



Spirit of St. Paul

St. Paul Lutheran Church, East Lansing, MI

JULY 2020

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Jesus talks about a new creation. God is doing a new thing amongst the Covid-19 virus and protests, and the focus on racism. But it may difficult to see what that new thing is all about. Every day is a new creation. As we look forward to the future we trust in God as our hope to the future. As Isaiah tells us:

*I am about to do a new thing;
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness
and rivers in the desert. Isaiah 43:19*

The Spirit keeps moving as Mary and I continue to serve with others at St. Paul to moving forward at this difficult time. I don't think we can remember challenges to the church like the last three months. We have spent our time trying to figure out who does what, and why things are done the way they are here, realizing things may be done informally as things get accomplished. Those that work behind the scenes put in a remarkable amount of effort so that everything works together.

When Jesus tells us to be united in Christ and to love one another as we are one.

²²The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, ²³I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. John 17:22-23

We had our first Outdoor Worship on June 7 and the Council has agreed to follow the CDC for Faith Community recommendations for safety ("holding services and gatherings in a large, well-ventilated area or outdoors"), so we will worship outdoors until the next Council meeting July 16th. Outdoor worship has been very well received. We are still doing online Facebook and You Tube worship that should be available by 10 a.m. Sunday morning for those who cannot attend worship or prefer attending online. We respect those who do not feel comfortable worshipping in person and look forward to when they are comfortable attending in person in their due time

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.

Many thanks to members of the Praise Team: Steve Opp, James Tavadze, Kathy Griffin, Elene Kobulashvili for using their amazing talents for outdoor and online worship on Facebook and You Tube. Their music adds extra dimension to the worship experience. They are members of the Worship Committee led by Pat Cramer along with Stacy Turke, who is staying at home for good reason, and lends moral support. Thanks also to Pat who is an excellent proofreader.

Deep gratitude to Steve Opp, Kathy Griffin, Steve Kreuer, Pat and Jim Cramer, Jim Claucherty, Barb Paff, Norma VanKuiken, Tracy Collins and family, Kay and Bob Seppala, Chuck Nelson, Eric Claucherty, and Mary (and Pastor) Ballard for spiffing up God's creation on the church grounds and building, along with the Community Garden and Mission House exteriors. If I have forgotten anyone, please forgive me. I take memory pills, but I don't always remember to take them. There has been a new tree and bush planted, the parking lot has had leaves, needles and pine cones removed, dead branches have been removed from the trees, dead bushes removed, weeding, planting, and mulching in the front beds, flowers planted by the sign and around the mission house, weeds wacked on the perimeter of the garden, power washing of the building, etc.

HELP WANTED

As work continues, we still need people to water the garden, weed, paint, etc. Simply let Norma know if you are able to help.

There are many areas to volunteer. Someone said we have a strong group, but we need depth on the bench. Prayerfully consider volunteering for one of the many needs. Training is available for those that would like to help out.

Also, let Norma know if you are able to be a Reader or Lay Minister for the Outdoor Worship. Thanks to Kathy Griffin who was the Reader on June 21st and Pat Cramer on the 28th. Also thank you to Mary Ballard who has served both roles faithfully so we could safely distance from others.

I have office hours on Tuesdays from 2:00p.m. - 6:00p.m. We can meet outside staying 6' apart with masks if you prefer. Also, I am doing safe distancing home visits, meeting 6' apart and wearing masks. I will visit and/or bring communion to whomever wishes, and for safety using the pre-wrapped host and wine. At the writing of this letter I have communed 6 people.

Gather Bible Study has resumed and will be gathering via ZOOM through the summer. They started June 10 at 11:00 a.m. with a three part series called "Just Love." Kay Meints is our Bible Study Leader. Contact Norma (officemanager@stpaul-el.org) for more information, and a copy of the Study.

Bev Dirkin will be communicating on Healing Racism, which begins with the history of our country. The emphasis starts on love relationships and builds from there. The emphasis is

not on guilting anyone, but to help us see what got us where we are today. Stay tuned to the new creation.

Bar Theology is the third Sunday at 6:00 pm, currently via ZOOM. I think you would enjoy this. Bring your own beverage.

