

# **St. Paul Lutheran Church & Preschool Newsletter**

**August 2020**

115 Central Drive, Amherst, Ohio 44001-1601  
Church/Office: 440-988-4157 Fax: 440-988-5436  
E-Mail: churchoffice@stpaulamherst.com

Rev. Paul G. Werner, Pastor - Office: (440)988-4157 Cell: (586)201-3302  
Kendis Bender, Dir. Of Christian Education - Home: 967-1792  
Beth Naro, Preschool Director – Preschool Phone: 988-5427  
115 Central Drive, Amherst, Ohio 44001  
Website:stpaulamherst.com

**FROM PASTOR PAUL**

## **So much is going on right now! Does God have answers?**

Maybe you catch the news and wonder how God could allow all the messes we're seeing around us. If that's you, you're not alone, and I invite you to examine God's perspective on some of the big issues in our country today. I'm convinced what God says is the best and most beautiful answer you'll find.

### **RACE**

Racial tensions are high right now. The discussions over how to talk about which lives matter have revealed ugly perspectives and unloving reactions. People debate how best to deal with it, what needs to change, and how to educate. These are necessary discussions. They fall short, however, without God's perspective.

Each person is wonderfully made by God, and He's the one who made beautiful diversity among humanity and throughout all creation. Did you know that God designed 10,000 species of birds and 350,000 different species of beetles? I love the fascinating variety of birds, and frankly, I could do without the beetles. Yet God delights in every single one! He loves diversity. God is so joyful and loving that He does not create human beings from the same mold. No two are alike. He chooses what family we'll be born into and the color of our skin. No one should ever be made to feel they have to apologize for their race or feel inferior because of it. Race matters to him. Yet God doesn't let race influence how He deals with people. In ancient terms, there is neither Jew nor Gentile in his sight. All people are saved in only one way, and that is by faith in His gracious gift of forgiveness won by His Son, Jesus Christ. Your race doesn't matter at all when it comes to forgiveness, acceptance into His family, and claiming your place in heaven.

Who else could maintain such a balance of celebrating racial diversity while perfectly avoiding any racial inequality all at the same time? Only God.

### **GUILT**

Our nation is rethinking people and events of our past. We aren't always proud of everything they have done. Some are responding by tearing down statues of these individuals or scrubbing away

public mention of them. Others come to their defense to preserve history and what good contributions these people made, despite their failures.

God has a different way of dealing with past sins and guilt. He never excuses it, but he also doesn't ask us to hide it. He invites us to lay it out in the open with all its ugly truth. And He takes it upon himself. This is the reason for the cross: God dealt with human brokenness. He let himself be humiliated publicly, stripped naked, mocked, and executed to take away human guilt once and for all. So, no matter what anyone's done—no matter their past—forgiveness is offered freely. That's true for you and me too.

God tells us that no human living this side of heaven is sinless or guiltless. Often we view other people as being all one thing or all another. We often see others as innocent OR guilty. God tells us that guilt and goodness are not mutually exclusive in us people whose hearts are tainted by sin to the core. We remain both sinner and saint as long as we live on earth. We can thank God for people in the past who have done things which are blessings to us today. Yet when we praise a *person* instead of God, we are on dangerous ground.

### **SICKNESS AND DEATH**

COVID-19 has made people of all ages contemplate illness and the reality of their mortality. That can be good if doing so leads us to realize our need for Jesus. Our society, however, has taught Evolution for 50+ years in schools and universities and now calls Evolution "science" even though scientific data contradicts rather than supports evolutionary theory. Evolution teaches that sickness and death are actually good because when people die the strong survive and species improve. But I don't know anyone who's actually okay with saying that. There's something inside of us that values life more than that and doesn't want anyone to die. It is because we value human life that we have health care professionals who have heroically battled covid19.

Do you know who values life most and never wants anyone to perish? God. He's not okay with death. He made us to live with immortal souls. Moral failures brought death, but Jesus came not only to die but actually to come back to life again. He promises that by believing in him, you will live forever in an existence that is better than anything you can imagine—a heaven with no more sickness, sorrow, or death.

Who else could acknowledge the sorrow of death and also overcome it by offering life after death that is so much better than this life? Only God.

This brief article can't go into every nuance of these complex issues. Still, I hope you have come to realize one thing that is very, very important. In all the craziness, all the complex questions, all the stress and exhaustion the events of this year have brought on us, one thing is very clear: God's answers are still the best and most beautiful ones you'll find!

*Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out!* Romans 11:33.

Keep looking to Jesus,

*Pastor Paul*

**Rick Fortney has announced that he will be leaving St. Paul** as our Director of Music Ministries. He has accepted another position closer to his home, and at a larger congregation offering him more work. Rick's last Sunday with us will be August 9<sup>th</sup>. We thank Rick for his nearly two years of leadership in enhancing our worship with praise, and we wish Rick and Joan Fortney God's richest blessings in this new opportunity to serve Him with their lives and talents.

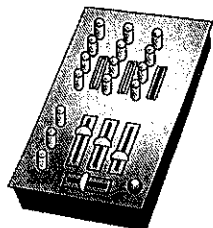
**Worship with St. Paul from your home**  
**LIVE on Sunday mornings,**  
**Or anytime throughout the week!**



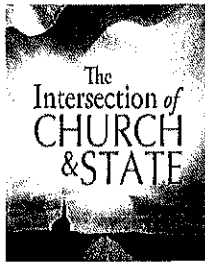
**Both Sunday worship services are live-streamed.** Get up on Sunday morning, get ready for church and join us on your computer, tablet, smartphone, or TV. To join us on TV use Roku, Amazon Firestick, Google Chrome TV, or other streaming device to go to YouTube, and once you're on YouTube, go to our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

We've had some problems in learning to do livestreaming, and haven't produced every worship service with a high quality that delivers the message without distracting the worshipper who joins us online. We are making changes to improve your online worship experience, and yet we always welcome your feedback so that we know what is being broadcast. You may simply email contact the church office (440-988-4157 or [churchoffice@stpaulamherst.com](mailto:churchoffice@stpaulamherst.com)).

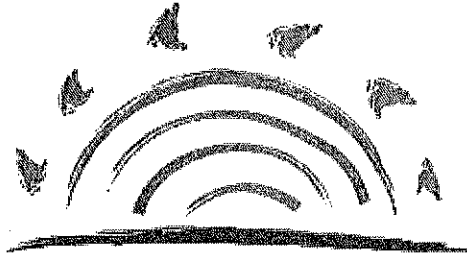


**Join the Tech Team** Our tech team is growing! With the addition of making our service available LIVE on the internet each Sunday, we are need of teams of two for each service. No experience necessary! You will be trained with what you need to know. We currently have four people serving. If you are interested in being trained and put into the tech rotation, please contact Judy at the church office! (440-988-4157 or [churchoffice@stpaulamherst.com](mailto:churchoffice@stpaulamherst.com)).



## Bible Study in August

How do we live as Christians in the United States in this time of unrest, with an election coming soon? This study and discussion suggests that your faith *intersects* with society around you instead of a "wall between Church and State." Videos show expert commentary from academics, church and civic leaders, agency professionals and others. Four sessions are on **Tuesdays in August, starting Aug.4 at 10AM.** Join us at St. Paul, with social distancing.



## **OUTDOOR WORSHIP** **Sunday, August 16 @ 10AM**

Bring a lawn chair, and join us under the blue summer sky to worship our gracious God!

Blessing of backpacks and distributing "clothe-a-kid" gifts.

Collecting school supplies for Luther Memorial School in Cleveland.

Hot dogs for lunch following (free).

**Invite a friend!**

**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!!

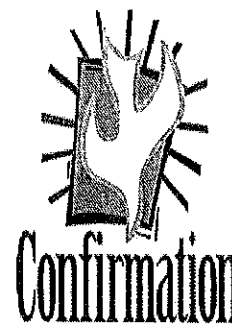
Suggested Items include:

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

It will be difficult to use a classroom library this school year. I would love to be able to purchase multiple dollar books each month for my students to keep at their desks to read, and eventually take home. **Checks can be made out to: Scholastic Book Club and put in my church mailbox!** Every little bit helps to get these kids reading!!

## CONGRATULATIONS Confirmands!

Sunday, August 23<sup>rd</sup> will be a great day for Ruari Dever, Nathan Draga, Shane Hargreaves, Katie Steindl, Makaya Thomas, their families, and all the people of St. Paul! Five young people will be confirmed as they share their personal faith in Jesus, and we welcome them as mature Christ-followers. These young ladies and men have completed several years of growing to understand and believe who God is, what the Bible teaches, and how to keep growing in faith in Jesus, their Savior. This year Confirmation Sunday was postponed from May until August.



