



Spirit of St. Paul

St. Paul Lutheran Church, East Lansing, MI

May 2023

Fellow Minister in Christ,

During Easter in John 14:6 Jesus says to his disciples, and us, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." A powerful "I am" statement during Easter where Jesus tells us when we see him we see the Father. The Father is in him and he is in the Father and the words he speaks come from the Father and they lead to eternal life through him. Early Christians were not called Christians but were called the Way. They were fervent followers of Jesus. When he talks he is not using his words but the words of his Father as he tells his followers we are to work together to carry out what he tells us. He tells us to love one another as he has loved us and to serve others. He is the way. When we do this, we put on the armor of God. Paul's letter to the Ephesians says Chapter 6:10-18 for strength and power we put on the whole armor of God.

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.

¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power; ¹¹ put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil, ¹² for our^[a] struggle is not against blood and flesh but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present^[b] darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.^[c] ¹³ Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on the evil day and, having prevailed against everything, to stand firm. ¹⁴ Stand, therefore, and belt your waist with truth and put on the breastplate of righteousness ¹⁵ and lace up your sandals in preparation for the gospel of peace. ¹⁶ With all of these,^[d] take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷ Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. ¹⁸ Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints.

Today as a faith community, we are protected by the armor of God when we believe and we live our lives as "called" and "sent" people who express by actions and words the good

news of Jesus Christ among the people of Mid-Michigan. We are not simply committed to a cultural practice or obligation, but we live in fervent devotion to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. He is the way. We are committing our ministry to the understanding that we want to be followers of The Way. As followers of Jesus we live out our identity of being the faith community instead of just attending a church a church.

We put on the full armor of God so we can take our stand against the evil one. We are protected for any challenge, making sure that you are a person sharing God's truth. The truth will set you free? This includes sharing the gospel news about our Lord Jesus and why you believe in Christ.

When we look at the creation of the church in the New Testament we see that people were called by God to live the Way; so that they may learn the Way from fellowship with Christ; and then they were sent by Christ to lead the Way for others to hear about Jesus and fulfill the Great Commission in Matthew 26:18-20:

18 And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit 20 and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

The one who is the way, and the truth and the life offers hope as we bring restoration of all things to God the Father. We believe that as followers of Christ we miss out on the fullness of the Gospel when being a Christian is reduced simply to attendance at church. It is too easy to use the walls of the church as a way to keep others out, those who live on the margins. But it is the Way to instead invite them in and show hospitality.

We want St Paul to be part of a movement where being a follower of Jesus Christ is a new identity and way of life.

As we move forward to the future, honoring the past but going boldly into yet uncharted grounds, there has been talk of starting up the choir again. We will be offering training for greeters, Assistant Ministers and Acolytes. The food pantry is always looking for volunteers. If you want to quilt you can join our quilting group. I encourage you to step out and step forward by assisting wherever you can. let us wear our complete body of armor of God as we proudly proclaim to others He is Risen. Alleluia.

God bless all of you. Happy Spring.

Amen.

Pr. Carl

Food Pantry Report for May 2023 Newsletter



St. Paul Pantry

A total of 131 clients were served in March 2023, which meant 42 families were helped. So far since January 1, 2023, we have served 338 clients which means 113 families have been helped. We could not have accomplished this without the support of our congregation and the dedicated volunteers who work at the Food Pantry.

Between January 26, 2023, and March 25, 2023, 1538.6 pounds of food was donated for the Food Pantry from members of the congregation, as well as outside donors from the community. We are very grateful for these donations.

We received word that Meijer's is providing their Simply Giving partners for 2022 with an additional \$1 million to help continue our mission of feeding hungry families. The donation is divided among all the 2022 participating food pantries. St. Paul Food Pantry received a donation of \$2,140.00 in Meijer food only gift cards.

