCELED
- May 30 Opening Day of the East Lansing Family Aquatic Center - CANCELED
- Jun. 6 Recycle! East Lansing - CANCELED

Worship

Worship Servants

| Date | Assisting Ministers | Readers | Gift Bearers | Counters |
|-----------------|----------------------------|----------------|---------------------|------------------------------|
| 05/17/20 | Steve Opp | Kathy Griffin | | Steve Kreuer & Kathy Griffin |
| 05/24/20 | Teresa Waterkuetter | Barb Paff | Collins Family | Chuck Nelson & Steve Opp |

| Date | Assisting Ministers | Readers | Gift Bearers | Counters |
|-----------------|----------------------------|----------------|---------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 05/31/20 | Kathy Griffin | Bev Johnson | | Jim Cramer & Mary Hoffmann |
| 06/07/20 | Steve Opp | Stacy Turke | | Lynne Fortune & Rick Klingensmith |
| 06/14/20 | Jim Cramer | Pat Cramer | | Barb Paff & Kristin Hynes |
| 06/28 | Teresa Waterkuetter | Rhonda Kreuer | | Chuck Nelson & Steve Opp |

MAY READINGS

Sunday, May 3rd

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:42-47

1 Peter 2:19-25

John 10:1-10

Sunday, May 17th

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Acts 17:22-31

1 Peter 3:13-22

John 14:15-21

Sunday, May 31st

Day of Pentecost

Acts 2:1-21

1 Corinthians 12:3b-13

John 20:19-23

Sunday, May 10th

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Acts 7:55-60

1 Peter 2:2-10

John 14:1-14

Sunday, May 24th

Seventh Sunday of Easter

Acts 1:1-11

Ephesians 1:15-23

John 16:12-15

Next Worship Committee meeting is Monday May 4th at 6:30 pm.

Synod

Dear Friends in Christ,
Peace be with you!



North/West Lower Michigan Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Today, Governor Whitmer extended the "Stay Home, Stay Safe" Executive Order to May 15, 2020. This order continues to direct Michiganders to stay at home unless they are members of the critical infrastructure workforce, performing tasks necessary to their health, such as going to the hospital or grocery store, or exercising. In addition, this order instructs Michiganders to continue practicing social distancing and wear a mask or face covering when in public spaces. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has provided resources on making cloth masks at home.

In keeping with the Governor's order, I am extending my recommendation that congregations suspend all in-person worship services and weekly in-person gatherings to May 15 and am strongly advising congregations do not return to in-person worship through May 17. In this time of sheltering in place, I know it is hard and frustrating to remain separated and I, too, long for a return of normalcy. However, given the current information and projections from national and world health leaders, it does not appear that this will be a quick return to normal and therefore, I continue to make these recommendations to protect our rostered ministers, congregation members, and the general public.

As we continue to adjust to and plan for a "new normal", I will be hosting a virtual meeting on Saturday, April 25 to share things congregations should consider as they determine when and how to reopen their church buildings. We have reached capacity to attend the meeting live, but a recording will be available on our YouTube channel. I invite all rostered ministers and congregational leaders to watch it.

In this time of continued uncertainty, please know that you are surrounded by God's love and held in in my prayers.

Eternal God, amid all the turmoil and changes of the world your love is steadfast, and your strength never fails. In this time of danger and trouble, be to us a sure guardian

and rock of defense. Guide the leaders of our nation with your wisdom, comfort those in distress, and grant us courage and hope to face the future; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

-- Evangelical Lutheran Worship

Peace,

The Rev. Craig Alan Satterlee, Ph.D., Bishop

In this time of concern, we ask that you join us in prayer:

Merciful God, we know that your heart overflows with compassion for your whole creation. Pour out your Spirit on all people living with this illness, or who are living with anxiety about this illness, for which there is not yet a cure. Be with those who tend to the needs of the sick. Strengthen us all in body and spirit, console us when anxious, comfort us in grief and hearten us in discouragement. Help to remind us that you claim us as your own, and are with us wherever we go. Through Christ, our healer and Lord. Amen.

Social Outreach & Ministry

St. Paul Pantry

A total of 423 clients have been served from January 1-March 31, 2020, which meant 148 families were helped. During this same time period we have had 1,375 lbs. 4 oz. of food donated to the Food Pantry.

We have made the recommended adjustments for our clients picking up food with guidance from the GLFB during the Covid 19 outbreak. Currently no clients are allowed inside the Food Pantry and the food is boxed up and volunteers place it in the client's cars when they drive up. Masks and gloves are available for the Food Pantry volunteers to use.

