



# *Spirit of St. Paul*

St. Paul Lutheran Church, East Lansing, MI

JUNE 2020

Fellow Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I think if we never hear the word *pandemic* again it will not be too soon. Every day we are bombarded in the news and online about Covid-19. The fear and anxiety are never ending as we fear the light at the end of the tunnel might be the headlight of the locomotive coming at us. As Christians cannot hide from the truth but we are called to face reality We pray for families and friends, give special thanks for those “essential” people on the front lines, and those we have never met and those whose life has becomes stressful beyond imagination. Everyone will know we are followers of Christ as we love one another. Then in unity the Lord leads our hearts into

God’s love and Christ’s patience. This is a great time for us to look at ourselves and how we are thinking about living in isolation and being church. Some of the lyrics from “The Church Song” written by Lutheran Musician Jay Beech are: “The church is not a business, a committee, or a board; It’s not a corporation for the business of the Lord. The church, it is the people living out their lives, called, enlightened sanctified for the work of Christ. We are the church, the body of our Lord. We are his children, we have been restored.”

As we are being the church in today’s challenging environment, I see God’s very Spirit alive at St. Paul. I see people working with God for the sake of the community and the world. There are those who have been pillars of the congregation who worked hard for a long time to help others. Since these at-risk folks that need to stay away for their safety from the food pantry, community gardening, or being a quilting group, it is easy to feel isolated and disappointed. Because they cannot continue to do these activities at this time people who have stepped up to fill in for them as we continue to feed the folks with the food pantry. Volunteers have stepped forward and the garden was rototilled twice, and we have planted the Community Garden by social distancing and going at separate time to tend the garden. Those that cannot currently be present have served as advisors and back room duties to assist them. Folks have been coming together to clean the flower beds, sweep the parking lot, power wash the building to prepare for when we can once again worship in the sanctuary when we determine it is safe. Sunday school is now keeping in contact online so they can do activities. You should see the sheep that were created. People have worked with God to

## **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.

have Drive-In Church which will become outdoor church starting in June. We now have a devotional and online worship as a Facebook posting every week, and will continue this in the future, based on how many people have joined us online. Online worship has clearly reminded us the church is not the building but is the people. The Worship Committee and Council have stepped up to have meaningful worship at this difficult time. Our Praise Team has gone above and beyond by creating music as they social distance and the hymns and liturgical music for our two worship services. In the background we have the technical folks who have been working hard to help me personally and to create a higher quality worship when we can come together and it is imagined we film by camera, and use a screen and projector so we don't have to touch hymnals or bulletins. The Office Manager has now been working to keep the building sanitized and clean amongst the myriad other things she does. I believe we are enjoying working together with each other and God. In the short time I have been with you, I have been impressed with the faithfulness, hard work and generosity of the people at St. Paul and I look forward to us working with God living into our new mission and vision in a rapidly changing world. We have been able to have meetings via ZOOM, such as Worship Committee, Confirmation, Bar Theology, Bible Study, and Sunday night coffee hour where each have their own drink and snack as we connect and share what is going on with our lives. Gather Bible Study has been meeting again also using ZOOM.

On a different note during these stressful times I would like people to know if you need to talk with me, I am available via phone 7 days a week. I can be a good listener if you want someone's ear or I can refer you to someone else. We can ZOOM or Facetime or What's App or Skype at any time.

To put this in perspective Paul, in his first letter to encourages the people of Corinth as he wrote “<sup>9</sup>For we are God's servants, working together; you are God's field, God's building.” (1 Corinthians 3:9 NRSV) We can relax and take a fresh breath, knowing we are not working **for** God but we are working **with** God. As Max Lucado in his book *Just Like Jesus* reminds us Instead of reporting to God we work with God. Instead of punching a timecard and leaving we check in with God and then follow. We are always in the presence of God and there is never a non-sacred moment. We work hard together and do all the things necessary to be the church. As Paul wrote the people in his second letter to the church in Corinth “<sup>1</sup>We are not alone but God accompanies us. As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. (2 Corinthians 6:1 NRSV). We remember we live in the grip of God's grace as God is with us as we all work together while the importance of God's grace is not to be taken lightly.

I look forward to us working together with God for the sake of the world.

The love of Christ to you all.

