

# St. Paul Lutheran Messenger



Volume 2020 Issue 8

August 2020

## **Our Mission Statement:**

“To Grow in God’s Word and Share  
God’s Love”

## **Our Core Values:**

1. Building community inside and outside of our church building.
2. Nurturing and developing faith lives for all ages
3. Serving Others (in our neighborhoods, community, state and beyond)
4. Caring for our members and church building.
5. Investing in children, youth and their families.

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*“The LORD had said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you. “I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.” So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he set out from Harran.” Genesis 12:1-4*

### **When God Interrupts**

One of my traditions is to wake up early on Saturday mornings and begin my day with a devotion, cup of coffee and then move on to the paper. I love that time of day, because it is quiet and I don’t have to worry about being interrupted. At least that’s what I thought when my children were little. Much to my chagrin they also had a tradition of waking up early and waited until I held up the paper to attack. So much for a quiet morning, but now that my kids are grown I find myself looking back on those days nostalgically and I miss holding them in my arms. It also reminds me that some of the best blessings come with interruptions.

When God Interrupts is also a book written by M. Craig Barnes. My copy was given to me by a dear friend and retired pastor Bob Ensign. Bob is no longer living, but every time I pick up my book I think of him – he always had a knack for interrupting me too, but it was always worth it.

Craig reminds us that when God interrupts our life, which He always does, there is always something that must be left behind. We can see that with the call of Abraham, the disciples and anyone else who desires to be a follower of Jesus Christ. As Craig writes, “I have become convinced that Christianity is fundamentally an experience in losing our lives or our dreams in order

to receive the lives Jesus died to give us.”

We have to abandon any other dream, and other kind of relationship or other vocation. The Lord said to Abraham, “Go [don’t look back] from your country, your people and your father’s household...” These were also the things that gave Abraham his identity, but now God is calling him to leave those things behind so that He can bring him to a new land, and give him a new identity. What Abraham could not see at the time was that his decision to leave his old life behind, and the lineage that would come from him would culminate in Jesus, the savior of the world. That’s a pretty significant interruption!

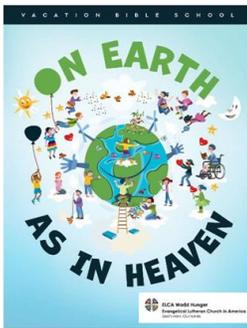
Craig goes on to write, “It is impossible to follow Jesus and not be led away from something? That journey away from former places, former attitudes, and former behaviors, to a new place is what converts us, transforms us.” Conversion is not simply saying “I believe” or accepting some doctrine, but it is a prayer of abandonment in which we invite the Holy Spirit to put to death the old person with all of its egocentric desires and “isms” so that we might be born again or born anew in Christ. Or as Paul says, “It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me.”

As you think about the passage what is God calling you to leave behind? What is God calling us as a congregation to leave behind, and what new attitudes and dreams is God calling us to live into?

Blessings in Christ Jesus our Lord,

PF

## Dan's Den



## Vacation Bible School

It is here! VBS started this past Sunday with twenty-one (21) kids signed up! All the parents and kids were excited to pick up a kit full of fun, along with a Bible to read and grow with their families! As families go through the lessons, they will send some photos in that I will share on Facebook and Instagram to share with all of you how God is at work in our community!

## Sunday School!

Don't forget, there are a number of devotions and activities for families to do together on our google classroom. Login information is below. **If google classroom does not work for you, please let me know so we can get you the materials!**

For this coming Fall, Pastor Fred and I are developing a plan for how best to engage with families. It will look different than the past due to COVID and we will not be holding regular in-person Sunday School this coming Fall. However, we do still plan on engaging and growing with families, there will be more to come as our plan develops this month!

## Connect!

This past week, with VBS being offered for younger children, we thought it would be a perfect time to re-Connect with our youth and have a (social-distancing) get-together and gifted each youth with a Bible that will hopefully follow them through their high school years as they grow with one another.

We will continue meeting via zoom for now until we have strong confidence in a plan for meeting in person. If you have any questions, concerns, or ideas please let me know!

