

Epistle

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

June 2023

REFLECTIONS FROM PASTOR AMY JO

How is the flame of Pentecost burning in your soul right now? What gifts and passions has God's Spirit placed in you for the good of the whole? These are some of the questions that I am considering as I complete the reading of *They Were Christians*, the adult education book by Krusen that we have been reading together at Saint Paul's UMC. Each chapter of the book contains a short biography describing how the Christian faith inspired and influenced a world leader. It has been inspiring to see the way that faith has supported people in bringing positive change to the world.

One of the things that I have noticed about the writings is how unique and different each of the leaders' gifts are. The biographies cover medical doctors, writers, nurses, political leaders, researchers, and more-- each with a different set of gifts to bring to the world. It is a reminder to me that each of us does have unique gifts, and there is a need for each of those gifts in the setting where we live.

The biographies within the book *They Were Christians* remember the gifts of famous, world-changing leaders. But, in our everyday lives, we ALL have opportunities to use our gifts for God's glory. The Holy Spirit is at work revealing those opportunities for us if we attune our hearts to the promptings of God's Spirit. What a joy to see the varied gifts of our seven newly confirmed young people.

that we all continue to use our gifts as everyday missionaries with the five daily practices that we studied: seeking the Kingdom, hearing from Jesus, talking with people, doing good, and ministering through prayer. As you are ministering in prayer, I encourage you especially to remember the eleven people from our congregation who are traveling in mission together on the Mission Road Trip June 24- July 1.



UPCOMING Summer EVENTS

During the upcoming summer months, there will be many opportunities for us to gather in fellowship, share our gifts, and serve together. Watch upcoming announcements for more details on Friday family movie nights,

Using our gifts for the glory of God every day was a focus of the previous adult education book we studied: *Joining Jesus on His Mission: How to Be an Everyday Missionary* by Greg Finke. I pray

gardening gatherings, a book signing of *They Were Christians*, church picnics, mission reflection groups, mission trip prayer partners, and other events that will bring us together this summer.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Helping families
nurture lifelong
disciples of Christ



ONE ROOM SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS JUNE 18th

We know what summer means at church. People travel, family activities going on, etc. We get it. We make a shift, too, to One Room Sunday School (ORSS). We combine all of our children's Sunday School classes into one. **ORSS will begin June 18th** and starts at approximately 10:15 am, after Children's Chat in worship. We like to give our regular Sunday school teachers throughout the year a summer break. If you have an interest in helping teach one Sunday this summer, please contact Lani at: lani.thompson@stpaulsmn.org

YOUTH GATHERING

In April the youth went to Rockin' Jump Trampoline Park for a fun *Bring a Friend* night. Their evening included trampolines, rock climbing walls, slack lines, ninja warrior course, stunt bag areas, a few all group games of Hide and Seek, and so much more. They all agreed they had a Rockin' good time.

In May we had a special combined children and youth together MINECRAFT themed night. The kids showed off some of their favorite creations, they enjoyed tons of Minecraft themed snacks, and instead of playing the video game Minecraft together, the kids had a blast playing some high energy Minecraft themed running games like *Zombies*, *Mining in the Dark*, and *Creepers and Villagers*.

In June we will not be meeting for a youth gathering as many of our group will be gone on the summer mission trip, but we will gather together again in July.

CONFIRMATION

In May we had our final confirmation class of the 2022/2023 school year. We spent time reflecting on each of the lessons and topics we had discussed over the past year and then played a version of *Confirmation Jeopardy* that covered all those lessons. The youth had a lot of fun with it and it was a great way to recap all that they had learned.

Our Confirmation program will pause for the summer and start back up with an exciting kick-off on Wednesday, September 13th.

May 14th was Confirmation Sunday at Saint Paul's UMC and seven youth confirmed their faith in front of the congregation and became members of the church. What a blessed day!

Congratulations, confirmation class of 2023: Alex Bur, Archer Jedlicka, Grant Jedlicka, Sam Lofgren, Matti Nyhus, Ray Renard, and Ben Sattler.