Bible Study is Thursday nights at 6:30 pm, currently via ZOOM. You do not have to be fluent with the Bible and can just listen if you wish.

Mary Hoffman is pulling together the Visitation team including Pat Cramer, Teresa, Waterkuetter, and myself. Thank you for stepping up. Currently, we have been putting together a worship bulletin, and reviewing the Training Manual for those who would like to be a Visiting Minister to take the consecrated bread and wine to home bound and shut ins. Mary will be actively visiting once her knee surgery allows.

Norma has been a blessing for us as we navigate around all the things that are a part of St. Paul. She has been working on sanitizing and cleaning the church as well. Many thanks.

Mary and I are thankful for your kind words and hospitality from the people of St. Paul. Because you are special people, and I believe God has something special for your future.

Finally a passage from Paul:

⁵ May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, ⁶ so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Romans 15:5-7

Grace and peace to you all.ⁱ

Pastor Carl

Council

Outdoor Church through July 19th

Outdoor Church at St. Paul has been a success! Many members have come together to worship the Lord, while maintaining responsible social distancing practices. At its recent meeting, the St. Paul Council voted to continue Outdoor Church, weather permitting, through July 19th. In case of rain on any given Sunday, we will return to Drive In Worship in the church parking lot.

Save July 19th on Your Calendar for a Special Congregational Meeting

Please save July 19, 2020 on your calendars for a Special Congregational Meeting, immediately following Outdoor Church. The purpose of the meeting is to (*finally*) vote on the Call Committee's recommendation to call Pastor Carl Ballard. More information will be coming in the mail, including information on providing input even if you are not comfortable meeting and voting in person.

A Special Thank You to Norma for Her Efforts Cleaning the Church and Mission House

It's been a while since many of you have set foot in the Church or Mission House. For the last several weeks, in addition to her normal duties, Norma has been thoroughly cleaning both buildings. They look great! Please join the St. Paul Council in thanking Norma for her exceptional efforts.

Call for 2021 Church Council Members and Officers

At the annual meeting this fall, our church will need to elect several new council members and officers. Please consider whether you would like to serve on Council during 2021. Our church needs you!

--- St. Paul Church Council

Worship

Guidelines for Worship

Outdoor Worship

As we continue outdoor worship, we would like to remind you of the CDC guidelines we are following. Your safety is our utmost concern. To make the worship the safest way possible here 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. In case of inclement weather, people will remain in their cars and worship will be broadcast on 1610AM.
- 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.
- **AND NEW FROM THE CDC.** The CDC has added 3 more symptoms of the coronavirus to its ongoing list. They are *congestion or runny nose, nausea, and diarrhea*. These were added, joining the federal agency's list that already included fever, cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, chills, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, and/or new loss of taste or smell.

Thank you for your kind words, flexibility, and patience with us during this challenging time. We are striving to 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.

JULY READINGS

Sunday, July 5th

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Zechariah 9:9-12

Romans 7:15-25a

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

Sunday, July 12th

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 55:10-13

Romans 8:1-11

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

Sunday, July 19th

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 44:6-8

Romans 8:12-25

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Sunday, July 26th

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

1 Kings 3:5-12

Romans 8:26-39

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-42

Commemoration of the Emanuel Nine – June 17

On June 17, 2015, Clementa C. Pinckney, Cynthia Marie Graham Hurd, Susie Jackson, Ethel Lee Lance, DePayne Middleton-Doctor, Tywanza Sanders, Daniel Lee Simmons, Sharonda Coleman-Singleton, and Myra Thompson were murdered by a self-professed white supremacist while they were gathered for Bible study and prayer at the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church (often referred to as Mother Emanuel) in Charleston, South Carolina. Pastors Pinckney and Simmons were both graduates of the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary.

A resolution to commemorate June 17 as a day of repentance for the martyrdom of the Emanuel Nine was adopted by the Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America on August 8, 2019.

Congregations of the ELCA are encouraged reaffirm their commitment to repenting of the sins of racism and white supremacy which continue to plague this church, to venerate the martyrdom of the Emanuel Nine.

