

St. Paul Lutheran Messenger



Volume 2020 Issue 6

June 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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“A voice of one calling: ‘in the wilderness prepare the way for the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every Valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill is made low, the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. And the Glory of the Lord will see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.” Isaiah 40:3-5

The Wilderness

The wilderness has always had sacred meaning for the people of Israel and their walk with God. Elijah fled into the wilderness when he was afraid and ready to give up on his ministry and life itself. The people of Israel spent forty years in the wilderness as they journeyed from slavery into freedom and Jesus spent forty days in the wilderness fasting, praying and overcoming temptation.

For those who choose to become followers of Jesus they will at various times in their lives find themselves in the wilderness. We can see that in the scripture passage above. It is attributed to the ministry of John the Baptist who was sent to prepare people's minds and hearts to receive the Messiah.

However, it is a place that we often avoid, or when we find ourselves in it we try to get through it as fast as possible. The reason being is that in the wilderness you realize that you are not in control any longer, and the things that you used to find pleasure in or the things you used to prop yourself up with to feel strong and confident are stripped away. It leaves you feeling vulnerable and with it all kinds of emotions like fear, frustration, impatience, grief and anger become louder and louder with us – “Why am I here?” “Why doesn't God do something?”

But, it is in the stripping away of all that is not of God that makes the wilderness so sacred and essential for receiving Jesus Christ as your Lord and savior. It is only in the vulnerability of the wilderness that you learn to trust in the presence, love and providence of God – “Do I really trust that God is with me?” “Do I really trust that God will provide for me?” “Do I really trust that God will get me through this?” It is only in the wilderness that those questions are answered, and you learn what is essential for eternal life and what is just a worldly want – that same things that Jesus was tempted with.

As a global community, nation and individually we find ourselves in the wilderness caused by a pandemic. It is a place that no one wants to be, it is not something that God intended nor desires, but that doesn't mean that it cannot be a sacred time for us, and a time of divine encounter. So, spend some time with Isaiah 40:3-5 and allow it to speak to your life and your relationship with God. What needs to be straightened out in your life? In what area of your life do you need to be brought low (humbled) and in what area of your life do you need to be lifted up (healed and restored)? What are the rough spots in your personality need to be smoothed out and what things are still tripping you up from giving yourself completely to Christ?

Allow this to be a sacred time of divine encounter so that you will be ready for the dawn of a new tomorrow as Jesus shepherds you through this wilderness experience.

Grace, peace, love and joy in Christ be with you always,

PF

Presidents Corner



Over the last couple months there has been a lot going on at church and we have to put a big thank you out to the SPLC staff for keeping our ministry going forward. I know there are so many more people to thank. I just want to say “thank you” from the bottom of my heart.

We are working with Pastor Fred to put together a SMART Team. Nancy Schlagel will be heading up this team. Look for communications from that team on the process of reopening the church.

We have a new sidewalk!!!! We owe a huge thank you to John Raleigh, Miller Excavating and Curb Master. If you see them, please thank them. We also have a new lawn care service and sometime prior to the churches reopening we will be having the church carpets cleaned and the church sanitized.

Things are still moving forward on the lounge. Not as fast as we had hoped but it's moving. I just would like to thank all the volunteers for all their hard work during these hard times.

Thank You volunteers for all you do and continue to do, during these difficult and challenging times!!



Dan's Den



Hello Friends and Families!

I hope this message comes to you in a place of joy! Some unfortunate news regarding this summer is about Summer programming. If you haven't already heard, all of **Camp Wapo's programming has been canceled** this summer due to the state and national closures. However, some good news is that **VBS will still happen!** It won't look like anything you've seen before! The Christian Education Committee, Children's Ministry Team, and Sugar Creek Bible Camp are working together to develop an at home VBS experience! There will be more information soon!

Both Sunday School and Connect has a google classroom platform where we have posted devotions, lessons for home, and a space to ask questions and ideas for the others! The classroom codes for both of those are at the bottom of this page.



St. Paul has started an Instagram!

