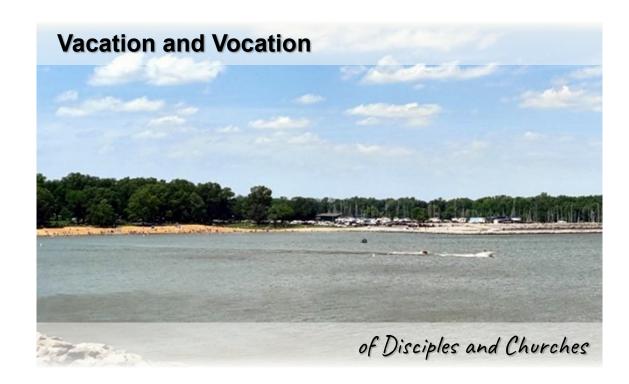


ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

July & August 2022 Newsletter



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



A MESSAGE from the Pastor

What Are You Doing This Summer?

Summer is definitely here. It's already getting too hot. And we are worshiping at 9:30am at St. Paul's.

The summer months can be a time for change in routines, for spending more time outside, and for taking time off for vacation.

But for the most part life goes on. Between Memorial Day and Labor Day, there's still work to be done (at home or the office), the news doesn't stop (Ukraine, mass shootings, or January 6th hearings), and if not planned there won't be special activities at our church this fall.

Does your routine change during the summer? What's your favorite activity this time of year? How can we balance more rest while still living out our calling as disciples in the world?

My wife and I usually get a bit of a reprieve from church meetings. There's still all the other things pastors do that fill up our daily and weekly schedules. But we also enjoy relaxing days by a beach when it's not raining, and we are very much looking forward to a long-postponed trip to visit family and take a river cruise in Germany this summer.

A teacher in the Old Testament observed: "There's a season for everything ... Moreover, this is the gift of God: that all people should eat, drink, and enjoy the results of their hard work." (Ecclesiastes 3:1a, 13)

Regardless of the season, we as Christian disciple followers of Jesus are invited to balance work and rest as we follow our calling to serve God's purposes in our daily lives as individuals and through shared ministries as a congregation. Both our vocation to work and the taking of vacation are not obligations but gifts from God.

This summer, make sure you get a chance to find extra rest and see how you can do it on a regular basis. And consider how your everyday activities and involvement at our church are always contributions to help share God's love and blessings.

Yours busied relaxing and working relaxed,

Pastor Stefan Munker

SERVING THIS MONTH

COUNTER (July) - Pam Schaefer

ALTAR GUILD (July)

17, 24 – Liz Allen and Carolyn Meier

31 - Sharol Hayes and Anita Swick

COMMUNION ASSISTANT (July)

17 – Mike Plunkett

24 – Sandra Moody

31 – Liz Allen

LECTOR (July)

17 – Diane Singler

24 – Charles Moody

31 - Ken Schaal

USHERS (July)

17 – Greg & Sharon Schoen

24 – August & Mike Plunkett

31 - John Gibb and Bill Hamilton

FLOWERS (July)

17 – John & Brenda Gibb

24 - Leland Storm

31 - Betty Bledsaw

VIDEO & AUDIO TEAM (July)

17 - Liz Allen and August Plunkett

24 – Merle Imler and Chris Storm

31 - Liz Allen and August Plunkett

COUNTER (August) - Gail Schaal

ALTAR GUILD (August)

14 – Carolyn Meier

21 - Sharol Hayes and Anita Swick

28 - Liz Allen and Carolyn Meier

COMMUNION ASSISTANT (August)

14 – Sandra Moody

21 – Mike Plunkett

28 – Liz Allen

LECTOR (August)

14 - Donna Wille

21 - Diane Singler

28 – Lori Evans

USHERS (August)

14 – Gail & Ken Schaal

21 - Greg & Sharon Schoen

28 – August and Mike Plunkett

FLOWERS (August)

14 – Karen Hamilton

21 – Still Available

28 - Carol Calvert

VIDEO & AUDIO TEAM (August)

14 – Merle Imler and Chris Storm

21, 28 - Liz Allen and August Plunkett



Summer *Office Hours* for Administrative Assistant Marina Mondragon:

<u>Tue/Wed</u>: 8am-12:30pm • <u>Thurs</u>: 8am-11:30am • <u>Fri</u>: 8am-10:30am

Marina will be out of the office from July 15 through July 22. If you need pastoral care during this time, please contact council president Mike Plunkett so a pastor on call can be put in contact with you.