3rd AND 4th GRADE BIBLES

On May 14th we presented Bibles and children's devotional guides to our children in 3rd and 4th grades. Presenting Bibles to children is a long-standing tradition in the United Methodist Church. When the church gives children a Bible in worship it is not only a memorable and important faith milestone in their lives, but a big part of the continuation of their lifelong faith journeys. We present children with new Bibles and devotional guides at this age in the hopes that they will not only learn how to read scripture, but they will be able to use their knowledge of the Bible in order to deepen their faith and relationship with God.

Recipients of Bibles and devotional guides this year were: Jaylynn Ball, Greyson Howard, Sam Medjanyk and Sophia Medjanyk.

REACHING OUT

Living our faith
and connecting
with our
neighbors



SUMMER 2023 MISSION “ROAD” TRIP SPONSORS

This June 24th-July 1st, St. Paul's UMC will be going on a Road Trip-Mission Trip. With the mindset of going out and making disciples of the Lord while doing all the good we can, by all the means we can, in all the places we can, the team will be traveling by train across the country volunteering everywhere from small farm towns to large cities. This will be an inter-generational mission trip for youth who have finished 6th grade through adults.

We have eleven people locked in to join us on the mission trip. Hooray! So our next goal is to connect everyone going on the trip with a couple of sponsors from St. Paul's UMC. Being a mission trip sponsor is an amazing way to build relationships as well as be a vital part of the mission trip, even if you can't go. Sponsors not only help financially, but also build relationships with their sponsee and make a difference. Each sponsor will be asked to donate \$35 towards the cost of the trip. In return, the sponsee will send postcards and letters throughout the trip to tell their sponsors about their thoughts and experiences. After we return we will host an ice cream social on a Sunday morning after worship for the sponsors, where we will share photos and videos. If you are interested in being a mission trip sponsor or have questions, please contact Lani, lani.thompson@stpaulsmn.org.

YOUTH 100,000 MEALS PROJECT

A little over a year ago our youth group at St. Paul's UMC chose a HUGE mission project they wanted to work on for the entire year. After many conversations about the ways they like to go out and serve, they realized that a lot of their favorite mission activities are related to food ministry. So they set a GIANT goal of serving 100,000 meals.

They planned to accomplish this by participating in small mission projects: helping at *Feed My Starving Children*, *Union Gospel Mission*, food drives, a local church's *Loaves and Fishes* dinner program, and making sandwiches for the homeless.

It was a goal to not only feed the hungry in our community, but find ways to help feed people all over the world. It was no small task. As of May 14th our youth group has served a total of...ready... 101,023 meals! Absolutely incredible! Congratulations to all the youth who participated. Their hard work, dedication, and love for others has made a tremendous impact in the lives of so many people here in our community and all over the world.



EVENTS

What's
happening and
when



GRADUATION SUNDAY JUNE 11th

We want to celebrate you! If you, or someone in your family, is graduating this year from any level of education, please let us know. Email Lani at: lani.thompson@stpaulsmn.org with their name, school graduating from, and any degree information or future plans you would like to share by Sunday, June 4th. We will recognize and pray for these students on Sunday, June 11th during our Kidz 2Gether worship.



MOVIE NIGHTS BEGIN JULY 14th

Starting on July 14th, and happening every Friday throughout the rest of July and August, St. Paul's UMC will be hosting free movie nights in our parking lot at sundown. Bring the family and a blanket or a chair to sit on to enjoy the outdoors and watch a family-friendly movie together. All ages are welcome! Popcorn and lemonade will be provided.



SUMMER PICNIC

We are currently planning a Sunday summer picnic at Harmon Park. (230 Bernard Street West, West St. Paul) We will enjoy some great food and fellowship while the children run and enjoy the playground equipment and splash pad. Watch for the date coming soon!



FINANCE

Support of our church and its mission



FINANCIALS AS OF 4/30/2023

Kindness, what a remarkable thing. I often find myself worrying that the niceties in life are going by the wayside. And then I'll have a day that reminds me that people are good. That they are living out the evangelism and discipleship that Jesus taught us all.

