



Spirit of St. Paul

St. Paul Lutheran Church, East Lansing, MI

AUGUST 2020

Dear Fellow Sinners and Saints,

WOW! Mary and I are still overwhelmed, humbled, and honored that you voted to call me as your Pastor. If you remember the original vote was supposed to take place March 22nd but was delayed because we could not gather in person due to Covid-19. In serving you during this interim time we followed the Spirit which we found active at St. Paul as we focused on our vision of the future. We enjoyed getting to know people in whatever way we could, received very kind words from many as we struggled to keep folks connected at a very challenging time. But we focused on Psalm 130:5 which says *“I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in his word, I hope”* along with the words of Julie Spira.

“Patience is a virtue. and the best things in life are worth waiting for.” My becoming your Pastor, and Mary working together with the people of St. Paul, has been consistent with our vision and has certainly been worth waiting for.

Becoming your Pastor is just the starting point. The Spirit keeps moving as Mary and I will continue to serve with others at St. Paul in moving forward at this difficult time knowing the future is bright, knowing people are generous in serving others, and sharing their resources.

Please pray for the people of St Paul with special emphasis on those who are staying in place for their safety. I am sure it is difficult to not be able to come to the Mission House or Sanctuary, and we pray they can join us again. We will share in God’s grace along with the peace of Christ. As Paul wrote to the Philippians in Chapter 4:4-7.

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵ Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:4-7 (NRSV)

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.

KEEPING CONNECTED ONLINE

At the last indoor Council meeting the leaders decided to continue Outdoor Worship until September 4th following the CDC recommendations for Faith Communities safety (“holding services and gatherings in a large, well-ventilated area or outdoors”). Outdoor worship has continued to be well received. Thank you to all who help to make this possible. It was exciting that not only have we had visitors, but on July 26th, the day before I wrote this letter had 9 youth attend with their parents.

In addition to our online Weekly Devotion, Mary has begun a Children’s Moments with both available every Thursday. Facebook and You Tube worship are available on Friday for those who cannot attend worship or prefer attending online. We deeply respect those who do not feel comfortable worshipping in person yet, but look forward to when, in due time, they are comfortable attending in person.

As a reminder, I now have office hours on Tuesdays from 2:00p.m.-6:00p.m. or by appointment. We can meet outside staying 6’ apart with masks if you prefer. Also, I am doing safe distancing home visits, meeting 6’ apart if preferred and wearing masks. I will visit and/or bring communion to whoever wishes, and for safety, use the pre-wrapped host and wine.

Gather Bible Study is 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 the Bible Study leader. Contact Norma (officemanager@stpaul-el.org) for more information and/or a copy of the Study.

I would like to close with a quote from an Online Story article *“Never regret a day in your life. Good days give you happiness, bad days give you experience, worst days give you lessons, and best days give you memories.”* Many happy memories.

Grace and peace to you all.

Pastor Carl

Council

Outdoor Church through September 13th

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 the Sunday following Labor Day – September 13th. In case of rain on any given Sunday, we will return to Parking Lot Church.

St. Paul Has Called Pastor Carl Ballard

On July 19, 2020, the St. Paul Congregation met for the purpose of voting on whether to call Pastor Carl Ballard to serve as St. Paul's minister. There was excellent attendance – both in person and remotely –with several members participating via Zoom. Two ballots were cast. The first ballot asked whether St. Paul should call Pastor Ballard, and the second ballot question concerned offering compensation consistent with ELCA guidelines for a ¾ time minister. Both votes were overwhelmingly in favor. Please join us in welcoming Pastor Carl as our new, permanent minister!

St. Paul Will Continue to Be a Polling Site for the August and November Elections

St. Paul will continue to serve the community as a polling site in the upcoming elections, including the August 4th primary. The City clerk has assured us that proper personal protective equipment and disinfectants will be provided, and it will reimburse the church for professional cleaning following each election date.

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.
- 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.
- If at any time you have the following symptoms, please remain home and worship with us on-line: 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, congestion or runny nose, nausea, and diarrhea. If you become sick during worship, kindly make your way to your car. If you need assistance, please make this known by hand gestures or speaking up; your safety is important.