SUPPLY AND ON-CALL during Pastor's Vacation

Pastor Munker will be on vacation between July 11 and 28 to visit family in Germany with his wife for the first time again after nearly three years of pandemic hiatus.

- + Pastor Thomas Kratzer will lead worship with Communion on Sundays, July 17 and 24.
- + If you are in need of pastoral care, please contact the church office or council president Mike Plunkett for assistance in getting in touch with a pastor on call for illnesses or deaths. Marina will be out of the office from Friday, July 15 through Friday, July 22.



MEMBER Check-ins

In June, Pastor Munker began to check in again first with members who had become inactive during the pandemic, and he plans to continue to make calls to all St. Paul's members to see how things are going, if there's a need for prayer or reason to celebrate.

If you would like to share any question, concern or idea, feel free to reach out to Pastor Munker any time: call/text (217) 851-1250.



Pastor's IN-SERVICE

During August, Pastor Munker is thinking of taking a working sabbatical of sorts. He will still be around and tend to the basics, but would like to focus on organizing his office and resources, and spending time preparing a council retreat and fall ministries. Pastor Munker will let us know which week(s) he'll be doing his in-service.



NOON PRAYER for Peace

Pause with other Christians for a traditional moment of prayer for peace at 12:00pm each day. We ask God for the wellbeing of the church, community, and ourselves. Consider setting yourself an alarm to remember.

WORSHIP HIGHLIGHTS during the Summer



Remember we are worshiping at 9:30am for our Sunday services at St. Paul's during the summer months through the end of August.

- + Hymn Service: July 31
- + Old Settlers Community Service: August 7
 - Note: There will be <u>no</u> worship at St. Paul's. Members are invited to join for an 8am outdoor service at Beckemeyer Elementary School (inside school gym for inclement weather).

We don't (yet) have a **Praise Band**, but Cassie, Liz and Pastor Munker have been preparing praise songs they plan to introduce this summer or fall. Anyone interested in joining them with voice or instrument is welcome to check on practice meetings.



ELCA Prayer Ventures by Email (and at Church)

Each month, the ELCA provides a list of daily prayer prompts for the members of the church. Suggestions range from commemoration of saints to secular holidays, and from church ministries to social issues.

+ Look for your copy in an e-mail from the church office at the end of each month. A limited number of printed copies will be available at church by the Prayer Circle board in the sanctuary.

Dwelling in the WORD

This summer, Pastor Munker is inviting us all to practice dwelling in the Word by reading one of the scripture texts from Sunday worship and reflecting on three questions: 1) What do I notice? 2) What questions do I have? 3) What is God's Spirit nudging me or us to do?

- + Members will receive the weekly readings and questions either by email or by regular mail.
- + You can do this at home by yourself, as a family, or with friends even outside of St. Paul's any time during the week.
- Pastor Munker is offering a group experience at church or on Zoom (link is shared by email) on most Wednesdays at 6:00pm.

LEARN ABOUT THE BIBLE for All



RUMMAGE

Watch for more info to come: A course "Introduction to the New Testament" taught by our synod bishop S. John Roth in six sessions this fall starting on Saturday, September 3, from 9am-12pm. This

class is available in a hybrid format both in person (location to be determined) and online via Zoom.

Thanks to a generous grant from Immanuel Lutheran Church in Colfax, there are no registration fees for the C/SIS Adult Faith Formation courses this year! For the complete course schedule and registration, visit CSIS-ELCA.org.

Annual RUMMAGE SALE

St. Paul's will be having a rummage sale in September, exact dates to be decided. We will be needing many volunteers for setting up and working those days. Please watch the bulletin board to sign up in late August.

