



THE PROCLAIMER

JUNE 2021

The mission of St. Paul Lutheran Church is to hear, share, and proclaim the Word of God.

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

“Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.” (Philippians 4: 4-6)

Dear Friends in Christ,

June is a month to let go of anxieties as we come to the end of spring and the beginning of summer. It is a time to ponder God's mysteries of life. It's a time to let go a bit from rigid schedules and to be thankful to God in prayer and open to what God may wish to teach us in nature and the world around us. This June 2021 is a special time to celebrate as the COVID vaccine is now more readily available to various age groups, thus releasing us from the pangs of the worldwide pandemic.

June is a time to rejoice in the goodness of the Lord! It is a month to reflect upon God's blessings in our lives. It's a time to sense the warmth of God's love and presence.

June helps us to brace ourselves for the extremely hot days of summer yet to come in July and August. Surely those of us who remember life before air conditioning in cars and homes are grateful for systems which make extreme summer heat much more bearable.

June in Texas is a time to pray for just enough rain but not too much. It's a time for farmers and ranchers to look upon their labors and to marvel at how their crops and livestock have grown or are growing. It's a time for them to daily see all their hard work of spring months begin to come to fruition.

June is a time to spend a bit more time with family and hopefully a bit less time working. For many folks, June is a vacation month. In the case of college students, June is often a time for summer jobs to help pay tuition for the next school year – yet at least working a summer job is a break from constant school work.

June is for recreation, whether here at home or away – swimming, walking, kayaking, family games of badminton or volleyball or baseball –

or just being outdoors alone or with others. Have you ever thought much about the meaning of the word **recreation**? Literally it means to be created all over again --- anew! Each new day our Lord's Holy Spirit is ready to renew us in God's grace and to breathe new life into us. We only need to be open in faith. June is a great time to be open to our Lord's newness!

June used to be traditionally a wedding month for many couples. That was the case for Kathy and me, as we were married in Kathy's home congregation, St. Paul Lutheran Church of Upper Sandusky, Ohio, on Saturday June 5, 1976. This year we are thankful for 45 years of sharing love in marriage together! (We are grateful to our daughter and son, Kirsten and Kendall, and their spouses DeWayne and Laura for inviting our St. Paul members to a brief cake reception in the fellowship hall following worship on June 6.)

June 5 and 6 are also the dates for our 2021 ELCA Southwestern Texas Synod Assembly. (It was originally scheduled to be in McAllen in May but was rescheduled for June as an online meeting due to COVID precautions.) The theme is **Live Expectantly, Love Abundantly**. Cynthia Bauer, LeEster Burch, and I will be our St. Paul voting delegates. We will meet together in the church office to attend the assembly online.

June, like all months, is a month to come together in worship for our Lord's continual blessings of **spiritual renewal**. Kathy and I will be worshiping in the congregations of our families in Ohio and Pennsylvania on June 13, 20, and 27. Mr. Justin McFarland, Pastor Ron Birk, and Pastor Charles Eckert will be in charge of worship here on those Sundays. Let's all come together in worship in June with faith, hope, and love, so that God's Holy Spirit may fill us, lead us, and energize us **to live and serve in Jesus' name** each day!

In our Lord Jesus' Grace & Peace & Love,

Pastor Fred Krebs

Happy Father's Day

A SUMMER TO REMEMBER

As we move from the hectic, busy days of May into the slower, less demanding days of summer, let us still live in the glow of the Easter season. I plan on doing this by **servicing** the Great God who has walked beside us throughout a very trying year and to strive, in all I do, to **NEVER take a vacation** from God's call. I also want to remember that the long season of Pentecost is the **growing season** and that means I need to grow closer to my faith.

I am so thankful that Sunday School is well underway! I thank these kids for providing monthly music for our congregation. We plan on adding some new activities that were suspended due to COVID back this summer. Since it is still too soon to have Vacation Bible School, our Parish Education Committee is planning a summer event for St. Paul's kids.

What: "I Have Decided to follow Jesus"

When: July 26-29 from 9 to 11

Where: St. Paul (beginning in the Children's Church Auditorium and pick-up at 11 in the Fellowship Hall)

I will be in charge of the daily stories assisted by the kids entering 7th grade as well as this year's Confirmation students. Pastor Fred and Kathy will teach basic Bible truths through music and LeEster Burch will provide daily snacks. A couple of days, we will do crafts that will enhance our stories. In June, I will be sending a letter of invitation to the kids of St. Paul. Please reply if your child can attend so I can have the right number of supplies. We will be following safety guidelines and hope that all of our kids can participate. Call me at 325-805-1333 with any questions or concerns.