The purpose of this platform is to reach the community of St. Paul in new and different ways. It's 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 Nwh3xbt	Connect Google Classroom Code 2sk3wtc	Instagram username Splc stillwater
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Sunday School!

As we enter the summer season, we have been talking about how to best serve all of our community, and one of those ways is through continuing providing some fun activities and devotions for families at home! Each week you will find a new lesson and some fun at home activities to strengthen your faith and come closer as a family! **If google classroom does not work for you, please let me know so we can get you the materials!**



Join us Virtually this month! Alida and I have put together a fun Zoom get-together for all families! This event will include a fun scavenger hunt, a sing-along, and other fun activities to do with the whole family! This event is happening on **June 14th at 2:30 pm!** It will be about an hour of fun! There is no obligation of how old you are for this event, only that you are willing to be out of your seat!

Connect!

Continuing to connect! We are continuing to meet **every Wednesday night at 6 pm** via Zoom! Every Wednesday we explore a different topic that relates to our lives today! We are using the ELCA's *Faith Lens* series that is created by pastors and youth workers from around the country each week!

In Christ,

Daniel O'Brien

June Health Minute



Summer in the Time of COVID19

Sunshine, warmer temperatures, and the reopening of parks, trails, and restaurants with sidewalk seating are luring many of us outside after weeks of stay-at-home orders aimed at halting the spread of COVID-19. It could be easy enough to convince ourselves that nice weather means we don't need to be concerned with catching a respiratory illness, but when it comes to the coronavirus, that's not the case.

Going outside is great for your physical and mental health, but it's important to keep in mind how the virus is transmitted. It's mainly spread by close proximity with other people, primarily through respiratory droplets that people exhale [breathe out], or expel by cough or sneeze.

Even on a beautiful summer day, everyone should continue to take all the precautions recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). You should practice social distancing even when you're outside. Continue to use face masks if there are groups of people.

Biking shouldn't require wearing a face covering, especially if riding on the road or out on a trail. But if you are in a large group of people biking together where it could be hard to maintain social distancing, you may want wear one.

When it comes to running or walking, the safest social distance might be a little bit more than six feet. Right now there's no way to know the optimum amount of space, so it's better to err on the side of caution.

If someone is walking or running in front of you, it's probably a good idea to stay more than six feet behind them. If that person was infected and they sneezed or coughed it could create a cloud of aerosol in the air; if you are right behind that person, you might walk or run through that.

If you're hiking in a relatively remote location you may not need a face covering or mask, but it's still a good idea to keep one with you because sometimes there can be groups of people at the trailhead or parking area. Outdoor sports like soccer or basketball require close proximity and even physical contact. It's best to avoid those activities. Instead of playing a contact sport, consider tossing a football or Frisbee, or something like tennis. All participants should wash their hands or use hand sanitizer before and after playing.

Keep in mind it can be very difficult to exercise at a moderate or high intensity while wearing face coverings. People do need to take that into consideration because it's not easy to play sports with your face covered — it can be difficult to breathe.

Enjoying the outdoors (safely) is possible, even in the age of COVID-19, as long as you take precautions and use common sense.

"Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me"

Psalm 23:4

Linda Peterson,
RN





From the Office:

“Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand”

Isaiah 41:10

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A gentle reminder that our Sunday worship service can now be viewed on local Channel 18. Thursday and Friday’s service will be on a one week delay. The 4pm Sunday service on TV will be the same service that we all see at 9am that same Sunday.

- Thursday 4pm
- Thursday 10pm
- Friday 4am
- Sunday 4pm

While our office hours remain the same, the staff is covering the hours on different days to remain in compliance with social distancing.

- Kathleen is in on Monday’s from 9am-1pm and Wednesday’s from noon- 4pm each week.
- Pastor Fred typically will cover the 9am-1pm office hours on Tuesday’s and Thursday’s.

Please feel free to call me or text, anytime, if you have questions or need to get into the office.

Several online activities are happening, weekly, to keep us all connected:

- 1) Each Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday we are Pausing for Prayer at Noon.