You may continue to bring items in for the rummage sale so we can start pricing them. Please do NOT bring any electronics. We are also not accepting any clothing. Please bring items that are in good shape. Please store new rummage sale items in the youth room so we can still access the refrigerator in our storage room. Thank you. If you have any questions, please contact Paula Keepper.

CHURCH Anniversary PREPARATIONS

ANNIVERSARY EVENTS Planning Update

We have several ideas for more activities to celebrate our church this year. Watch for announcements about planning meetings and dates for events.

+ Please let Liz Allen or Pastor Munker know if you would like to get involved in the planning.

Here's some of the events we are working on with tentative information:

- Water giveaway and/or anniversary float/trolley at Old Settlers August 10/11
- + Ice cream social (with entertainment) Late summer
- + Rally Day outdoor service and picnic with games September 11, 10:15am at Bremer Sanctuary
- + Carnival games for kids at Imagine Hillsboro fall fest October
- + Music concert (with reception) Later fall

SYNOD ASSEMBLY 2022

by Pastor Munker

This year was the first time our synod was able to gather in person since 2019. During the pandemic, meetings were held by Zoom. It was wonderful to



share worship, have conversations, and be able to have a shared experience.

Jean Brauer attended for St. Paul's together with Pastor Stefan Munker. They shared rides and accommodations with Pastor Cynthia Munker and members from her congregation. It was nice to get to know each other more. Pastors, deacons, and members of our conference churches also gathered for a catered dinner at an outdoor brewery in Champaign/Urbana.

During the assembly much time was given to consider how our congregations are called by the Holy Spirit to share the message of God's love in Jesus in this day and age. We created a mural to reflect many exciting answers.

- We are blessed to be connected to the wider church for mutual encouragement. support, and mission. St. Paul's contributes generously to provide for leadership in our synod office and outreach through wider ministries like Lutheran Social Services of Illinois, outdoor camp, or ELCA World Hunger to name a few.
- May we continue to be enriched and inspired as we engage in initiatives such as the Sister Congregation or Dwelling in the Word programs. Together we are "singing the Lord's song in a strange land" (Psalm 137:4) as this year's theme put it.
- Seriously consider attending as a voting member (1 male, 1 female, including confirmed youth) next year in Peoria.





Pictured: Bishop S. John Roth on screen, Pastor Munker and Jean in front of the mural created by assembly participants, BBQ at the conference social

SYNOD ASSEMBLY REPORT 2022

by Jean Brauer

Pastor Stefan and myself, Jean Brauer, and three others from Mt. Zion ELCA Litchfield traveled together for the Central/Southern IL



Synod (C/SIS) Assembly in Champaign in early June. This was held on the University of Illinois campus at the I Hotel. We discussed business and the proposed budget of a group of 117 congregations covering nearly 2/3 of Illinois. The theme of the Assembly was "Singing a Song of our Lord in a Strange Land." The Presbyterian Church USA, the Belleville Catholic Diocese, and the United Methodist Church all sent video messages. We heard from about 18 committees or groups formed within synod for our wider church's benefit, several specifically sending thanks for the support we've given to them (and encouraging us to fundraise). We gathered at least once each day for prayer, praise, and to celebrate our Lord. I thank you for the opportunity to attend.



Through "Beyond Our Walls" we contribute each month to support ministries in our local community and around

the world. Please give as you are able, either in the jug or with your offering.

Our collection for July will be used to support the Lutheran World Relief, working with partners around the world to end poverty, injustice and human suffering.

Our donations for August will go to Lighthouse Pregnancy and Health Services in Hillsboro, whose goal is to provide support and practical assistance for women during and after pregnancy.

We appreciate the ways you enable us to serve others each month. Thank you for your generosity.



A big thank you to everyone who helps to deliver Meals on Wheels each month. Our next scheduled week is August 1-5. Please contact Carolyn Meier for more information or to volunteer.

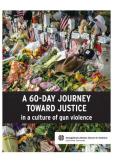


All articles for the September newsletter will be due to the office by Monday, August 22. Please be sure to submit any information that should be included in the newsletter to the office on time. Thank you.