Pr. Carl

## **Outdoor Worship Coming Soon!**

Greetings everyone!

As we move from Spring to Summer, the Covid-19 pandemic and mandates for social distancing continue, and we do not yet know when we may resume worshipping and socializing at St. Paul in the traditional ways that we know and love.

We are blessed, however, to have multiple alternatives for worshipping and socializing during these unique and challenging times.

As Pastor Carl explains in more detail in this newsletter, we are excited to offer a new outdoor worship opportunity in June. Beginning June 7<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m., we will leave our cars in the parking lot, and worship from lawn chairs on the church grounds.

This is not a departure from social distancing. Congregants must wear masks and stay at least six feet apart from other family groups. We will provide a mask and hand sanitizer to any attendants who do not already have them. And of course, do not come if you feel sick (fever, cough, sneezing, etc.). If you feel sick, please worship with us on-line.

We also understand that much of our church family will continue worshipping on-line for the foreseeable future. St. Paul will continue to offer its on-line services and social hour, and we will be actively exploring ways to enhance and expand these services and outreach.

--- St. Paul Church Council

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## **Ad Hoc Committee on On-Line Worship Opportunities**

St. Paul is starting an ad hoc committee to explore ways to improve and enhance its on-line worship services. The purpose of this committee is to:

- Identifying the target audience for on-line worship and how to best reach them.
- Exploring the various platforms available and pros/cons of each.
- Whether additional equipment is needed, and if so, what equipment should be required.

Meetings will be held using Zoom. Technical expertise is helpful but not required. Please send your contact information to Norma officemanager@stpaul-el.org.

-- St. Paul Church Council

## **Guidelines for Worship**

### **Outdoor Worship**

Starting June 7, 2020 at 10AM and continuing until we resume worship in the sanctuary, date unknown. The music will be pre-recorded. In case of inclement weather, people be in their cars and the worship will be broadcast on 1610AM again, with pre-recorded music.

Your safety is our utmost concern. To make the worship the safest possible there are basic rules we must observe out of love for others. We ask that you observe these at all times.

- Keep 6' feet apart unless family members. Research is showing person to person contact is the way people become infected.
- Everyone wears a mask. There will be a greeter/usher to facilitate safely distributing face masks and hand sanitizers by placing on a table at least 6' feet apart.
- No touching, hugging, shaking hands at any time. We will share the peace by waving at others.
- The building continues to be cleaned, and sanitized; and will be open for anyone wanting to wash their hands or use the restrooms. We will need to be attentive to the 6' social distancing rule when entering and exiting, or inside the facilities. One person at a time is highly recommended.
- Bring your own lawn chair. Greeter/usher can facilitate carrying these to a place 6' feet apart from others. If the lawn/uneven surface is an issue for you there will be designated areas in the parking lot for seating.
- No singing. Singing has shown to infect an area far greater than 6', so we will use pre-recorded music on speakers, or have a live Cantor only singing at a microphone at a far distance.
- We request you print out the bulletin from the Webpage for safety. You can also use your electronic device-cell phone, iPad, etc. if you prefer.
- No fellowship after worship. As an alternative we are having a coffee hour via ZOOM online at 6:30PM on Sunday where everyone can have their own beverage and treat. Discussions can be the same as those at previous coffee others and everyone can share how they are doing.
- An offering box with a slot to drop offering envelopes or cash through will be provided. It will be stationary (not passed), sitting on the table with the masks and sanitizer. This allows for those who do not wish to use online giving, and for visitors.
- A designated area for people who become sick while at the service will be made available until you are able to leave. Most of you could go to your cars, but we understand that there are those who do not drive. If you should get sick and need

help, please speak with someone from 6', which means speaking loudly and with possible disruption to the service. This is not likely to happen, but having a plan is for your safety.

A Word and Service will be recorded and will be available via a Facebook. This posting will be done ahead of time as an alternative for those who are not comfortable attending in person. This will continue after we worship together in the sanctuary since many people worship with us online, far exceeding those who have worshipped in person. We request you consider sharing this worship on Facebook so even more people can be a part of our worship. There is also a weekly devotion as a posting on our Facebook page.

At this challenging time we give thanks to you for your kind words, flexibility, and patience. As we stay connected in alternative ways while doing what Christ commanded by loving one another, this is a perfect time to read scripture, do devotions, and most importantly, pray for one another.