2) Each Wednesday an online Bible study “The Cup of Life” is occurring. We just completed week 5. This is a self-paced study with a study guide.

3) On Sunday morning’s, at 9am, we worship together with our online worship service.

4) Beginning in June a LIVE Bible study will begin with Pastor Fred, Pastor Carole and Daniel. (**See Upcoming Events and Updates** for details)

Emails are being sent out daily to notify everyone that these online events are available on our website and Facebook page.

### 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, Roberta Ebert; Audrey Radke, Ted Anderson, Connie Borson, Karen Celski

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

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

## **Social Concerns Outreach Update**

### ***Simpson Housing Shelter***

The Social Concerns Committee would like to thank everyone for supporting Simpson Housing Shelter during our Lenten soup lunches. It was a short time this year, but we sent \$369 toward their matching fund event. When we get the information as to how much money they received through this grant, we will keep you posted. If you have any questions, please contact one of the members from the Social Concerns Committee.

### ***Valley Outreach*** **COVID-19 Response Update**

**Are you opening to the public on May 18?** No. We're continuing to focus on distributing food through our drive-up service model and providing phone support right now. Our team is looking toward the future and developing plans to reopen when we can do so in the safest manner possible for our clients, donors, volunteers and staff. We do not have a timeline to share yet.

**Are you accepting donations?** We are still only accepting financial donations online and via the mail as our building continues to be closed to the public.

**Do you need volunteers? Yes, please!** We're inviting people to volunteer to support our drive-up service model. Check out our [website](#) for more details.

**Drive-up Service Hours**  
**M/W/F - 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.**  
**T/Th - 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.**

## The ChatterBox



**During this COVID19 Pandemic “stay home order” many of our congregation members are doing activities and reading to keep busy.**

**Let’s see what people have to share:**

**Mary Jo Drews:** “Well...I’ve been busy with several projects recently. Jan Stevens called to see if I could help with “rescue pets.” Seems her garage pond of fish multiplied; could I use a few? My yard pond was full of stagnant melt water, but I said “Sure”. My pump well needed replacement. All repair folks were already too busy, and, I learned the part would be free under warrantee, so I started a digging project.

Meanwhile, Bob Michealis wanted my metal-detecting help to find property markers. Glad to help and I got a nice bottle of wine for it!

Then Lynn Lomen, Joanie and Bill, delivered a gift from St. Paul’s so they were the first visitors to our local fish rescue water park. And that’s the news from here.”

**Shelly Jokinen:** “I just finished watching a beautiful film online called “Love Them First: Lessons from Lucy Laney Elementary”. This film follows the students of Lucy Laney Elementary School in North Minneapolis and shares the philosophy of their principal in reaching out to these children who live in challenging circumstances. It is uplifting, inspiring and it will fill your heart! Here is the link if anyone would like to view it.”

<https://www.lovethemfirst.com/watch/>

**Paula Burnett:** “Got too much rhubarb? Here is an easy recipe!”

Blueberry/Rhubarb Jam  
5 cups rhubarb  
3 cups sugar  
1 can (21 oz) blueberry pie filling  
2 (3 oz) pkgs. raspberry jell-o

Combine rhubarb, sugar & pie filling, bring to a boil, boil gently for 10 min. stirring constantly.

Remove from heat and stir in the raspberry jello until well combined. Pour into 8 oz. jelly jars & cover.

Freeze when cool (or can refrigerate for use right away). Makes 6 8 oz jars. It is delicious and can be poured over ice cream as well. Enjoy!

**Cheryl Renne:** shares a Bible verse that gives her strength.

Philippians 4:13

“I can do all this through Him who gives me strength.”



## Upcoming Events and Updates

### **New Care Ministry Begins**

Recognition Sunday for the quilts made by the St. Paul quilters will be on **Sunday, May 31, 2020**.

Pastor Fred will bless these quilts and each graduating senior member or a grandchild of a member can pick up their quilt at church. Please call the church office before you come to make sure that someone will be at the church. There will be a sign-in sheet for you to list your name and the senior's name for our quilter's record. We hope you will feel all the love that has gone into the making of these quilts whether it was the fabric given, making the squares, pinning, or sewing. Many hands make these great quilts and we are blessed to give them away.

