

# ***St. Paul Lutheran Church***

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## ***Reflections***

*October, 2021*

*Roberta Reynolds, Editor*



### **Pastor Notes, October 2021**

Near the end of September, our council sent out a brief questionnaire with one selection to make: your top choice for our council to explore out of the following options: Status Quo, Redevelopment, Merger, Partnership, or Holy Closure. We need your voice, your perspective and your commitment to make the next step possible.

We have been talking about our future steps for quite some time and have had a particular emphasis on this as a congregation since August. We had town hall style meetings after worship in both August and September, where we heard some of our members' perspectives on our next step as a congregation. Now this questionnaire gives an opportunity for more voices to be heard. We are seeking to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to voice their perspectives, questions, and concerns as we look towards the future together as a congregation.

Each of these options for our next step forward require commitment, resources, and energy to ensure we pursue them successfully and faithfully. We will need your voice and your commitment as we step forward as a congregation to where God is guiding us.

Please fill out the survey, and please continue faithful, peaceful, and healthy conversations with one another as we find our way forward while seeking God's wisdom. I encourage you to contact me or a member of our council to share your perspective, hopes, and prayers.

As we faithfully seek our next steps forward, I pray for God's wisdom, guidance, and peace to be upon our hearts. I have found that many of the words of our hymns can be used as a prayer, or at the very least in a prayerful way. This one came to mind as I was writing this for our newsletter, and I hope it connects with you as well: "Lead me, guide me, along the way; for if you lead me, I cannot stray. Lord, let me walk each day with thee. Lead me O Lord, lead me" (ELW 768). Lord God, lead us, guide us, and remind us that you always walk beside us. Amen.

Blessings,

Pastor Jonathan



# October 2021

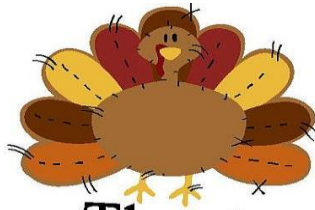
Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
					1	2 Christian Hope (set up)
3 In person and Online Worship Service-9:30 am Christian Hope 10:00 am (Hall)	4 Confirmation Class-7 pm	5	6	7	8	9 Christian Hope (set up)
10 In person and Online Worship Service-9:30 am Christian Hope 10:00 am (Hall)	11 Book Club Zoom-7 pm	12	13	14	15 Cub Scouts 6:15 pm	16 Christian Hope (set up)
17 In person and Online Worship Service-9:30 am Christian Hope 10:00 am (Hall)	18	19	20	21	22	23 Christian Hope (set up)
24 Adult Fellowship- 8:30 am In person and Online Worship/Sunday School-9:30 am Christian Hope 10:00 am (Hall)	25	26 Outreach & Service-10 am  Council meeting Zoom-7 pm	27	28	29	30
31 Adult Fellowship- 8:30 am Confirmation & Reformation Sunday-9:30 am Christian Hope 10:00 am (Hall)						



## Sundays at 8:30 a.m. in the lounge

All are welcome to join in sessions that are designed to raise questions, to flip established answers and assumptions upside down, to stick in the head of participants for months and even years to come.

We will be working with the *Animate* series using the Faith material and will begin by discussing the Bible and why we read it.



## Happy Thanksgiving

### Thanksgiving Baskets

Pastor Jonathan has learned that 20-30 families in the Christian Hope Church are in need of help this Thanksgiving. Through grants and other funds that our congregation has set aside for our food ministries, St. Paul will be providing a turkey for each of these families. To help complete the Thanksgiving meals for these families, the Outreach and Service Committee will be collecting the traditional fixings for a Thanksgiving dinner, such as stuffing mix, gravy, canned cranberry sauce, and vegetables. Each week, beginning October 10, we will distribute paper bags to the congregation. The bags will be labeled with a suggested type of food for you to bring to church the following Sunday, but we will also welcome other non-perishable food items we haven't suggested. We will place a basket for your food contributions in the gathering space. We also welcome monetary contributions.

The collection schedule is the following:

**October 17 – stuffing mix**

**October 24 - canned vegetables, such as green beans, corn, peas**

**October 31 - canned cranberry sauce**

**November 7 – turkey gravy**

**November 14 - non-perishable dessert item, such as cookies or Hostess cupcakes**

We hope you will take advantage of this opportunity to help some families in need have a wonderful Thanksgiving meal. We hope we can match the wonderful response we have had in the past. Thank you.



## Welcome Back to Sunday School - October 24<sup>th</sup>

Looking forward to seeing the children on October 24<sup>th</sup>, November 14<sup>th</sup>, Nov 28<sup>th</sup> and December 12<sup>th</sup>. The format will be the same as pre-covid (during service). They will have class in the lounge on October 24<sup>th</sup> with Marsha Akpan and Pat Gray. There is only one Sunday School scheduled for December as we are encouraging children and their families to attend Christmas Eve service with Pastor Jonathan and his last Sunday Service on December 26<sup>th</sup>. Sunday school has been scheduled for days Pastor Jonathan will be leading worship.



St. Paul Book Club will hold its next meeting via zoom on Monday, October 11, at 7:00 p.m. We will discuss The Guest List by Lucy Foley. The following is a list of the books we will be reading during the remainder of the year.

**November** I've Got Your Number by Sophie Kinsella

**December** What Alice Forgot by Liane Moriarty

If you would like to join us, email Nancy Janes at [nfjanes@gmail.com](mailto:nfjanes@gmail.com), and she will send you the zoom link for the meeting.