## Empowering God's People

**SUNDAY SERMON SERIES: August 23 – September 13**

Jesus empowered—a word that refers to training, equipping, and discipling—his followers. This is radical discipleship. Jesus called people into a distinct way of living when they wanted to know what it means to be his followers.

Too often today, we fall prey to what Dietrich Bonhoeffer called “cheap grace.” In his day in Germany he described it this way:

“Cheap grace means grace as doctrine, as principle, as system. It means forgiveness of sins as general truth; it means God’s love as merely a Christian idea of God.”

Today, this often looks like people who come to church and observe special religious acts or hear good sermons, while a special few do the ministry. In other words, we assume that if we believe the right things that being a student of Jesus is not that important. While we might be a student about the teachings of Jesus, we fall short making space in our lives to allow Jesus to shape us. We become a church that is weak, without enthusiasm to do what God has called us to do in our community.

This sermon series is part of St. Paul’s two-year “Seasons of Discovery” transformation process. We discovered a new Vision, that is, a new purpose and direction for ministry here. God wants us *ALL* to be active doers of His ministry, not just passive observers. “Seasons of Discovery” was interrupted by the coronavirus shutdown in Spring. Now it’s time to begin again to take steps forward as His church.



## 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***

**COMING IN OCTOBER !**

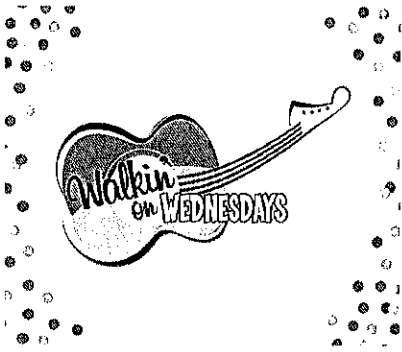


Do you know, deep in your gut, that there has to be more to life? Are you trying to fill the void with success or possessions? Maybe you're hurting too much to let it show, or perhaps just "raising a little hell" to take your mind off it.

We believe there's much more to life than all that. We believe that God wants to fill our lives with doors of opportunity and challenge. The seven doors of spiritual growth: witness, worship, connections with other believers, prayer, Bible study, service, and giving. These aren't just techniques for a better life. They're ways to connect more deeply to the One who is the source of life.

In October and November St. Paul will guide you through these doors of opportunity. Weekend services will tie together with Small Groups for discussion. Groups will use both face-to-face and video-chat to fit everyone's need.

**Small Groups** will really supercharge your "*The Best Is Yet To Come*" experience. Give it a try! Be part of a Small Group for these few weeks! Small Groups are about eight adults or teens, who meet to see a video and discuss what God has to say about a certain topic. They are really relevant and practical. You can get to know others and make friends there. Each group arranges for childcare. We've got a Small Group that fits you!



**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 August 12 and September 9 (????) from 4-7:30 PM. Interested? Call the church office!



In October we hope to snap photos of everyone for a new St. Paul photo directory. We have postponed this from Spring when the coronavirus closed St. Paul. We hope this Fall to snap photos to give members a chance to use photos in the holiday season. Each individual or family group will be given free access to Shutterfly products for their personal or holiday use.

We recognize that covid concerns are a big concern. *Lifetouch Photography* has enhanced cleaning to ensure camera stations are sanitized and safe for the families being photographed. Lifetouch employees are required to complete a comprehensive safety training on cleaning protocols, when and how to use cleaning products, and new posing guidelines. Photographers are provided a thermometer for a daily self-health assessment before reporting to a Picture Event. Disposable and cloth masks will be provided to our photographers and will be worn during the entire photography session. Photographers will meet at St. Paul's church building with family groups by appointment to insure social distancing between photography sessions.

We plan to offer you the opportunity in September to sign up for October photography appointments.



## **MEMORIALS**

We extend our sympathy to the family & friends Barbara Becker who passed away on Tuesday, June 30, 2020, following a full and meaningful life. A Christian burial was held on July 7, 2020 at Evergreen Cemetery, South Amherst.

The following gifts were given Barbara:

Memorial Fund  
Don & Diane Lamoreaux  
Don & Jen Lamoreaux

Amie & Tom Hesbach  
Wade & Marilyn Hubbard  
Thomas & Marianne Carvour

William Immler



We extend our sympathy to the family & friends of Helen Lau who passed away on Wednesday, July 8, 2020, following a full and meaningful life. A Christian burial was held on July 18, 2020 at Crownhill Cemetery, Amherst.

