

Flock Talk

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

September 2022 Newsletter

A New Kind of Church Rally



to Renew Faith Activities for Everyone

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



A MESSAGE *from the Pastor*

Not Just for Kids

The first time I read the Bible was at a Christian Jr High summer camp. I am a strong supporter of getting kids the opportunity of attending camp for getting a spiritual faith experience. Studies have shown that many ELCA pastors point to camp as a young person as decisive for their decision to respond to the call to ordained ministry.

But I also believe that for too long we in the church have limited Rally Day to a traditional formality to begin the Sunday School year for children only. There is so much that I myself have and continue to discover in the Bible and through faith conversations that enriches and deepens my faith as an adult to this day.

Let's end the misconception that Sunday School is just for kids, and instead encourage everyone to explore and practice faith in Jesus.

This is the reason why I used the opportunity of last year's decision to hold Rally Day with an outdoor worship and picnic to rename it as "*Rally Funday*." By celebrating together and having fun we can and should rally people of all ages to renewed participation in *all* activities of our church after Labor Day.

Let me quote from the Apostle St. Paul: "*For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope.*" (Romans 15:4)

I know that the Confirmation rite appears like a graduation from Sunday School, but it is in reality a life commission to become an adult disciple of Jesus. It will take us some time to change perception, to convince you that adult learning can be exciting and useful, and to develop actual courses that work - but that is going to be the goal.

- + This fall, let's start the renewal of our congregation's Christian Education ministry by rallying all members and the community to join us for many faith activities at St. Paul's this fall. Come to 10:15am *Rally Funday* worship and picnic at Bremer on September 11. And check out *more opportunities* in this newsletter.

Yours teaching faith to kids and adults (ages 0-99),
Pastor Stefan Munker

SERVING THIS MONTH

COUNTER – Greg Schoen

ALTAR GUILD

- 4 – Sharol Hayes and Anita Swick
- 18 – Liz Allen and Carolyn Meier
- 25 – Sharol Hayes and Anita Swick

COMMUNION ASSISTANT

- 4 – John Gibb
- 18 – Mike Plunkett
- 25 – Liz Allen

FLOWERS

- 4 – *Still available*
- 11 – Sandra & Charles Moody
- 18 – Elizabeth Dowalder
- 25 – Sandra & Charles Moody

LECTOR

- 4 – Brenda Gibb
- 11 – Donna Wille
- 18 – Diane Singler
- 25 – Lori Evans

USHERS

- 4 – Charles & Sandra Moody
- 18 – Greg & Sharon Schoen
- 25 – Ken & Gail Schaal

VIDEO & AUDIO

- 4 – Merle Imler and Chris Storm
- 11 – Liz Allen
- 18 – Merle Imler and Chris Storm
- 25 – Liz Allen and August Plunkett



Regular Worship Time RETURNS

Remember that our worship schedule will change again on Sunday, September 4, when we will return to regular 10:15am service time.

Upcoming WORSHIP HIGHLIGHTS



- + *September 4:* Labor Day recognition and synod staff sermon
- + *September 11:* Rally Funday outdoor worship and picnic with potluck and games (for all ages!) at Bremer Sanctuary
- + *September 18:* Bible presentation for third graders



All articles for the October newsletter will be due to the office by Wednesday, September 21. Please be sure to submit any articles to the office on time. Thank you.

OFFICE HOURS

New fall office hours for Administrative Assistant Marina Mondragon begin after Labor Day, September 5.

- Monday: 1:00pm-3:00pm
- Tuesday: 9:30am-12:30pm
- Wednesday: 8:30am-12:30pm
- Thursday: 9:30am-12:30pm
- Friday: 8:30am-11:30am

You may send an e-mail at any time to office@stpaulshillsboro.net

or leave a phone message on the answering machine at (217) 532-2353 and Marina will respond to you during scheduled hours. Please keep in mind that Marina does not work on Sundays. Thank you.



Celebrate DAILY VOCATION

On Sunday of Labor Day weekend, September 4, Pastor Munker will offer a Recognition of Vocations in daily life and pray for all whose work is a blessing to others.

- + You may dress and/or bring an item that represents what you do at work, school or home, in a hobby or as a volunteer, as part of our church or by way of some other involvement in society.
- + Pastor Maureen Stein, assistant to our synod bishop, will provide a sermon.



Rally Funday

OUTDOOR WORSHIP & PICNIC

Plan on joining our Rally Funday outdoor worship and picnic at Bremer Sanctuary at 10:15am on Sunday, September 11. We'll celebrate the

resumption of fall activities, and enjoy food fellowship and fun old-fashioned games (for all ages).