Thank you for your kind words, flexibility, and patience with us during this challenging time. Thank you to the volunteers who set up and take down for worship each week. We could not do this without you!

AUGUST READINGS

Sunday, August 2nd

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 55:1-5

Romans 9:1-5

Matthew 14:13-21

Sunday, August 9th

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

1Kings 19:9-18

Romans 10:5-15

Matthew 14:22-33

Sunday, August 16th

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 56:1,6-8

Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

Matthew 15:[10-20] 21-28

Sunday, August 23rd

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 51:1-6

Romans 12:1-8

Matthew 16:13-20

Sunday, August 30th

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Jerimiah 15:15-21

Romans 12:9-21

Matthew 16:21-28

News

Synod Disaster Response: Mid-Michigan Flooding

UPDATED 7/9/20: The Mid-Michigan Flood Disaster Response is now moving into Long Range Recovery. Midland, Gladwin, and Saginaw counties have all set up their Long Range Recovery Groups. Most of the damage is located in Gladwin and Midland counties. The muck out in these areas has been completed, temporary shelters are closing, and Flood Resource centers are being consolidated. Most homes have received mold remediation spray and many are working on their own to rebuild.

The United Methodist Committee on Relief is taking the lead in Gladwin, Midland, and Saginaw Counties. Case managers will begin soon as the rebuilding process begins. The Synod congregations in the area are working to support flood victims in a variety of ways including home repairs, emergency food, and cooperating with other congregations to assist those in need. Information about scheduling work groups to come in from outside the area to assist in rebuilding will be available soon.

We are continuing to collect funds for recovery efforts through the North/West Lower Michigan Synod Disaster Relief Fund. Funds donated to this fund are being used to supply food and building materials.

From Bishop Satterlee

Dear Friends in Christ,

Peace be with you!

Governor Whitmer has signed two new executive orders, the first amends Michigan's Safe Start Order and the second issues revised workplace safeguards. Starting July 31, statewide indoor gatherings will be limited to 10 people or less and, across most of the state, outdoor gatherings will be limited to 100 people or less.

As we have heard from our Governor and state health officials, the increase in COVID-19 cases is closely associated with spreading at large social gatherings. Locally, we have seen a gathering at a bar in East Lansing lead to 187 cases and a party at Torch Lake lead to at least 43 confirmed cases. Nationwide, the number of deaths from COVID-19 has surpassed 150,000 and we must continue to do our part in reducing the spread and impact of this virus.

Although a place of worship will not be penalized for willful violations of these orders, the ELCA does not support civil disobedience. We have a responsibility to protect our rostered ministers, congregation members, and the general public. We do this by following the mandates from our Governor, maintaining social distancing, and wearing masks. As Christ so loved us, these are ways we love one another in Jesus' name.

We all long for a full return to normalcy; however, we must remain vigilant in reducing the spread of this virus. We are still Church Together even when we are apart and our distance does not impact our ability to share God's love, peace, and grace with our neighbors. As we continue in these uncertain times, please know that I continue to hold you 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

Food Pantry Garden



Thank you to our gardeners and their hard work as our garden begins to flourish. We have harvested zucchini, summer squash, cucumbers, greens, lettuce, and peppers so far. Much more to come!

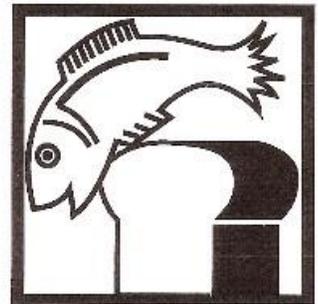
We received a donation of fresh vegetables from a woman who farms numerous acres in the area. She promises more too! What a wonderful gift!

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 686 clients have been served from January 1-June 30, 2020, which meant 221 families were helped. In the month of July we are currently seeing Food Pantry clients on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday evenings and the 2nd, 4th, and 5th Thursday afternoons of the month. This has been working well so far and we will continue this in the month of August, depending on the number of clients we are serving. If we see an increase in clients needing to access the Food Pantry, we are able to increase our hours.



