

May 2024

St. Paul Lutheran Church

The Messenger



I want to leave you with this Prayer from Paul's Second Letter to the Thessalonians 3:16. It truly has been a blessing for me to have had this time with you, and I know God will bless your future. Remember to work toward the date 2076 when St. Paul Lutheran will celebrate its 2nd century. Grace and Peace
Pastor Wayne.

To the People of St. Paul,

Growing up in central Illinois I can't help but be reminded that this time of year is full of new beginnings. As the cold and blow of winter gives way to the drappiness and warmer breezes of spring the earth around us blossoms into new birth. The trees unfurl their tiny feathery leaves, the early bulbs send their shoots to the sun, and grass beckons to us for a haircut. The graduation invitations start filling the mailbox as our youth look forward to their new journeys. And one of my favorites, new life springs from the farmyard buildings when our mama cats bring their cute little kittens out to teach them out to be proper farm cats.

To be truthful, I find myself a bit surprised at this late date in my life to be faced with another new vocational beginning. On May first I will begin an expanded role with the good people of St. Paul. I realize you are somewhat familiar with me by now after two years of serving in partnership with Pastor Shelksohn in your interim time between called pastors. It has

been a blessed and truly enjoyable time of learning so much about worship leadership and pastoral care, because as you know St. Paul was my first assignment after finishing the SAM (Synod Authorized Ministry) program. But the best part of my last two years with St. Paul has been getting to know many of you personally and seeing how each of you contributes to the mission of St. Paul in our greater world. I look forward to continuing the work in this mission with you.

The agreement that your council president, Tammy Putnam, our bishop, Greg Busboom and I have signed spells out our

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responsibilities to each other. My major responsibilities are, as you would expect:

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to teach and preach the word, preside at worship and administer the sacraments, provide pastoral care and then it lists some of my new responsibilities which are primarily administrative type duties.

Then comes the congregation's responsibility. I smiled when I read this paragraph. I realized that if I was coming into an unfamiliar new congregation I might feel a bit of uneasiness about whether they would honor the agreement, when neither of us knew each other. But I can safely say after two years at St. Paul I know, without reserve, that I can expect St. Paul to hold up their end of the bargain. The item that stood out to me was that the congregation will "receive Ms. Buchs as Interim Minister, uphold her in prayer, and accord her our love, respect, and good will." I have received nothing less than love, respect and good will from this congregation from the very beginning. I can enter this agreement freely and with joy knowing with God's help we can get through anything together if we all continue to lean into the love that our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, demonstrated to us on that holy tree.

With that said, I would like to ask that the members of this congregation make an effort to alter their view of my role going forward. Where Pastor Shelksohn was the go-to for all pastoral matters of the church, I will be your point of contact now. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me about anything you feel relates to the life of the church or your spirituality. I will be assisted in this ministry by Pastor Brian Moeller from St. Petri

in Flanagan. Pr. Moeller recently took his first call at St. Petri after serving as a SAM (synod authorized minister) in southern Illinois. He will be available to me for consultation on matters with which I may need help. And, of course, the Bishop's office will also be available to me. I will not hesitate to reach out for help if the church or I need more experienced help.

I guess what I am trying to say is if you need me, or even think you might need me, CALL! I am God's servant for St. Paul and with God's help we will figure out the best course of action for any need or problem.

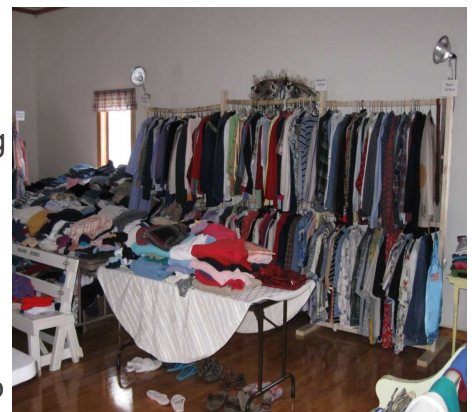
With great thankfulness for this opportunity to serve you,

Marcia+



Community Closet

Beginning in May until July 25 we will collect gently used and clean clothing for all ages. Please encourage your friends and family members to donate to the Community Closet. Items can be dropped off at church and placed in the southeast classroom. We will also need many volunteers to help! This is another great way to be



the hands and feet of Jesus for those in our community who are in need! Please see Mary Leach or e-mail the church office if you are interested in helping!



What is the Baby Bottles for Hope campaign? It is a simple, "hands on" opportunity for you to provide Hope Center's valuable services to the women and families who need them.

How do I help?

Participation is easy! Just take a bottle (or two or three) home with you, fill it with cash, coins and checks, and return on Father's Day, June 16th. Funds raised go directly toward Hope's free services.

VBS (With a Trist)

Join us for a one-day VBS event in conjunction with the Playground Blessing on Sunday, June 9 right after service. A cookout for the entire congregation will be provided after worship. Kids are invited to stay until 2 pm for music, crafts, games and a Bible story. Contact Betsy Westergreen if you are willing to volunteer!