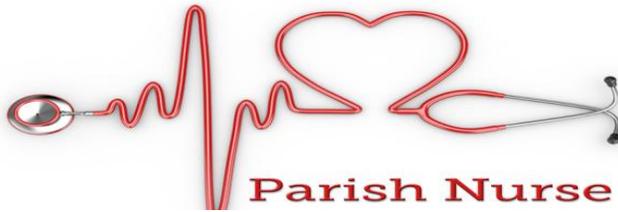


## St. Paul has an Instagram!

The purpose of this platform is to reach the community of St. Paul in new and different ways. Its second purpose is for the youth, as they are more likely on that platform, I am using it as a way to post updates for them!

Sunday School Google classroom code	Connect Google Classroom code	Instagram username
Nwh3xbt	2sk3wtc	Splc_stillwater

## August Health Minute



### How Can We Help Kids Wear a Mask?

*Face coverings should not be put on babies or children under age 2 because of the danger of suffocation.*

**Help kids get used to masks.** As much as you can, give kids time to practice wearing their masks before they need to wear one at school or outside the home. Teach them how to put them on and take them off.

**Encourage kids to decorate their mask.** This might help them feel a sense of ownership and control over the situation. A personal touch can help make it more of a normal part of their routine, and make it more likely they'll want to wear their mask. Permanent fabric markers are found in craft or sewing departments.

**Make them together.** If you make masks or cloth face coverings at home, let older kids help you. There are no-sew masks that are easy to make, often with materials you probably already have (T-shirts, bandannas, etc.). If you sew masks, kids can select the fabric or for the masks they'll wear.

**Help make it fun.** With younger kids, introduce a sense of play. Kids can pretend to be a doctor or nurse while wearing their masks. They might want to use a doctor kit and "take care" of a stuffed animal or doll.

**Have a few masks handy while kids play.** This lets them use their imagination about how to use them during playtime. It also helps make masks a more normal part of their everyday world. You can ask your child to put a mask on a stuffed animal, and then ask follow-up questions about why the stuffed animal is wearing the mask. Depending on your child's response, you can clear up any confusion and offer reassurance.

### Explain why it is important to wear a mask.

- ✚ Explain germs and why we need to use masks in simple language that they can understand. An example phrase to share with your child could be, "Germs can go from our body to someone else's body when we cough, sneeze, spit, or breathe too close to someone."
- ✚ Explain that face mask wearing is a rule right now for going places. For example, "It's a rule to wear shoes in a shop and for now, it's a rule to wear a face mask."

*Wear a face covering yourself – this will show a child that it is OK and your example helps them feel safe. Remember, the purpose of wearing a mask is to protect other people.*

*"Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others."*  
Philippians 2:4





## From The Office

*“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”*

—Romans 15:13

A big thank you to everyone who returned their surveys!!! Much appreciated!

The results, categorically, are shared below and additionally in the SMART Team report in this issue.

1) Have you been viewing the St Paul Lutheran Church service?:

- Yes-77%
- No-23%

2) How are you viewing the Worship Service?

- Website/Facebook-37%
- Email Links-33%
- Cable TV/DVD-23%

3) When will you feel safe in returning to worship?

- Once school begins-8%
- As soon as possible-19%
- Once a vaccine is available-39%
- Other-30%

St Paul Lutheran Church will be **closed starting the afternoon of 8/10-8/16. Office hours on the 10<sup>th</sup> will be 9am-Noon.** See the SMART Team report in this issue for further details. We will also be **closed on 8/21** so the church can be sanitized and cleaned.

**For security reasons, the church main entrance and office locks, were changed. Please talk with your Council Committee chair person for details.**

During this COVID19 outbreak anyone coming into the church will be required to wear a mask. This is to protect you as well as others.



