ST. PAUL'S UMC | 700 WESLEY LANE | MENDOTA HEIGHTS MN 55118

# Epistle

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

October 2022

#### REFLECTIONS FROM PASTOR AMY JO

Autumn brings about a number of longtime traditions at Saint Paul's. These traditions highlight many aspects of our faith: the ways that we teach our faith to the next generation, show hospitality to the community, faithfully give toward mission, and honor the community of the saints. All of these are important aspects of the life of our church.



Vacation Bible School. October 20-21. Vacation Bible School gives us an opportunity to pass our faith on to the next generation with all of the fun of camp-style activities. (Perhaps you have fun memories of VBS in your past—I know that I do!) During the past two years, we have put Vacation Bible School on hold due to public health concerns, but this year we are ready to go! The theme will be connecting our kids with the Creator and Creation, and our beautiful church grounds will be used for teaching environmental stewardship. This is consistent with the United Methodist Church's teaching regarding

caring for creation. "The natural world is a loving gift from God, the creator and sustainer, who has entrusted it in all its fullness to the care of all people for God's glory and to the good of all life on earth now and in generations to come." -2016 United Methodist Book of Resolutions. We have scheduled VBS during the MEA school break in order to be a resource for working parents, providing safe child care and Christian education together in one event. For more information on enrolling the children in your life or for volunteering as a youth or adult volunteer, see the Children/Youth page of the newsletter.



Turkey Dinner. October 26. The longtime Saint Paul's UMC tradition of the turkey dinner shows our hospitality to the community with a delicious, warm, home-cooked meal. Volunteering provides the people of Saint Paul's UMC with enjoyable fellowship time together

in the kitchen. And best of all, the proceeds of the turkey dinner support mission partners in our community. The turkey dinner has been a tradition at Saint Paul's UMC for nearly 100 years and is one of the ways that we are known to our neighbors. For more information about ordering tickets and/or volunteering, see the UMW page of the newsletter.



All Saints' Sunday. November 6. On All Saints' Sunday, we celebrate the community of the saints, all Christians both living and resurrected who form the family of Christ together. We honor by name those people of Saint Paul's UMC who have ended their earthly life and been resurrected to new life with God during the past year. We also honor in our hearts those many saints who throughout the years have shared their faith with us, taught us the stories of the Bible, shown us the love of God, prayed with/for us, and served in mission with us. During worship, we will light candles and offer prayers in their memory.

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All of these autumn traditions remind me of the community of saints who passed on a legacy of faith to me and my family: the neighbor who took my dad to church, the church member who taught my piano lessons and played together with me at church, the Sunday School teachers who helped me learn the Lord's Prayer, the Vacation Bible School volunteers who taught me fun songs about Jesus, the pastors who taught me to look deeper into God's Word, and the visiting missionaries who inspired me to travel to share God's love. Do you remember the people who nurtured your faith throughout the years? Through our traditions, the people of Saint Paul's UMC are passing on a legacy of faith to the generations that follow. May God bless our autumn ministries! \$\mathbb{H}\$

## Fall Schedule Kick-off

Our Fall Kick-off celebration was on Sunday, September 11<sup>th</sup>, this year. Kidz 2gether worship was energetic and uplifting, with the theme of "2nd Chances". Children and youth lead worship by greeting, acolyting, making and presenting the theme board, reading prayers and scripture, and serving communion. What a fantastic service!

This year we finally had the perfect weather for our Fall Kick-off celebration! After worship everyone enjoyed a picnic lunch and a celebration outside that included live music from the barbershop quartet "Just One More." Children (and children at heart) played in bounce houses and obstacle courses, danced, made paper crowns, threw Nerf axes, played games, and had their faces painted! We also worked together on a food ministry mission project and put together 206 lunch bags for the homeless!





# CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Helping families nurture lifelong disciples of Christ



#### YOUTH GATHERING

In September our youth went to *Feed My Starving Children* to pack Manna Rice packs for hungry children across the world.

Our next youth gathering is on Wednesday, October 26<sup>th</sup>. They will be helping with St. Paul's annual Turkey Dinner. Friends are always welcome to join us!



In August our youth gathering brought ELEVEN YOUTH to Rockin' Jump Trampoline Park!





# CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Helping families nurture lifelong disciples of Christ



# CONFIRMATION KICK-OFF 22-23

Confirmation is open to all 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> graders as well as any older youth who have yet to be confirmed.

