

Flock Talk

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

May 2022 Newsletter



Celebrating 190 years of ministry
A jubilation of *Faith + Hope + Love* for all people!



AN ANNIVERSARY MESSAGE *from the Pastor*

A Jubilation for All People!

St. Paul's turns 190 this year. On May 1 we will commemorate the first sermon preached by its founding pastor, the Rev. Daniel Scherer, after the organization of our congregation during the prior month in 1932. Throughout the remainder of this year, we hope to celebrate our ministries of the past, present and future with additional activities.

May St. Paul's celebration in this year 2022 A.D. be a joyful celebration beyond this anniversary and our church walls.

In the less than five years that I have been pastor at this church, there have been so many memorable services of worship, events of fellowship, and activities to benefit our community. Not to speak of the many ways our members make a difference in their everyday lives, or the way St. Paul's is able to serve as a meeting place for various groups and occasions. I can therefore hardly imagine all the hard efforts by so many people and their benefits to many more throughout the long history of Jesus' flock here.

So, let us give thanks to God for those who served God faithfully to provide us with a foundation of faith and this house of worship. Let us use our time and talent to share Christ's love in our time and areas of influence. And let us trust that the Holy Spirit will continue to supply and guide her church with grace and wisdom.

The words of the apostle Paul may well be for us: *"God is the one who enables you both to want and to actually live out his good purposes. ... You should be glad about this in the same way. Be glad with me!"* (Philippians 2:13, 18 CEB)

I sure am glad to pastor this faithful, caring and generous group, and to celebrate that God's purposes are being carried out through us day after day.

- + Please join us for a special *Anniversary Service* during 10:15am Sunday worship on May 1. Or watch it on YouTube live, or recorded if you missed it. If you have not been with us for a while or never before, I really encourage you to visit and experience the genuine faith, hope and love that abide at St. Paul's.

Yours jubilantly!

Pastor Stefan Munker

SERVING THIS MONTH

COUNTER – Marina Mondragon

ALTAR GUILD

- 1 – Sharol Hayes and Anita Swick
- 8 – Karen Hamilton and Carolyn Meier
- 15 – Sharol Hayes and Anita Swick
- 22 – Karen Hamilton and Carolyn Meier
- 29 – Liz Allen

COMMUNION ASSISTANT

- 1 – John Gibb
- 8 – Karen Hamilton
- 15 – Mike Plunkett
- 22 – Sandra Moody
- 29 – Karen Hamilton

FLOWERS

- 1 – Tom & Joyce Gooding
- 8 – Pam Schaefer
- 15 – Liz Allen
- 22 – Merle Imler
- 29 – *Still Available*

LECTOR

- 1 – Mike Plunkett
- 8 – Donna Wille
- 15 – Diane Singler
- 22 – Liz Allen
- 29 – Ken Schaal

USHERS

- 1 – Charles & Sandra Moody
- 8 – Ken & Gail Schaal
- 15 – Greg & Sharon Schoen
- 22 – August and Mike Plunkett
- 29 – Sharol Hayes and Anita Swick

VIDEO & AUDIO

- 1 – Liz Allen and August Plunkett
- 8 – Merle Imler and Chris Storm
- 15 – Liz Allen and August Plunkett
- 22 – Merle Imler and Chris Storm
- 29 – Liz Allen and August Plunkett

A Spring **COVID UPDATE**



It seems that we are experiencing a reprieve from the coronavirus. Whether the pandemic is over is hard to say. Other parts of the world like China and Europe and even some areas of the USA are seeing a resurgence. But vaccines are protecting those who are immunized, and our area has seen low infection rates. Please check current recommendations for your situation, including options of getting shots for younger kids or additional boosters.

- + Until there are changes in public health and new official guidelines, our church can hopefully continue to feel safe with voluntary measures. Thank you for supporting efforts to prevent the spread of Covid-19 during the past two years.



Through “Beyond our Walls” we contribute each month to support ministries in our community, our state, our nation and around the world. Please continue your generous giving by marking your donation for “Beyond Our Walls.”

Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center (LOMC) is a retreat and camping center in Oregon, Illinois which offers year-round programming for all ages. The purpose of LOMC is to be the Church in outdoor settings, nurturing Christian faith and providing experiences connecting the Word of God with the World of God. It is a ministry of the Illinois congregations of the ELCA.

LOMC is doing God’s work in powerful ways that affect God’s church and our ministry together. Please help us as we collect to support their ministry this month. Thank you!