April Bibles and Bagels meets for study of the previous Sunday's Gospel lesson on Thursday May 9 at 9:30 at Edinger's.



If you have a confidential prayer request that you would like members of our church prayer chain to pray over, please contact Julie Mehlberg at jjmehlberg@gmail.com or call 815.848.6256. If you have a prayer request to be added to the worship service prayers, please sign the sheet on the office desk. St. Paul prayer partners stand ready to surround you with prayer!

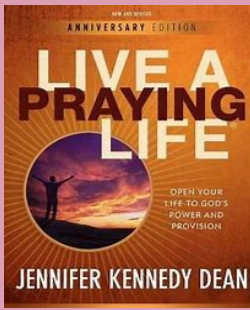
Red Bag!

We will continue with Red Bag collections on the 2nd Sunday of each month. (May donation - Boys and Girls Club)



Altar Flowers

If you would like to donate flowers in memory of or honor of someone, please sign your name on the flower chart located on the kiosk. Flowers are \$25. Make checks payable to St. Paul Lutheran Church, noting "altar flowers" on the memo line. Thank you in advance for your donations.



BIBLE STUDAY AVAILABLE!

This book study helps us discover the difference in having a prayer life and living a praying life! Our next meeting will be May 6 at 6 pm at the

Church. And our last meeting will be Wednesday, May 22 @ 6 pm with a study on the final chapter!!

“Live a Praying Life” by Jennifer Kennedy



L.E.O. (Let's Eat Out)

L.E.O. gathers St. Paul members and friends on the third Wednesday of each month to enjoy dinner out. We will meet on Wednesday, May 15 at 5:30 pm at Chenoa Family Restaurant!



WELLNESS SUNDAY

Health and Wellness Sunday is the third Sunday of each month. Mary Leach or one of our parish nurses will be on hand before and after worship to check blood pressure, blood sugar, and to help with questions about your health.



REBECCA CIRCLE

Rebecca Circle will meet on Thursday, May 16th at 1:30 in the Fellowship Hall. The hostess will be Ginger Bauknecht, and Marian Brown will lead the lesson. This month's lesson from Gather Magazine is a Devotional on Mental Health and Wellness by Elise Seyfried. We would love to have you join us.



FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

Our food pantry collections for the month of May and June are Canned Meat and Complete Pancake Mix. (No Syrup) Thanks for being the hands and feet of Jesus in our community!



8th Grade - Brooklyn Delheimer
Heartland - Aaron Putnam



Looking Ahead

CELEBRATE SENIORS SUMMER BBQ!!!

On June 23, following worship, anyone 55 or older and young at heart, are invited for a Celebration Lunch at the Mehlberg's, 18923 N 1600 East Rd, Pontiac. Please join us and relax by the water!

For planning purposes, please sign up on the kiosk in the Narthex by June 9.



Geraniums Sign-Up

This year, we would like to decorate the Altar with Red Geraniums for Pentecost Sunday on the 19th

of May!! A Sign-Up sheet is posted on the Kiosk in the Narthex (price is \$3.99 for 4" pots). Please sign up today so that we can



fill up both rails with Red Geraniums!! Thank You!



St. Paul Welcomes their newest members:

Teresa Masching, Carissa Webster
& David & Katie Longstreet &
Family!

Sunday Pastoral Schedule

May 5 - SAM Marcia Buchs

May 12 - SAM Marcia Buchs

May 19 - SAM Dave Griffith

May 26 - SAM Marcia Buchs

Anniversaries

Doug & Peggie Schneeman 5/1
Tom & Rebecca Heinrich 5/3
Marvin & Darlene Miller 5/28

Birthdays

Connie McKinsey 5/1
Karen Hoegger 5/3
Marvin Miller 5/7
Aaron Putnam 5/13
Mark Mackinson 5/23
Jim Girard 5/25
Anna Schmidt 5/26
Ted Bauknecht 5/27



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Newsletter & Announcements

Please send any announcements or articles for the June newsletter to stpaulpontiac@gmail.com by May 24.

Announcements for the bulletin are due by 9 am Thursday mornings.

May Church Events

May 5 - Worship Service @ 10 am
May 5 - Rogation Sunday
May 9 - Bibles & Bagels @ 9:30 am
May 12 - Worship Service @ 10 am (Red Bag)
May 12 - Mother's Day & Graduation Recognition
May 15 - LEO - Chenoa Family Restaurant @ 5:30 pm
May 16 - Rebecca Circle @ 1:30 pm
May 18 - Building Reserved
May 19 - Worship Service (Pentecost)
May 20 - Council Meeting @ 6 pm
May 22 - LAPL Bible Study (Last One)
May 24 - Newsletter Articles Deadline
May 26 - Worship Service @ 10 am



ROGATION SUNDAY

May 5, 2024