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### **Interim Guidance for Communities of Faith from the CDC**

CDC offers the following general considerations to help communities of faith discern how best to practice their beliefs while keeping their staff and congregations safe. Millions of Americans embrace worship as an essential part of life. For many faith traditions, gathering together for worship is at the heart of what it means to be a community of faith. But as Americans are now aware, gatherings present a risk for increasing the spread of COVID-19 during this public health emergency. CDC offers these suggestions for faith communities to consider, consistent with their own faith traditions, in the course of preparing to reconvene for in-person gatherings while still working to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Implementation should be guided by what is feasible, practical, and acceptable, and tailored to the needs and traditions of each community of faith. The information offered is non-binding public health guidance for consideration only; it is not meant to regulate or prescribe standards for interactions of faith communities in houses of worship. Any decision to modify specific religious rites, rituals, and services should be made by religious leaders. Specific preventive actions are provided as examples only.

#### **Scaling Up Operations**

- Establish and maintain communication with local and State authorities to determine current mitigation levels in your community.
- Provide protections for staff and congregants at [higher risk for severe illness](#) from COVID-19. Offer options for staff at [higher risk for severe illness](#) (including older adults and people of all ages with certain underlying medical conditions) that limit their

exposure risk. Offer options for congregants at [higher risk of severe illness](#) that limit their exposure risk (e.g., remote participation in services).

- Consistent with applicable federal and state laws and regulations, put in place policies that protect the privacy and confidentiality of people at [higher risk for severe illness](#) regarding underlying medical conditions.
- Continue to provide congregants with spiritual and emotional care and counseling on a flexible or virtual basis or refer them to other sources for counseling and support if necessary.
- Encourage any organizations that share or use the facilities to also follow these considerations if feasible.
- If your community provides social services in the facility as part of its mission, consult CDC's information for [schools](#) and [businesses and workplaces](#), as relevant, for helpful information.

### **Promote [healthy hygiene practices](#)**

- Encourage staff and congregants to maintain good hand hygiene, [washing hands](#) with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Have adequate supplies to support healthy hygiene behaviors, including soap, hand sanitizer with at least 60 percent alcohol (for those who can safely use hand sanitizer), tissues, and no-touch trash cans.
- Encourage staff and congregants to cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or use the inside of their elbow. Used tissues should be thrown in the trash and hands washed.
- Whenever soap and water are not readily available, hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol can be used.
- Consider posting signs on how to [stop the spread](#) of COVID-19 and [promote everyday protective measures](#), such as [washing hands](#), covering coughs and sneezes, and [properly wearing a face covering](#).

### **Cloth face coverings**

- Encourage use of [cloth face coverings](#) among staff and congregants. Face coverings are most essential when [social distancing](#) is difficult. Note: [Cloth face coverings](#) should not be placed on children younger than 2 years old, anyone who has trouble breathing or is unconscious, and anyone who is incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the cloth face covering without assistance. [Cloth face coverings](#) are meant to protect other people in case the wearer is unknowingly infected but does not have symptoms.

### **Intensify cleaning, disinfection, and ventilation**

- [Clean and disinfect](#) frequently touched surfaces at least daily and shared objects in between use.
- Develop a schedule of increased, routine cleaning and disinfection.
- Avoid use of items that are not easily cleaned, sanitized, or disinfected.
- Ensure [safe and correct application](#) of disinfectants and keep them away from children. Use products that meet [EPA disinfection criteria](#).
- Cleaning products should not be used near children, and staff should ensure that there is adequate ventilation when using these products to prevent children or themselves from inhaling toxic fumes.
- Ensure that ventilation systems operate properly and increase circulation of outdoor air as much as possible by opening windows and doors, using fans, etc. Do not open windows and doors if they pose a safety risk to children or adults using the facility.
- If your faith community offers multiple services, consider scheduling services far enough apart to allow time for cleaning and disinfecting high-touch surfaces between services.
- [Take steps](#) to ensure that all water systems and features (for example, drinking fountains, decorative fountains) are safe to use after a prolonged facility shutdown to minimize the risk of [Legionnaires' disease](#) and other diseases associated with water.