- + Bring a lawn chair. Some seating is available on picnic tables in the shelter. If it rains, we will meet inside the barn. There's an outhouse for restroom use.
- + Invite others! Bremer is an Audubon bird and prairie sanctuary just north of the church at 194 Bremer Ln in Butler. Park on the grassy area right of the gravel road (some preferred parking is reserved closest to the barn).
- + Please sign up or let the office know if you can help with setup and cleanup, preparing and serving food, or games and activities. Thanks!



RUMMAGE SALE *Is Going to Happen!*

St. Paul's will finally be having a rummage sale again on Fri-Sat, September 23-24. We will be needing many volunteers for setting up and working those days. Please check the bulletin board for a sign-up sheet to be posted soon.

You may continue to bring items in so we can price them. 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*

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.

This month, Lew shares the *Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi*:

Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace: where there is hatred, let me show love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek: to be consoled as to console, to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, and it is in dying that we are born to Eternal Life. Amen.



Through "Beyond Our Walls" we contribute each month to support ministries in our local and global community. As we share our gifts with those beyond our walls, we are reminded of the many ways that God touches our lives each day. Thank you for your generosity.

As in years past, we will hold our food drive for community food pantries this month, including Coffeen, Hillsboro Salvation Army, Harvest of Hope, and CEFS for Montgomery County. Monetary donations can be given during worship each Sunday. Canned goods, pasta, peanut butter, soup, and other non-perishable items will be collected at church, as well as personal items.

Please give generously. And remember, please check expiration dates and do not bring items that are outdated. Thank you.



A big thank you to everyone who helps to deliver Meals on Wheels each month. Our next scheduled week is September 12-16. Please contact Carolyn Meier for more information or to volunteer.



A meeting for those interested in Vocal Choir and/or Bell Choir took place in late August to seek interest and set practice times as choirs begin again. If you were not able to make it or would like information, you can call or text Liz Allen at (217) 313-3627.

Music is an integral part of our worship experience, and we encourage anyone interested to participate. You need to be able to read music to play bells.



Children in preschool through 6th grade are invited to join us as we begin Sunday School classes at 9:00am on September 18th in the basement fellowship hall.

Classes will include Bible lessons with videos, discussion, activities, worship music, crafts, prayer, and lots of fun. Invite a friend and join us each week as we learn about God and build our faith at St. Paul's!

Our Sunday School teacher Marina Mondragon can always use an extra pair of hands to assist during classes. Adults and older youth interested in helping (even for just a single week) may contact Marina at (618) 580-3798 or marinarmq@gmail.com to get more information or to volunteer. Help is always appreciated. Thanks!



Women's GATHERING

The C/SIS Women of the ELCA will hold their biennial convention on September 9-10 at Grace Lutheran Church in Springfield. The theme is "Bonding, Learning, and Growing Closer to God," and will include among others a presentation by Sharon Miner about how Reverend Springer (former St. Paul's pastor!) and Abe Lincoln were connected.

Full event details and registration info can be found at www.WELCA-CSIS.org.



Free ART EXPERIENCE

Unwind and Relax Your Mind

A free art experience is offered by St. Paul's member Diane Singler at Cross Over Ministries' Living Room on the 2nd floor of the Montgomery County Farm Bureau (102 N. Main St, Suite #1 in Hillsboro) from 10-11am on second Saturdays of each month. Relax and feel better by creating art! No previous art experience required. All ages are welcome, but 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult.

Register by phone (217) 851-5424 or e-mail: dianesingler@gmail.com.

Advocacy Cafe



ELCA Advocacy Café

Attend an Upcoming Event

Drop by an Advocacy Cafe to hear from ELCA advocacy community leaders about timely topics. The 30-minute presentations will be offered twice on the same day, with the day session followed by a Q&A session and the evening session followed by small group discussion.

+ Learn more about upcoming topics and register by visiting ELCA advocacy's blog: <https://blogs.elca.org/advocacy/advocacy-cafe>



New **ELCA VICE PRESIDENT**

On August 11, the ELCA churchwide assembly elected Imran Siddiqui as its vice president, the first Asian American elected to the national post. The vice president is the highest-ranking lay leader of the denomination, overseeing the ELCA Church Council and serving as one of four leaders of the church. During his initial speech to the assembly, Siddiqui spoke of his journey to the ELCA, his love of liturgy and the Lutheran focus of God's grace.

"The thing that is so revolutionary about [God's grace] is the idea that it is something subtle across several of the Christian denominations when they talk. But what Lutheranism and the ELCA, at least in my church, have really hammered home is that it's not about what you've done or how you think of yourself. It's that God loves you just as much as God loves anyone else. You could be anybody. You could believe you're unforgivable, but you're not unforgivable. There is nobody that is outside of God's love."



