



Spirit of St. Paul

St. Paul Lutheran Church, East Lansing, MI

OCTOBER 2020

My Brothers and Sisters in Christ, the Risen One,

As we were navigating through Sunday, we have had significant changes the last several months, and I did not anticipate the sudden change in Marys' and my life.

When someone ran into the back of my vehicle on 8/28 pieces of my disc needed to be removed. After Redi-Care, Doctor, Emergency Room visits, and several tests later, the Neurosurgeon used a minimally invasive procedure. With a smaller incision, the hope is my recovery will take less time. I am looking forward to an amicable parting with my constant friend - *my walker*. I will get an update on my progress next Wednesday.

I would like to share with you the blessing that has come from this. First of all, I have spent most of my time in prayer, for myself and others. Spiritually, it helped me to recognize I am not in control, something that has been a lifetime struggle. I had to recognize God, the Great Healer, is in control. Good news indeed! I was the recipient of great care by those whom God has given great gifts. I had the opportunity to talk with many of the medical people about the things going on there and in their life; and to meet and share with one of the Chaplains.

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.

When I prayed it was not for the elimination of my severe pain, (my faith is not at the level of believing a lightning bolt would strike and my pain would be gone), but rather that God be with others in their suffering.

I am humbled and am honored to be your Pastor. I recognize the blessing it is to have others step in so that St Paul can continue. Thank you to all of those who have carried on in my absence.

We are entering a time of pledging to the ministry at St Paul. In praying, I try to give in response to God's blessings, so I am compelled to increase what I give this year. I have total trust the Council will use my contributions for the glory of God.

Thank you for all of your prayers, cards, and phone calls, they have meant so much to me.

Blessings,

Pr Carl

Mitten Synod News

“Say the Magic Words!” The problem with a “bishop’s stick,” of course, is that it is too long to function as a magic wand. If I had a magic wand, I could, for example, conjure up a 35-year-old pastor, married with two kids, with 30 years’ experience, who is independently wealthy, and so does not require a salary, and attracts young families without changing a thing in the church. “Parochus perfectus!” More importantly, I could make COVID-19 disappear, banish the powers of violence and racism, and heal the divisions in our country.

Obviously, the danger of my having a magic wand is that I might do something crazy with it. I might, for example, make all church services—indoor, parking lot, and online—disappear for four Sundays. “Destruunt cultum!” Church doors would spontaneously seal shut. Church parking lots would have perpetual thunderstorms. Congregations’ online platforms would only display puppies and kitties playing. It would be kind of like when God told Jeremiah to stop praying for the people (7:16).

For I hear more grumbling about worship than gratitude for worship. Now the Bible attests that grumbling or murmuring is a characteristic of God's people. We miss singing, hugging, sitting together in our pews, and coffee hour. Some of us are still missing the Sacrament. Yet, Scripture also attests that eventually people like Moses, Elijah, and even God reach their limit and get fed up. I learned very young that, when something gets taken away, we miss it, cherish it, and appreciate what we have rather than complain about what we don't. "Destruunt cultum!"

I also hear that pastors, deacons, musicians, and technicians are just plain tuckered out and don't know how they can take vacation or a break. A spirit of competition and the fear that people will go elsewhere keep congregations from working together so that everyone gets a break. Shutting worship down would give everyone a chance to rest. "Destruunt cultum!"

So it's probably good that I don't have a magic wand. All I have are some magic words, words that, if we say them every day and try a little harder to live by them, are bound to produce magic. "Como os he amado, también os améis los unos á los otros." "Even as I have loved you, you also love one another," Jesus said (John 13:34). Taking these magic words to heart turns grumbling into gratitude and frees us to put others' needs ahead of our own, as Jesus did for us on the cross.

"Améis los unos á los otros." Perhaps these magic words will quiet our complaining. We might even worship as a congregation with another congregation one Sunday—something easily done virtually—and promise to come back as a way of insisting our leaders take a break.