Worship Highlights during the **EASTER SEASON**



- + **190TH Anniversary Service** 10:15am on Sunday, May 1
- + **Mother’s Day** with a celebration of all motherly love on Sunday, May 8
- + **Blessing of Graduates** on Sunday, May 15
- + **Blessing of Farmers and Gardeners** on the 6th Sunday of Easter, May 22
- + **Ascension Sunday** with Memorial Day prayer, on May 29
- + **Confirmations on Pentecost Sunday** with affirmation of faith by Skylar Durbin and Kamdyn Putnam during 9:30am Sunday worship on June 5



A Jubilant **ANNIVERSARY SERVICE**

On Sunday, May 1, we will commemorate the first sermon preached at St. Paul’s on that day in 1832. We invite all people to worship with us at 10:15am, and celebrate the proclamation of God’s Word for over 190 years here.

With special music, message, and memories our congregation is continuing to declare the good news that we are saved by grace through faith alone, for daily hope, and to love each other.



The next newsletter will cover the month of June and the first half of July. All articles will be due to the office by Monday, May 23. Please be sure to submit any information that should be included in the newsletter to the office in time. Thank you!



Can We Start a **PRAISE BAND?**

Do you love to praise the Lord? Do you enjoy singing, or playing an instrument? Do you want to liven up our worship?

Pastor Munker is wondering if our church might get a group together to sing and perhaps play contemporary music for leading the congregation's praise at least occasionally. A praise band of singers and instrumentalists would not be a replacement but expand the blend of music we already enjoy in our services.

If the Spirit moves you and you are interested, let Pastor Munker know and we'll explore creating a band together. The Pentecost season this summer would be an opportunity to try something new and different.



Would you like to record and livestream worship at St. Paul's? It's easier than you may think, and it's an important way to serve our church. Please talk to Pastor Munker or Liz Allen if you'd like to help!



National Day of **PRAYER**

Join Christians nationwide in praying this Thursday, May 5. This year's theme is "Exalt the Lord who has established us" from Colossians 2:6-7. Gather at 12 noon with clergy and members of area churches at the Hillsboro United Methodist Church on 537 Rountree St. You can also find resources online at www.nationaldayofprayer.org.



Annual **RUMMAGE SALE**

St. Paul's will be having a rummage sale on Friday, May 20th from 11am-5pm and Saturday, May 21st from 8am-noon. We will be needing many volunteers for setting up and working those days. Please sign up on the bulletin board.

You may continue to bring items in for the rummage sale. Please do NOT bring any electronics. We are also not accepting any clothing. Please bring items that are in good shape. Thank you. If you have any questions, please contact Paula Keeper.



PARISH NURSE Ministry

Lew McDonald takes blood pressures and provides information before and after worship usually on the 1st Sunday of the month.

A Note of Spiritual Encouragement from Lew:

- Do more than exist, live*
- Do more than touch, feel*
- Do more than look, observe*
- Do more than read, absorb*
- Do more than hear, listen*
- Do more than listen, understand*
- Do more than think, ponder*
- Do more than talk, say something*



MEALS ON WHEELS

A big thank you to everyone who helps to deliver Meals on Wheels each month. Our next scheduled week is May 9-13. Please contact Carol Calvert for more information or to volunteer.



Did you know? We prepare large-print worship bulletins each week for those who join us at St. Paul's on Sundays, and for other special services too. Hymns are also printed in larger size, attached at the back of the large-print worship bulletin. Please feel free to use this resource if it helps you!



Anniversary **BIBLE STUDY**

God's Promises and Plans

Pastor Munker will resume Bible Study for all levels of experience this month. Learn from God for daily life by reading, discussing, and praying together.

On Mondays during May we will explore God's promises and plans for our church during a five-session Anniversary Series: 1. God's Mission, 2. Israel's Jubilee, 3. Christ's Commandment, 4. Paul's Encouragement, and 5. Future Hope.

- + Join Mondays between May 2 and 30 at 6:30pm either at church, or by Zoom:
 - Video Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89358728475?pwd=NEQzbnBlQUUQ1S29pZGtRNWZlNkNwZz09>
 - Phone Access: Dial 312-626-6799, then enter the Meeting ID: 893 5872 8475 and Passcode: 033081.



Join our PRAYER CIRCLE

Do you want to pray for others in need of God's special care? Our congregation's prayer circle is a group of faithful believers at St. Paul's who believe in the power of intercessory prayer.