The following gifts were given in memory of Helen:

Memorial Fund  
Steve & Beth Albrecht

John Schick  
Slimans Auto

William & Helen Mansfield  
Mike & Karen Bearss



We extend our sympathy to the family & friends of Diane Coffman who passed away on Thursday, July 9, 2020 following a lengthy illness. Funeral service was held at St. Paul on Wednesday, July 15, 2020.

The following gifts were given in memory of Diane:

Altar Guild  
Wade & Marilyn Hubbard  
Amie & Tom Hesbach

Don & Diane Lamoreaux  
Sue Keller & Mark Antolik

Don & Jen Lamoreaux  
Kuno & Christa Josupeit

General Fund  
The Gramer Family

Memorial Fund  
John Schick

Barb Spieker



The following gifts were given in memory of Ted Krause:

Memorial Fund  
The Gramer Family

Building Maintenance  
Kuno & Christa Josupeit



## St. Paul Events & Bible Reading Calendar August 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
<b>2</b> 8:30 Holy Communion 10 Worship	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 10 Seasoned Saints 7 Women's Ministry	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> Wedding Rehearsal	<b>8</b> 2:30 Wedding Troffier & New
<b>9</b> 8:30 Worship 10 Holy Communion	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 10 Seasoned Saints 7 Women's Ministry	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> 8:30 Holy Communion 10 Outside Worship Blessing Backpacks	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 10 Seasoned Saints 6:30 BOD Meeting 7 Women's Ministry	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 7 Autism Group	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> 8:30 Worship 10 Confirmation	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 10 Seasoned Saints 7 Women's Ministry	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> 8:30 & 10 Worship	<b>31</b> 7 Elders					

## SERVANTS DURING THE WORSHIP OF GOD'S FAMILY FOR AUGUST 2020

Service	Elders	Readers	Acolytes	Greeters	Altar Guild	Ushers	Sound Room
8/2 8:30 AM	Marty Offineer Jeff Krupp	Christine Krupp	Shane Hargreaves	Harold & Debbie Gibson	Karie Coffman	Dan Streza Chuck Draga Danny Kemery Bob Kemmerle	Bruce McGlothlin
10:00 AM		James Steindl	Nathan Draga			Dean Koch Dave Timbs	
8/9 8:30 AM		Molly McGlothlin		Ron & Cindy Klein	Lynn Giovanazzo Judy Starbuck	Harold Gibson Jeff Krupp Jeff Phan Steve Warnock	Priscilla Harden
10:00 AM	Bruce McGlothlin Steve Albrecht	Laurie Beran	Katie Steindl	Sally Krause		Laurie Beran Deby Lasko	Bruce McGlothlin
8/16 8:30 AM	Marty Offineer Jeff Krupp	Marty Offineer	Gwen Krupp	Tony & Lynn Giovanazzo	Fran Draga Debbie Smith	John Kirschner John Cartmell Ron Klein	Bruce McGlothlin
10:00 AM			Ashton Draga	Emma Sekerak		Josh Gallo	Ann Conley
8/23 8:30 AM		Christine Krupp		Judy Starbuck	Edna Klenz Wanda Aschenbach	Dan Streza Chuck Draga Danny Kemery Bob Kemmerle	Bruce McGlothlin
10:00 AM	Bruce McGlothlin Steve Albrecht	Beth Albrecht		Karen Anderson		Dean Koch Dave Timbs	Bruce McGlothlin
8/30 8:30 AM		Marty Offineer		Nancy Beran Ruth Williams	Donna Kemmerle	Harold Gibson Jeff Krupp Jeff Phan Steve Warnock	Bruce McGlothlin
10:00 AM		Josh Gallo	Ruari-Dever			Josh Gallo	Bruce McGlothlin

### AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

8/4	Diane Gramer Tyler Moore	8/10	Megan McLaughlin Nicholas Street Timothy Street	8/16	Karen Vilagi Robbie Becker Thomas Beran	8/22	Jeffrey Trottier Sherry Fisher Ann Conley
8/5	Zachary Hargreaves	8/14	Frank Becker-Balcik	8/20	Daniel Streza Cody Timbs	8/28	Deborah Heller
8/6	Gladys Strauss	8/15	Marilyn Green Robert Pijor	8/21	Debbie Smith		