SINCE YOU ASKED

What Does the ELCA Say about Gun Violence?

Recently there has been a string of shootings involving multiple victims in our country again. Sadly, people are killed in mass shootings that do not make national news all too frequently. In each case there is much grief by those affected, and many people of faith ask what can be done.



- Our ELCA Bishop Elizabeth Eaton has been issuing statements expressing care and lament, but also inviting the whole church to action by recommitting to the search and work for peace within our communities and throughout the world.
- + In 1994, the ELCA adopted the social message "Community Violence," calling for advocacy to end the cycle of violence in the USA. Twenty-eight years later, this message is still relevant in the work toward the prevention of shootings. It expresses a commitment in calling for greater gun safety, including preventing easy access to assault-style weapons and strengthening our federal system of background checks for all gun sales. This and other related documents are at www.elca.org.
- Please pray for victims. Pray for an end to violence. Pray for forgiveness, and for change. Use the new resource "A 60-Day Journey Toward Justice in a Culture of Gun Violence" with prayers, scripture, stories, and church teachings for individual reflection.



ALTAR FLOWERS

The following dates remain open to place flowers on the altar in honor of an event or

family celebration, or in memory of a loved one.

Aug 21 • Sep 4 • Oct 23

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.



Madagascar Offering TOTAL (so far)

Our synod has reported (before we sent in our "Noisy Offerings" from June) that gifts from assembly worship, congregations, and individuals so far total \$10,466.84 for our two companion synods in Madagascar. Thank you for your generous sharing to provide support of church leaders, funds for rebuilding storm damages, and relief to those who suffer.



NEW SISTER CONGREGATION:

St. John's in Springfield

Our new sister congregation for the coming year is: St. John's in Springfield!

Hopefully we can get to know each other more than was possible with previous assignments during two years of the pandemic. Lead Pastor Greg Busboom is our synod conference dean.



GROUPS for Faith and Fellowship

St. Paul's has many activities, some of which come and go, and hopefully there is something that feeds everyone. These two groups for men and women are always open to anyone to experience friendship, receive spiritual support, and serve the people of God. Come join:

- Sewing and Fellowship: Most Mondays, 9am in the Multipurpose Bell Choir room (no sewing experience necessary)
- Men's Coffee and Faith: Most 1st and 3rd Mondays, 9am, at Bremer Sanctuary or Black Rabbit (inclement weather)



PARISH NURSE Ministry

Blood Pressure Checks and Wellness Information

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

Note: Due to the Old Settlers
 Community Service on August 7,
 Lew will be here the following
 week on Sunday, August 14.

To Be a Nurse

by: A.H. Lawrence

To be a nurse is to walk with God
Along the path that the Master trod.
To sooth the sorrow of human pain,
To faithfully serve for little gain.
To lovingly do the kindly deed,
A cup of water to one in need.
A tender hand on a fevered brow,
A word of cheer to the living now;
To teach the soul through its body's woe,
Ah! This is the way the Lord would go.
Oh gentle nurse, with heart so true,
The great Physician works through you!

(Adapted from poetrynook.com. Reprinted in accordance of fair use guidelines for educational purposes.)

GOD IS CALLING You



We are blessed by all who share their time and talent to serve in ministries of our church. Please consider prayerfully how God can use you to support, enhance, or expand our congregation's activities.

 Help is always welcome and appreciated for setup, ushering, reading, music, drama, art, Communion, video, and more during worship. Pastor Munker and Liz Allen are glad to tell you more and include you.



Our anniversary Bible Study group felt called to prepare and provide care kits for handouts to homeless people and others in need.

- + Donate We are looking for care items: gallon ziplock bags (for keeping the items), socks, lip balm, bandages, nail clippers, toothbrush and paste, comb, individually wrapped wet wipes, water bottles or sports drinks, cans (with opener) of tuna or lunchmeat, singleserving snacks like granola bars, raisins, jerky or crackers.
- Assemble Look for a date and time for assembling the kits together, or simply make a kit yourself with items listed above.
- + Care A list of local resources, a handwritten note explaining why we give the kit and a word of encouragement, hand towel, rain poncho, and quarters for laundry can also be included.



