



# Spirit of St. Paul

St. Paul Lutheran Church, East Lansing, MI

July 2023

Fellow Minsters in Christ,

Our Summer began with some high heat and dry weather. As we have traveled and have gone by farmland, we are concerned and are praying for farmers that they have enough rain to have healthy crops. As we passed cornfields it is hard to imagine corn “knee high by the 4<sup>th</sup> of July.” The farmer’s livelihood is tied to factors beyond their control. When I worked on a farm and we had taken grain to the elevator the conversation was always about it being perhaps too wet or too cold but they always had hope. We too are dependent for our future and well-being. Our hope is in trusting a God who always tells and intercedes for our benefit: John 3:16 (NRSV) tells us <sup>16</sup>For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. By belief in Christ our future is secure through eternity. This gives us the freedom to be a slave to God, to boldly and persistently carry out his mission to the world.

The celebration of Bev Dirkin’s life is scheduled for July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at 11:00am with visitation starting at 9:00am and a reception following. Bev suffered during the last years of life trying to recover from a wound but that never happened. I thought scripture that fits Bev’s situation is:

*Romans 5:1-8 tells us “ Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. 3 And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, 4 and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, 5 and hope does not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. 6 For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. 7 Indeed, rarely will anyone*

## 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.

*die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. 8 But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.*

Bev always clung to her faith and trusted God to carry her through difficult times after a time of helping others throughout her life.

The fish fry is going to be July 16<sup>th</sup> after worship. Thanks to Chuck and all who make this happen. This is a great time to invite and welcome friends to meet the people of St. Paul.

I hope all will have a safe and enjoyable summer.

Pr. Carl

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**Social Outreach & Ministry**



*St. Paul Pantry*

### **Food Pantry Report for July 2023 Newsletter**

A total of 167 clients were served in May 2023, which meant 46 families were helped. So far since January 1, 2023, we have served 648 clients which means 209 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 May 25, 2023, 2899.9 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 good news from Meijer's again last week. St. Paul's Food Pantry has also been picked to be included once again in the Simply Giving Campaign for fall. The campaign will run from Sunday, July 2, 2023, through Saturday, September 30, 2023. We will once again be partnered with the Meijer's store on Lake Lansing Road. During the upcoming campaign, the Double Match Day opportunities will be held on Saturday, August 12, 2023, and Saturday, September 9, 2023. For every \$10 Simply Give card purchased on these dates, Meijer will provide an additional contribution of \$20.00, bringing the total to \$30.00 for a single customer purchase.

St. Paul's Food Pantry was also the recipient of 1080.10 pounds of food donated by Edgewood Village Apartments during the first and 2<sup>nd</sup> weeks of June. This was an unexpected blessing and will come in very handy.

The Food Pantry Garden has been planted for this summer and we would like to thank all of those who have volunteered, including keeping it watered during these hot, dry days we have had. We have already received some garden produce from a member's garden. If you would be willing to help with the garden, please contact Chuck Nelson or Barb Paff.

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.



During July the Food Pantry continues 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 PEANUT BUTTER KETCHUP MUSTARD SALT PEPPER  
LAUNDRY DETERGENT HAND SOAP DISH SOAP TOOTHPASTE

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### Upcoming Events

We are looking to start our choir back up beginning this fall! All who are interested in signing up or learning to sing should contact Elene or Kathy Griffin as soon as possible. Be on the lookout for more information.



July 12, 2023 @ 11am

Bring a sack lunch  
& a friend!



The fish fry is happening on Sunday, July 16<sup>th</sup>, after worship, in the fellowship hall. The proceeds will benefit the Food Pantry. Bring friends!

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.



## Dates to Remember:

- Every Wednesday – Adult Bible Study @ 7pm via Zoom
- July 8<sup>th</sup> – Bev Dirkin Visitation 9am – 11:00 am, Celebration of Life 11:00am
- July 12<sup>th</sup> – Gather Bible Study @ 11am
- July 16<sup>th</sup> – Fish Fry – invite others
- July 16<sup>th</sup> – Confirmation Study @ 7pm
- August 6<sup>th</sup> – Confirmation Study @ 7pm
- August 20<sup>th</sup> – Confirmation Study @ 7pm
- August 27<sup>th</sup> – Confirmation during service @ 10am
- September 17<sup>th</sup> – CPR/AED/First Aid Training

## July Birthday Celebrations

- 7/1 – Ezra
- 7/4 – Christian C.
- 7/6 – Craig A.
- 7/8 – Kay S.
- 7/12 – Beth M.
- 7/14 – Randy M.
- 7/16 – Stan S.
- 7/25 – Norma V.
- 7/30 – Caleb C.



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

## July 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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2 <b>Worship</b>	3	4	5 Food Pantry 5:30-7 Adult Bible Study 7pm	6	7	8 Bev Dirkin Celebration of Life 9-12
9 <b>Worship</b>	10 Worship Committee meeting 6:30pm	11	12 Women's Bible study 11am Adult Bible Study 7pm	13 Food Pantry 1-4	14	15
16 <b>Worship</b> <b>Fish Fry 11am</b> <b>Confirmation</b> <b>7pm</b>	17	18	19 Food Pantry 5:30-7 Adult Bible Study 7pm	20 Council meeting 7pm	21	22
23 <b>Worship</b>	24 <b>Newsletter Deadline</b>	25	26 Adult Bible Study 7pm	27 Food Pantry 1-4	28	29
30 <b>Worship</b>	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.**