**Love. Grow. Serve.**

## Ministry Volunteers October & November 2021

DATE	READER/WORSHIP ASSISTANT	WORSHIP LEADER	TECH SUPPORT	COMMUNION	USHERS
Sun 10/3	Dave Melanson	Barbara Turner-Delisle	Dave Melanson	Yes	
Sun 10/10	Dale MacDonald	Pastor Jonathan	Dave MacDonald	Yes	
Sun 10/17	Joan McPartland	Pastor Voosen	Dave Melanson	Yes	
Sun 10/24	Sandy Porcelli	Pastor Jonathan	Dave Melanson	Yes	
Sun 10/31 Confirmation Reformation Sunday	Dale MacDonald	Pastor Jonathan	Dave MacDonald	Yes	
Sun 11/7	Joyce Donovan	Louisa Klaven	Dave Melanson	Yes	
Sun 11/14	Sandy Porcelli	Pastor Jonathan		Yes	
Sun 11/21	Joan McPartland		Dave Melanson		
Sun 11/28	Dale MacDonald	Pastor Jonathan	Dave MacDonald	Yes	

- ❖ Worship Service will be in person and livestreamed (via facebook) on Sunday at 9:30 am. Please use the link below:

**Facebook:**

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

- ❖ You may also watch the recorded service on YouTube using the link below:

**YouTube:**

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCkegkaMRg9zh6CLwZL4JM-w/featured>

- ❖ Please contact the church office at [stpaul@stpaulelong.org](mailto:stpaul@stpaulelong.org) if you are able to volunteer for any openings in the Worship Schedule.



## **Congregation Council Highlights September 28, 2021**

- ❖ Contribution Revenues: September 2021 - \$10,365.00 Expenditures - \$13,863.79
- ❖ Cub Scouts are meeting in the church and the one trailer in back is theirs.
- ❖ Boy Scouts have moved their shed, trailer and most of their equipment to their new location.
- ❖ Confirmation/Affirmation of Baptism on Reformation Sunday, October 31. The confirmands are Tess Tonsing and Keagan Dunnigan. There will be cupcakes to celebrate.
- ❖ Pastor Voosen will be celebrating his 50th year of ordination October 17th. Outreach and Service has planned a reception in keeping with Covid protocols.
- ❖ Eric Lindwall has met with parents of the new Confirmation class and classes will start soon.
- ❖ Sunday School will happen on October 24th and twice monthly after that following pre-covid format. Marsha Akpan and Pat Gray will teach the first class.
- ❖ The Council discussed and approved the questionnaire concerning the future of St. Paul being mailed to all members this week asking them to choose one of five options. A stamped addressed envelope will be included to mail back the questionnaire by October 15th.
- ❖ Christian Hope has returned but their opening is slow also and they are giving us \$500 for building use this month.
- ❖ Busy Bees is operating on their regular schedule.



## All Hands on Deck.

Ascentria is moving at light speed to prepare for the Afghan evacuees we will be welcoming to Massachusetts and New Hampshire. Without your help, we would not be able to resettle as many people as we are in such a short period of time.

While we await their arrival, we want to update you on the situation and what we, at Ascentria, are doing to prepare.

### Updates from the Ground:

The number of Afghans that Ascentria has committed to resettling has doubled from 250 to 500 (400 in Massachusetts and 100 proposed in New Hampshire).

We still do not have confirmation of when arrivals will begin, but we do know arrivals were delayed as a result the COVID pandemic and a measles outbreak at one or more of the military bases. Afghans are receiving the necessary vaccinations and will wait the required period to be protected before they travel.

### For Everyone Who Has Joined In Helping:

To date we have received an incredible outpouring:

Over 200 volunteers

Over 100 offers of housing

Nearly 50 offers to donate clothing and household items

Nearly 50 organizations have reach out to provide support as a community partner

Some have offered to donate clothing or household items. The arriving Afghans will need these types of things, but managing storage is difficult. **Donating gift cards so that items can be purchased as needed would be much appreciated.** Gift cards can be mailed to: Ascentria Care Alliance, Development Department, 11 Shattuck Street, Worcester, MA 01605.

### Fundraising Efforts:

We are humbled by individual donors who have donated helping us raise \$55,000+ in a matter of weeks. Monetary donations are critical to our ability to meet the immediate needs of these families and individuals. Because their status does not allow them the same government-funded services as refugees, we estimate that we need to raise \$10,000 for each family we resettle. That money will be used for housing, medical care, legal services, and living expenses as they prepare to enter the job market. **If you would like to donate please visit our resource page at [Ascentria Care Alliance - Help Welcome Afghans](#)** *100% of donations to this fund will be used to help Afghan evacuees.*

In closing, we are committed to keeping you up-to-date as this situation evolves. In addition to these updates, you can sign up for our Services for New American newsletter [here](#).

Sincerely and with gratitude,

Your friends at Ascentria Care Alliance



- Gil Hunter ~ 10/14
- Garth Janes ~ 10/6
- Ed Lempke ~ 10/3
- David MacDonald ~ 10/29
- Allan Phillips ~ 10/30
- Guy Williams ~ 10/27



## *Prayer List*



Angie (Pat Gray's niece)

Barbara Anderson

Don Cheetham

Johannes DeVries

Florence Fay

Dorothy Kowaleski

Jim McKnight

Sara J. Orr (beloved & devoted  
companion of Pete Fessenden)

Lorraine Stevens

Tom Sutherland

Eugene Walz



**Daylight Saving Time ends  
November 7<sup>th</sup>!**