I recently had this type of reminder at the local garden store. I had my cart full of new plants and was heading for the checkout on the bumpy cobblestones. I hit a bump wrong and a whole tray of plants tumbled to the ground. Two women stopped to help me! I was shocked and thrilled. I wasn't alone. After I checked out, I was struggling again as I had a receipt, wallet and a cart to maneuver and needed to get some plastic to line my trunk space. Seeing me struggle, another woman offered a helping hand. Thank you!! These three women made my day. I left feeling so good. It is amazing what a small gesture can do to change your perspective on the world.

Pastor Amy Jo recently preached a sermon series on being an everyday missionary. One of the lessons out of the series focused on how we carry out our everyday mission work.

"Over time, neighboring allows us to answer key missional questions about the people God has put around us:

- 1. Who are these people?*
- 2. What is Jesus already up to in their lives?*
- 3. How can I join Him?"¹*

I am so blessed that the three women I encountered at the garden store were leading a life of an everyday missionary. Their kindness inspired me to step up my game as an everyday missionary. The church is an opportunity for us to be everyday missionaries as a unit. We support the mental health of our community through the LOVE offering. We also provide many types of gifts (not just financial gifts) to the Emma Norton Restoring Waters project, Neighbors Food Shelf and Garlough School, just to name a few. Your continued gifts and support of St. Paul's allows us to go out into the world and be everyday missionaries.

Grace and Blessings,
Kae Lovaas Jewell, Finance Chair

¹ Greg Finke, *Joining Jesus on His Mission – How to be an Everyday Missionary*, 135

	<u>April 2023</u>	<u>2023 Year-to-Date</u>
General Fund Gifts	\$ 21,655	\$ 60,341
Less General Fund Expenses	<u>\$ 20,434</u>	<u>\$ 87,029</u>
Balance	\$ 1,221	\$ (26,688)
Less Unpaid Apportionments	<u>\$ 2,289</u>	<u>\$ 9,156</u>
Balance After Unpaid Apportionments	\$ (1,068)	\$ (35,844)

2023 Confirmands Faith Statements

Alex Bur

Hi. I'm Alex, a freshman at St. Peter High. I run track and cross country as well as participate in theatre, tech, and FRC robotics.

I think God/Jesus is: The collective good and randomness of the universe.

I think that the Bible is: A story in how to be human and what it means to be a good human.

I think the church is: A dedication to the good of the world. A family.

Favorite Bible verse: Psalm 23:4 *Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff—they comfort me.* I like this verse because life can change in an instant and nothing is ever certain. Life isn't easy but faith pulls us through the hardest times.

Archer Jedlicka

My name is Archer Jedlicka. I have 2 brothers, a mom and a dad. I enjoy reading, video games, and Star Wars. I am smart and mature.

I think God/Jesus is: The eternal Savior. He is the only Son of God and gave his life to save others from sin.

I think that the Bible is: The holy book of the Christian religion. All Christians are bound to the Bible's teachings and can use it to grow their faith.

I think the church is: A building where people who share a faith meet to worship, pray and grow in our religion. The church is a holy place for worship.

Favorite Bible verse: Hebrew 13:7 *Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith.* I chose this because it says to follow your leader's example and do as they do and you will be successful in life.

Grant Jedlicka

I am a thirteen year old boy. I enjoy video games, sports, specifically soccer, board games, card games, especially with family.

I think God/Jesus is: The Creator, maker of the world. However, he created an imperfect world and people sinned. Then God sent Jesus to save us of our sins and imperfections.

I think that the Bible is: A guide to how to live in a way that is good to the world, good to you, and a way that is holy.

I think the church is: Our way to express faith in a community and our way to do good and worship in a community.

Favorite Bible verse: Matthew 10:32-33 *"Everyone therefore who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven; but whoever denies me before others, I will also deny before my Father in heaven."* I picked out this verse because I thought it represents the time in my relationship with God right now.

(continued on page 7)



(continued from page 6)

2023 Confirmands Faith Statements

Sam Lofgren

I am Sam Lofgren. I am 13 years old. I play hockey, lacrosse, and football and I enjoy playing other sports and hanging out with my friends.

I think God/Jesus is: I think of God and Jesus like a friend and they are always there to help us with our problems and to guide us.