A Prayer for the Power of the Spirit among the People of God

*God of all power and love, we give thanks for your unfailing presence
and the hope you provide in times of uncertainty and loss.*

Send your Holy Spirit to enkindle in us your holy fire.

Revive us to live as Christ's body in the world:

*a people who pray, worship, learn, break bread, share life, heal neighbors,
bear good news, seek justice, rest, and grow in the Spirit.*

Wherever and however we gather,

*unite us in common prayer and send us in common mission,
that we and the whole creation might be restored and renewed,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

From the Mitten Synod

UPDATED 6/15/20: Using funds from the North/West Lower Michigan Synod Disaster Relief Fund, the Synod has supplied food, water, cleaning supplies, and baby care supplies to shelters and sites in Gladwin and Midland counties. The Synod has also joined Michigan Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster as the ELCA is a member of the national organization to help assist those affected.

Much of the initial cleanup has finished and Pastor David Sprang is now talking with rostered ministers, county officials, and other church disaster organizations to see what role the Synod and Lutheran Disaster Response will play in the long term recovery plan for Mid- Michigan.

Thank you to all who have donated and helped support our work in helping those affected by the flooding. We are continuing to collect funds for recovery efforts through the [North/West Lower Michigan Synod Disaster Relief Fund](#). In addition, Thrivent is offering a matching gift program that will assist Mid-Michigan and the Midland/Gladwin Community Foundation is also collecting gifts.

Social Outreach & Ministry

Food Pantry Garden



Thank you to our gardeners and their hard work as our garden begins to flourish.

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.

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

St. Paul Pantry

A total of 616 clients have been served from January 1-May 31, 2020, which meant 191 families were helped. Thank you to all of our volunteers working at the Food Pantry who have helped to keep providing this valuable service to our clients.

Since January 1, 2020, our food pantry has received donations of 1976.4 pounds of food from members as well as outside donors. Additionally, in the past month our food pantry received a donation of \$1000.00 from a family in East Lansing. A thank you note has been sent.



St. Paul Pantry

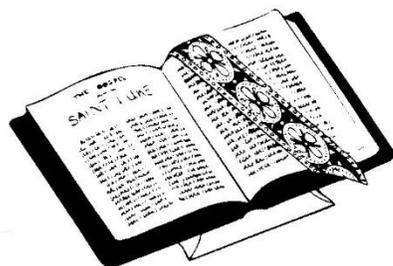
The Food Pantry is still seeking volunteers who are able to work on Thursday afternoon pantry distribution days. We still currently have regular volunteers unable to work due to having to stay safe at home during the coronavirus pandemic. Hours could be adjusted to fit someone's schedule if the current hours would not work. Please contact Bev Johnson, Char Smith, or Tracy Collins if you would be able to help out.

The following is a list of items needed for the Food Pantry which we generally cannot obtain from the Greater Lansing Food Bank:

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

Bible Study

Women's Bible Study



Our Gather Bible Study will continue through the Summer, with the next ZOOM meeting on July 8th at 11:00 a.m. We continue with a three-part series called “Just Love.” Kay Meints will be our Bible Study leader. Contact Norma (officemanager@stpaul-el.org) for more information and a copy of the Study.

Bible Study – Thursday Evening

Thursday night Bible Study utilizes the recurring meeting link for ZOOM that has been established for St Paul use. I would like to invite all to participate. We meet every Thursday evening from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. to read and discuss a Scripture passage. We finished Ecclesiastes on June 25th and have chosen the next book we will explore.

We welcome your presence as we study and learn.

Healing Racism

Reflections and Invitation

Bev Dirkin

June has been a difficult and emotional month for me. I appreciated the Commemoration of the Emmanuel Nine service, held on Facebook Live by the ELCA, on June 17th, the fifth anniversary of that tragic event. I hope you got a chance to worship with Bishop Elizabeth Eaton and many others from the AME and ELCA. Our connection to the horrifying killing of nine people is twofold. Both Pastors of this church, who were murdered, received their training at the ELCA Southern Seminary. The young man who took the lives of nine people attending a Bible Study was raised in an ELCA Congregation. I wept as the pain of these killings was brought back to mind. If you missed the Commemoration Service, you could watch it on the ELCA YouTube channel or the ELCA Website.