### **The Lounge**

Progress is being made on the remodeling of the lounge and kitchenette. The windows, ceiling, paneling, and flooring have all been replaced. We have the trim work and floor moldings left to install. Looking forward to our reopening so we can all use the lounge again.



-Barb Dietrich  
*Property and Grounds  
Committee Chair*

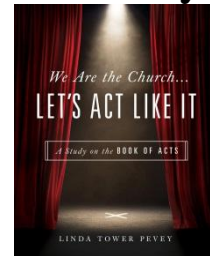


### **A Note from Audrey Radke**

"Thank you everyone for all the prayers, cards and phone calls. Your support is greatly appreciated. A celebration of life for Cheryl Thueson will be held at a later date at St. Paul Lutheran Church."



### **NEW Bible Study Group**



Pastor Carole, Daniel (our intern), and I would like to invite you to join us for a seven week LIVE online Bible study based on the Book of Acts beginning Monday, June 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00 p.m. If you are interested in participating please contact the church office via email. **We Are the Church** looks at what it means to be the world-changing church that Jesus Christ intended. The study guides participants through weekly topics that empower them to take action -- Act with . . . Power, Generosity, Acceptance, Creativity, Perseverance, Courage, and Witness.

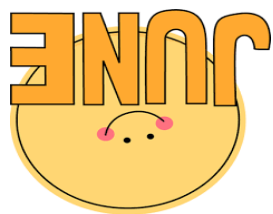
## **Upcoming Events and Updates** **(continued)**

### **SMART TEAM FORMED REGARDING CHURCH REOPENING DURING COVID19**

SPLC SMART Team met for the first time on 5/26. SMART stands for Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant & Time-Bound. This team is made up of lay-leaders and staff to provide the Congregational Council with information and suggested guidelines for gradually and safely opening our church for worship and small group activities. We are partnering with Trinity Lutheran, Our Saviors Lutheran, and Bethlehem Lutheran to form a joint SMART Team to share resources and coordinate messaging to our members and the community. Team members include: Pastor Fred, Kathleen Peterson, Linda Peterson RN, Jim Hillman, Mary Viers and Nancy Schlagel. We will be developing phased guidelines dependent on criteria received from Public Health updates. The Team will share this development as it takes form.



| Sunday                                                                                                               | Monday                                              | Tuesday                                                                                  | Wednesday                       | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------|--------|----------|
|                                                                                                                      | 1                                                   | 2<br>1:00pm Staff Mtg<br>2:00pm Smart Team Mtg                                           | 3                               | 4        | 5      | 6        |
| 7<br>Visit our website or Facebook page for Daily Readings<br>9:00am Online Worship Service or at 4pm on Channel 18  | 8                                                   | 9<br>1:00pm Staff Mtg                                                                    | 10                              | 11       | 12     | 13       |
| 14<br>Visit our website or Facebook page for Daily Readings<br>9:00am Online Worship Service or at 4pm on Channel 18 | 15                                                  | 16<br>1:00pm Staff Mtg<br>6:30pm Business Mgmt Meeting<br>7:30pm Executive Committee Mtg | 17<br>7:00pm Holy Conversations | 18       | 19     | 20       |
| 21<br>Visit our website or Facebook page for Daily Readings<br>9:00am Online Worship Service or at 4pm on Channel 18 | 22<br>7:00pm Bible Study "We Are the Church" begins | 23<br>1:00pm Staff Mtg<br>7pm Church Council Meeting                                     | 24                              | 25       | 26     | 27       |
| 28<br>Visit our website or Facebook page for Daily Readings<br>9:00am Online Worship Service or at 4pm on Channel 18 | 29                                                  | 30<br>1:00pm Staff Mtg                                                                   |                                 |          |        | t        |
|                                                                                                                      |                                                     |                                                                                          |                                 |          |        |          |



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