We take time to remember members, relatives, friends, neighbors, or people in our community. Prayer requests do not need to but may also be included in our Sunday worship prayers of the church.

- + Our Prayer Circle has recently started a group text. If you would like to be included, let Pastor Munker know. If you do not use texting or prefer a phone call we can accommodate that too.
- + If you desire prayer for yourself or want to share a request for someone who has given their consent, contact Pastor Munker or the church office. We also like to offer grateful thanks to God for blessings like answered prayers.



YOUTH News!

Yes, we've got news to share, even though some of our youth group is graduating from high school and heading off in new directions for their life.

The ELCA is "jazzed" to announce that the national **Youth Gathering** will be heading to New Orleans in 2024. The Big Easy has hosted two recent gatherings before, and is filled with rich history, friendly locals, amazing food and great music.

- + St. Paul's youth should mark their calendars for July 16-20, 2024 if you will be in high school then, and plan on attending by getting together for group meetings in preparation at St. Paul's. Check with Pastor Munker or Melanie Sherer.

ALTAR FLOWERS

The following dates remain open on the flower calendar at St. Paul's.

May 29 • Jul 24, 31 • Aug 14 • Sep 4 • Oct 23 • Nov 13

If you would like to reserve one of these dates, please fill out a form from the west entryway counter, or contact the church office with your request. The cost is \$22.50.



Free Lunches from LADLES OF LOVE

Each week, a rotating group of volunteers for our Ladles of Love ministry prepares and serves carry-out meals and a personal item for members of the Hillsboro community. Anyone is welcome to pick up a free lunch and gift at the St. Paul's church driveway on Wednesdays from 11am-noon.

- We welcome volunteers for shopping, preparing meals, packing, and serving at the driveway. Please check with Diane Singler.



Remember Our SHUT-IN MEMBERS

Members who are not able to join us at church for worship or other activities

always appreciate knowing they are remembered in our prayers or when they receive signs of care like special flowers or a personal contact by other members.

- | | |
|---------------|------------------|
| Betty Bledsaw | Lynn Keepper |
| Betty Darda | Lyn Lingle |
| Judie Donham | Bob Mulch, Sr. |
| Doris Enochs | Pat Osborn |
| Joyce Gooding | Delores Plunkett |
| Robin Houser | Kris Whitley |

2022 SYNOD ASSEMBLY

June 2-4 in Champaign, IL

Please pray for our Bishop John Roth, synod staff and council, and voting members to the assembly including our St. Paul's attendees, Pastor Munker and Jean Brauer.



Our Central/Southern Illinois Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) is a grouping of churches for sharing ministry partnerships. Because of the collaboration among over 110 churches in our synod and almost 9,000 across the ELCA we are able to do God's Work with Our Hands much more effectively and farther reaching than each of us could on our own.

- + At the annual synod assembly reports are presented, elections held, learning opportunities provided, fellowship exchanged, and worship celebrated.
- + Pastor's wife, the *Rev. Cynthia M. Munker*, will be recognized for her 25th anniversary of ordination earlier this year.
- + This year's assembly theme is "*Singing the Lord's Song in a Strange Land*" based on Psalm 137:4.



Celebrate **ST. PAUL'S**

with an Anniversary Gift

Consider what St. Paul's means to you and how you are blessed by worship, fellowship, and activities of our church. Perhaps you are grateful and excited for the many ways we touch people's lives in spiritual and practical needs near and far. A special gift on the occasion of our 190th anniversary will help us make this a jubilation for all people beyond 2022 and our walls.

There are several options for how you can support God's work to bless the world through our church's ministries and partnerships:

- + **Give** an offering when attending services at church
- + **Mail** checks to P.O. Box 266
- + Make a transfer through your **Bank**
- + Give **Online** using Tithe.ly on our website: www.stpaulshillsboro.net



NEW *Strengthening Families Program*

The Strengthening Families Program (SFP) is a result of the late David Imler Youth Program and a collaboration between Hillsboro Hospital and Cross Over Ministries. It will help families give their children what they need to thrive.

Parents and youth attend free weekly classes together, sharing dinner, followed by separate skill training, followed by a joint family practice session. The program is based on 30 years of research and experience.