Like Israel in the wilderness, we still have a long way—and a long while—to go before this pandemic is over. The University of Washington projects the virus will kill 410,450 Americans by January 1, 2021. We can quibble about the exact number, but the trend is alarming. We can save lives by wearing masks, social distancing, and minimizing gatherings. In my own prayers, I hear Jesus bidding us to embrace these practices as ways we love one another as Jesus loves us. We also need to begin to

tell ourselves that celebrating Advent and Christmas differently is preferable to celebrating Advent and Christmas by attending funerals that could've been avoided. Magic won't do it. Loving one another as Jesus loves us will. "Améis los unos á los otros."

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

<https://www.mittensynod.org>

Council

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

~~~~~

**Commitment Sunday and Congregational Meeting**

Please mark your calendars!

Commitment Sunday will be **October 11<sup>th</sup>**.

The Congregational Meeting will be Sunday, **November 22<sup>nd</sup>**

For those of you who are on committees, you need to be thinking about your contribution for the annual report to the congregation. You can send it via email (this is the easiest form) to [officemanager@stpaul-el.org](mailto:officemanager@stpaul-el.org) or give it to Norma directly. These would be appreciated by **November 1st**.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this matter.

**Stewardship Committee**

---

"One of the few things in this world that is predictable is that there will be change." That was the first line for last year's stewardship letter. What an understatement! Our church family has changed as we have again lost beloved members and have gained wonderful new members with the call of Pastor Carl Ballard and his lovely wife Mary and we welcome back with joy Norma as our office manager. We are spending a LOT more time outdoors at church, have a tremendous Pastor and

partner in ministry in Mary, our talented musicians, Praise Team, and technical advisors who have brought you services by social media as well as in the parking lot. We have dearly missed Kay Seppala's treats and creativity every Sunday after church. There has been no fish fry in many months. New gardeners have stepped up to continue to make the church garden productive and available to the St. Paul Food Pantry. The Pantry continues to feed those in need; thank you to those whose talents and efforts make it work by unloading, stocking, providing food to clients and doing all the paperwork. And, oh yeah, almost forgot about COVID. Masks, social distancing, vaccine trials and many other pandemic related words and phrases are now etched into our vocabulary.

Through it all, St. Paul has endured and, in many ways, prospered. This is in no small part due to members and friends who have kept and exceeded their financial commitments to the ministry of St. Paul and the Church as a whole. It is again time to make your annual commitment to further this ministry and God's kingdom here on earth with a focus on sustaining and strengthening our church home and our community. It is a welcoming beacon to all, inviting everyone and following the example of the Lord. It is also worthy of our stewardship and support. Please reflect on how you can support those goals and bring the kingdom of God closer for all. Consider how you can share your talents, monetary and otherwise, to support the mission of St. Paul.

Pray over the abundant blessings provided by God for you and your family. Please bring your completed card on Sunday, October 11<sup>th</sup> or mail it back earlier to the church office. This will help the congregation effectively and efficiently budget for the coming year when we discuss and approve such a budget at the November 22, 2020, Annual Congregational Meeting. We thank you for your commitment to St. Paul for telling and living the Good News. Help us share these abundant blessings with all.

### **St. Paul's Stewardship Committee**

Pastor Richard Moe, Retired

Chuck Nelson, Congregation Vice-President

Maryann Louney, Financial Secretary

**OCTOBER READINGS**

**Sunday, October 4th**

*Rev. David Augenstein*  
*Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost*  
Isaiah 5:1-7  
Philippians 3:4b-14  
Matthew 21:33-46

**Sunday, October 11th**

*Rev. David Augenstein*  
*Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost*  
Isaiah 25:1-9  
Philippians 4:1-9  
Matthew 22:1-14

**Sunday, October 18th**

*Rev. Jim Couser*  
*Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost*  
Isaiah 45:1-7  
1 Thessalonians 1:1-10  
Matthew 22:15-22

**Sunday, October 25th**

*Rev. Jim Couser*  
*Reformation Sunday*  
Jeremiah 31:31-34  
Romans 3:19-28  
John 8:31-36



**Guidelines for Worship**

**Indoor Worship**

- As we continue 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. (3 empty chairs between family groups.)
- Everyone wears a mask. Please make sure it covers both your mouth and nose. 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. We will need to be attentive to the 6' social distancing rule when entering and exiting, or inside the facilities. One person in the restroom at a time is highly recommended.
- No singing. Singing has shown to infect an area far greater than 6', so we will use pre-recorded music on speakers.
- 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. 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 in spirit: 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 for worship each week. We could not do this without you!