St. Paul Pantry

Thank you to all of our volunteers working at the Food Pantry who have helped to keep providing this valuable service to our clients.

We would like to thank the Garden volunteers for all their hard work. The garden is producing now, and the Food Pantry clients are benefiting from this. Since the end of June through 7/20/20, we have received 23.6 pounds of produce from the garden, as well as 21 pounds from a member's garden. In addition since January 1, 2020, our food pantry has received donations of 2,351.6 pounds of food from members as well as outside donors.

The Food Pantry is still seeking volunteers who are able to work on Thursday afternoon pantry distribution days. We are happy to welcome Jeanne McGuire to our volunteers at the Pantry. She is a neighbor of Barb and Rich and will be here for the summer and wanted to volunteer. 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	Toothpaste
Toothbrushes			

Meijer / Simply Give

In a letter dated July 27, 2020 Meijer wrote this:

“In support of our deep-rooted hunger relief efforts, we will be launching a Fall Simply Give campaign to help replenish the shelves of our food pantry partners. The campaign will run a total of five weeks from the dates of **Sunday, August 23, 2020, through Saturday, September 26, 2020.**

Double Match Days will continue

- During the fall campaign, the Double Match Days will be held on Friday, September 11, 2020, and Saturday September 12, 2020. For every #10 donation card purchased on these dates, Meijer will provide an additional contribution of \$20, bring the total donation to \$30 for a single customer purchase.
- Each pantry’s donation resulting from Double Match Days will have the opportunity to be matched by Meijer up to a maximum amount of \$10,000 for the campaign. (Customer donations of \$5,000 would be doubled matched by Meijer at a maximum amount of \$10,000).

Food insecurity continues to be on the rise in the communities we serve, even more so during these uncertain times, which makes our commitment to the cause even more vital. Thank you for joining us as we work to fight hunger. We could not do this without your support.”

Bible Study

Women's Bible Study



Our Gather Bible Study will continue through the Summer, with the next ZOOM meeting on August 12th 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

The St Paul Bible Study group reconvenes in September. We meet on ZOOM every Thursday evening at 6:30. We will be studying The Book of Revelation. We plan to use Barbara Rossing's book The Rapture Exposed: The Message of Hope in the Book of Revelation as our guide for the study. Here is a synopsis of the book from Amazon:

“The idea of The Rapture” the return of Christ to rescue and deliver Christians off the earth is an extremely popular interpretation of the Bible's Book of Revelation and a jumping-off point for the best-selling Left Behind” series of books. This interpretation, based on a psychology of fear and destruction, guides the daily acts of thousands if not millions of people worldwide. In *The Rapture Exposed*, Barbara Rossing argues that this script for the world's future is nothing more than a disingenuous distortion of the Bible. The truth, Rossing argues, is that Revelation offers a vision of God's healing love for the world. *The Rapture Exposed* reclaims Christianity from fundamentalists' destructive reading of the biblical story and back into God's beloved community.”

If you are interested in being a part of this group, please contact the Church Office, so that we can get a copy of the Rossing book for you. Please provide your email address so you can receive weekly emails as reminders or in case of changes. The group will not meet on the night of Church Council meeting.

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

3 James Fortune
6 Tracy Collins
10 Bev Johnson
17 Dee Hartwig
18 Marge Pratt



19 Katrina Kitts
21 Holly Kitts
22 Teresa Waterkuetter
25 Kaitlyn Hynes

Anniversaries

- 10 Jim & Pat Cramer
- 13 Craig & Julie Anderson
- 18 Randy & Mary McGrath



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 August 2020

- 2 Pantry Offering
- 4 ELECTION DAY
- 12 Women's Bible Study – 11:00 am ZOOM Meeting
- 20 Council Meeting
- 25 Newsletter Deadline

Thank You

Thank you to each and everyone of you! You have continued to put value into the life here at St. Paul. You have volunteered in anyway that you could, you have participated in worship either online or at our outdoor worship, participated in ZOOM Bible Studies, and attended meetings either on ZOOM or in person.