NEW Date: *Ice Cream Social*

After postponement, we are planning to enjoy sundaes at church on Sunday, October 9. Watch for more details in weekly announcements and next month's Flock Talk.



BISHOP EATON ISSUES *Thank You Letter*

ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton expressed gratitude for President Biden's visit to the Augusta Victoria Hospital (AVH) in East Jerusalem and his announcement of a \$100 million multi-year commitment to the East Jerusalem Hospital Network. AVH is owned and operated by the Lutheran World Federation and provides many essential services to a diverse population.



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 holiday flowers or a personal contact by other members.

Betty Darda
Judie Donham
Doris Enochs

Joyce Gooding
Robin Houser
Lyn Lingle

Bob Mulch, Sr.
Pat Osborn
Delores Plunkett

Russell Rhoades
Kris Whitley



Free Lunches from **LADLES OF LOVE**

Each week, our Ladles of Love ministry prepares and serves carry-out meals and a personal item for the community at the St. Paul's driveway on Wednesdays from 11am-noon. We welcome volunteers for shopping, preparing meals, packing, and serving. Please check with Diane Singler.



Most Mondays, women meet for **Sewing and Fellowship** at 9am in the bell choir room at church. Most 1st and 3rd Mondays at 9am, men join together for **Coffee and Faith** meetings at Bremer Sanctuary (or Black Rabbit for inclement weather).



Faith **FOR CHALLENGING TIMES**

The Lutheran School of Theology in St. Louis is offering a fall class “When Theologies Fail” with Rev. Dr. Fred Niedner. Consider what we cling to from our faith, and how we rebuild, when our world falls apart.

- + The fee for this event is \$75. It will be taught on Zoom from 7-9pm on Thursday evenings, October 13 through November 10. For more information and to register go to <https://lststl.org/when-theologies-fail>.



Support **FOR FAMILIES AFFECTED BY DIVORCE**

A 13-week DivorceCare program will be offered through our community partner Cross Over Ministries for adults in person on Tuesdays at 6pm-8pm from Sep 6-Nov 29 and online on Thursdays at 7pm-8pm from Sep 8-Dec 8, and for children (DC4K) on Mondays at 7-7:30pm from Sep 5-Nov 28 at the Christian Church of Litchfield (131 Yaeger Lake Trail).

- + Participants can join the open group at any time throughout the 13-week span but are encouraged to attend at least three meetings. The material is biblically based, but participants do not have to be a member of a church to attend.
- + The workbook for personal study and application has a cost of \$20, with scholarships available if needed.
- + Check the registration page at www.crossoverncfp.com/events.html for more information.



Give to **ST. PAUL'S**

and Support Our Faith Activities

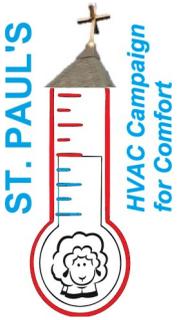
Our church provides many opportunities for discovering, deepening, and sharing faith in God's love and the good news of Jesus that fills us with hope. Thank you for your regular offerings which provide the funds for all our worship, learning, fellowship, service, and evangelism activities!

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**, or give **online** using Tithe.ly on our website: www.stpaulshillsboro.net.

Campaign for Comfort

This special fundraising campaign will pay for a new heating and air conditioning (HVAC) system in St. Paul's sanctuary and the basement underneath.

- + Work to replace our aging and inefficient equipment with a new and improved system began in late August.
- + We are grateful for pledges and gifts already made. Anyone can still join and contribute any time.
- + Gifts may be made in any amount, any time, in any convenient way (e.g., cash, worship offering, online). Please make sure you designate your contribution to the “HVAC Campaign.” Check with a financial expert about the possibility of using investment disbursements or estate bequests with potential tax advantages.



DISASTER RESPONSE

ELCA DISASTER RELIEF: *Ukraine and Eastern Europe*

Months after Russian troops invaded Ukraine, fighting continues to intensify and humanitarian conditions continue to deteriorate. The United Nations estimates that at least 24 million people—more than half of Ukraine's population—are in need of humanitarian assistance as the war continues.

In addition to continuing to meet the immediate needs of arriving refugees including food, shelter, hygiene kits and medical supplies, ELCA partners in the region support those fleeing the violence in Ukraine with assistance in psycho-social care, pastoral care, housing, job searches, language study, school admission, legal services, cash assistance, and other key integration support for individuals and families.