### **Promote social distancing**

- Take steps to limit the size of gatherings in accordance with the guidance and directives of state and local authorities.
- Promote [social distancing](#) at services and other gatherings, ensuring that clergy, staff, choir, volunteers, and attendees at the services follow social distancing throughout services, as circumstances and faith traditions allow, to lessen their risk. This may include eliminating lines or queues, if a 6-foot distance between attendees is hard to ensure. Use of cloth face coverings should be encouraged when social distancing cannot be maintained.
- Consider holding services and gatherings in a large, well-ventilated area or outdoors, as circumstances and faith traditions allow.
- Consider appropriate mitigation measures, including taking steps to limit the size of gatherings and maintaining [social distancing](#), at other gatherings such as funerals, weddings, religious education classes, youth events, support groups and any other programming, where consistent with the faith tradition. Use of cloth face coverings should be encouraged when social distancing cannot be maintained.

- Provide physical guides, such as tape on floors or walkways and signs on walls, to ensure that staff and congregants remain at least 6 feet apart in lines and at other times as needed (e.g. guides for creating “one-way routes” in hallways).
- Add additional services to weekly schedules to maintain social distancing at each service if appropriate and feasible. Consider video streaming or drive-in options for services and other gatherings and meetings.
- Consider suspending or at least decreasing use of a choir/musical ensembles and congregant singing, chanting, or reciting during services or other programming, if appropriate within the faith tradition. The act of singing may contribute to transmission of COVID-19, possibly through emission of aerosols.
- Consider having clergy hold virtual visits (by phone or online) instead of in homes or at the hospital except for certain compassionate care situations, such as end of life.

Take steps to minimize community sharing of worship materials and other items

- Consistent with the community’s faith tradition, consider temporarily limiting the sharing of frequently touched objects that cannot be easily cleaned between persons, such as worship aids, prayer rugs, prayer books, hymnals, religious texts and other bulletins, books, shared cups, or other items received, passed or shared among congregants as part of services. Seek ways to uphold customs central to the practicing of one’s faith that limit shared exposure to congregants. Consider photocopying or electronically sharing prayers, songs, and texts via e-mail or other digital technologies.
- Modify the methods used to receive financial contributions. Consider a stationary collection box or electronic methods of collecting regular financial contributions instead of via shared collection trays or baskets.
- Consider whether physical contact (e.g., shaking hands, hugging, or kissing) can be limited among members of the faith community.
- If food is offered at any event, consider pre-packaged options, and avoid buffet or family-style meals if possible.

### **Nursery/Childcare/Youth Groups**

- If a nursery or childcare will be provided during services and events, refer to CDC’s information on [preventing the spread of COVID-19 in childcare settings](#) and adapt as needed for your setting.
- Consider virtual activities and events in lieu of in-person youth group meetings and religious education classes, as feasible. If in-person events will occur, follow considerations for other types of gatherings and use several strategies to encourage behaviors that reduce the spread of COVID-19.

- If holding summer day camps, refer to CDC's information on [youth and summer camps](#) and adapt as needed.

## **Staffing and Training**

- Train all clergy and staff in the above safety actions. Consider conducting the training virtually, or, if in-person, ensure that [social distancing](#) is maintained.

## **Check for signs and symptoms**

- Encourage staff or congregants who are sick or who have had close contact with a person with COVID-19 to stay home. Share CDC's criteria for staying home with staff and congregants so that they know how to care for themselves and others. Consider posting signs at entrances with this information.

## **Plan for when a staff member or congregant becomes sick**

- Identify an area to separate anyone who exhibits COVID-like [symptoms](#) during hours of operation until they can be safely transported to their home or a healthcare facility. Ensure that children are not left without adult supervision.
- Notify local health officials if a person diagnosed with COVID-19 has been in the facility and communicate with staff and congregants about potential exposure while maintaining confidentiality as required by the [Americans with Disabilities Act \(ADA\)](#) or other applicable laws and in accordance with religious practices.
- Advise those with [exposure](#) to a person diagnosed with COVID-19 to [stay home and self-monitor](#) for symptoms, and follow [CDC guidance](#) if symptoms develop.
- Close off areas used by the [sick](#) person and do not use the area until after cleaning and disinfection. Wait at least 24 hours before cleaning and disinfecting. If 24 hours is not feasible, wait as long as possible. Ensure [safe and correct application](#) of disinfectants and keep disinfectant products away from children.
- Advise staff and congregants with [symptoms](#) of COVID-19 or who have tested positive for COVID-19 not to return to the facility until they have met CDC's [criteria to discontinue home isolation](#).