Friday, June 19th was *Juneteenth*, a day to remember that the final chapter of slavery. This date is the anniversary of the end to slavery in Texas, two years after President Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation. Judith Roberts, ELCA Director of Racial Justice Ministry,

posted a very good video explaining the history around this commemoration. If you would like more information about this watch Judith's video.

I have been enjoying our Bible Study on Thursday evenings. We finished up our study of Ecclesiastes and are discussing our next choice for study. There has been conversation about studying the Book of Revelations and using Barbara Rossings' book as a guide. We are taking a break for the month of July but please plan to join us for our next exploration. We meet on ZOOM so participation from home is easy. You can join the group at any time, so check is out.

I miss you all and am excited to see you once COVID 19 is no longer a concern. Have a blessed and joyful summer, my Friends!

Fellowship



On the third Sunday every month we will replace ZOOM coffee hour with ZOOM Bar Theology hour at 6:00 p.m. Look for emails detailing ZOOM codes. This is a way to join together until we can fellowship again in person. Please consider joining us!

Celebrations

- | | | |
|----|----------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1 | Ezra (1 st Birthday!) | |
| 4 | Christian Claucherty | 14 Randy McGrath |
| 6 | Craig Anderson | 16 Stan Strieter |
| 8 | Kay Seppala | 25 Norma VanKuiken |
| 12 | Beth Leow McPhall | 30 Caleb Claucherty |



9 Paul & Tracy Collins

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.

Mark Your Calendars

St Paul Happenings for July 2020

- 5 Pantry Offering
- 8 Women's Bible Study – 11:00 am ZOOM Meeting
- 16 Council Meeting
- 27 Newsletter Deadline



Have you ever hugged someone, and their perfume or cologne lingers on you the rest of the day?

“You anoint me with the fragrance of your Holy Spirit.” Psalm 23

Can you imagine if this were true of every Christian? The very air inhaled on this earth would be filled with His life and love.

May your daily encounters leave an aroma of Jesus to diffuse the foul and soured smell of what is happening around us.

Everyone needs a breath of fresh air...

Kathy Troccoli

God gave you a fingerprint that no one else has, so you can leave an imprint that no one else can.



Just for Laughs



There was a couple, and they were having difficulties in their marriage. They thoughtfully made the decision that if they were going to stay together, they would need the help of a marriage counselor.

On their first visit the counselor said *“communication is a very important component, among others, to a good marriage. This includes being a good listener too.”*

Then the counselor asked the husband, *“what is your wife’s favorite flower?”*

To which the husband got exasperated and exclaimed, *“this is dumb, what does that have to do with anything?”* He subsequently leaned over to his wife and whispered in her ear, *“it’s Pillsbury, right?”*

(Jim Claucherty shared this with me. I paraphrased it.)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
June 28 10:00 AM –Outdoor Worship On Facebook & You Tube	29	30 2–6 pm - Pastor in Office	July 1 5:30 PM - Pantry Dist	2	3	4 
5 PANTRY OFFERING 10:00 AM –Outdoor Worship On Facebook & You Tube	6	7 2–6 pm - Pastor in Office	8 11:00 AM - Women's Bible Study on ZOOM	9 2:00 PM - Pantry Dist	10	11
12 10:00 AM –Outdoor Worship On Facebook & You Tube	13 Council Reports Due to Council President and Church Office	14 2–6 pm - Pastor in Office	15 5:30 PM - Pantry Dist	16 7:00 PM – Council Meeting	17	18
19 10:00 AM – Outdoor Worship On Facebook & You Tube CONGREGATIONAL MEEETING Evening Bar Theology Hour	20	21 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 2–6 pm - Pastor in Office	22	23 2:00 PM - Pantry Dist.	24	25
26 10:00 AM – Outdoor Worship On Facebook & You Tube	27 Newsletter Deadline	28 2–6 pm - Pastor in Office	29	30 2:00 PM - Pantry Dist.	31	

JULY 2020



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.