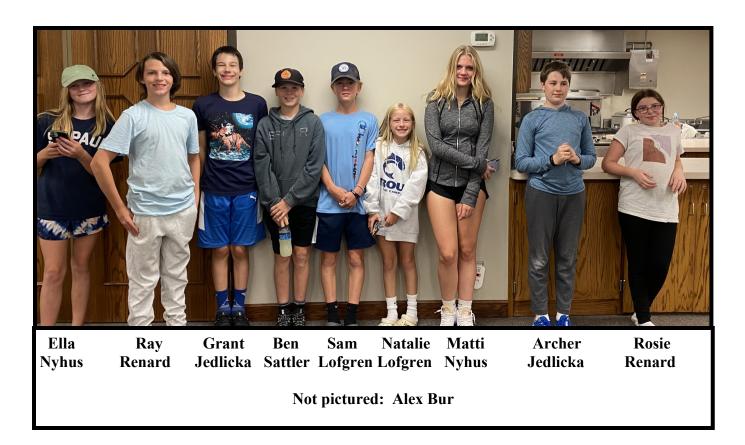
In September we welcomed new youth to our Confirmation group and celebrated the beginning of a new year. We started off with a meal together, had a few "Get-to-know-you" games and mixers, discussed "What is Confirmation?" and the importance of why we do it, and had a presentation of the Confirmation program for the 2022 -2023 school year. Confirmation students will meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of every month from 6:00-8:00 pm and we will continue

with our program called *Credo*, a United Methodist Confirmation curriculum.

We have <u>10</u> confirmation students participating this year!! Alex Bur Archer Jedlicka, Grant Jedlicka, Natalie Lofgren, Sam Lofgren, Ella Nyhus, Matti Nyhus, Raymond Renard, Rosie Renard, and Ben Sattler.

If you have a youth in 6<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup> grade and are interested in getting them involved with this program, contact Lani Schrandt, at <a href="mailto:lani.thompson@stpaulsmn.org">lani.thompson@stpaulsmn.org</a> to find out more about the confirmation program and process.

Our next class is on October 12<sup>th</sup> and we will be talking about "Worship and Sacraments."



# **SMALL GROUPS**

# United with Purpose



#### **UMW CIRCLES**

#### **Hannah Circle**

Hannah Circle will meet on Wednesday, October 19<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. We will discuss our recent Rummage Sale and the upcoming Turkey Dinner and we will study our final parable in our current study book. We will make a decision on the direction of our future spend our mission money. No studies for the rest of the year and into 2023.

#### **Rachel Circle**

Rachel Circle members are encouraged to help/support the Turkey Dinner in October, so there will be no separate meeting for October. They are also encouraged to attend the year end meeting Saturday, November 5, 2022 to vote on how to separate meeting for November is scheduled.

### ST. PAUL'S HANNAH AND RACHEL CIRCLES

Both Hannah and Rachel Circles met and decided on some changes going forward. We will no longer participate as part of the national/ Twin Cities United Women In Faith but will continue just as St. Paul's United Methodist Women under the misson team. In addition, Hannah and Rachel Circles will host only one rummage sale per year in the spring. Members decided this based on age/number of participating members and the refusal of any large organization such as Salvation Army or Epilepsy Foundation to pick up all left-over rummage. We look forward to continuing to support local missions such as Emma Norton and Neighbor's Inc. with fund raising efforts.

#### RUMMAGE SALE UPDATE

We, again, had a very successful rummage sale and raised approximately \$1,800 for missions! Thanks to our congregation, surrounding neighbors and many friends who donated money as well as quality items and who shopped. We also want to thank all those who worked to make it a Success—to Tim Larson for the heavy lifting, and to Pat Fritsche who came with many family members to help clean up at the end of the sale on Saturday. Thanks to everyone's generosity with their time, talents and goods, we will be able to give generously to the local missions we support. Good job, everyone!

## **FINANCE**

### FINANCE UPDATE AS OF 8/31/2022

# Support of our church and its mission

Fall has arrived and we are anticipating all the events that occur at this time of year. There is Halloween, football season and the Annual Stewardship Campaign. This year your finance team has decided to take a slightly different approach to Stewardship. Stewardship is always a time for prayerfully contemplating your commitment to our church and its mission. Usually that involves a focus on our monetary gifts and gifts of time and talents. This year we want to focus on a broader question: the question of Legacy. Not something we think about often but nonetheless, a very important question.



"What is My Legacy?" That will be the theme for this year's campaign. A legacy is a gift for the generations. "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." Matthew 6:21. We all have a legacy, and we want to be sure that a part of our legacy includes sharing the love of Jesus with the next generations.

Your legacy is about those you love, your family, friends and charities. It is also about your health decisions and how your faith plays into your legacy. Everyone has a legacy, regardless of age, financial situation, family situation or our abilities. The beauty of a legacy is that with thought and planning we get to control what we pass along as our legacy to future generations.