## **Maintain healthy operations**

- Implement flexible sick leave and related flexible policies and practices for staff (e.g., allow work from home, if feasible), and provide requested reasonable accommodation absent undue hardship to individuals with disabilities under the [Americans with Disabilities Act \(ADA\)](#) or other applicable laws and in accordance with religious practices.
- Monitor absenteeism and create a roster of trained back-up staff.

- Designate a staff person to be responsible for responding to COVID-19 concerns. Staff, clergy, volunteers, and congregants should know who this person is and how to contact them if they become sick or are around others diagnosed with COVID-19. This person should also be aware of state or local regulatory agency policies related to group gatherings and other applicable state and local public health guidance and directives.
- As volunteers often perform important duties (e.g., greeters, ushers, childcare), consider similar monitoring, planning, and training for them. Consider that volunteer and staffing may need to increase to implement cleaning and safety protocols and to accommodate additional services with reduced attendance.
- Communicate clearly with staff and congregants about actions being taken to protect their health.
- Encourage any organizations that share or use the facilities to also follow these considerations. If your community provides social services in the facility as part of its mission, consult CDC's information for [schools](#) and [businesses and workplaces](#), as relevant, for helpful information.

## Signs and Messages

- Post [signs](#) in highly visible locations (e.g., entrances, restrooms, gathering halls/community rooms/gyms) that [promote everyday protective measures](#) and describe how to [stop the spread](#) of germs (such as by [properly washing hands](#) and [properly wearing a cloth face covering](#)).
- Include messages (for example, [videos](#)) about behaviors that prevent the spread of COVID-19 when communicating with staff and congregants (such as in emails and on community websites and [social media accounts](#)).
- Find freely available CDC print and digital resources on CDC's [communications resources](#) main page.

## Support Coping and Resilience

- Continue to provide congregants with spiritual and emotional care and counseling on a flexible or virtual basis or refer them to other sources for counseling and support.
- Check [State](#) and [local](#) health department notices daily about transmission in the community and adjust operations
- In the event a person diagnosed with COVID-19 is determined to have been in the building and poses a risk to the community, it is strongly suggested to dismiss attendees, then properly clean and disinfect the area and the building where the

individual was present before resuming activities. Wait at least 24 hours before cleaning and disinfecting. If 24 hours is not feasible, wait as long as possible.

Content source: [National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases \(NCIRD\)](#), [Division of Viral Diseases](#)

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

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## **JUNE READINGS**

### **Sunday, June 7<sup>th</sup>**

*Holy Trinity*

Genesis 1:1-2:4a

2 Corinthians 13:11-13

Matthew 28:16-20

### **Sunday, June 14<sup>th</sup>**

*Second Sunday after Pentecost*

Exodus 19:2-8a

Romans 5:1-8

Matthew 9:35-10:8[9-23]

### **Sunday, June 21<sup>st</sup>**

*Third Sunday after Pentecost*

Jeremiah 20:7-13

Romans 6:1b-11

Matthew 10:24-39

### **Sunday, June 28<sup>th</sup>**

*Fourth Sunday after Pentecost*

Jeremiah 28:5-9

Romans 6:12-23

Matthew 10:40-42

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## **News**

### **From the Mitten Synod**

Portions of Mid-Michigan, part of the North/West Lower Michigan Synod, have been devastated by severe flooding and dam failures due to heavy rain across the state in the last 48 hours. Gov. Gretchen Whitmer has declared a state of emergency for Midland County and it is anticipated that there will be additional flooding and dam breaches.

The dam failures and breaches are located along the Tittibawasee River system, which encompasses five rivers and includes most of Mid-Michigan. These five river systems combine into one larger river, which empties into Lake Huron at Saginaw Bay. Currently, dams on two of the rivers have failed, one is breached, and two are holding but fragile. River levels have broken century-old records and floodwaters have ravaged Midland, Gladwin, Beaverton, Freeland, and the surrounding townships.