All over the region, Lutherans have opened their hearts, homes, churches, and communities to people fleeing the war in Ukraine. Our support is also reaching communities not eligible for state-sponsored services for refugees, including Roma people and third-country nationals fleeing the violence in Ukraine.

- + Lutheran Disaster Response has raised over \$10 million in support of refugees and internally displaced people in Ukraine and surrounding countries.
- + Please pray for people who have been impacted by the war in Ukraine. May God's healing presence give them peace and hope in their time of need.
- + Your gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response (Eastern Europe Crisis Response) will be used in full (100%) to assist those impacted by the war in Ukraine.



Our sympathy to family and friends of Dorothy Hinsch, who passed away on Monday, May 2.

We share our prayers and deepest sympathies for Paula Keeper and family on the passing of her husband, Lynn Keeper, on Tuesday, August 2.

We pray and share our heartfelt condolences with loved ones of Nancy Darda, who passed away on Tuesday, August 9.

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)



St. Paul's, FAYCO would like to thank the church for your recent donation. We will be using it towards needed supplies, as well as fun and educational activities for our individuals in Hillsboro to enjoy. Thank you so much for thinking of us.

FAYCO is indeed fortunate to belong to a community of thoughtful and generous organizations that stand with us in "Building a Brighter Tomorrow." Thank you for your continuous support.

Sincerely,
FAYCO Enterprises, Inc.



Pastor Munker thanks Mike Plunkett for filling in for him on short notice after

he was diagnosed with Covid upon return from vacation travels. He is also very grateful for all the prayers, encouraging messages, and other signs of support during his recovery.



St. Paul's Lutheran Church,

Thank you very much for your generous donation to the ALS Association and your belief in our cause. The ALSA is dedicated to finding a cure and to helping people with ALS as well as their families. Your support is greatly appreciated!

Sincerely,
ALS Association,
St. Louis Regional Chapter



Dear congregation of St. Paul's,

As prices skyrocket, things break down, and the pandemic continues to affect the LOMC ministry, we feel your support! Your donation helps LOMC in so many wonderful ways as we navigate ministry needs. Peace to you! Amazing help and support, thanks to all at St. Paul's!

Blessings and peace from the LOMC staff and board,
Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center



9/2	Tom Gooding, Lynda Leitschuh
9/3	Tommy Justison, Sara Storm
9/4	Jamee Jo Francisco, David Ronen
9/5	Brodie Clinard
9/6	Kendra Finley, Shonda Ronen
9/7	Andrea Durbin
9/8	Geoff Brauer, Larry Whitley
9/11	Mark Brinkman, Jason Zanni
9/12	Alexander Wille
9/13	Kathy Stewart, Ken Wille
9/14	Patty McHenry, Sharon Schoen
9/15	Doug Fenton, Cassidy McHenry
9/16	Shari Brauer
9/17	Kate Justison
9/18	Richard Hewitt
9/22	Debbie Compton, Dale Dowalder, Wayne Rhoades, Chloe Sherer
9/24	Mason Huddleston
9/26	Travis Osborn
9/27	Jessica Keeper
9/28	Doris Enochs, Bob Marcott

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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 Keeper
- Evangelism** – Carolyn Meier
- Fellowship** – Pam Schaefer
- Property** – Greg Schoen
- Stewardship** – Lori Evans
- Worship & Music** – Liz Allen
- Youth** – Melanie Sherer
- Youth Representative** – Gage Putnam



September 2022



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 OFFICE CLOSED	3
4 10:15am Worship with Labor Day Recognition BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS	5 LABOR Day OFFICE CLOSED	6	7 11am-Noon Ladies of Love	8	9 C/SIS WELCA Convention (Grace Lutheran, Springfield)	10 10am Free Art Experience (Cross Over Ministries)
11 10:15am Rally Funday Worship & Picnic at Bremer Sanctuary	12 9am Sewing and Fellowship	13 COUNCIL REPORTS DUE	14 11am-Noon Ladies of Love	15	16	17
MEALS ON WHEELS — SEPTEMBER 12-16						
18 9am Sunday School 10:15am Worship with Bible Presentation	19 9am Sewing and Fellowship 9am Men's Coffee (Bremer)	20	21 11am-Noon Ladies of Love OCTOBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	22	23 11am-5pm Rummage Sale	24 8am-Noon Rummage Sale
25 9am Sunday School 10:15am Worship	26 9am Sewing and Fellowship	27 7pm Council Meeting 1pm, 8pm ELCA Advocacy Café (online)	28 11am-Noon Ladies of Love	29	30	

Office Hours: Mon 1pm-3pm | Tue & Thu: 9:30am-12:30pm | Wed 8:30am-12:30am | Fri 8:30-11:30am

For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope.