

Epistle

*A welcoming community
sharing Christ's love
in service
through relationships.
Welcome. Share. Serve.*

September 2021

REFLECTIONS FROM PASTOR AMY JO

Fall Anticipation

The season of fall is filled with back-to-school readiness at our home. We are sharpening pencils, buying new sneakers for physical education, and getting our books and laptops in order. All of this is exciting! We are also receiving continually changing messages regarding what safety guidance will be in place for our children as they return to the classroom. Just as our K-12 schools are revising their plans to respond to current safety needs, we are revising plans at Saint Paul's UMC in order to teach, preach, and share God's Word in a way that works right now. Here are some of the opportunities planned for this fall:

◆ Worship (In-person and Indoors) Sundays at 9:30 am and 10:30 am

Worship is indoors, in-person, socially distanced, and masked in order to honor current safety guidance from our bishop. Many of our young children don't understand about wearing masks yet, so we welcome them without masks. Saint Paul's is delighted to have little children in our midst! Two worship services allow for flexibility for our schedules and plenty of space for social distancing. All are welcome to come and worship God together.

◆ Video Worship

For those unable to join us in person, a link to video worship is posted on the church website (stpaulsmn.org) and church Facebook page. Video worship is posted each week by 9:30 am on Sunday morning. We have returned to pre-recording video worship for improved sound quality. We hope that you are blessed by the beautiful music and clear sound that are the outcome.

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♦ **Sunday School for Children and Youth (beginning on Sunday, September 12th at 9:30 am)**

Sunday School for our children and youth will be held at 9:30 am. Our Sunday School classrooms will follow the safety guidance for schools: masked, with 3 foot social distancing. We will return to the *Celebrate Wonder* curriculum that we have enjoyed in the past. Thank you to all who are teaching, to help pass on the stories of our faith to the next generation!

♦ **Adult Sunday School (now on Thursdays!)**

See information below on a Christian Education book group for adults on Thursday evening, facilitated by Charles Duddingston.

♦ **Confirmation Class
2nd Wednesdays of the month,
6:00-8:00 pm**

An in-person class will prepare our youth for confirmation as members of the church and encourage them to develop a vibrant faith. Contact Lani Thompson (lanithompson@stpaulsmn.org) for more information.

♦ **Monthly Youth Gatherings**

Watch upcoming newsletters for information on monthly youth gatherings, as our youth read God's word, serve in mission, and have fun together.

We hope that you are blessed by these many opportunities to grow in our faith together at Saint Paul's UMC! ☚

SMALL GROUPS

United with purpose



ADULT EDUCATION

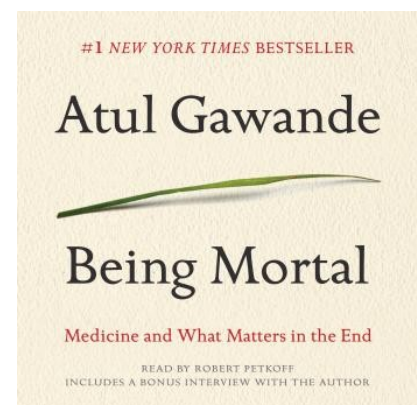
A Zoom Adult Education class will begin Thursday, September 23rd at 7:00 pm and conclude four weeks later.

We will discuss Atul Gawande's #1 New York Times bestseller, *"Being Mortal."* Dr. Gawande discusses taking the best medical and spiritual care of ourselves, considering the time we have to enjoy our lives, and making the most of what God has given us.

Books are available in the narthex for a \$10 donation to Garlough School.

If interested, contact the office, info@stpaulsmn.org, and a link to join the class will be emailed you closer to the date of the class.

The book itself could change you!



FINANCE

Support of our church and its mission



Isn't summer the most wonderful time of year? It is the season of long days, short nights, abundant sunshine, time outdoors and summer vacations. As we continue with our busy summer schedules, let us all take a moment to reflect on our church, its mission, and our ability to support that mission. Hopefully you have been able to attend service, bring supplies for the fall school drive and attend a children's reading session on the front lawn. Our pace is different during the summer but our mission remains the same. Thanks be to God for our ability to serve.

Below is a summary of our financial status through the end of July. As you can see, we have a positive balance for July and for the year, including apportionments due.

FINANCE UPDATE

This is a result of the PPP loan from the federal government. The loan of \$36,380 was forgiven last month. When it was a loan we were unable to count it as general fund income. It moved from a grant to general fund income when it was forgiven. We are blessed to have been the recipient of these funds. We would not have a positive general fund balance if we had not received a PPP.

I would like to leave you with one thought on the act of giving.

"No person was ever honored for what he received. He was honored for what he gave."

– Calvin Coolidge

Grace and Peace,
Kae Jewell

Finance Update as of 6/30/2021

	<u>July 2021</u>	<u>2021 Year-to-Date</u>
General Fund Gifts	\$ 47,941	\$ 161,691
Less General Fund Expenses	\$ 24,788	\$ 136,769
Balance	\$ 23,153	\$ 24,922
Less Unpaid Apportionments	\$ (2,501)	\$ (17,507)
Balance After Unpaid Apportionments	\$ 20,652	\$ 7,415

EVENTS

What's
happening and
when



RUMMAGE SALE PLANNED FOR SEPTEMBER 18th

9:00 am—1:00 pm

Now is your opportunity to get rid of all your treasures you no longer need but someone else may find delightful! Please leave your good rummage in the Fellowship Hall, September 13 - 16. We need your rummage before 9:00 am on Friday, September 17, so we can sort items dropped off. Note: because the charity who picks up will NOT take artificial Christmas trees, baby furniture, TVs, computers, computer equipment, exercise equipment, mattresses, curtain rods, blinds or furniture, please do not bring those items to sell. As always, we need help sorting on Friday, September 17, starting at 9:00 am in preparation for the sale, and very much appreciate any and all help starting at 1:00 pm on Saturday for packing up. Strong arms are always appreciated for the heavy lifting. A special note - all funds raised support our year end giving to local charities, e.g. Neighbors (our local food shelf), Emma Norton, Lewis House, Simpson Shelter and more so thanks for the support!

Note: Our fall bake sale is on hold. We will reassess the feasibility of a bake sale for our spring rummage sale. However, if you are one of those who always enjoyed baking for the sale, please consider a donation to the UMW in lieu of your baked items. Again, thanks for supporting our local charities!

Nancy Pierson

GROWING THROUGH LOSS

7:00-9:00 pm

Shepherd of the Lake Lutheran Church

3611 North Berens Rd. NW
Prior Lake MN 55379

Tuesdays:

September 14—October 12

Registration: 6:30-7:00 pm,

Speaker: 7:00—7:50 pm

Support Groups: 8:00—9:00 pm

The sessions provide: support of adults who have experienced a loss of spouse, child, parent, other loved ones, job, health, etc.; information about the grieving process; comfort, caring and support from others who are also grieving.

Sept. 14: *It's All the Things, an overview of grief* ; Erica Staab-Absher, Director of HOPE Center, Faribault

Sept. 21: *Multiple Losses and the Transformative Nature of Grief* Paul Johnson, retired Grief Specialist

Sept. 28: *Self-Care During Grief* ; Brittany Squillace, Grief Counselor

Oct. 5: *Grieving Shattered Dreams/Finding New Dreams* ; Ted Bowman, Educator

Oct. 12: *Service of Remembrance* ; Rev. Karen Treat, Pastor of Care Ministries

Suggested donation of \$4 per session. You can attend one or all. No registration is needed. All are welcome. Questions? Call 651-452-8261 or email

growingthroughloss@gmail.com

EVENTS

What's
happening and
when



FALL KICK-OFF SUNDAY CELEBRATION

Join us at St. Paul's UMC on Sunday, September 12th, for a day of fun and celebration kicking off the new school year.

We are trying something a little different this year. Our new Sunday morning schedule starts with Sunday school running concurrently with our first worship service at 9:30 am with a second worship service at 10:30 am to help accommodate all families and schedules. On September 12th our 10:30 am service will be our traditional Kidz 2gether worship service with lively children's music and child friendly worship with pieces for adults, too.

Afterwards, join us for some kick-off fun with live music from the Methodicals, carnival games, snow cones, and spin art.

Cub Pharmacy will also be there to do a free flu shot clinic that is available to everyone who brings in their insurance card.



SAVE THE DATES FOR UPCOMING CHILDREN AND YOUTH ACTIVITIES

- ◆ September 8th: Confirmation kick-off class
- ◆ September 12th: Sunday school kick-off celebration & Kidz 2gether Worship
- ◆ September 22nd: Youth Gathering: Game night (grades 6th-12th)
- ◆ October 13th: Confirmation class 6:00-8:00 pm
- ◆ October 27th: Youth Gathering: Helping serve at Annual Turkey Dinner

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Helping families
nurture lifelong
disciples of Christ



SEPTEMBER YOUTH GATHERING

St. Paul's UMC youth in 6th-12th grade have started gathering every fourth Wednesday from 5:00-8:00 pm for some guided Faith, Fellowship, and Fun. Each youth gathering will be focused on a combination of a Faith topic, Mission project, Worship participation, Fellowship building, and of course a fun activity. Our next youth gathering is on September 22nd and we will be talking about the individual Gifts and Talents we have to share while making smores around our campfire and then enjoying a high energy (hopefully outdoors - weather permitting) game night.

JOIN THE ST. PAUL'S UMC CHILDREN AND YOUTH TEAM!

We are always looking for new volunteers to help with our expanding children's and youth program! Together we will help our children and youth grow and learn about Jesus while teaching them how to Welcome, Share, and Serve by example. If you are interested in participating in any way or capacity contact Lani Thompson at lani.thompson@stpaulsmn.org and we will get you involved right away!

CONFIRMATION 21-22

Starting September 8th, our new class of Confirmation students will meet on the second Wednesday of every month from 6:00-8:00 pm.

We will continue with our program called *Creedo*, a United Methodist Confirmation curriculum. Confirmation is a wonderful opportunity! For some it is the beginning of a journey of faith, and for others it is the continuation of that journey. It is a fun time when we can explore who God is and what that has to do with our lives, as well as get to Grow, Honor, Discover, and Connect in new ways - in bigger ways - with each other and with God. We have seven students signed up so far! If you have a youth in 6th or 7th grade and are interested in getting them involved with this program - contact the Director of Children, Youth and Mission Ministries, Lani Thompson, at lani.thompson@stpaulsmn.org to find out more about the confirmation program and process.

AUGUST YOUTH GATHERING

On Wednesday August 25th, St. Paul's youth group got together and made and packaged **160 turkey and cheese sandwiches for the homeless** in about an hour's time! This was a mission project that they had decided and voted on themselves during the July youth gathering. YAY YOUTH! The sandwiches were donated to the 363 Sandwich program in Minneapolis and will be distributed locally to those in need. After cleaning up their sandwich project the youth all went to Grand Slam to play laser tag and celebrate their good deeds.

AUGUST YOUTH GATHERING

Making 160 turkey and cheese sandwiches for the homeless!



GARLOUGH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Helping families,
students and
educators



THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone for your generous gifts of school supplies for the kids at Garlough Elementary. Our bins outside of the sanctuary are literally OVERFLOWING. With all of these donations you have helped get so many kids prepared and feel ready for the 2021/2022 school year. We will continue to partner with Garlough and strive to make as big a difference as we can. Here are a couple of other ways we are partnering with Garlough:

P.I.E. NIGHT

P.I.E. (Parents In Education) Nights are a fun opportunity for Garlough families to come together to learn about reading and math while sharing a meal. Each child that comes to PIE Night leaves with a new book! The first PIE Night is September 30th. St. Paul's UMC is looking to find volunteers to help serve dinner in the school cafeteria that evening. Volunteer hours will be approximately 5:00-6:30 pm. If you are interested in volunteering, Contact Lani at lani.thompson@stpaulsmn.org.

READING BUDDIES

St. Paul's UMC is partnering with Garlough Elementary for another year of Reading Buddies! This is a fun and beneficial activity for all involved, and reading to students is a fun and rewarding way to volunteer. If you are interested in volunteering and helping with early readers once a week, Contact Carol Egan, merryhands@gmail.com.

EVERYMEAL (FORMERLY SHERIDAN STORY)

Everymeal is a local organization that works in tandem with Garlough Elementary as well as many other local schools with a goal to ensure that all children have access to healthy food. Since they began in 2010 they have provided 7,942,349 meals to hungry children and families in our community. All financial donations can be sent in to the church office, and if you are interested in volunteering at the school by helping place bags into backpacks Contact Lani at lani.thompson@stpaulsmn.org to get signed up.



REACHING OUT

Living our faith
and connecting
with our
neighbors

NIGHT TO UNITE

On August 3rd St. Paul's UMC hosted the neighborhood block party also known as "Night to Unite" for a fantastic evening of fun, food and fellowship. A great mix of church members and neighbors joined us for delicious food, water activities (including an inflatable splash pad and a giant slip-n-slide for the kids and the kids at heart), and visits from the local police, EMT's, and fire department. The fire department taught everyone all about fire safety and the equipment in their vehicles and even let folks climb inside to check them out! We also conducted an educational tour of all the work that has been put into our rain gardens and church grounds. We can honestly say that fun was had by all ages who attended.





Please pray for the following:

Joys:

Chuck Everling's brother, Bill, celebrated his 100th birthday, August 15

Health Concerns:

Sheila Kitzman, recovering from hip surgery

Diane Pelinka's daughter, Katie, in her 3rd trimester of an at-risk pregnancy

Andrea Larson's sister's granddaughter, Kaia, for continued healing from respiratory and cardio issues

Barb Helmken's friend, Judy, with many health issues and a friend's great grandson, Joseph, born early at 3 pounds 15 ounces

Jo Reck's friend, Dan, with throat cancer

Bob Wilson, healing and good health

Jerry Holmay, recovering at home after hospitalization

Marilyn Anderson, healing for health concerns

Loye Eckman's daughter in Oregon, Patricia, recovering from two strokes

Shirley Holmay's friend's daughter, Rachel, recovering from a stroke

Unspoken prayer requests

Chrisana Tripodi's husband, Greg, whose ongoing medical issues are affecting his work

Dick Robinson, in home hospice care

Tim and Andrea Larson's friend, Laura, for strength after benefiting from brain surgery but dealing with compromised abilities and strength for her circle of support

Bob Mahoney, Corrine's brother, healing

All homebound with health problems

Additional:

Compassion for the members of the U.S. military and all who were killed or injured in the bomb attacks on the Kabul airport

For the people affected by tropical storm Henri, especially the people in Tennessee

For the people of Afghanistan amidst turmoil

For the people of Haiti, recovering from a 7.2 earthquake

Safety for Diane Pelinka's son-in-law, Sean, on deployment on the USS Portland

For an end to violence and racism in our communities

Please contact the church office, info@stpaulsmn.org or 651-452-5683, with your prayers and concerns.



SUNDAY SCHEDULE

BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 12th

Sunday School: 9:30 am

Worship: 9:30 and 10:30 am

Kidz 2gether worship: 2nd Sundays of the month

Communion on 1st and 2nd Sundays of the month

SUMMER SCHEDULE

Worship: 9:30 and 10:30 am

There is no Sunday School or Nursery available.

VIDEO WORSHIP

Available on Facebook, YouTube (St. Paul's UMC Mendota Heights) and the church's website: www.stpaulsmn.org

CENTRAL LEADERSHIP

CHAIR: Leslie Watkins

ST. PAUL'S STAFF:

Pastor: Rev. Amy Jo Bur,
pastor@stpaulsmn.org

Director of Children, Youth and Mission:
Lani Thompson,
lani.thompson@stpaulsmn.org

Director of Music Ministry:
Lane Skoglund-Anderson,
laneskoglundanderson@gmail.com

Administrative Assistant:
Diane Pelinka,
info@stpaulsmn.org



Rev. Donald Day

former pastor at St. Paul's UMC
December 5, 2020

A Celebration of Life service will be held at 2:00 pm on September 11, 2021 at Riverside UMC 105 Park Ave. S. Park Rapids.

Visitation will be held at the church one hour prior to the service.

Cards of sympathy may be sent to his wife, Virginia Day, at: 21224 County Rd. 80 Nevis MN 56467.



HELP WANTED - NURSERY WORKER

Saint Paul's UMC is looking for a loving and caring person 18 years or older to hire as a nursery worker for every other Sunday. If you are interested or know anybody who would be interested in applying please contact the church office at info@stpaulsmn.org.

DR. GESS UPDATE

In July, we celebrated the 100th birthday of Dr. Lowell Gess by recognizing the mission of the Gess UMC Eye Clinic in Sierra Leone. Thank you all for your generous contributions to this ministry of healing. \$650 in special gifts were sent to the eye clinic from the people of Saint Paul's UMC.



I just wanted to reach out and say a special thank you to everyone at St. Paul's UMC for the heartwarming words and gifts given to all the staff on Staff Appreciation Sunday. It's truly been a blessing working here and becoming a part of the St. Paul's UMC family.

~ Lani Thompson

St. Paul's United Methodist Church

700 Wesley Lane
Mendota Heights MN 55118

Phone: 651-452-5683
Email: info@stpaulsmn.org

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Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors
The People of the United Methodist Church®

KICK-OFF SUNDAY
September 12th



RUMMAGE SALE
September 18th