We could not have continued to run the Food Pantry during this time, without the help of Tracy Collins, Caroline and Charlotte Collins, Paul Collins, Craig and Julie Anderson, Jon K., Teresa Waterkuetter, Kay Meints and friends of Tracy Collins. Char and I cannot begin to thank them enough for all that they are doing, especially Tracy who has gone above and beyond, including cleaning at the Food Pantry.



St. Paul Pantry

We received word this week that the GLFB once again is offering funding support to the partner pantries. Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, the normal application process for 2020-2021 funding requests has been waived. Amounts awarded for the new funding cycle, effective July 1, 2020, will be consistent with amounts awarded for the current 2019-2020 cycle. St. Paul's Food Pantry received \$5,000 last year and this will be the amount we receive starting 7/1/20.

The following is a revised list of items needed for the Food Pantry which we are unable to obtain from the Food Bank:

| | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|-----------|
| Dish Soap | Toilet Paper | 5# Flour | Laundry |
| Soap | Paper Towels | 5# Sugar | Shampoo |
| Kleenex | Cooking Oil | Conditioner | Deodorant |
| Boxed Salt | Tea Bags | Catsup | Mustard |
| Cereal | Syrup | Juice | Spices |
| Coffee | Hot Cocoa Mixes | Children/Baby Shampoo | |
| Disposable Razors | | | |

ST. PAUL RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

May 15th Blood Drive is Canceled. It is uncertain when the Red Cross will be able to resume Blood Drives here at St. Paul. If you would like to donate, please go to www.givelife.org or call 484-7461 to make an appointment.

The need for blood is constant and your contribution is important for a healthy and reliable blood supply. You will feel good knowing you have helped change a life.

In coordination with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the Red Cross is seeking people who are fully recovered from the new coronavirus to sign up to donate plasma to help current COVID-19 patients. Patients who have fully recovered following a COVID-19 diagnosis may have antibodies in their plasma that can help those with serious or immediately life-threatening COVID-19 infections.

Bible Study

Women's Bible Study

May 13th at 11:00 am – ZOOM Meeting

The Gather Bible Study will be conducted on May 13 at 11:00 a.m. on ZOOM. The meeting ID number and Password are available from Norma (officemanager@stpau-el.org) or Bev

Dirkin (bdirkin@aol.com). If you need a copy of the May Bible Study, please let one of us know.

We hope you can join us. Kay Meints will be our leader for the Bible Study. During our time together we can decide whether to meet or not for the summer.

Committee Notes

Dear St. Paul Lutheran Church Members,

We're getting in touch today as our habits have changed amid the Stay-at-Home guidelines.

We also know that supporting St Paul Lutheran Church is important to you. Our work supporting members and our community will not stop because of this public health challenge.

This is a friendly reminder that St Paul Lutheran Church uses *Vanco eGiving* tools, to provide the opportunity for online giving. You may use the free *GivePlus App* (Google Play or Apple Store). Online giving may also be accomplished on our website at <https://stpaul-el.org/donations/> (credit card & debit card availability will be coming soon, feel free to wait until we notify you in the future.)

St Paul Lutheran Church is a strong community. We will weather this together, even if we're not physically at the church. We appreciate your giving, and we do important work with members' generosity. As we alter the way we operate, please consider making a gift via eGiving.

Because our church thinks of each and every one of you as family, don't hesitate to reach out to each other or to Pastor Carl & Office Manager Norma VanKuiken. We know there are many struggling without jobs, and we are here for you. You can count on our discretion and your anonymity.

Thank you,

Stewardship Committee

Dear St. Paul Lutheran Church Members,

As we work our way through the challenges of sheltering in place, wearing a mask while grocery shopping, dealing with job loss or temporary interruption, threats to a business or the much greater challenge of illness to ourselves or a loved one, St. Paul's continues to be here for you.

While we understand that you may not be able to contribute right now as you faithfully have in the past, St. Paul's has managed our finances well. We are paying our bills (thanks to Co-Treasurers Mary McGrath and Chuck Fagg) and keeping track of income (thanks to Financial

Secretary Mary Ann Louney) and carrying out our mission to serve using our savings and the contributions members have been able to make. In the short run this will tide us over, but in the long run we need to work to catch up as best we can. This means each of you needs to faithfully consider your stewardship to St. Paul in light of our continuing new reality.

As we begin to see elements of normal life return, please keep St. Paul's in your prayers and provide the financial support as you are able. We have been blessed with a new minister Pastor Carl, and welcome back Norma as our "new" office manager.

The need for the food pantry was never greater and many new people not used to being in need are being served. The Mission House garden has been rototilled and is awaiting gardeners to help provide fresh, nutritious food to those in need this summer. Now is the time to show God's love to all.

Chuck Nelson, St. Paul Vice-President and Finance Chair

Notices

Friends of Living Water Ministries,

Faith formation, service, leadership, and community are at the heart of our mission and the work God is doing through Living Water Ministries. It's through this mission that our vision of transforming lives and the world takes place.