LADLES OF LOVE

Celebrating 11 Years of Free Meals

On June 1, St. Paul's volunteers and other helpers served 100 meals with catered fried chicken and homemade side dishes to celebrate God's generosity, St. Paul's care for the community, and another anniversary.

- St. Paul's Ladles of Love ministry serves free lunches each Wednesday, 11am-12noon at the church driveway.
- + Contact Diane Singler or Paula Keepper to volunteer.



Give to ST. PAUL'S



Even When You Are Away during the Summer

Who doesn't want to enjoy a vacation, time in nature, or visit someone special? Usually, attendance in worship is lower during summer months. And so are offerings. Please

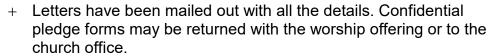
remember that St. Paul's mission continues, and give your regular tithe and special gifts even when you are out and about. Thank you!

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

Campaign for Comfort

We have started our "Campaign for Comfort" to pay for the new heating and air conditioning system in St. Paul's sanctuary and the basement underneath.



- + Gifts may be made in any amount, any time, in any convenient way (cash, worship offering, online). Please make sure to designate your contribution to the "HVAC Campaign."
- + We encourage you to direct available Thrivent Choice Dollars to the HVAC campaign. Check with a financial expert about the possibility of using investment disbursements or estate bequests with potential tax advantages.



We thank Pam Schaeffer for ordering cake and organizing a lovely celebration

reception following the Confirmation of Kamdyn Putnam and Skylar Durbin.



Thanks to CJ and Dagny for helping Pastor Munker water grass sod before it got too dry and hopefully

did not die. Let's pray for a good grass revival in the fall.



COME IN PEACE - Serve the Lord!

A synod-wide mission trip is in the works to work, play and worship at Trinity Lutheran Church in Olney, Sat-Sun, September 3-4. Go by yourself, or get a group together.

Cost is \$25 per person or \$200 for groups of 10 or more and includes food. Accommodations are on your own, either with a sleeping bag at the church or in a hotel/campground nearby. Register online: www.csis-elca.org/missiontrip.



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 Darda
Judie Donham
Doris Enochs
Joyce Gooding
Robin Houser
Lynn Keepper

Lyn Lingle Bob Mulch, Sr. Pat Osborn Delores Plunkett Kris Whitley



ELCA DISASTER RESPONSE for Eastern Europe

The war in Ukraine is now in its fifth month. By June, ELCA Disaster Response already received and distributed over \$8.2 million through churches and other organizations in Eastern Europe. But the needs of refugees and internally displaced people continue.

+ 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 the people of Ukraine. Thank you for not forgetting them!



Thank you, Jean Brauer, for attending synod assembly, and for creating a bulletin display about one of the major themes. If

you are curious to learn more, ask her or Pastor Munker.



The men's coffee group would like to say thanks to Bremer and stewards from St. Paul's for giving us a beautiful place

to share conversations and fellowship (with coffee and devotions).



NEW SYNOD MINISTRIES to Reach New People

In a society where fewer and fewer people have encountered the good news of life in Christ and people face immense challenges like broken relationships, health

crises, and financial hardships, how might God be calling us in the Central/Southern Illinois Synod to create communities for people new to the gospel to encounter Christ's grace and hope?

Pastor Stefan Munker has plans to invite our church council and all of our members in prayerful conversations about God's plans for our church in reaching today's new generation and other unchurched people in our community.

Consider listening for God's direction by joining one of two new synod groups, sponsored by Pastor Elise Rothfusz, Director for Evangelical Mission and the New and Renewing Congregations Committee:

+ First Friday Prayer Group

Come for a time of prayer on Zoom from 7:30-8am on the first Friday of every month. We will pray for those people and places in our synod who are planning or imagining new ministries to reach people who do not yet know Jesus. Sign up online to receive the Zoom link.