- *Do you want to increase family bonding for loving relationships? Are you seeking help in setting clear boundaries for keeping kids safe? You can call (217) 608-0266 for more information and to register!*



Our Administrative Assistant, Marina Mondragon, is in the church office on Tuesdays to Thursdays from 8:30am-12:30pm, and on Fridays from 8:30am-11:30am.

The office will be closed on Friday, May 6; Friday, May 20; and Monday, May 30.



This summer, we will return to our pre-pandemic practice for the season and move our Sunday morning worship time from 10:15am to 9:30am. The revised schedule begins on June 5th and will continue through August 28th. We hope this will provide an opportunity for everyone to worship, and still have time to enjoy their summer plans.



Support for **UKRAINE**

Since the beginning of the war in Ukraine on Feb. 24, millions of people have fled the country and are seeking refuge in neighboring countries including Hungary, Moldova, Poland, Romania, and Slovakia. There are major humanitarian concerns for both internally displaced people and refugees.

Lutheran Disaster Response is accompanying our companion churches and organizations in Europe. These partners support Ukrainians with immediate supplies such as shelter and such basic necessities as food, water, and toiletries. Care for people also includes pastoral and psychological support to address the trauma they've endured.

- + Your gifts designated to "Eastern Europe Crisis," whether through St. Paul's or online at www.elca.org/disaster, is used in full (100%) for direct response to assist those in need. Thank you!

St. Paul's Aid for Ukrainians

Lutheran World Relief is providing food, shelter, and other critically needed items in Ukraine. The emergency support includes *quilts and care kits* such as those made by members of our congregation. Thank you!

A Prayer for Peace in Ukraine *by Bishop S. John Roth*

Gracious God and Lord, almighty and ever faithful, we join with Christians around the world in fervent prayer for the people of Ukraine. We pray for the end of military aggression, for the laying down of weapons, and for peace. We pray for all those in Ukraine who struggle today and fear for tomorrow. We pray for national leaders, including President Biden, that you give them wisdom, discernment, courage, and compassion to guide their decisions in addressing this aggression. Above all, we pray for all your precious children at risk, including those dear to us, that you would draw near to them and protect them; for the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.



ELCA Outdoor Camps

It's not too soon or too late to think about attending camp this summer. More than 210 ELCA outdoor camps are open to all ages and all year round, and offer opportunities for volunteering or employment, too.

Through worship, study, games and activities, participants hear and see how active their faith can be. Whether its setting is near mountains, lakes, prairie, ocean or desert, outdoor ministry can provide you with a life-changing experience.

- + Go online and search for "ELCA summer camps" to find out about programs at many different locations near or far.



LSSI Spring Fling

The Women's Network of Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI) presents its annual Spring Fling fundraising event on May 12, from 6-8pm.

Join Global Chef Jessica Dawson—Cooking Instructor and former America's Test Kitchen Host—for a virtual cooking class! Pour yourself a glass of wine, and cook a meal with friends and family from anywhere. Chef Jessica will teach you how to make a professional four-course meal with impressive, delicious dishes. Once registered, you will receive the ingredient list a week before the event, as well as a special key ingredient sent to your home.

- + Tickets are \$40. All proceeds will support LSSI's Therapeutic Foster Care Program. Learn more and register at www.LSSI.org/SpringFling.



Congratulations to Conner Durbin, Emmett Stewart, CJ Thornton, and Kate Wheeler who each took part in their First Communion this month. May the blessings of God be upon you always!

Sunday School SCHEDULE UPDATE

Last Day of SUNDAY SCHOOL

There will be no Sunday School class on Mother's Day, May 8. Please join us for worship that morning at 10:15am. On Sunday, May 15, Sunday School students will receive a special gift at their last regular class before a break throughout the summer.



We share our prayers and deepest sympathies for Nancy Krefft on the passing of her father, Robert L. Dressen, who passed away on Tuesday, March 29. A memorial service is planned at Mt. Zion Lutheran Church in Litchfield on Monday, June 6.

Our sympathy to Marina Mondragon and family on the passing of her uncle Bobby Winnig on Tuesday, March 29 and her cousin Amber O'Conner on Thursday, March 31. We extend our sympathies also to Charlie Thornton and other family and friends of Mike Schlemer, who passed away on April 5.

We pray and share our heartfelt condolences to Leland Storm and all family & friends of Ruth Storm, who passed away on Friday, April 8. Ruth was a blessing to us all at St. Paul's and we will miss her very much.

