

St. Paul Lutheran Church & Preschool Newsletter

July 2020

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FROM PASTOR PAUL

I used to be Indignant.

Now the Holy Spirit is at work to make me Compassionate.

A year ago I had a problem with all that talk about “white privilege” and I really had no idea why Colin Kaepernick felt compelled to take a knee during the singing of the National Anthem before football games. I never thought of myself as privileged. And I sure didn’t see what the big deal was that football players were so upset about.

I reacted the way I have heard many of us react. Emotionally.

That’s how many of us respond. We recoil at phrases like, “white privilege,” “systemic racism” and “Black lives matter.” We feel indignant. We push back. We defend ourselves. We refuse to concede that we are in anyway complicit – even unknowingly – with racism in America.

That was last year. Now, with all of the marches and protests going on, I am taking a second look. And this time I find myself digging deeper into what this issue is all about. Through it, the Holy Spirit is at work to transform being indignant into compassion.

What happened? I credit Christian brothers I trust for sharing with me (1) history I had not known, (2) stories from Black colleagues I had not heard, and (3) The Holy Spirit working to have the scales of my eyes fall away.

Learning history I had not known. For an amazingly packed, 17-minute history lesson, check out this video by Veggie Tale creator, Phil Vischer: **Click HERE** That video is like drinking from a fire hose, but wow, does it ever put the lives of black people in a new light for me. LCMS Pastor William Cwirla offers an insightful overview of the meaning of “black lives matter.” **Click HERE**

Hearing stories from Black colleagues I had not heard. I met Rev. John Nunes when he and his wife first started in ministry as a pastor in an inner city Detroit Lutheran Church. I’ve heard him speak several times since then. Now, Rev. Dr. John Nunes, is the President of Concordia College New York, one of our LC-MS colleges. His story is amazing, very articulate, well rooted in Biblical insights. You can listen here: **Click HERE**

The Holy Spirit working to have the scales of my eyes fall away. Yes, God has been messing with me through recent events to make me sit up, take notice and finally see what had always been right in front of me but unrecognized by me. If God hasn't been messing with you lately on this issue of justice, He will if you'll let Him or ask Him.

For a powerful example of honest, Law/Gospel preaching concerning personal racism from a LCMS pastor, watch Pastor Michael Saylor's courageous message from June 7 in Convoy, Ohio. Go to the 30-minute mark in the video to view the sermon: **Click HERE**

I never thought of myself as being sheltered from other races of people. I have lived and studied and worked closely with people of color since I was in high school. Still, I was recently shocked when I learned that the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS), is the third whitest denomination in the U.S. For the data, **Click HERE**. What is it that makes Lutherans "so white," so unable to reflect the racial make-up of their local communities? I never realized this because I attend a Lutheran congregation every Sunday, and I don't have the opportunity very often to visit other churches to notice the difference in racial diversity. It makes me wonder: What are we not facing? What will the future hold for St. Paul and all Lutheran congregations as the country becomes more and more racially diverse?

On top of that, I learned the average age of people in our church body, the LCMS, is among the oldest of U.S. denominations. Only 1 of 10 adults in the LCMS are under age 30. Wow. For the data, **Click HERE**. Why is our average age relevant to how we are or are not dealing with our racism? An annual poll conducted by Youth-Pulse asks young people ages 13-37 to tell them the biggest problems their generation faces right now. Racism topped the list. What is significant is that this year's poll was taken *BEFORE* the killing of George Floyd.

People of color and young people are wondering why folks like me have been baffled to understand what's wrong. Now, I, too, have to wonder why I have been so indignant, so offended by these facts that I have reacted emotionally.

It's my prayer that we all (1) Learn the history. (2) Hear the stories. (3) Pray for the Holy Spirit to open your eyes and your heart.

Will we remain the indignant ones or by the power and grace of the Holy Spirit begin to have our attitudes and actions transformed? Our community is watching. Our young adults are watching. Our God is inviting and waiting.

Keep looking to Jesus,
Pastor Paul

Additional Resources, Interviews, and Discussions from our LCMS on racial justice.

- Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod Black Clergy Caucus' statement on the death of George Floyd.
- A "Statement on the death of George Floyd and the ensuing riots" by Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison.
- KFYO interview, "Confronting Social Injustice and Loving Our Neighbors," with Rev. Roosevelt Gray and Dr. Steven Schave.

