

St. Paul Lutheran Church

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Reflections

May, 2021

Roberta Reynolds, Editor



Pastor Notes, May 2021

Many times when I am writing newsletter articles, my mind is focused on the church year, and the different liturgical seasons we have. We're currently in the season of Easter. Alleluia! However, as I write this article, I am focused more on the season of Spring that we are currently in. Often Spring is a time of the year where we might notice God's beautiful creation a bit more. Grass starts to look a little greener, leaves start to grow on the trees after a long winter, colors start to pop up from flowers reaching towards the sky, and more. The birds are a little bit louder, the sun a little bit brighter, and yes, the allergies hit a little more for some of us too. Yes indeed, this is the time of the year when we might notice God's creation a little more. And so, I invite you to do just that. Look out your window a little more. Take a walk if you are comfortable and are able. Notice the wind blowing the branches, and maybe watch the water trickling down a stream or waves hitting the shore. Notice where God is present in the beautiful creation all around us.

In connection to Earth day on April 22, Lutherans Restoring Creation (LRC) provided a virtual worship service for many around the country to enjoy. LRC is a grassroots movement promoting care for creation in the ELCA. This worship service involved many from around the country, and our Presiding Bishop, Bishop Elizabeth Eaton preached. This worship service connected Earth Day and Good Shepherd Sunday, and gave an opportunity to focus on God's beautiful creation. Here is the link for those of you who would like to check it out: lutheransrestoringcreation.org/creation-focused-service-for-earth-day-2021/

As we focus through worship and through our daily lives on the world God made, I leave you with a prayer from the ELCA's newest hymnal supplement, "All Creation Sings":

God, creator of all living things, you fashioned a world in which lands and waterways, plants and animals, together meet the needs of all that you made. We pray that such vitality may flourish around the globe. Bless those who work the soil and who manage animals. Uphold their towns and villages. Nurture bees and other pollinators. Protect farmlands and ranches from drought and flood. Free children from forced labor in the fields. Grant an economy that can sustain those families who treasure a rural life. Teach us how to share with everyone the benefits of each harvest, and accept our gratitude for all sustenance you provide, in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Blessings,

Pastor Jonathan



May 2021

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
						1
2 Online Worship Service-9:30 am	3	4 Confirmation class on Zoom-7 pm	5 Worship & Music meeting on Zoom-6:30 pm	6	7	8
9 Online Worship Service-9:30 am	10 Book Club on Zoom-7 pm	11 Mission Endowment meeting on Zoom-6:30 pm	12	13	14	15
16 Online Worship Service-9:30 am	17	18 Confirmation class on Zoom-7 pm	19	20	21	22
23 Online Worship Service-9:30 am	24 Council meeting Zoom-6:15 pm	25 Outreach & Service meeting on Zoom-10 am	26	27	28	29
30 Online Worship Service-9:30 am	31					



OUTDOOR SPRING CLEAN-UP DAY AT ST. PAUL
SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, May 15th, 2021

Meet at 10:00 am with your rake, shovel, pruning shears and mask!
We need your help to make beautiful the church grounds!
We appreciate your time and energy! THANK YOU!

Thank you!

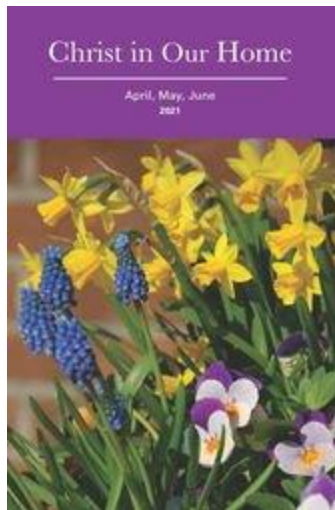
THANKS FROM THE OUTREACH AND SERVICE TEAM AT ST. PAUL

Nancy, Joan, Sonja and Joyce

Through your contributions of personal care items and a generous Thrivent Grant, our team was able to fill 20 backpacks for participants of "Cathedral in the Night". Individuals and staff at Cathedral are always so appreciative of our contributions.



