

St. Paul's Church

June Newsletter

651-388-7106

Dear Church Family,

The world continuously changes during this time of COVID and it is a relief that things are opening up again. I am grateful to be vaccinated and look forward to the day my own kids will be eligible for a vaccine.

The weather has changed and once again the outdoors are a feast of color, sound, life and possibility. I find this time of year exhilarating. My family has been enjoying the hummingbirds, orioles, nuthatches, cardinals, and finches. Sometimes when we are outside, we marvel at how loud the birds are. It is such a marvelous raucous!

This past weekend St. Paul's began collecting the noisy offering on Sunday morning again. It was the first time we were able to do so since COVID began. This too was a marvelous raucous! Please come and enjoy in person in building worship when you are ready. Until then we offer to you our Sunday morning service streamed on our website:

<http://www.stpaulsredwing.org>.

Thank you for joining worship in the way you feel most comfortable!

Always, Pastor Dana

Worship Schedule

Sat May 22

5pm In Person

Sun May 23

9:30am In Person + streaming at <http://www.stpaulsredwing.org>.

Memorial Weekend

May 29 & 30 NO IN PERSON WORSHIP

Streamed Service music begins around 9:20am and worship at 9:30am

June

In Person Worship all month

Saturdays 5pm

Sundays 9:30am + streaming at <http://www.stpaulsredwing.org>.

July

**3 & 4 Fourth of July Weekekd
NO INPERSON WORSHIP**

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Website:

www.stpaulsredwing.org

Members of St. Paul's,

May 14, 2021

Boy how things can change in a hurry!

Since I last wrote for our epistle, we have seen some fairly big announcements come from Governor Walz as well as the CDC that provide a path forward for many facets of society, including church. Notably, the MN StaySafe Plan guidelines provide for the elimination of distancing requirements in places of worship starting on May 28 and Gov. Walz rolled back the mask mandate just today. Further, the CDC has made some new statements that provide for a way back to much more 'normal' activities, particularly for those who are vaccinated.

In a couple of days, and by the time you are reading this, leadership and council will meet and one of the main topics will be how we adjust our approach to worship in light of the announcements above. I wish the timing of that meeting and this monthly epistle were slightly different so I could highlight our decision for you here. I presume we will adjust accordingly, but council makes these decisions together. My ask however, presuming we open things up, is that we remember and are respectful of the fact that each person in our church, and our visitors, have different life circumstances and personal anxiety about CV19. Some people have chronic health issues, some will still prefer to have some physical distance, and others will choose not to get vaccinated. As such, even though those of us that are vaccinated and healthy feel ready to move most or all of the way back to what we knew as normal, we need to continue to be respectful that those around us may not. We will update you ASAP when council develops a plan for how we will pivot based on the new announcements.

Last month I let you know that Linda Kuyath will be retiring from St. Paul's by July. We had also previously learned that First United Methodist in Red Wing is also losing their financial secretary in June. With that knowledge, leadership and council began discussions about the feasibility of perhaps working with them to hire an individual to serve both churches. The potential benefits of a partnership would be that we could potentially offer a full time, living wage to a qualified person and this would likely broaden our applicant pool. So, Pastor Dana, Joyce Nelson, and I had an initial meeting with leaders from the Methodist church to discuss this option. There are many synergies and their needs in terms of skills and hours worked matched extremely well with ours. Additionally, they use the same accounting software. Ultimately, we decided to move ahead with a joint offering of a full time position to serve both churches. As I write this the job has been posted in several locations and we are accepting applications. By the time you read this we will likely be in the interview process. We are very excited about this endeavor.

Best,

Matt

Matt Boyle

President – St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Dear St. Paul's Church Family,

As I look forward to retirement and spending time with my new great-grandbaby, I am also sad about leaving my position in the office. I have enjoyed my time as finance secretary and want to thank you for employing me the last 10 years. When I was offered the position 10 years ago, I thought, "Finance secretary? Are you kidding me? I don't even like to balance my OWN check-book!" A very good friend of mine, Nancy Braschler, encouraged me to give it a try and here we are – 10 years later!

I'd like to thank all the Leadership and Council members that I have worked with during my time as Financial Secretary. Your dedication and commitment to St. Paul's is appreciated.

Thank you Pastor Dana for being such an encouragement and support to not only myself, but to my family during some very difficult times, and for celebrating with us during the happy times. I appreciate all that you have done and continue to do for St. Paul's.

And so my church friends, I ask that you open your arms and welcome whoever is chosen to fill my position as Finance Secretary. Support and encourage them as you have done for me.

Again, thank you so much for being such a great church family and also great friends!

With much appreciation,

Linda



Results of the Bloodmobile held here at St. Paul's on May 13, 2021:

Presenting Donors:

58

Units:

43

Thank you!!



Summer Camp 2021

CAMP and COVID Following guidelines from the American Camping Association, the CDC, and our local and state health departments, we have developed a comprehensive protocol to prevent and manage the occurrence of COVID-19 and other communicable diseases at camp. We can't wait to welcome you back to camp safely.

St. Paul's families! It's not too late to register your child(ren) for this summers Camp Wapo! Too register: Call Natalie Peterson at 715-268-4580 or register online at: Campwapo.org

Seeds Camp is for children who have completed grades 1—3

Camp Wapo Youth is for children who have completed grades 4—8

Scholarships are available in the church office!

Team updates:

Invite Team – working on the event to celebrate the 2021 St. Paul’s High School Graduates. This event will be a gathering of the graduates, their parents and Pastor Dana. Each grad will receive a special quilt from the quilters and a personalized photo yard sign. The event is scheduled for Sunday June 6th at 8:30 a.m. on the church front lawn. If you haven’t seen the You Tube video celebrating our seniors, please visit St. Paul’s website and click on the link. We are extremely proud of all the seniors!

Our team continues to follow up with an assigned number of congregation members that may not have access to social media. Our goal is to share updated information on our church services and any progress of returning to some type of normal activity at St. Paul’s.

Study Team—Emily is sending out the last packet for Sunday School. She is working with Tina from First Lutheran for VBS. They will probably send out a VBS packet. I am assuming that the First Communion participants are completing their classes and will receive their First Communion with their families in the weeks ahead. Emily is looking forward to planning on how to successfully get our Sunday school kids back in the fall and starting off strong!

Dane’s June Devotion:

Ecclesiastes reminds us of changing seasons. We are coming into the season of summer, with lawn care, gardening, vacations, and “it’s not the heat, it’s the humidity,” We’re also entering a post-Covid season, with challenges to change behavior and decide what we want to keep from the Covid era. Counselors are reporting a rapid increase in clients who don’t know how to adapt to a new normal; some people who once were extroverts are now hesitant, indeed fearful, to get out and interact with others. My mother died early in the quarantine phase; we siblings announced a private family burial to be followed by a Celebration of Life when quarantines were done. The quarantines are coming to an end, but it’s been over a year since she died. We’re wondering if there is any value to a service this long after the fact, or if we’re better off just moving forward. How do we adapt in this post-Covid season?

New era. New questions. New choices. We need to give thanks that amidst all other changes, God remains constant in his love for us.



Prayers For Our Soldiers -- Almighty God, we commend to your gracious care and keeping all the men and women of our armed forces at home and abroad. Defend them day by day with your heavenly grace; strengthen them in their trials and temptations; give them courage to face the perils which beset them; and grant them a sense of your abiding presence wherever they may be; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. Lord, hold our troops in your loving hands. Protect them as they protect us. Bless them and their families for the selfless acts they perform for us in our time of need. I ask this in the name of Jesus, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

Merry Martha Quilters

Just a reminder the Quilters are accepting donations for the "Care Kits" we are assembling to take to Lutheran World Relief in June. There are a couple of bins by the display cases in the gathering area if you wish to drop off items when attending a service or you can drop things off with us in the Fellowship Hall on Tuesday mornings. Here are lists of items needed:

Baby Care Kits

Cotton T-shirts
Gowns or sleepers
Receiving blankets (cotton or flannel or knitted/crocheted with yarn - no fleece)
Jacket, sweater or sweatshirt with hood (or baby cap)
Cloth diapers (we make most of these)
Baby socks
Bar soap (gentle)
Diaper pins
Hand towel (darker colors preferred)
Items may be gently used but must not have any stains

Personal Care Kits

Bath towels (dark colors) can be gently used but must look "like new"
Comb
Nail clipper
Bar soap

School Kits

Notebooks
Crayons (16 or 24)
Pencil sharpener
30-centimeter ruler
No.2 pencils
Ballpoint stick pens
Eraser

We will accept cash donations too!

We are continuing our quilt making every Tuesday morning and we can always use sheets, fabric, thread and yarn to use in the assembly of quilts.

We really appreciate your support in these missions - we couldn't do it without your help.

Any questions can be directed to Maggie Sprick (715)594-3944 or Elaine Scharpen (651)388-9512.