As of now, there have been no reported fatalities. At least 10,000 people have evacuated Midland and Gladwin counties. Local and state officials have declared these counties disaster areas and the National Guard and FEMA have been called to assist.

The North/West Lower Michigan Synod has six congregations in the affected area. All of the rostered leaders and church buildings are safe. The congregations are assisting their communities in a variety of ways including providing shelter and food assistance.

The North/West Lower Michigan Synod is in contact with the ELCA Lutheran Disaster Response and our synod's Lutheran Disaster Response Coordinator, Rev. David Sprang, Assistant to the Bishop and Director for Evangelical Mission, is working with Bishop Craig A. Satterlee to assess needs, and provide assistance. We are focused on providing assistance with immediate needs as well as long term recovery efforts.

Right now, the best way to provide assistance is to donate to [the North/West Lower Michigan Synod Disaster Relief Fund](#). All funds will be used for direct support of affected residents.

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## Social Outreach & Ministry

### Food Pantry Garden



By the time you read this, our Food Pantry garden bed will be planted. God is Good.

A special thanks to Chuck for tilling the garden to make it ready for planting. Thank you to Pastor and Mary for getting the plants. And to our busy gardeners, Tracy, Caroline, along with Tracy's friend Angie, and her daughters. Basil, beans, beets, chives, cucumbers, eggplant, lettuce, peppers, swiss chard, and tomatoes are all in the ground, and ready to receive God's sun and rain blessings. Thank you for your hard work to get all the planting done. Behind the scenes Pastor Carl has been recruiting gardeners; Stacy is setting up the watering and weeding schedule; Lynne, Barb, Tracy and her girls will be weeding and watering when rain is not plentiful; and Steve will be erecting the poles for the beans to climb on.

Please know that you are welcome 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 and the Bulletin or contact any of our gardeners.

We appreciate your prayers for favorable weather conditions, strong backs and knees, and strength to make it through the growing season.

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### St. Paul Pantry

A total of 545 clients have been served from January 1-April 30, 2020, which meant 191 families were helped. During this same time period we have had 1675 lbs. and 12 oz. of food donated to the Food Pantry. We have also received \$670.00 in donations from outside donors. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to help support our Food Pantry.

We received really good news from the CEO of the GLFB this week which I wanted to share with everyone.



*St. Paul Pantry*

“Dear Agency Partners,

*I am pleased to announce that because of recent benefactors and additional free food suppliers, **all food, non-food items and delivery charges will be completely free** to our partner pantries during May and June! Additionally, because the food supply chain is solid and our warehouse is stocked, we **strongly encourage you to double the quantity of food you are giving to each household during this time.***

*The generosity of the community has been overwhelming and we wish to share those blessings with you in this way. Thank you for your extra efforts and creativity in serving more people during this pandemic, and especially for shifting your protocol and distribution methods so quickly. It has been a true pleasure working side-by-side as partners and we look forward to a strong recovery period.*

**WE SALUTE YOU and THANK YOU,”**

We also wanted to let you know that we can no longer accept donations of plastic bags at this time at the Food Pantry. The GLFB has asked that we not reuse plastic bags, in order to help prevent the spread of the coronavirus. We will let you know when they can be accepted again.

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

<b>Dish Soap</b>	<b>Toilet Paper</b>	<b>5# Flour</b>	<b>Spices</b>
<b>Laundry Soap</b>	<b>Paper Towels</b>	<b>4# Sugar</b>	<b>Tea Bags</b>
<b>Shampoo (all ages)</b>	<b>Kleenex</b>	<b>Veg/Canola Oil</b>	<b>Boxed Salt</b>
<b>Conditioner</b>	<b>Deodorant</b>	<b>Syrup</b>	<b>Catsup</b>
<b>Disposable Razors</b>	<b>Mustard</b>	<b>Bar Soap</b>	

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## **Bible Study**

### **Women's Bible Study**



Our Gather Bible Study will continue through the Summer, with the next ZOOM meeting on June 10 at 11:00 a.m. We will begin a three-part series called “Just Love.” Kay Meints will be our Bible Study leader. Contact Norma ([officemanager@stpaul-el.org](mailto:officemanager@stpaul-el.org)) for more information and a copy of the Study.

Healing Racism

by Bev Dirkin

I grew up in the segregated South. The first twenty-five years of my life were spent in Atlanta, Georgia. As a child I could not understand why there were separate drinking fountains and bathrooms, why I could not ride in the back of the bus. Those of you who have seen the movie or read the book, The Help, have seen what my childhood experience was like.

During my college years, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was Pastor of a local church near my home. I began to follow his work in Atlanta and then the South. I believed that his work was making a difference in how people thought about the blatant racism manifested by segregation. I responded to his message of hope expressed in his speeches and writings, the hope that our country could be different. My newly adult self was devastated when he was assassinated.

I relocated from Atlanta to Detroit when my husband changed jobs. It soon became apparent to me that racism was not just a Southern sin, but was just less blatant and more hidden in the North. After several seniority-based layoffs and recalls, we moved back to the aerospace industry and relocated to Kalamazoo.

Kalamazoo was experiencing white flight to the suburbs. Our Redeemer Lutheran Church decided to close its doors because the northside neighborhood changed color. Our Synod sold the property and decided to use the money to work on healing racism in Kalamazoo. The Synod tried to give the money to the Northside Ministerial Alliance, but they said they would take the funding only if it came with church folks.

I saw this as an opportunity to participate in the effort to heal racism in my community. I was one of the founding members of a new group called ERACCE, Eliminating Racism and Claiming/Celebrating Equity. We needed training and sought out Crossroads Ministries, an organization who had worked with the ELCA. Our training consisted of organizing, learning the history of racism in our country, and learning how to train others.

I also joined our Synod Antiracism Team. This Team also received training with Crossroads. Our Team focused on raising awareness in our congregations on how racism operates to impact us all. We focused on recognizing our white privilege (the knowledge of the benefits and blessings we receive because of our white skin). We would share the history of racism in America, where systems and institutions are created to benefit white people.

The sin of racism has placed the burden on the shoulders of our black and brown brothers and sisters to live in a country where white people are considered superior to people of color. Where is it okay to have our black and brown brothers and sisters killed as they walked, jogged, wore hoodies and most recently while they slept. (See Note 1). These crimes against our brothers and sisters of color, who are also created in God's image, bring great pain to

me. Do they do to you as well? Have you ever considered how your white skin has benefited you? Or are you like the fish, swimming in the water without knowing what water is?

Our ELCA will be using different terminology regarding racism, White Supremacy. I quote a fellow Board member of our ELCA's Ethnic Association for white people, the European Descent Lutheran Association for Racial Justice. Shari Seifert, our V.P. writes:

"It's going to take a lot to root white supremacy out of church folks and it's going to be hard, but we HAVE to do the work. Much harm has been done because we failed to do the work. (I often wonder what Dylann Roof (See note 2) learned in his church about racism. I wonder if he had pictures of white Jesus hanging in his ELCA congregation. I wonder what role our denomination played or not play in his formation.) We are going to have to offer each other an ABUNDANCE of grace. We are going to have to be okay with not knowing what we are doing and forging ahead in faith. We are going to have to ask other white folks to give up their comfortable positions because the truth is that white comfort is not more important than black lives."

The European Descent Lutheran Association has been in dialog with Bishop Strickland, Southeast Synod and with Presiding Bishop Eaton, talking about recognizing our white supremacy in the ELCA and taking steps to bring about change. Bishop Eaton stated in our last conference that until white folks care about the deaths of black lives as if they were their own, nothing is going to change.

My work in antiracism has been very important to me. But even more important has been the beautiful and meaningful relationships I have formed with people of color through the years. May your life also be blessed with relationships with those who are not like you.

Note 1: Breonna Taylor, EMT worker, was killed by the police while she was sleeping in her bed.

Note 2: Dylann Roof, raised in an ELCA congregation, killed 9 people attending a Bible Study at Mother Emanuel AME Church.

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## Help Wanted



There are so many things that need to be done to help us open our doors again. While the church is being cleaned, and sanitized, there are still areas that your help would be appreciated.

Here are a few of the things that can be done on your own, or as a couple, or family in a safe and with 6-foot distance being observed.

Kitchen cupboards – inside of cupboards need to be cleaned and disinfected.