### Prayer Box

**Members:** Meghan Haefs, Margy Carlsen, Diane Siverhus, Ruth Guse, Mary & Larry Viers, Ken Kress, Barb Raleigh, June Carlson, Greg Nelson, Joyce Warner, Martin Withuski, Lorna Lutz, Jane Johnson, Dave Carlsen, Bonnie Peterson, Deb Hanson, Dorie Nelson, the family of Roberta Ebert; Audrey Radke, Ted Anderson, Connie Borson, Mike Immel, Karen Celski, Nancy Schlagel, the Shoeberg family

**Family and Friends:** Ian and Jeff Lundstrom, Lila Powell, Stephanie Rossell, Chloe Hoyle, Becca Larson, Dave Hendrickson, Mary Jean Just, Alice Ault, Anne Emily, Easton Cummings, Tom Schwietz, Debbie Odell, Josephine Wiersma, Beverly Halberg, Randy Fischer, Patricia Peterson, Marcella Christensen, Brian Utecht, Molly Granat, Robert Heaney, Bill Kaufmann, Perry Dau, Bonnie Lundstrom, Bill and Bonnie Sherrat, Lori Cullen, Claire Olson, Karen Peterson

**Military Personnel:** Kenny Helms, Daniel Kaufmann, Jill Meyer, Haydon Dvorak

## Upcoming Events, Updates & News

### **It's All About Team Work!**

“If you see a weed, pick a weed”

Our church flower beds are looking for love from all of us. If you want an excuse to get outside and play in the dirt, feel free to stop by and “pick a weed” 😊



### **A Historical Tidbit**

Over 450 years ago, Martin Luther faced a similar dilemma. In 1527, when the Plague returned to Wittenberg, Germany, Martin Luther wrote 'God has created medicines and has provided us with intelligence to guard and take care of the body—and to shun persons and places wherever your neighbor does not need your presence.'

It's amazing how history always repeats itself!!

*Mary Viers*

Last month we shared our next step which was to survey our members regarding returning to worship. We also developed a Small Group Meeting protocol for 10 or less Church-led meetings. We were pleased to receive a 35% response rate to the survey. This was a great response! Of those returning surveys, 39% said they will not return to church until there is a vaccine available and additionally, 30% may not return even with a vaccine, because of underlying health issues. The church Council will be reviewing these results at the August Council meeting and making recommendations for worship and youth programs for the Fall.

**OUTDOOR WORSHIP:** After researching this process we found we could not make this available this summer.

**LIFE LINE SCREENING:** You may have received a mailing from this company regarding screening at SPLC on 8/12. Your letter asks you to call and register and pay. Do not call and schedule as there will not be a screening at church on this date.

**SPLC POLLING PLACE:** the SMART Team and the church council have decided to allow voting for the August 11, primary and again in November. In order to do this and protect our members and staff the church will be closed (except for voters) from the afternoon of 8/10 through 8/16 to allow for cleaning and recommended wait time for COVID aerosols to die. The church will also be closed on 8/21 to allow a company to come and do a thorough cleaning.

As always, our main goal is to keep our members and staff safe through this pandemic. Please wear a mask and continue good hand washing.

*Nancy Schlagel*  
*SMART Team Chairperson*

## **Upcoming Events, Updates & News (con.)**

### **Thank you!**

In July, I received word that our friends in Pine Ride SD (one of our mission trips last year) are in desperate need of masks, hand sanitizer, and cleaning supplies due to an increase of active COVID cases on the reservation. I sent out a plea and you answered!

I was able to ship 3 large boxes of supplies to Pine Ridge. With the monetary donations I will be ordering more supplies to be shipped directly to Pine Ridge.

Bob Michaelis  
Ann Kriesel  
Mugs DeFore  
Jenny Powell  
Edie Peterson  
Shelley Jokinen  
Carol Schuster  
Cheryl Renne

A huge thank you to these generous people who donated supplies and/or money and also to all of you who have prayed for Pine Ridge!

*-Sabrina Bell*

### **Simpson Housing Shelter**

During the past three months, 47 guests have had a bed at our shelter and 531 individual and family households have been supported by our Family, Single Adult, and Youth Housing teams.

Make a gift and your contribution will be MATCHED dollar for dollar.

### **Simpson Supply Needs**

- White t-shirts – new, all sizes
- Ankle socks – new, for men and women
- Shaving cream
- Flip flops – new, all sizes for men and women
- Men’s boxers – new, sizes S, M and L
- Women’s underwear – new, sizes S and M
- Tank Tops/Undershirts – new, all sizes
- Sunscreen
- Coffee - ground preferred

Thank you all for being a part of our Simpson community.

I wish you all well,

*-Christina Giese*

### **Hope For The Journey Home**

St. Paul Lutheran and First United Methodist Church of Stillwater are scheduled to share the week of September 13 -19.