The Lord is mindful of our need for comfort and has promised, "I will not leave you comfortless, I will come to you." (John 14:18)



Our funeral luncheon group provides a delicious meal with beautiful place settings and caring dedication. We cannot say thanks enough for the hospitality provided to grieving families and guests.



We thank Diane Singler and many other helpers who organized and set up the "Growing Young"

Art Show earlier this spring. Thank you for entry gifts, scavenger hunt prizes, and exhibit awards. It was a delight to see so much talent and be inspired by spiritual works in our church. Thank you also especially to all artists who provided pieces for display, including from the larger area and young members of St. Paul's.



Thank you, Lew, for taking monthly blood pressures and consulting with our members and guests on other wellness topics. We especially appreciated the gift of health survival kits with treats and messages.



Kids received special Easter gifts to celebrate the gift of eternal life thanks to Jesus and our women's group. We sure appreciate all the wonderful things you do, and that includes also the many eggs you filled for the community Easter hunt.



A special thanks is extended to Ken Meade who stepped in to assist with online video streaming of the funeral service for Ruth Storm.



May 2022



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9am Sunday School 10:15am 190 th Anniversary Worship Service BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS	2 9am Sewing and Fellowship 6:30pm Bible Study	3	4 11am-Noon Ladies of Love 6pm Vocal Choir 7pm Bell Choir	5 Noon: Gathering for National Day of Prayer at Hillsboro United Methodist Church	6 OFFICE CLOSED	7
8 NO Sunday School today 10:15am Worship mother's DAY	9 9am Sewing and Fellowship 6:30pm Bible Study	10 COUNCIL REPORTS DUE	11 11am-Noon Ladies of Love 6pm Vocal Choir 7pm Bell Choir	12 6-8pm LSSI Spring Fling (Virtual Event)	13	14
MEALS ON WHEELS — MAY 9-13						
15 9am Last Day of Sunday School 10:15am Worship with Blessing of Graduates	16 9am Sewing and Fellowship 6:30pm Bible Study	17	18 11am-Noon Ladies of Love 6pm Vocal Choir 7pm Bell Choir	19	20 11am-5pm Rummage Sale OFFICE CLOSED	21 8am-Noon Rummage Sale
22 10:15am Worship with Blessing of Farmers & Gardeners	23 9am Sewing and Fellowship 6:30pm Bible Study JUNE/JULY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	24 7pm Council Meeting	25 11am-Noon Ladies of Love 6pm Vocal Choir 7pm Bell Choir	26	27	28
29 10:15am Worship with Memorial Day Prayer ASCENSION Sunday	30 9am Sewing and Fellowship 6:30pm Bible Study OFFICE CLOSED Memorial DAY	31				

Office Hours are Tuesdays-Thursdays from 8:30am-12:30pm and Fridays from 8:30-11:30am.



5/2	Aaron Whitley
5/4	Morgan Jolliff
5/6	Paula Fenton, Grant Jordan
5/7	Dalton Deming, Olivia Klump
5/9	Dalton Taylor
5/10	Kellee Jo Keiser, Sarah Pollard
5/12	Gerry Rhoades
5/13	Patty Cady
5/14	Heather Plunkett, Ray Wille
5/15	Ken Schaal
5/16	Jaron Gibb, Kimberly Wallace
5/18	Bryan Keepper
5/22	Daxton Ronen
5/24	Robert Moore
5/25	Kendal Stewart
5/26	Vonna Wessell
5/27	Brenda Gibb
5/28	Erin Landers, August Plunkett
5/29	Melanie Sherer
5/30	James Storm

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
PO Box 266
Hillsboro, Illinois 62049
Phone: (217) 532-2353

E-mail: office@stpaulshillsboro.net
Website: www.stpaulshillsboro.net
Facebook: www.facebook.com/stpaulslutheranchurchonthecourhousesquare

Pastor Stefan Munker
Cell Phone: (217) 851-1250
Email: pastormunker@gmail.com

- Church Council**
- President** – Mike Plunkett
 - Vice President** – Gail Schaal
 - Finance** – Jean Brauer
 - Secretary** – Anita Swick
 - Christian Education** – Marina Mondragon
 - Church in Society** – Paula Keepper
 - Evangelism** – Carolyn Meier
 - Fellowship** – Pam Schaefer
 - Property** – Greg Schoen
 - Stewardship** – Lori Evans
 - Worship & Music** – Liz Allen
 - Youth** – Melanie Sherer
 - Youth Representative** – Gage Putnam