~~~~~  
Next Worship Committee meeting is Monday, Oct. 5, at 6:30.
~~~~~

### YouTube and Facebook

Although Pastor and Mary have been taking a break from social media due to unforeseen circumstances, Pastor has arranged for others to contribute to our social outreach ministry. So while Pastor is away, please know he is thinking of us at St. Paul, and those we reach through this ministry.

---

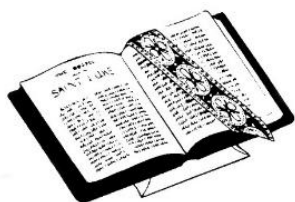
Do you have something you would like to share?

Whether it is a newsletter article, a devotion, or maybe your child would like to be on kid's chat with Mary. We appreciate your input.

Please let Pastor or Norma know if you are willing and able!

~~~~~  

Women's Bible Study



Our Gather Bible Study will continue with the next ZOOM meeting on October 14h at 11:00 a.m. Mary Ballard will be leading our study. We continue Fall 2020 with session two of a three -session Bible Study called "Holy Time" with the Rev.

Meghan Johnston Aelabouni. In this three-session Bible study, Rev. Johnston Aelabouni invites us to remember the past, recognize the present and reimagine the future.

Session 2: Holy time: Recognizing the now

Scriptures: Mark 14:3-9, Luke 4:16-21, Luke 12:54-56, 2 Corinthians 6:1-10

Themes/Questions: How do we grasp the times we are living in? How did Jesus, the woman who anointed him, and Paul all recognize “kairos” time—and what is it? What does it mean to recognize our calling to “be present”?

Contact Norma (officemanager@stpaul-el.org) for more information and a copy of the Study.

Gather is excited to share that Meghan Johnston Aelabouni, author of the fall 2020 Bible study, “Holy time,” has created a series of videos to accompany the study. This playlist includes three videos for session one, “Holy memory: Why we remember and how God remembers us.”

To access all three videos use the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL4J1yCrFlkNYbbje3AdCbWtgVyzmJUIE2>.

Social Outreach & Ministry

Food Pantry Garden

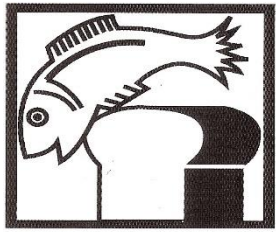
Thank you to our gardeners for all their hard work this past growing season! We have harvested zucchini, summer squash, cucumbers, greens, lettuce, peppers, green beans, pumpkins, watermelon, and tomatoes, so many tomatoes.



Our clients were so grateful for the fresh produce provided.

Our garden, as well as those of others, were truly a blessing those in need.

Garden clean-up will take place once the growing season has finished. If you would like to volunteer, your hard work is welcome. Let the office know if you are interested. Thank You.



St. Paul Pantry

A total of 686 clients have been served from January 1-August 31, 2020, which meant 293 families were helped. We are currently serving Food Pantry clients on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month from 5:30-7:30 p.m. and on the alternating Thursdays of the month from 1:00-4:00 p.m. The daytime hours on Thursdays have been set earlier to

accommodate staff scheduling. We are starting to see an increase in clients needing to access the Food Pantry since the start of school. We will adjust our Thursday schedule in the future if we continue to see a rise in clients. Thank you to all of our volunteers who help to keep providing this valuable service to our clients.

We would like to thank the Garden volunteers for all their hard work. The garden has produced abundantly this summer and the Food Pantry clients are benefiting from this, as well as donations from members' gardens. Since 7/31/20 through 9/25/20, we have had 454.4 pounds of produce donated. In addition from 1/1/20-9/25/20 we have received food donations from members, as well as outside donors, totaling 3,468.12 pounds.

The Meijer's Simply Giving program supporting St. Paul's Food Pantry is still going on and will continue through 10/24/20. Donation cards can be found in a display in the Narthex or are available at the Meijer's store on Lake Lansing Road at the checkout lines. Thank you to all of you who have already donated.

The Food Pantry is still seeking volunteers who are able to work on Thursday afternoon pantry distribution days. 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:

5# Flour

4# Sugar

Veg/Canola Oil

Spices

Hot Chocolate

Coffee

Tea Bags

Boxed Salt

Syrup

Catsup

Mustard

Cereal

Toilet Paper	Paper Towels	Kleenex	Dish Soap
Laundry Soap	Deodorant	Toothpaste	
Toothbrushes	Disposable Razors		
Shampoo (adult, children, baby)		Conditioner	


Mark Your Calendars

St Paul Happenings for October 2020

- 1-24 Meijer *Simply Give* Days
- 4 Pantry Offering
- 5 Worship Committee Meeting
- 14 Women’s Bible Study – 11:00 am ZOOM Meeting
- 18 Commitment Sunday
- 25 Bar Theology
- 26 Newsletter Deadline

Celebrations

Birthdays

- | | | |
|---------------------|---|-------------------|
| 03 Judith Fryer |  | 19 Rachel Joseph |
| 07 Pat Schrauben | | 21 Chuck Nelson |
| 10 Grant Bradley | | 25 Kristin Hynes |
| 13 Maryanne Louney | | Daniel Nelson |
| 14 Stacy Turke | | 27 Mary Ballard |
| 19 Ethan Claucherty | | 30 Jim Claucherty |

Anniversaries

- | | | |
|----------------------------|---|----------------------|
| 01 Vicki & Gary Kitts |  | 17 Bob & Kay Seppala |
| 28 Pr. Carl & Mary Ballard | | |

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.

~~~~~

October is Clergy Appreciation Month  
Clergy Appreciation Day is October 13<sup>th</sup>!

---

**Community Help Wanted**

**Volunteer Opportunity ~ Thanksgiving Intake**

From October 13<sup>th</sup> through 23<sup>rd</sup> the **Christian Services Help Line** adds extra lines to take calls from families requesting help with Thanksgiving food. This is a great opportunity to help people in our community as well as learn more about how the Christian Services' Help Center functions. Because the only requests taken during this time are for Thanksgiving Food, the intake process is fairly simple and easy to learn. Staff provides needed training and is always available to assist as needed.

Volunteers are needed Monday through Friday for a morning or afternoon shift:  
Morning, 9 am to 12:30 pm -or- Afternoon, 12:30 pm to 3:30 pm.

Contact the Christian Services office at 394-5413 or email [CSLansing@acd.net](mailto:CSLansing@acd.net) for more information.

~~~~~

Hats & Mittens

Help children stay warm this winter by collecting hats & mittens. They are provided either through a Church network ministry bank or through Head Start classrooms. See the list below for locations and sizes needed at each. Call for drop off times.

Infant to 3 years: Pilgrim UCC, 484-7434, 125 S. Pennsylvania

3 to 5 years: Head Start Classroom near your church or bring to Christian Services office.

5 to 18 years: Judson Memorial Baptist, 882-5961, 531 Glendale

Winter Coats and Clothing

Throughout the fall and winter, our clothing banks continue to provide winter coats, hats, mittens, boots, etc., to families coming to them for clothing assistance. They gratefully accept donations of coats and other clothing items which are clean, in good condition, with working zippers!

Children's Sizes 4T—Teens: Judson Memorial Baptist, 531 Glendale, Lansing, 882-5961—Call for drop off times.

Infant sizes 0 - 3T: Pilgrim UCC, 125 S. Pennsylvania, Lansing, 484-7434—Call for drop off times.

Men's & Women's All Sizes: Seventh Day Adventist 5400 W St Joseph Hwy, 321-1963—Call for drop off times

St. Luke Lutheran-Christ Campus, Coats Only - 122 S Pennsylvania, Lansing, 482-2252. Donations accepted Mon-Wed, 9am-3pm—Call first to confirm.

School Age Children's Clothing

All children's clothing is helpful but especially needed are new socks and underwear, and new or like new school uniforms. Judson's goal is to provide a week's worth of socks and underwear for each child.

Donations can be brought to: Judson Memorial Baptist Church, 531 Glendale, 48910 Hours are Tues.-Fri., 9 to 2 or call the church at 882-5961. (Please be sure to leave your church name with all donations.)

Clothing sizes 4T to Teens (sizes to fit preschooler's to teens/adult sizes.)

New socks, briefs, boxer briefs, cotton panties, girls' camisoles, bras, sports bras.

New or Gently Used

School uniform items: • Khaki, Navy or Black Pants • White Button Down Shirts • White & Colored Polo Shirts • Blue, Black, White Sweaters

Other clothing in new or like new condition also needed.

If you have not responded to the request for updated information, please update Norma as soon as possible. This will allow her to get these printed this month.

Thank You!

All I Really Need To Know I Learned In Kindergarten

by Robert Fulghum

Most of what I really need
To know about how to live
And what to do and how to be
I learned in kindergarten.
Wisdom was not at the top
Of the graduate school mountain,
But there in the sandpile at Sunday school.

These are the things I learned:
Share everything.
Play fair.
Don't hit people.
Put things back where you found them.
Clean up your own mess.
Don't take things that aren't yours.
Say you're sorry when you hurt somebody.
Wash your hands before you eat.
Flush.
Warm cookies and cold milk are good for you.
Live a balanced life -
Learn some and think some
And draw and paint and sing and dance
And play and work everyday some.
Take a nap every afternoon.
When you go out into the world,
Watch out for traffic,
Hold hands and stick together.
Be aware of wonder.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27 10:00 AM – Indoor Worship	28	29	30 5:30 PM - Pantry Dist	1	2 Worship Facebook & You Tube	3
4 PANTRY OFFERING 10:00 AM –Indoor Worship	5	6	7 5:30 PM - Pantry Dist 11:00 AM - Women's Bible Study on ZOOM	8 6:30 PM - <i>The Rapture Exposed Bible Study</i>	9 Worship Facebook & You Tube	10
11 10:00 AM –Indoor Worship	12	13 Pastor Appreciation Day	14	15 1:00 PM - Pantry Dist. No Council Meeting	16 Worship Facebook & You Tube	17
18 10:00 AM – Indoor Worship <i>Commitment Sunday</i>	19	20 2–6 pm - Pastor in Office	21 5:30 PM - Pantry Dist	22 6:30 PM - <i>The Rapture Exposed Bible Study</i>	23 Worship Facebook & You Tube	24
25 10:00 AM – Indoor Worship Evening Bar Theology Hour	26 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	27	28	29 1:00 PM - Pantry Dist 6:30 PM - <i>The Rapture Exposed Bible Study</i>	30 Worship Facebook & You Tube	31 

October 2020



Living in God's amazing grace

St. Paul Lutheran Church My / Our Updated Giving for 2021

The earth is the LORD's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it. Psalm 24:1

I / we commit my / our entire life in service to Christ, and therefore will offer:

Annual Estimated Giving: _____

Please indicate either per **week** or per **month** by circling your choice.

\$_____ for Unified (Envelope Giving/General Offering).

\$_____ for Mission House Mortgage. (Designated)

\$_____ for Building Maintenance. (Designated)

\$_____ for Food Pantry. (Designated)

\$_____ Other. (Designated)

Please reply by 10/18/20. In-person, mail, or email to Maryann Louney at mlouney@gamil.com.



Living in God's amazing grace

St. Paul Lutheran Church My / Our Updated Giving for 2021

Please return this portion of pledge card

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Annual Estimated Giving: _____

Per **week** or per **month** (circle only one)

\$_____ for Unified (Envelope Giving/General Offering).

\$_____ for Mission House Mortgage. (Designated)

\$_____ for Building Maintenance. (Designated)

\$_____ for Food Pantry. (Designated)

\$_____ Other. (Designated)

Signature(s) _____

Date _____



St. Paul Lutheran Church

3383 E. Lake Lansing Rd.

East Lansing, MI 48823

517/351-8541

www.stpaul-el.org

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