In focusing on the theme of following Jesus, we will each day seek to let Old Testament teachings from Noah and Moses teach us fundamental Bible truths; from the New Testament, let Jesus lead the way as He calls His disciples and provides healing to ten lepers. We pray that our kids will come away from the week knowing that God keeps His promises and gives us directions and that Jesus, our Emmanuel, is with us and provides healing. We want this to be a time of growing in our faith and exploring God's word as we learn stories, Bible verses, songs, and do crafts. I want kids to come away from this experience with the feeling in Romans 11:33 "Oh the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God!" Summer is a time when we can explore and have new adventures. To make it though the unknowns in our world safely, kids need a guide who can keep them on the right path. Our mission for these sessions is to learn how Jesus is our ultimate

guide throughout our lives. We may feel lost at times, but Jesus will show us the way. He'll never leave us. He treasures us so much! Put these dates on your calendar and claim the scripture from Exodus 19:5 "You shall be my treasured possession." These are words spoken by Moses before our loving God gave directions in the 10 commandments.

It has been a tremendous blessing that our kids have had a successful school year, and it is our prayer that we can provide activities that will fuel a desire to follow Jesus. Have a blessed summer and we hope to see you in Sunday School, at church, and at special spiritual events.

In Christ's love, Ann Mahnken

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

The Morning Bible Study group will begin a new series Wednesday, June 2. Pastor will introduce the "Fruit of the Spirit" series to us. Over the year we will encounter: "Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self-control."

Women of St. Paul are invited to meet in the Fellowship Hall at 10:00 am for the study.

ST. PAUL CELEBRATES JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|----|---|
| 5 | Lathan Atchison |
| 6 | Kathleen Smith
Rachel Schmidt |
| 7 | Teddy Ray Doyal |
| 8 | Glenn Nebgen |
| 9 | Gretchen Qualls |
| 10 | Cynthia Bauer
Elizabeth Rose Schmidt |
| 11 | Ashley Martin
Holland Terrell |
| 16 | Shane Schmidt |
| 18 | Lynn Ake |
| 20 | Janet Schmidt |
| 21 | Anissa Habecker |
| 25 | Alana Gaile Evans |
| 26 | Josh Brooks
Judith Barton |
| 29 | Mary Jo Cockrell |
| 30 | Kathy Krebs |

If your birthday or a family member's birthday is not listed or is listed incorrectly, please let Deb Probst know @ 325-597-2832 or dcprobst@hotmail.com. Thank you for helping us with this project.

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

- Designated proceeds from this year’s Fish Fry Fundraiser in August to the St. Paul Stained Glass Window Fund (April Meeting).
- Method for recognizing stained glass window sponsorship was determined. A plaque will be placed in one of the entrances.

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR APRIL

Congregational Giving: \$18,016.55

Expenditures: \$20,956.28

Stewarding Our Relationships: Rehab, Renew and Repair

Doctors order rehabilitation – intensive exercises and therapy -- for patients to regain muscle strength and flexibility after a serious illness or injury.

The time is right for us to use the same approach for our friendships and family relationships after Covid-19. The worst seems over now that the vaccines are percolating through our nation, and we are entering the summer, when it is comfortable to gather in the relative safety of the outdoors.

It will take serious rehab to repair and renew the friendships and family relationships that Covid-19 forced us to neglect. Hunkered down in our homes for safety, we ceased gathering for friendship, fellowship and recreation – the very activities that keep relationships strong. Churches put worship and social gatherings on hold.

The pandemic’s impact on relationships wielded a double whammy: It left us stressed and needing friends at the very time that Covid-19 prevented us from tending to our relationships. It has left us disconnected and hurting.

Keeping in mind that the Covid-19 risk is diminished but not gone, as summer unfolds, you can look for safe ways to rehab, renew and repair your relationships.

Reach out: Go through your list of friends and contact them by phone, email, text – whatever’s best. Tell them you missed them and want to get together.

Make plans: Don’t put it off. Be creative and find safe ways to get together. Outdoors is safer.

Backyard barbecues, coffee at a sidewalk café, a walk, a game of bocce, iced tea on the porch. It’s all good.

Every little step you take will help your relationship “muscles” to get stronger, and in the process you’ll become healthier as the love, support and joy of friends and family flows into your heart.

--Rob Blezard

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STEWARDSHIP DIRECTORY
FOR JUNE

Lay Reader: Helen Habecker

Communion Assistants: Kathy Krebs and Jenna Jacoby

Council Rep. on Duty: Lynn Reichenau

Bell Ringers: Mark Lehmborg & Mike Goff

Speaker System: Bob Vacek and Mark Lehmborg

Ushers: Jeff Owen, Charles Geistweidt, Bob Capps, and Nancy Brown

Property Person on Duty: Bert Mahnken

Acolytes:

- (6/6)
- (6/13)
- (6/20)
- (6/27)

Altar Guild:

Flower Chairman: Sherie Clarkson
Parament Chairman: Connie Smith
Communion Chairman: Bonnie Schmidt

Women’s Bible Study:

Morning Bible Study (10:00 A.M.)
(First Wed. of Month) in the Fellowship Hall
Evening Bible Study (5 PM – Third Tues. of Month) in the Office Building

Memorials: Church Office 347-5582

We wish to thank those who have so graciously contributed their time and talents toward the ministry of St. Paul Lutheran Church.

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Rev. Fred Krebs	Pastor
Mrs. Heather McFarland	Church Administrator
Mrs. Ann Mahnken	Youth Coordinator

Church Office Hours:
Mon.-Thurs. 8:30 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.
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