This summer, Living Water Ministries is being called to transform lives and the world through our mission in unpredictable and unprecedented ways. As a result of COVID-19, we believe the most effective method for us to pursue this mission is through the cancellation of all programs at Stony Lake and Day Camp for the 2020 summer season. While agonizing to make, the LWM Board of Directors and staff believe this decision is driven by our faith, our desire to serve others, our focus on leadership, and our care for community.

In the coming days, weeks, and months we will be exploring new ways to engage the Living Water Ministries community and support the work of our congregations and partners in the wake of this pandemic. In these times of anxiety, uncertainty, and loss we are leaning hard into our faith in Jesus Christ, the work of the Holy Spirit in the world, and the life-giving nature of God. We invite you to lean with us.

Know that we are praying for you. We also humbly ask for you to pray for us. There's no playbook for how we navigate these new waters, but we are certain that the way we get through these challenging times is together, unified by our faith in Jesus Christ and our confident hope in the new life found in the resurrection.

Also know that we give God thanks for the many ways you support the mission of Living Water Ministries with us, and we look forward to transforming the world with you for many years to come.

Please take a moment to review our FAQ (frequently asked questions) regarding this decision and its implications by visiting www.elcalivingwater.com/covid19faq/.

Peace,



C.J. Clark
Executive Director



Pastor Matt Smith
LWM Board President

P.S. Please take a moment to review our FAQ (frequently asked questions) regarding this decision and its implications by visiting www.elcalivingwater.com/covid19faq/



| | | | |
|----|---------------------|----|-------------|
| 02 | Melissa Kitts | 11 | Ethel Moore |
| | James Tavadze | 17 | Chuck Fagg |
| 03 | Lauren Kreuer | 23 | Jim Cramer |
| 09 | Pastor Carl Ballard | | |

Anniversaries

26 Jon K. and Tzulun Tsai



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.

Notes from our Friends and Members

COMING HOME

Bev Dirkin

I came home in early December, after two months in the hospital and fourteen months in rehab. There are many things I am struggling with, including a large abdominal wound, an inability to walk and not being able to drive. I have Home Health Care aides who accomplish

all the things I cannot yet do. For a few weeks' life seemed very hard, learning how to manage my finances and depending on aides to do simple tasks, like getting me out of bed.

I finally felt like I had come home when I was able to participate in the life of St. Paul. My thanks to Pastor Carl for asking me to get involved. While others struggle with the quarantine, I have been blessed by the many positive things that the church has been doing to make sure that we can worship together, even though we cannot physically be present. I have enjoyed participating in Bible Study and Sunday evening meetings through ZOOM. Although I have missed hugging my Grandchildren, I feel more alive than I have over the past two years.

There are many things to not like about the "Shelter in place" mandate. Others have given up many of the privileges we have because of where we live. I would rather focus on the positives. We are learning how to not be driven to long hours at the office. We are being more intentional about our social connections. We are thanking people across the nation who are reporting to work everyday to make sure we have medical care, food and services we need. Corporate America is demonstrating compassion, continuing to pay employees who cannot work from home. Banks are lending money and forgiving failure to pay the mortgage. We are using our creativity to ensure there are experiences of happiness and peacefulness in our homes.

The best positive indication for me is that countries are suspending aggression against each other and cooperating to protect the world from the pandemic. I recently read about the cooperation between Israel and Palestine to care for each other and prevent the spread of Covid19. I appreciate our Governor for trying to protect us, instead of worrying about political pressures.

The world will never be the same again. We are all learning from this experience. We will certainly be more mindful of the privileges we have, rather than taking them for granted. We will carry these lessons into our futures. Keep smiling and praying These are difficult times, but we know Jesus is walking beside us. We will be okay!



A Note from Our "New" Office Manager

I'm back!! I trust that this is good news, it is for me! I have missed everyone so very much.

I, of course, have not seen too many of you, but I have seen a few children. My word, why did you let them grow up? In my mind they are 3 to 4 years younger and much shorter.

You may have to look twice when you see me, I am sporting some glittery hair and maybe a few extra pounds. Getting older, what a blessing, right?!

I selfishly took some time for myself after leaving St. Paul 3 ½ years ago. I did some much-needed cleaning of closets, organizing things around the house, and playing in my flower gardens. (And being a little lazy too!)

The Spring of 2017 brought new challenges; my parents needed me. I temporarily moved to Oscoda to care for them, my dad after a major surgery, and my mom taking a fall, causing a brain bleed on the day of his surgery. Never a dull moment with these two. Summer was full of rehab and visiting nurses for them, as I was maintaining the house and yard as we embarked on selling their home. Cooking, cleaning, purging, packing, painting, and having the house ready to show at a moment's notice made for a remarkably busy summer.

