



Spirit of St. Paul
St. Paul Lutheran Church, East Lansing, MI

August 2026

Fellow Ministers in Christ,

We are at the point in summer when people travel, vacation and recreate and hopefully take a respite from their busy life. At the same time a cadre of faithful folks serve the food pantry, and some have been working in the garden to produce fresh produce for the pantry. The garden has produced abundantly to help us feed our food pantry clients.

Our facilities require ongoing care, and we give thanks to Chuck and Mike who make sure this happens. Currently, we are focused on fixing the sanctuary air conditioning on the heels of replacing 3 furnaces.

We are seeking volunteers to do the Children's Message on Sunday. Stacy has taken some Sundays for which we thank her. Speaking of Stacy, she and Craig are exchanging vows in a private ceremony, and all are invited to a Happily Ever After Party and there is information and a sign up and an RSVP sheet on the long Entry Way shelf.

There is a Family Faith Night at the Lugnuts game on August 22nd where we can all sit together. The sign up sheet is also on the long counter in the entry way.

After volunteering at Living Waters Camp, Kathy took Charles & Claire to the following weeks Confirmation Camp in Stony Lake, New Era which was unfortunately cut short by the smoke in Canada. They reported they still had a good time.

How do we deal with all the evil in the world? Do you recognize it exists and just accept there will always be evil in the world, or do what you can to overcome it? My experience is that I cannot effectively fight evil in the whole world. Even thinking about it was crushing to my soul. What I came to realize is that I can try to deal with evil not on a global scale, but can be more effective in dealing with it on a more local scale.

We are still in the Sundays of Pentecost which began with:

²When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. ²And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. ⁴ All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. (Acts 2:2-4)

We are thankful for those who whom the Spirit sends increasingly to join with us each Sunday along with increasing volunteering to assist in God's mission to the community and the world. These existing relationships and new ones allow us to love one another as God loved us, which allows us to live in abundance.

During August we will turn to the parables to hear how:

1.) Jesus is able to feed us abundantly, even with scraps.

- 2.) God comes to us as stillness and silence, even to the point that wind ceases where Jesus walks over stormy waters to his disciples, entering their boat and being present with them despite their fears and doubts.
- 3.) Martin Luther's last written words. Christians are "beggars" for God's grace, undeserving but graced nonetheless.
- 4.) How disciples are formed over time—shaped by learning, worship, and all aspects of Christian life in community and finally
- 5.) Jesus explains to Peter and all his disciples that, in fact, this is the way to life—losing one's life to find it.

Then we get ready for back to school and return to Sunday School and God's Work, our Hands Sunday. Come and see. Come and hear. Come to celebrate.

Enjoy the rest of God's gift of summer and sunshine!

Pr. Carl

Social Outreach & Ministry

Food Pantry Report for August 2026



St. Paul Pantry

A total of 219 clients were served in June 2026, which meant 72 families were helped. So far since January 1, 2026, we have served 1135 clients which means 390 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 June 1, 2026, and June 30, 2026, 649 pounds of food was donated for the Food Pantry from members of the congregation, as well as outside donors from the community. Between January 1, 2026 and June 30, 2026, a total of 3337 pounds of food was donated. During the month of June, we also received 184 pounds of meat and cheese as a donation from the Bath Meijer's.

The garden is starting to produce zucchini, cucumbers, green beans, green peppers and hot peppers, as well as a few cherry tomatoes. The clients have been happy to get the fresh produce at the last two pantries. Thank you to everyone who is working in the garden and helping to gather the produce for us.

Volunteers are needed to unload and stock food on monthly delivery days from GLFB. Additional volunteers are needed to work on Food Pantry days to assist our clients. We currently see clients the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month from 5:00 p.m.-6:30 p.m., and the clients shop in person. On the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month we do pre-packs for clients to pick up. The volunteers generally start arriving around 12:00 Noon to start the pre-packs and we are there until around 3:30 p.m. We

can also use volunteers who would be willing to help in picking up the donations on the weeks that the Bath Meijer's has a donation for us and help in unloading and weighing the donation in. If you are interested in helping in any of these areas, please contact either Bev Johnson or Tracy Collins.