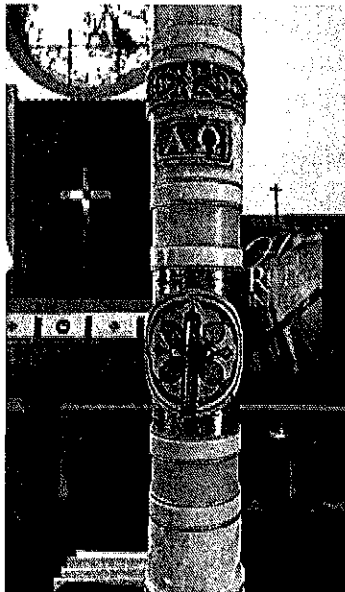
- Concordia Theology resources and Zoom discussion "Lutheran Voices on Racism" between Rev. Leopold Sanchez, Rev. Warren Lattimore, and Rev. Micah Glenn.
- June 19 LCMS Reporter article, "Racism and the church: A time to listen."
- One Nation Under God, by Rev. B. Keith Haney, a downloadable six-session study published by Concordia Publishing House.

Worship with St. Paul from your home
LIVE on Sunday mornings,
Or anytime throughout the week!

 **Worship
LIVESTREAM**

**Sundays @ 8:30 AM
&
10:00 AM**

**View from website
www.stpaulamherst.com
Or
 **faceBook****



Both Sunday worship services are now live-streamed. Get up on Sunday morning, get ready for church and join us on your computer, tablet, smartphone, or TV. To join us on TV use Roku, Amazon Firestick, Google Chrome TV, or other streaming device to go to YouTube, and once you're on YouTube, go to our channel, St. Paul Lutheran Amherst Ohio.

You may see both the 8:30 AM and 10 AM worship services *live* on Sunday mornings. Recordings of the 8:30AM worship services remain on-line after the livestream for viewing anytime.



New Option for Giving Your Offering to God

A secure drive-up drop box is located under the portico at the main entrance. You may leave offering envelopes and any other communication with the church. It is checked daily.

Offerings can always be given to God through the church website. This option is safe and secure. Click the "Give Now" button and follow the menu.

Thank You for your generosity! This has been a tough year for all of us. Yet through this time our people have risen to the challenge of supporting God's mission through St. Paul Lutheran Church. Your gifts to God have kept your congregation financially strong through a very difficult time. **Thank you!**

"For God loves a cheerful giver." 2 Corinthians 9:7



Your Prayers are Important and Powerful!

Prayer can do what government cannot, what education cannot, what military might cannot, and what planning committees cannot. All are important, but powerless in comparison to prayer.

Prayer can move mountains. Prayer can change human hearts, families, neighborhoods, cities, and nations. It is the ultimate source of power, because it is the power of Almighty God. And prayer is available to even the humblest Christian.

PLEASE PRAY THIS WEEK FOR:

- Pray that God lead our nation's leaders and people to a respect one another as human beings who have dignity and worth by virtue of being created by the hand of God the Father. Pray that we may repent of past sins, and seek God to guide us to just laws and ways for all people.
- Pray that God spare our country from a second devastating wave of coronavirus, so that lives are saved, medical workers are protected, people may return to honorable work, and the economy may begin to recover.
- Pray for those who are recovering from surgery and hospitalization: Ron Muska, Bob Lamoreaux's (Don's brother), Ruth Pasta who is in Amherst Manor recovering from pneumonia, Candy Fike recovering at home, Roger, a brother of

Edna Klenz, who had heart by-pass surgery.

- Pray for those who are battling cancer: Cheryl Street, Diane Coffman, Richard (Edna Klenz's brother), Pam Savoy (friend of Karen Anderson), Naomi Yates, and Chris (sister-in-law of Virginia Warnock).
- Pray for Gladys Strauss, Helen Lau, and Barb Becker who are in hospice care.
- Pray for Joanne Werner (Pastor's mother) who will have back surgery on Monday, June 29th.
- Continued prayers for those with chronic illnesses or who are shut-in because of chronic illness: Eleanor Northeim, Barb Becker, Emma Jenkins, Charles Waryu, Jack Green, Don Lamoreaux, Lois Manes, Gladys Strauss, Ruth Pasta, Marilyn Green, Wade Hubbard, Andy Lasko, Joanne Werner, Ruth Murdy.
- For those celebrating birthdays this week: Cathi Aufdenkampe, Eleanor Northeim, Janet Eshelman, Myra Koch, Diane Lamoreaux, Mary Lou Gramer, Sarah Gallo, Molly McGlothlin, Ken Moore Jr.
- Pray for our nation, leaders, and a speedy end to the pandemic.

"The History of the New Testament" Tuesday Morning Bible Study @ 10AM. We will resume Bible study on Tuesday, July 14th @ 10 am, and will be learning about the turning point in Jesus' ministry when opposition from the Jewish leaders begins to build against Jesus. Join us in St. Paul's Fellowship Hall, lower level, so that we have room enough to keep social distance.

Pastor Werner is on vacation, and will be returning to the church office on Monday, July 14th.

Sunday Worship Services Are Open

While the coronavirus is still present in our community, we all at St. Paul have to adopt behaviors that help us reduce the threat of spreading this terrible illness.

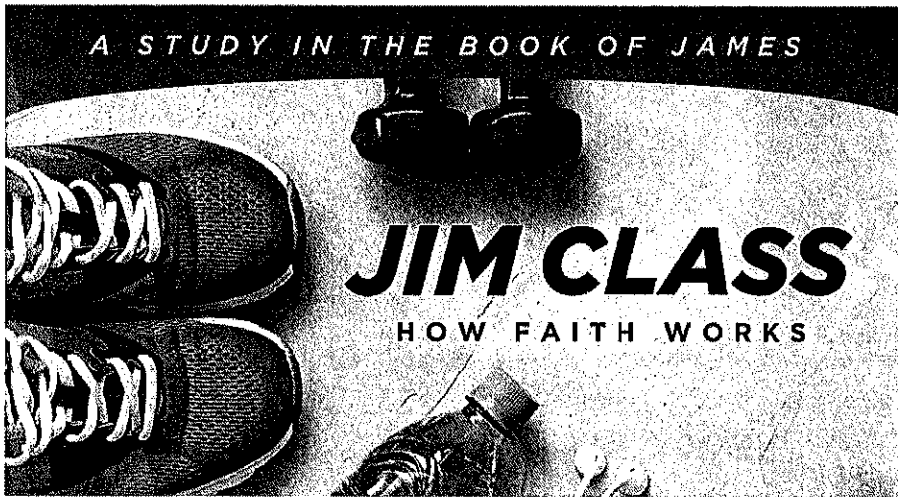
FOR THOSE WHO JOIN US IN PERSON ON SUNDAY MORNINGS

THANK YOU FOR DOING THESE SIMPLE THINGS

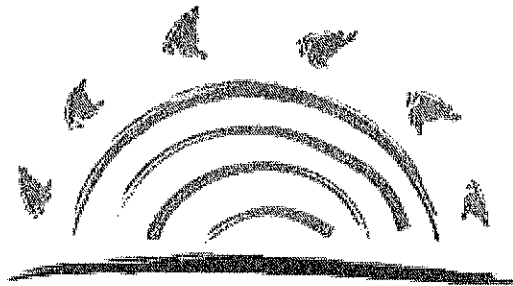
- No hand shaking. Instead speak a nice warm welcome while keeping a physical distance of 6+ feet. Tell people that you are smiling at them under the mask.
- Please wear a face mask. If you don't have yours with you and would like one, we have some available free in the narthex (lobby) lower level.
- Please keep 6+ feet of distance between parties / families as you sit in pews. Families / parties may certainly sit side-by-side, yet allow distance between your family and others in the same pew.
- Please observe the ropes which close every-other pew.
- Receive a bulletin upon entering. We ask that you please take your bulletin with you at the conclusion of the worship service.

- Hymnals have been removed. If you love to sing hymns using the music, please pick one up as you enter, and after the worship service, place used hymnals in the receptacle at the door.
- Please give your thank offering to God by placing it in the offering plate located at each door.
- Please fill out a Communication Card, found in the rack in your pew and drop it in an offering plate by any door as you exit.
- Communion will be served on the main floor in a continuous line.
 - ▶ We have changed back to the old walking pattern. That is, when your pew is released, go to the *center aisle* and approach the front. Return to your seat via the *side aisle*.
 - ▶ Please stand on the blue crosses in the center aisle as you approach the front, keeping 6 feet of distance from another person.
 - ▶ Please hold your hand flat open to have the bread dropped into your palm.
 - ▶ Please don't rush as you take an individual cup of wine from the tray. Only touch the cup you are taking. There is no need to rush drinking it before walking. Baskets for empty cups are at the side aisles for your use.
 - ▶ The chalice will not be offered.
- Please remain in your pew at the conclusion of the worship service. Ushers will release us row by row to avoid congestion in the center aisle and at doorways. Please keep social distance when exiting.
- Exit the building at the conclusion of the worship service so that others behind you may exit the building also.
- We encourage you to enjoy the friendship of other worshippers, and suggest that you use the outdoor space for conversations.
- Following the 8:30 AM worship service, please clear the worship sanctuary to allow ushers time to clean and prepare for the worshippers attending the 10 AM service.
- The church nursery will remain closed for a time since only one family will be able to use it at a time, and it cannot be sanitized thoroughly between worship services. Instead we encourage families to take a children's activity bag upon entering and please don't feel you are disturbing others if your child is as loud as ... a kid!

KIDS' CHURCH In the 10:00AM worship service is temporarily suspended until we have children returning regularly.

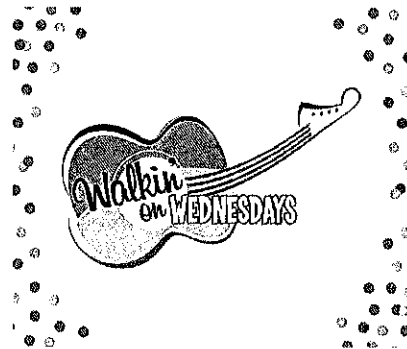


**A Series of Six Sermon Messages
Beginning July 19th**






**OUTDOOR WORSHIP
Sunday, August 16th**

Bring a lawn chair, and worship God in His beautiful creation.
Service held on St. Paul campus.
In case of rain, we move indoors.



We are looking for some volunteers to hand out Popsicles at our tent at Walking on Wednesdays and reconnect with our community! The dates are July 8, August 12 and September 9 (????) from 4-7:30 PM. Interested? Call the church office!

Join us on the Trail for Vacation Bible School

**To request a packet call 988-4157
or visit us on Facebook and fill out the Google Form**

Virtual VBS has begun!! Watch the grassy area on Jackson street as it is transformed to a trail for kids to come and take pictures at each stop on their Virtual VBS trail!

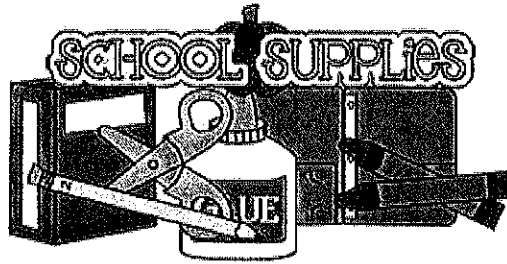
Following VBS! In July, we will celebrate with families with a Come Out of Hibernation Party! This will be a chance for our congregation to reconnect with our community! When the date gets closer, we will be looking for volunteers, but in the meantime, we are starting to collect donations of **hot dogs, buns, bottled water, juice boxes, individually wrapped teddy grahams, trail mix, Individually wrapped Forest gummies (Aldi's) chips and cookies and individually wrapped ketchup and mustard packets!** We are doing a bear theme since we're coming out of hibernation. If you would like to donate, please contact the church office or leave your non-perishable items in the narthex!

We would also like to award the Virtual VBS participants who complete their Trail Head map with prizes at our Come Out of Hibernation Party. **If you would like to donate small dollar store items such as bubbles, coloring books, crafts, etc. please leave them in the narthex.**

If you or anyone in your family is a Thrivent member and has not accessed their Thrivent Action Team funds for the year, please contact Kendis. We are planning events for the fall and those funds would be incredibly useful! Thank you!



August 16th at 10am: We will invite our preschool families, Virtual VBS participants and community to an Outdoor Worship Service and Blessing of Backpacks. We will be providing lunch so we will be looking for donations and volunteers. Backpacks will be blessed at both our traditional 8:30am service (indoors) and nontraditional outdoor service at 10am. More details coming soon!



Luther Memorial School in Cleveland are in need of donations for the upcoming school year. Luther Memorial School provides all school supplies for children, as most of them cannot afford to purchase these things. St. Paul Member, Jill Mlinark teaches first grade at Luther Memorial. If you would like to donate, we will have a box in the Narthex soon. Thank you!!

Suggested Items include:

Wide ruled filler paper	notebooks	markers
Highlighters	folders	scissors
Binders	glue sticks	pencils
Erasers	crayons	

Here are some other ways we as a congregation can help Jill and her class.

This is the link for people to donate money for books to give my students. Many do not have books at home to read, so they are able to keep these books after we do activities with them in class. Most times I am able to purchase books for \$1, which gives them more opportunities to read.

<https://shop.scholastic.com/viewCampaign?campaignId=e7fb453d-8c01-47a6-961b-6213a24be395>

This allows people to donate to my class account, where I am able to purchase resources to print materials, like games and other engaging learning materials:(including activities for the Scholastic books I choose)

https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/ClassFund/Jillian-Mlinarik-1276?sharing_template=on&utm_campaign=ClassFund%20Page



MEMORIALS

We extend our sympathy to the family & friends of Ted Krause who passed away peacefully surrounded by his family Wednesday, June 10, 2020. A Christian burial was held on June 13, 2020 at Brownhelm Cemetery, Vermilion.

The following gifts were giving in memory of Ted:

Youth Group

Laurie, Nate, & Jessie Beran

Memorial Fund

Wade & Maryiln Hubbard

John Schick

Donna Miller

Gary & Carol Bernath

Dan Streza

Sally Krause & Family

Lil Hamilton

Bill & Janet Bremke

Jay & Teresa Krause

Senior Fellowship Group

Roy & Diane Beyer

Tamara Camera

Mark & Priscilla Kirschner

Rick & Carol Lalonde

Karen Lence

The Gramer Family

Don & Diane Lamoreaux

Steve & Beth Albrecht

Scott & Joy Northeim

St. Paul Events & Bible Reading Calendar July 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4 Independence Day
5 8:30 Holy Communion 10 Worship	6	7 7 Women's Ministry 7 NA	8	9	10	11
12 8:30 Worship 10 Holy Communion	13	14 10 Seasoned Saints 7 Women's Ministry 7 NA	15	16 7 Autism Group	17	18
Youth Mission Trip =>						
19 8:30 Holy Communion 10 Worship	20 6:30 Elders	21 10 Seasoned Saints 6:30 BOD Meeting 7 Women's Ministry 7 NA	22	23	24	25
26 8:30 Worship 10 Holy Communion	27	28 10 Seasoned Saints 7 Women's Ministry 7 NA	29	30	31	

SERVANTS DURING THE WORSHIP OF GOD'S FAMILY FOR JULY 2020

Service	Elders	Readers	Acolytes	Greeters	Altar Guild	Ushers	Sound Room
7/5 8:30 AM	Harold Gibson	Molly McGlothlin	Shane Hargreaves	Judy Starbuck	Fran Draga Debbie Smith	John Kirschner John Cartmell Ron Klein	Bruce McGlothlin
10:00 AM		James Steindl	Ashton Draga			Josh Gallo Billy Swanner	Cheryl Street
7/12 8:30 AM		Marty Offineer		Nancy Beran Ruth Williams	Edna Klenz Wanda Aschenbach	Harold Gibson Jeff Krupp Steve Warnock	Priscilla Harden
10:00 AM	Ron Fisher John Schick	Laurie Beran	Nathan Draga	Sally Krause		Laurie Beran Deby Lasko	Bruce McGlothlin
7/19 8:30 AM	Harold Gibson	Christine Krupp	Gwen Krupp	John & Brenda Cartmell	Donna Kemmerle Diane Coffman	Dan Streza Chuck Draga Danny Kemery Bob Kemmerle	Bruce McGlothlin
10:00 AM		Josh Gallo	Ashton Draga	Emma Sekerak		Dean Koch Dave Timbs	Darren Conley
7/26 8:30 AM		Marty Offineer		Chuck & Fran Draga	Ann Conley Linda Hargreaves	John Kirschner John Cartmell Ron Klein	Bruce McGlothlin
10:00 AM	Ron Fisher John Schick	Beth Albrecht	Katie Steindl	Karen Anderson		Josh Gallo Billy Swanner	Bruce McGlothlin

JULY BIRTHDAYS

7/2 Mary Lou Gramer	7/13 Andrew Lasko	7/24 Michele Moore
7/3 Sarah Gallo	7/14 Jaxson Becker Balcik III	7/25 Ryan Coleman
7/4 Molly McGlothlin, Ken Moore Jr.	7/15 Alex Funderburg	7/26 Mackenzie Dever
7/8 Andrew Schneider II	7/16 Nathan Draga	Madison Dever
7/10 Laura Kreger	7/20 Lisa Gallo, Sherry Timbs	7/27 Laurie Beran
	7/23 Kelly Coffman	7/28 Karie Coffman

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7/10	Laura Kreger	7/20	Lisa Gallo, Sherry Timbs
		7/23	Kelly Coffman
		7/24	Michele Moore
		7/25	Ryan Coleman
		7/26	Mackenzie Dever
		7/27	Madison Dever
		7/28	Laurie Beran
		7/28	Karie Coffman