We will keep you advised if and when HJH will open.

Our Challenge Grant was met beyond what we could have expected. Financially we are ending the year on a very positive note.

Regarding Reopening: We are planning on a very soft opening with 1-2 families in the near future. While I can't be certain of the date, you will be notified. We are still working out the many details with our partner with St. Andrews. We know we will reopen when they can commit to case management taking place and we have solid plans in place related to promoting positive health for all. In the beginning it may just be with staff as we perfect new processes and strategies. There will be a role for volunteers, we just not sure when that will start and how that all will look.

## **MORE Upcoming Events, Updates** **& News**

We may need volunteers to drop off a frozen purchased meal or do some house chores during the day rather than as part of dinner shifts. We intend to communicate new policies and procedures in advance and will fully respect individuals comfort level in returning or not embracing a task. Our sign in area for volunteers and families will look differently. We will do all the things such as temperature checks daily, hand sanitize, gloves and documentation for all who enter the doors daily. When we know what it all looks like we will let you know.

I appreciate the continued support we have received during this time of being closed. Please continue to reach out.

*-Trish Brokman*

### **Valley Outreach**

**Beginning Wednesday, July 22 we'll start accepting clothing and food donations every Monday and Wednesday from noon to 3 p.m.** For the safety of everyone involved, it will be a no-contact, drive-up donation model.

We're focused on getting people the clothes they need now and as efficiently as we can. It's summertime and we need shorts, swimsuits, t-shirts and other warm weather attire for every member of the family! Help us help our community by following these guidelines for clothing donations:

Please bring up to two bags (or boxes) per vehicle of in-season, clean, like-new clothing and new, in-the-package socks and underwear. **At this time, we can't accept more than two bags or boxes.**

We won't accept loose clothing. This includes items on hangers or in bins that you may need back.

We also won't accept any items that are not wearable.

**Donations are accepted Monday and Wednesday from noon to 3 p.m. Please ONLY donate during these times.** We are unable to accommodate donations at other times due to our building being closed. Don't leave donations outside our building.

We'll also accept shelf-stable, non-perishable food items (especially the items on our Top 20 in 2020 list) and fresh garden produce. We cannot accept other perishable, refrigerated or frozen items.

Below are three easy steps to make drive-up, no-contact donations.

1. Pull your vehicle up to the back of our building
2. Donation attendants will guide you to the drop-off station for clothing and/or food.
3. Please follow instructions from the donation attendants and signs to safely donate. If you'd like a receipt, they will be available.
- 4.

We greatly appreciate the generosity of our community and look forward to receiving donations again.

Take care,

*Megan Buchanan*



# August

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 Visit our website or Facebook page for Daily Readings 9:00am Online Worship Service or at 4pm on Channel 18	3 7:00pm We The Church Bible Study	4 1:00pm Staff Mtg	5	6 9:30am Quilting Group-Fellowship Hall 3:00pm Social Concerns Committee Mtg (location TBD)	7	8
9 Visit our website or Facebook page for Daily Readings 9:00am Online Worship Service or at 4pm on Channel 18	10 9am-Noon Only day this week that church will be open	11 <b>VOTING DAY (church open to voters only)</b> 1:00pm Virtual Staff Mtg 6:30pm Virtual Business Mgmt Meeting 7:30pm Virtual Executive Committee Mtg	12 Church Closed. 72 hour wait period after voting 7:00pm Virtual Holy Conversations Mtg	13 Church Closed. 72 hour wait period after voting	14 Church Closed. 72 hour wait period after voting	15 Church Closed
16 Visit our website or Facebook page for Daily Readings 9:00am Online Worship Service or at 4pm on Channel 18	17	18 1:00pm Staff Mtg 2:00pm SMART Team Mtg 7pm Church Council Meeting	19	20	21 Church Closed for cleaning	22
23 Visit our website or Facebook page for Daily Readings 9:00am Online Worship Service or at 4pm on Channel 18	24	25 1:00pm Staff Mtg	26 7:00pm Virtual Holy Conversations Mtg	27	28	29
30	31					



We invite you to worship  
with us online by going to  
our website  
[www.stpaulc.org](http://www.stpaulc.org), our  
Facebook page or Cable  
TV Channel 18.