Thank you for love and care that you have for each other and for those that we reach outside of our doors. Thank you for your gift of grace as we navigate this time of separation.

Blessings.

Community Help Wanted

The Easiest Race You Will EVER Do!

August 9, 2020, Sunday, 6:00 am through August 15, 2020,

Saturday, 11:59 pm.

NO! You don't run for a full week.

This is a race **you** choose how **you** want to do it.

You chose the day or days during the week of the race!

You choose your distance.

You choose your route!

You can live or go anywhere in America!

You can even use your treadmill!

Some of **You** may choose to sit on the couch and donate!

YOU choose!

You may walk by yourself, with a friend or with a small group spaced apart.

Have some fun, exercise and support our Extended Shelter.

Your registration will help Hannah's House babies and their moms.

\$30 and \$15 (for student)

Sign up here. <https://runsignup.com/Race/MI/National/Lansing>



It's that simple!!

Register and pay a donation fee!

You will receive more information!

Thank you for your generous support!

We are celebrating 25 years!

Volunteers Urgently Needed!

Judson is ready to serve children with back to school clothing in August and September—but **volunteers are desperately needed!** Due to Covid-19, many of their high risk volunteers are unable to serve right now. This has forced Judson to limit how many families they can serve.

Volunteers from local congregations are needed to fill this gap and get children necessary clothing. ***It has been 3 months since clothing banks were open and families are in great need!***

Your Congregation can help Judson's Love Clothing Center serve children with back to school clothing in August & September! By volunteering in groups of 5 or 10 people (individuals can also participate), you can help distribute clothing. **Without volunteer teams, we will not be able to help children on Saturdays!** Please talk to your church members now about participating in a day of blessing others with the love of Jesus!

Dates for your group of 5 or 10, Saturdays from 9:00 am—2:30 pm

August 8, 15, 22, 29; September 12, 19, 26



CALL CHRISTIAN SERVICES to reserve your date (394-5413) and to check availability. Volunteers must be high school age and older with one adult for each student volunteer.

Judson's safety procedures are available for your review—just give us a call!

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p style="text-align: right;">2</p> <p>PANTRY OFFERING 10:00 AM –Outdoor Worship Facebook & You Tube</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">3</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">4</p> <p>ELECTION DAY</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">5</p> <p>2–6 pm - Pastor in Office 5:30 PM - Pantry Dist</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">6</p> <p>Norma – Vac</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">7</p> <p>Worship Facebook & You Tube</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">8</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">9</p> <p>10:00 AM –Outdoor Worship Facebook & You Tube</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">10</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">11</p> <p>2–6 pm - Pastor in Office Norma – Vac</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">12</p> <p>11:00 AM - Women's Bible Study on ZOOM Norma – Vac</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">13</p> <p>2:00 PM - Pantry Dist Norma – Vac</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">14</p> <p>Worship Facebook & You Tube</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">15</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">16</p> <p>10:00 AM – Outdoor Worship Facebook & You Tube Evening Bar Theology Hour</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">17</p> <p>Council Reports Due to Council President and Church Office</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">18</p> <p>2–6 pm - Pastor in Office</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">19</p> <p>5:30 PM - Pantry Dist</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">20</p> <p>7:00 PM – Council Meeting</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">21</p> <p>Worship Facebook & You Tube</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">22</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">23</p> <p>10:00 AM – Outdoor Worship Facebook & You Tube</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">24</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">25</p> <p>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 2–6 pm - Pastor in Office</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">26</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">27</p> <p>2:00 PM - Pantry Dist. Worship Facebook & You Tube</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">28</p> <p>Worship Facebook & You Tube</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">29</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">30</p> <p>10:00 AM – Outdoor Worship Facebook & You Tube</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">31</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">September 1</p> <p>2–6 pm - Pastor in Office</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">2</p> <p>5:30 PM - Pantry Dist</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">3</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">4</p> <p>Worship Facebook & You Tube</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">5</p> <p>Labor Day Weekend</p>

AUGUST 2020



St. Paul Lutheran Church

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www.stpaul-el.org

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