Nursery – ALL toys need to be cleaned and disinfected. Some toys are in containers and can be easily taken home to wash. Others are too large and would need to be done here at church.

Sanctuary – While most of the chairs are being cleaned, and disinfected, there are those that also need a little more attention.

Fellowship Hall – ALL tables and chairs need to be cleaned, and disinfected.

Fluorescent Lights – We have several lights that are out, someone who does not mind climbing a ladder, and cleaning out the bugs.

Outside of the buildings – While the lawn is mowed weekly, there are still several areas of landscaping need to be cleaned up. Pastor and Mary have been working on the outside, but I am sure many hands would make lighter work, and they would be welcomed.

Windows – The inside of the church is being cleaned, however the windows on the outside sure could use a little TLC.

Garage – Needs some tidying up.

Mission House – Reorganizing and additional cleaning is needed.

Norma is in the building Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. You can call to make arrangements to get into the church, or to let her know what you would like to do.

Just like at home there is always something to do here at St. Paul.

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## Celebrations

01 Charlotte Collins  
06 Bob Seppala  
07 Mary Hoffman  
08 Kim Cramer  
09 Helen Wilber



15 Logan Roberts  
16 Steve Opp  
17 Ardyth Claucherty  
18 Shani Turke  
20 Charles McGrath



19 Eric & Jacqueline Johnson

**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.

On Sunday Evenings, at a time to be determined, we will continue to join in a ZOOM coffee hour. This will be for the first, second, third, and fifth (if there is one) Sundays each month.



On the fourth Sunday every month we will replace ZOOM coffee hour with ZOOM Bar Theology hour.

Look for emails detailing time and ZOOM codes. This is a way to join together until we can fellowship again in person. Please consider joining us!

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**Mark / *Un*-Mark Your Calendars****St Paul Happenings for June 2020**

- 07 Pantry Offering
- 07 First Out-door Service at St. Paul
- 10 Women's Bible Study – 11:00 am ZOOM Meeting
- 18 Council Meeting
- 23 Newsletter Deadline

**And in other areas:**

**City of East Lansing**

- June 6 Recycle! East Lansing - CANCELED
- 7 East Lansing Farmers Market Opens – 10 am to 2 pm
- 19 & 20 Summer Solstice Jazz Festival

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p style="text-align: right;"><b>31</b></p> <p>10:00 AM –Worship On Facebook And Drive In Service Evening ZOOM Coffee Hour</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>JUNE 1</b></p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>2</b></p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>3</b></p> <p>5:30 PM-Pantry Dist</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>4</b></p> <p>2:00 PM-Pantry Dist</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>5</b></p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>6</b></p>
<p style="text-align: right;"><b>7</b></p> <p><b>PANTRY OFFERING</b> 10:00 AM –Outdoor Worship and On Facebook Evening ZOOM Coffee Hour</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>8</b></p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>9</b></p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>10</b></p> <p>11:00 AM-Women's Bible Study on ZOOM</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>11</b></p> <p>2:00 PM-Pantry Dist</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>12</b></p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>13</b></p>
<p style="text-align: right;"><b>14</b></p> <p>10:00 AM –Outdoor Worship and On Facebook Evening ZOOM Coffee Hour</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>15</b></p> <p><b>Council Reports Due to Council President and Church Office</b></p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>16</b></p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>17</b></p> <p>5:30 PM-Pantry Dist</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>18</b></p> <p>2:00 PM-Pantry Dist. 7:00 PM – Council Meeting</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>19</b></p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>20</b></p>
<p style="text-align: right;"><b>21</b></p> <p><b>Father's Day</b> 10:00 AM –Outdoor Worship and On Facebook Evening Bar Theology Hour</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>22</b></p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>23</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</b></p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>24</b></p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>25</b></p> <p>2:00 PM-Pantry Dist.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>26</b></p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>27</b></p>
<p style="text-align: right;"><b>28</b></p> <p>10:00 AM –Outdoor Worship and On Facebook LIVE Evening ZOOM Coffee Hour</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>29</b></p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>30</b></p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>July 1</b></p> <p>5:30 PM-Pantry Dist</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>2</b></p> <p>2:00 PM-Pantry Dist.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>3</b></p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>4</b></p> 

**JUNE 2020**



## **St. Paul Lutheran Church**

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[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.**