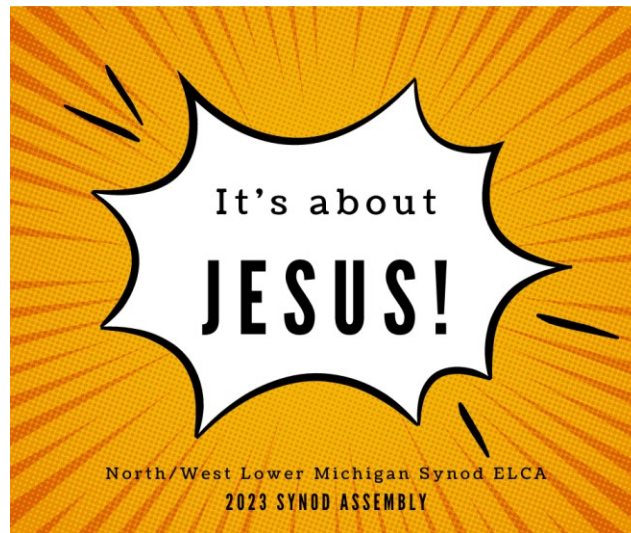
The new refrigerator that we received a grant for from United Dairy Industry of Michigan and Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Michigan, has been delivered and installed. I want to thank Chuck Nelson for helping to uncrate it for us. We have been visited by a representative of the United Dairy Industry of Michigan who checked it over and it is running now and we will be stocking yogurt, milk and other dairy products as available.

Volunteers are always appreciated who are able to work on Wednesday evenings and Thursday afternoon pantry distribution days. If you are available and would like to help, please contact Bev Johnson or Tracy Collins. The Food Pantry garden is being planned and started for this summer. If you would be willing to help with the garden, please contact Chuck Nelson or Barb Paff.



During May the Food Pantry is continuing to request donations of the following items, which are currently in short supply or unavailable from the Greater Lansing Food Bank.

TOMATO PASTE TOMATO SAUCE DICED TOMATOES
JELLY CANNED FRUIT KETCHUP MUSTARD SALT PEPPER



"In [Jesus] all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible...all things have been created through him and for him. [Jesus] himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. [Jesus] is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything" (Colossians 1:16-18).

The North/West Lower Michigan Synod's 2023 Synod Assembly will be held May 7-9, 2023, at the Comfort Inn and Suites in Mt. Pleasant, MI.

The theme for Synod Assembly is "It's About Jesus!" This year's Synod Assembly will be held in-person and will not be live-streamed or recorded.



May 10, 2023 @ 11am

Bring a sack lunch

Look for training session opportunities!

We are looking for...

- Reader
- Assistant Minister
- Communion Set up/Clean up
- Power Point Master
- Acolyte
- Greeter

Look for the sign up sheet after Sunday service.



Welcome Pastor Bright!

I am pleased to share the good news that Pastor Christina Bright accepted Synod Council's call to serve as Assistant to the Bishop of the North/West Lower Michigan Synod. We will install Pastor Bright in this office at Closing Eucharist at Synod Assembly. Pastor Bright will complete her ministry as pastor of New Life Lutheran Church of Alcona County in June.

Starting on July 17, Pastor Bright will serve as Director of Candidacy, oversee First Call Theological Education, and partner with me in the call process.

Our synod has exciting possibilities to pursue and important work to do. I am grateful that Pastor Bright is coming alongside to help, guide, teach, challenge, and support us all. Please remember Pastor Bright in your prayers and join me in welcoming her!

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

Dates to Remember:

- May 7th – Confirmation @7pm
- May 7-9th – Synod Convention, IT'S ABOUT JESUS, Mt Pleasant
- May 10th – Women's Gather Bible Study @ 11am, bring sack lunch
- May 18th – Council Meeting @ 7pm
- May TBD – Lugnuts Game
- June 4th – AED/CPR/First Aid Training @ 11:30 am. Training is free but a certification card from the American Heart Association is \$20.00.
- June 5th – Worship Committee Meeting @ 6:30pm
- TBD – Concert – MSU Musicians

May Birthday Celebrations

5/2 – James T.

5/9 – Pastor Carl

5/11 – Ethel M.

5/23 – Jim C.

5/29 – Bev D.



*if you were accidentally omitted, please contact the church via voicemail or email.

May 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Worship Committee meeting 6:30pm	2	3 Food Pantry 5:30-7	4	5	6
7 Worship Confirmation 7pm	8	9	10 Women's Bible study 11am	11 Food Pantry 1-4	12	13
14 Worship Mother's Day	15	16	17 Food Pantry 5:30-7	18 Council meeting 7pm	19	20
21 Worship	22 Newsletter Deadline	23	24	25 Food Pantry 1-4	26	27
28 Worship	29	30	31			



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.**