For the May 10th meeting of St. Paul Book Club, we will be reading The Giver of Stars by JoJo Moyes. For June, we have changed our meeting date from the second Monday of the month to the third Monday, June 21. Our book for June is Bear Town by Frederik Backman. Our meetings begin at 7:00 p.m. and will be conducted via Zoom until the church reopens. Let Nancy Janes know if you wish to participate so she can send you the link. We would love to have you join us.



Devotional Booklets

The Christ in Our Home booklet of devotions for this quarter are available. Booklets are outside to the right of the front door of the church in the white mailbox for you to pick up.

If you are unable to pick one up, contact the church office so arrangements can be made to have one delivered to you.



Love. Grow. Serve.

Ministry Volunteers May & June 2021

DATE	READER/WORSHIP ASSISTANT	WORSHIP LEADER	TECH SUPPORT	COMMUNION
Sun 5/2	Sandy Porcelli	Pastor McGurn	Dave Melanson	Yes
Sun 5/9	Dale MacDonald	Pastor Jonathan	Dave MacDonald	Yes
Sun 5/16	Sandy Porcelli	Pastor McGurn	Dave Melanson	Yes
Sun 5/23	Joan McPartland	Pastor Jonathan	Dave Melanson	Yes
Sun 5/30	Dale MacDonald	Deacon Eric Elley (St. Mark's Episcopal)	Dave MacDonald	No
Sun 6/6		Pastor Hedberg	Dave Melanson	Yes
Sun 6/13	Dale MacDonald	Pastor Jonathan	Dave MacDonald	Yes
Sun 6/20				
Sun 6/27	Sandy Porcelli	Pastor Jonathan		Yes

- The Worship Service will be livestreamed on Sunday at 9:30 am via facebook from the sanctuary. Please use the link below:

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/stpaulelong/>

- Parking lot worship will be conducted every Sunday, but Communion will only be distributed on the Sundays when a Pastor is conducting worship.
- Please contact the church office at stpaul@stpaulelong.org if you are able to volunteer for any openings in the Worship Schedule.



Congregation Council Highlights April 26, 2021

- ❖ Contribution Revenues: March 2021 - \$7,643.00 Expenses - \$11,560.39
- ❖ Please read the article about Outside Church Clean Up on May 15th.
- ❖ The Task Force is meeting to plan church reopening.
- ❖ Pam and Dave Fant have offered to be the delegates for the June Assembly since no church members have volunteered.
- ❖ Benevolence distribution was decided by council to be sent to New England Synod Seminary Debt Reduction Fund, Camp Calumet, United Lutheran Seminary, Cathedral in the Night, East Longmeadow Food Pantry, ELCA World Hunger, ELCA AMMPARO, Hartford Seminary, Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity, Children's Study Home, Angels Take Flight, New England Synod Campus Ministry, Multicultural Services of Pioneer Valley and Ascentria.



June Clark ~ 5/25
Charlie Dinnie ~ 5/7
David Fant ~ 5/12
Francis Cameron ~ 5/16
Patricia Gray ~ 5/20
Susan Hart ~ 5/15
Pearl Keinath ~ 5/31
Michael Shaw ~ 5/14
Matthew Tonsing ~ 5/20
Jack Webber ~ 5/19
Russell Wirtalla ~ 5/2



Prayer List



Barbara Anderson
Chris Anderson
Bob
Don Cheetham
Janet Davies
Johan DeVries
Barbara Dombroski
Donna
Doug & Mary Ann
Kay Evanilla
Florence Fay
Andrea Grushka
Kayla
Dorothy Kowaleski
Jim McKnight
Richard
Lorraine Stevens
Tom Sutherland
Eugene Walz
Jeremy Webb