Along with my three sisters, I had the privilege of caring for them during this most difficult time. We lost our Dad in August of 2018. One of the hardest times in my life, but also one of peace for his suffering. I selfishly want him back with us.

I continued to live with them both before, and after Dad's passing until February 2019. We moved my Mom into Delta Retirement Center. She is well cared for there, and seems to be handling the quarantine with as much grace as a person with dementia can muster. I visit her 3 to 5 times a week normally, but our "visits" consist of talking through the window for now.

Thank you for the confidence that you had in me to extend this job opportunity.

Cannot wait to see you all!

Norma

Un Mark / Mark Your Calendars

Mitten Synod

May 14 - 16 Synod Assembly 2020 - CANCELED

City of East Lansing

May 9 Environmental Stewardship Work Day

May 16 & 17 57th Annual East Lansing Art Festival - CANCELED

May 30 Opening Day of the East Lansing Family Aquatic Center - CANCELED

Jun. 6 Recycle! East Lansing - CANCELED

On the Lighter Side

How did we ever survive?

My Mom used to cut chicken, chop eggs, and spread Mayo on the same cutting board with the same knife, and no bleach, but we didn't seem to get food poisoning.

My Mom used to defrost hamburger on the counter, and I used to eat it raw sometimes, too. Our school sandwiches were wrapped in wax paper in a brown paper bag, not in ice pack coolers, but I can't remember getting E. coli.

We all took gym, not PE... And risked permanent injury with a pair of high top Ked's (only worn in gym) instead of having cross-training athletic shoes with air cushion soles and built in light reflectors. I can't recall any injuries, but they must have happened because they tell us how much safer we are now.

We all said prayers and sang the national anthem. Staying in detention after school caught all sorts of negative attention. We must have had horribly damaged psyches.

What an archaic health system we had then. Remember school nurses? Ours wore a hat and everything.

I just can't recall how bored we were without computers, Play Station, Nintendo, X-box or digital TV cable stations.

We didn't act up at the neighbor's house either; because if we did, we got our butt spanked there, and then we got our butt spanked again when we got home.

I recall Donny Reynolds from next door coming over and doing his tricks on the front stoop, just before he fell off. Little did his Mom know that she could have owned our house. Instead, she picked him up and swatted him for being such a jerk. It was a neighborhood run amuck.

To top it off, not a single person I knew had ever been told that they were from a dysfunctional family.

**LOVE TO ALL OF US WHO SHARED THIS ERA;
AND TO ALL WHO DIDN'T, SORRY FOR WHAT YOU MISSED.
I WOULDN'T TRADE IT FOR ANYTHING!**

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|---|------------------|------------------|---|--|------------------|
| <p>3</p> <p>PANTRY OFFERING 10:00 AM –Worship On Facebook LIVE And Drive In Service</p> | <p>4</p> <p>6:30 PM - Worship Meeting - ZOOM</p> | <p>5</p> | <p>6</p> | <p>7</p> <p>2:00 PM-Pantry Dist</p> | <p>8</p> | <p>9</p> |
| <p>10</p> <p><i>Mother's Day</i> 10:00 AM –Worship On Facebook LIVE And Drive In Service</p> | <p>11</p> | <p>12</p> | <p>13</p> | <p>14</p> <p>2:00 PM-Pantry Dist</p> | <p>15</p> <p>NO Blood Drive</p> | <p>16</p> |
| <p>17</p> <p>10:00 AM –Worship To Be Determined On Facebook LIVE In house Worship or Drive In Service</p> | <p>18</p> <p>Council Reports Due to Council President and Church Office</p> | <p>19</p> | <p>20</p> | <p>21</p> <p>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 2:00 PM-Pantry Dist. 7:00 PM – Council Meeting</p> | <p>22</p> | <p>23</p> |
| <p>24</p> <p>10:00 AM –Worship To Be Determined In house Worship or Drive In Service</p> | <p>25</p> <p>Memorial Day</p> | <p>26</p> | <p>27</p> | <p>28</p> <p>2:00 PM-Pantry Dist.</p> | <p>29</p> | <p>30</p> |
| <p>31</p> <p>10:00 AM –Worship To Be Determined In house Worship or Drive In Service</p> | <p>June 1</p> | <p>2</p> | <p>3</p> | <p>4</p> <p>2:00 PM-Pantry Dist.</p> | <p>5</p> | <p>6</p> |

MAY 2020

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

- 1 Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
there is no shadow of turning with thee;
thou changest not, thy compassions they fail not;
as thou hast been, thou forever wilt be.

- 2 Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. *Refrain*

- 3 Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! *Refrain*

Refrain

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided;
great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Text: Thomas O. Chisholm, 1866-1960

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St. Paul Lutheran Church

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