+ Deep Roots, Wild Branches Zoom Book Group

To stir our imaginations about where the Spirit may be leading us, we will discuss the book *Deep Roots, Wild Branches* by Michael Adam Beck. This group will meet on five Mondays from 6:30-8pm, beginning August 15 and meeting every other week through October 10. Sign up online for more information about ordering the book and to receive the Zoom link.

If you need help signing up, contact Pastor Elise Rothfusz via synod e-mail: elise.rothfusz@csis-elca.org.



Thank you, Greg Schoen, for making

sure we get rid of the wasps that had been swarming around the tower entrance and dropping there. Let's hope they stay away after the pest control application.



Dear Betty Darda, Thank you so very much on behalf of St. Paul's Lutheran Church for your

generous gift toward our new heating and cooling system. It will be a blessing to many in years to come.

— Pastor Stefan Munker



7/1	Amanda Fuller					
7/2	Nancy Hites, Stella Meeker					
7/3	Sabrina Shultz					
7/5	Orville Stokes					
7/6	Liz Allen, Lauren Storm					
7/7	Brady Meier, Kerri Miller, Katie Wessel					
7/9	Lewis McDonald					
7/10	Christopher Jurgena					
7/14	Elizabeth Dowalder					
7/17	Thomas Miller					
7/18	Caitlin Fenton					
7/21	Henry Shultz					
7/22	Garrett Swick, Krislyn Swick					
7/23	Kris Whitley					
7/24	Bryan Deming, James Storm					
7/25	Brenda Fenton, Hannah Sherer					
7/26	Kenneth Sandlin					
7/27	Marvin Traylor, Jr.					
7/28	Duane Clinard					
7/29	Lori Jolliff					
7/30	Erin Bozek, Cassie Gunn					
7/31	Daniel Whitlow					



8/3	Bobby Pollard, Christina Sterzing, Leland Storm					
8/6	Jody Dunn, Jessica Harmon					
8/8	Logan Mutchler					
8/9	Bob Calvert					
8/11	Neil Brinkman, Joshua Moore, Alison Storm					
8/12	Greg Schoen					
8/13	Courtney Munch-Rahe					
8/14	Sonny Hogue, Shelby Porter					
8/15	Tracy Klump, Matthew Lentz					
8/16	Marilyn Lingle					
8/17	Carolyn Meier					
8/19	Allison Fuller					
8/20	Tobin Ott					
8/21	Luke Stewart					
8/22	Barbara Duzan, Brenden Meier, Kyle Putnam					
8/24	Scott Duzan, Karen Osborn, Gage Putnam, David Stark					
8/25	Pico Jolliff; Bryer Reitz					
8/26	Sharayah Keepper					
8/27	Michelle Whitlow					
8/28	Brandi Lentz, Mary Martin					
8/29	Paul Hubbard					
8/31	Kathryn Wille					



July & August 2022



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday		
9:30am Worship	9am Sewing and Fellowship 9am Men's Coffee (Bremer)	19	11am-Noon Ladles of Love	21	22	23		
9:30am Worship	25 9am Sewing and Fellowship	26 7pm Council Meeting	27 11am-Noon Ladles of Love	28	29	30		
31 9:30am Hymn Service Worship	9am Sewing and Fellowship 9am Men's Coffee (Bremer)	2	3 11am-Noon Ladles of Love 6pm Dwelling in the Word	4	5	6		
7 8am Old Settlers Community Worship Service (Beckemeyer) No Worship	8 9am Sewing and Fellowship	COUNCIL REPORTS DUE	10 N Wheels — Aug	11	12	13		
at St. Paul's								
9:30am Worship BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS	9am Sewing and Fellowship 9am Men's Coffee (Bremer)	16	17 11am-Noon Ladles of Love 6pm Dwelling in the Word	18	19	20		
9:30am Worship	SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	7pm Council Meeting	24 11am-Noon Ladles of Love 6pm Dwelling in the Word	25	26	27		
9:30am Worship	9am Sewing and Fellowship	30	31 11am-Noon Ladles of Love 6pm Dwelling in the Word					

Office Hours: Tue 8:00am-12:30pm | Wed: 8:00am-12:30pm | Thu 8:00am-11:30am | Fri 8:00-10:30am