During the month of October, you will hear more about how we plan to explore the concept of consciously adopting a personal legacy.

Before I close, I would like to make a comment about the financials. Earlier this summer we paid six months of apportionments. But as you can see, we are in a situation where our expenses are regularly outpacing our giving. We have some contingency funds that we have used to meet current expenses. Last month I encouraged everyone to prayerfully consider their giving. I make that plea again this month.

Grace and Blessings, Kae Lovaas Jewell

	<u>August 2022</u>	2022 Year-to-Date
General Fund Gifts	\$ 10,598	\$ 137,861
Less General Fund Expenses	<u>\$ 25,832</u>	<u>\$ 170,503</u>
Balance	\$(15,234)	\$ (32,642)
Less Unpaid Apportionments Balance After Unpaid Apportionments	\$ (2,277) \$ (17,461)	\$ (4,552) \$ (37,194)

# REACHING **OUT**

Living our faith and connecting with our neighbors



## PIE NIGHTS AT **GARLOUGH -**CAN YOU HELP?

PIE Nights are starting up again at Garlough Elementary (1740 Charlton St., West St. Paul). We need 4-5 volunteers to help staff the event. We partner with Garlough, and this is one of our events.

What is a PIE Night, you ask? PIE = Parents Involved in Education. They have three dates set up for evening gatherings (PIE Nights). Parents and kids go to school to attend various activities. A meal is also served.

That's where we come in -- the meal. Our volunteers will help set up the food and the supplies, then will help serve as families come through the line. It takes a couple of hours or sometimes less. If there is enough food, you can also

PIE Night dates this year are as follows:

Tues., Nov. 15, 5:15-6:30 pm (volunteers, please arrive at 4:45 if you can)

Tues., Jan. 10, 5:15-6:30 pm Tues., Apr 4, 5:15-6:30 pm

All you need is a smile and a couple of free hours. If you can help on Tuesday, November 15, please let Carol Egan know at merryhands@gmail.com or 651-238-6812. Thanks!

#### CHRISTMAS GIFT DRIVE

We will be partnering with Neighbors Inc again this year for a Christmas drive. Please watch for more details soon.

## WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2<sup>nd</sup>

On World Communion Sunday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>, United Methodists, in conjunction with other denominations and believers worldwide, participate in communion to recognize our unity in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. This is the foundation of the special offering for World Communion Sunday.

Fifty percent of the offering provides scholarships for graduate students from the U.S. and other countries. Thirty-five percent supports racial and ethnic scholarships for students pursuing ordained ministry. Fifteen percent funds Ethnic-In-Service Training Grant for leadership development, recruitment, training, and retention of ethnic United Methodist persons in leadership positions.

Special offering envelopes will be available in pews along with a QR code you may scan to give electronically, or you may just write "World Communion" in the memo section of your check and place it in the offering plates by the doors to the sanctuary.

#### 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,

# **EVENTS**

What's happening and when



#### **VBS OVER MEA**

This MEA, October 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>, St. Paul's UMC is offering a special Vacation Bible School Camp for children 3 years old through 5<sup>th</sup> grade to both help accommodate working parents as well as offer our kids a fantastic camp experience where they can learn and grow together. This Vacation Bible School will help kids learn how they can be God's Earth Keepers, by learning all about God's creation and how we can help take care of it. Every day is guaranteed to be filled with fun, laughter, fellowship and friendships, learning, music, crafts, singing and games.

We are still looking for adult chaperones to join us either for the whole time, or to just come and stay with us for part of the day.

We would also love any 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade youth to join us as camp counselors! If you are interested at joining us at camp, please let Lani Schrandt know at lani.thompson@stpaulsmn.org.

VBS will be running from 9:00 am—4:00 pm on both Thursday, October 20<sup>th</sup>, and Friday, October 21<sup>st</sup>, and will include a lunch and a couple of snacks. Cost is \$25.00 per camper. There is no cost for youth helpers or adult chaperones.

### ALL SAINTS' DAY SUNDAY NOVEMBER 6<sup>th</sup>

We will commemorate All Saints' Day on Sunday, November 6<sup>th</sup>.

During this meaningful service, all will be invited to light a candle in memory of family members, relatives and friends who have gone on to be with the Lord since last year's service.

# TAKE-OUT TURKEY DINNER WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 26, 2022!

Adult \$17; Children (3-10) \$6. Reservations required.

Call Jude Rikala (651-454-6885) to make reservations (limit 150). Dinners must be pre-paid and checks should be made payable to "United Methodist Women." Send checks to St. Paul's United Methodist Church, 700 Wesley Lane, Mendota Heights, MN 55118 and note "Turkey Dinner" in the memo line. You may choose apple or pumpkin pie to accompany your dinner. Reservations close Wednesday, October 19<sup>th</sup>.

Pick-up instructions are the same as last year—stay in your car, drive under the portico at the front of the church and food will be brought to you at the time slot chosen for your reservation: 4:00-4:30, 4:30-5:00, 5:00-5:30, 5:30-6:00 pm.



I wish to thank all of the people of St. Paul's who were so generous and kind following the death of my husband, Jim. Your cards, calls, gifts of food and help warmed my heart. There was even a mystery bouquet left on my doorstep of beautiful yellow roses and blue fill that came at just a crucial time. I suspect it was a church friend because of the sweet message -- whoever it was "thank you". It graced our family table after we had gathered to view his body before interment. Jim always said folks at St. Paul's were some of the finest people he ever met and he was so right.

\*\*Rhea Nyquist\*\*



#### **SUNDAY SCHEDULE**

Education Hour for All: 9:30 am
Worship: 10:30 am
Kidz 2gether Worship
2<sup>nd</sup> Sundays of the month: 10:30 am
Communion: 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Sundays of the month

#### **VIDEO WORSHIP**

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

#### CENTRAL LEADERSHIP

**CHAIR:** Andrea Larson

#### ST. PAUL'S STAFF:

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

# Director of Children, Youth and Mission:

Lani Thompson Schrandt, lani.thompson@stpaulsmn.org

#### **Director of Music Ministry:**

Lane Skoglund-Anderson, laneskoglundanderson@gmail.com

#### Administrative Assistant:

Diane Pelinka, info@stpaulsmn.org



6305 Burnham Circle #112 Inver Grove Heights MN 55077 651-552-2733

#### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

Volunteer opportunities are available on Sign Up Genius. Go to <a href="www.signupgenius.com">www.signupgenius.com</a>, click on the magnifying glass in the upper right hand corner and type in the church email, <a href="mailto:info@stpaulsmn.org">info@stpaulsmn.org</a> to find the following sign ups.

#### ALTAR FLOWERS

Altar flowers are a beautiful addition to our service.. An acknowledgement of your donation will appear on the PowerPoint presentation projected on our wall during worship. Sign up sheets are also available on the narthex table.

#### COFFEE HOUR

Volunteers are needed to host Sunday Coffee Hour, fellowship time enjoyed by all! Sign up sheets are also available on the Fellowship Hall counter.

### 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, please contact the church office at info@stpaulsmn.org.



Your gift arrived at a crucial time. Thank you! We are sincerely grateful for your generous gift of \$193.75 to Keystone Community Services. I'm honored you chose Keystone as a way to provide food support to your neighbors, and I am eager to put your gift into action right away.......Thank you so much for your generosity!

Mary S. McKeown, President Keystone Community Services

Dear Friends in Mission, Thank you! The dear people you just helped with your gift to UMCOR (\$5, 876 for International Disaster Response and Recovery) may never have the opportunity to meet you, but if they did, I am certain their response would be – Thank you! ........

Together, may we continue to reveal the love of God for men, women, and children of all ethnic, racial, cultural, and national backgrounds and to demonstrate genuine love for our neighbors.

Grace and Peace, Roland Fernandes, General Secretary Global Ministries United Methodist Church



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
						1	
2 World Communion Sunday 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship w/ Communion	3 9:30 am Music lessons	4	5 6:00 pm Handbells 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	6	7	<b>8</b> 12:00 pm Tree Sale, Parking lot	
9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Kidz 2gether Worship w/Communion	10	11	12 6:00 pm Confirmation 6:00 pm Handbells 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	13	14	15	
9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	9:30 am Music lessons 5:45 pm 4H, Fellowship Hall	18	19 1:00 pm Hannah Circle, fellowship hall 6:00 pm Handbells 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	20 Vacation Bible School	21 Vacation Bible School	22	
9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	24 9:30 am Music lessons	25	26 Turkey Dinner	27	28	29	
30 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Don Irwin, Guest Musician	31 9:30 am Music lessons	Daylight Saving Time Ends November 6 <sup>th</sup> !					

Italicized events are conducted by outside groups renting space at the church.

#### St. Paul's United Methodist Church

700 Wesley Lane Mendota Heights MN 55118

Phone: 651-452-5683 Email: info@stpaulsmn.org NON PROFIT ORG. US POSTAGE PAID TWIN CITIES MN PERMIT #2316

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