I would like to thank all of the volunteers, old and new, that have been helping at the Food Pantry in the last year, thank you so much!

During the month of August, the Food Pantry is asking for donations of the following items: **Salt, Diced tomatoes, Tomato Paste, Cereal, and Spices, Laundry Detergent, and Dish Soap.**

"Be the living expression of God's kindness." -Mother Teresa

A Note From Office Manager

July came in hot like a beacon of sunshine to our little state, along with some wildfire smoke that was not appreciated from Canada, but nonetheless still happened. I spent a little over a week up in Mackinaw City with three other friends, we had to unfortunately spend the last couple of days of said vacation stuck in a cabin, but glad I got to spend time with them even under the circumstances.

My dad had his final surgeon appointment on the 23rd and got told some good and bad news. The good news; the surgeon he spoke with prefers a challenge when it comes to new things in the medical field, and that my dad wouldn't need to focus on getting a kidney along with the double lung transplants as of right now. The bad news, is that we're still in the waiting stage to see if they'll work with him and with us on helping to achieve everything. He's lost weight, but his sugar levels still need to come down. My dad's a fighter and a survivor, he's been doing well with his physical and occupational therapy, he even managed to go out to Meijer just down the road from my parents' place for the first time last week in over a year.

Never doubt what God can do in a split second. I never doubt Him nor what He can do. It's all up to Him on whether or not things happen.

I hope everyone has a great rest of their summer.

Thanks,

Office Manager Emily

A Note from Mutual Ministry Committee

The church council and Pastor Carl have appointed a mutual ministry committee as described in the church's constitution, with two members plus Pastor Carl. The members are listed below.

Mutual Ministry's responsibilities are:

- *Support and advocate for both Pastor and congregation members in carrying out St. Paul's ministry*
- *Be a listening post and a sounding board, inviting ideas and suggestions for improving the congregation's ministry*
- *Encourage open communication and collaboration in carrying out our ministry*

If you have ideas or concerns you'd like to share, feel free to contact one of us, and we will share them with the appropriate person or group.

Craig An.

Barb Pa.

Upcoming Events

Dates to Remember:

- **Monday, August 3 – Worship Comm. Mtg. @ 6:30pm via Zoom.**
- **Tuesday, August 4 – Election @ 8am-10pm**
- **Wednesday, August 5 – Food Pantry @ 5-6:30pm**
- **Thursday, August 13 – Food Pantry @ 1-3pm**
- **Wednesday, August 19 – Food Pantry @ 5-6:30pm**
- **Thursday, August 20 – Council Mtg. @ 5pm**
- **Saturday, August 22 – Family Faith Night @ Lugnuts Stadium. Signup sheets are in the foyer.**
- **Thursday, August 27 – Food Pantry @ 1-3pm**
- **Sunday, August 30 – Noisy Offering.**
- **No Women's Bible Study during the month of August.**

August Birthday Celebrations

8/3 – James Fo.	8/6 – Tracy Co.
8/10 – Bev Jo.	8/18 – Marge Pr.
8/19 – Katrina Ki.	8/21 – Holly Ki.
8/22 – Teresa Wa.	8/25 – Kaitlyn Hy.
8/30 – Jim Mo.	8/31 – Claire Mo.



Anniversary Celebrations

8/10 – James & Pat Cr.
8/18 – Don & Marge Ke.
8/18 – Randy & Mary Mc.



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

August 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 9AM Adult Bible Study Worship Noisy Offering	31		No Women's Bible Study			1
2 9AM Adult Bible Study Worship	3 Worship Mtg @6:30pm	4 Election @8am	5 Food Pantry @5-6:30pm	6	7	8
9 9AM Adult Bible Study Worship	10	11	12	13 Food Pantry @1-3pm	14	15
16 9AM Adult Bible Study Worship	17	18	19 Food Pantry @5-6:30pm	20 Council Mtg @5pm	21	22 Lugnuts Family Faith Night
23 9AM Adult Bible Study Worship	24	25	26	27 Food Pantry @1-3pm	28	29



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