I think that the Bible is: I think of the Bible as a book to read when we need to find the answer to something and the way of retelling Jesus' life.

I think the church is: A place where everybody can come together to worship Jesus and God.

Favorite Bible verse: Psalm 27:1 *The Lord is my light and my salvation: whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?* I like this verse because it shows you don't have to be scared of anything.

Matti Nyhus

My name is Matti. I play soccer and have been playing since I was very young. I run track for Two Rivers and I love hanging out with my friends when I'm not busy with sports. I have a younger sister named Ella and 4 pets.

I think God/Jesus is: To me, God is a leader who is always there to guide and protect us.

I think that the Bible is: I think the Bible is a commemoration of past events to help inspire us for the future.

I think the church is: A sanctuary where people gather together to celebrate their faith as one.

Favorite Bible verse: Psalm 4: *Answer me when I cry out, my righteous God! Set me free from my troubles! Have mercy on me! Listen to my prayer.* I like this verse because it represents what it is like entering the church community.

Raymond Renard

I am Raymond Renard. I enjoy playing volleyball. Friends and family are everything to me.

I think God/Jesus is: Someone who guides me down the right path.

I think that the Bible is: A knowledge of what happened in Jesus' path, and the accomplishments that happened.

I think the church is: Where I can talk to God and feel closer to him.

Favorite Bible verse: John 14:6 *Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."* I like this verse because he is guiding me through life helping me with decisions.

Ben Sattler

My name is Ben Sattler. I am 13 years old. My favorite sports are baseball, hockey, and football. I have a mom, dad, sister, Kira; and a dog, Jack.

I think God/Jesus is: Our Lord and Savior. Jesus died for our sins.

I think that the Bible is: A book to go to for answers or when you have no one to talk to.

I think the church is: A place to learn about God and Jesus and communicate with all ages.

Favorite Bible verse: Psalm 35 Ben chose the entire Psalm but due to space concerns, verse 1 is included: *Contend O Lord, with those who contend with me; fight against those who fight against me!*

I picked out this verse because if someone makes you mad you shouldn't hate them. You should forgive them and be friends.



Please pray for the following:

Joys:

Barb Helmken's friend, Kathy, had successful breast surgery

Scholarships awarded at Two Rivers High School to: Jillian Arnold, Catey Chastain, Julia Taurinskas, and Sarah Wagner

Confirmants: Alex Bur, Archer Jedlicka, Grant Jedlicka, Sam Lofgren, Matti Nyhus, Ray Renard, Ben Sattler
Diane Siebert, for successful surgery and continued healing during her recovery
Chuck Garr, for successful hip surgery and continued healing during his recovery
Groundbreaking day at Restoring Waters Campus of Emma Norton Services

Deaths:

Ike Russell, Lani Schrandt's friend

Health Concerns

Reuben Judd, son of Walt Judd, in the hospital in Gainesville FL

Barb Helmken's neighbor, Dolores, whose cancer of the mouth has returned and friend, Diane, with continuing cancer treatments

Laura, friend of Tim and Andrea Larson's daughter, Brittany, for God's presence, peace and will for her and her circle as she enters a new and unknown phase of her brain cancer

Cheryl Carter's daughter, Sarah Kostohryz, as she enters treatment for breast cancer

Nancy Plath, who is in memory care with dementia

Diane Pelinka's daughter's friend, Alex, for healing from cancer; and daughter, Katie, with an at-risk pregnancy

Sharon Monroe's son, Steven Zimmerman, with a lung and brain cancer diagnosis

Marilyn Anderson, healing for health concerns

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

Bob Mahoney, Corrine's brother, healing

All homebound with health problems

Additional:

For those struggling financially

For the people of Ukraine, and for peace throughout the world

For an end to violence and racism in our communities

Please call the church office, 651-452-5683, with joys and concerns.

SMALL GROUPS

United with Purpose



ALL CHURCH RUMMAGE SALE WRAP UP

Wow! A very successful rummage sale with a great turnout thanks to the donations and the efforts by many volunteers! Our jewelry sales were very profitable as well other items we priced at a 'premium'. This year we tried something new and sent out letters to neighbors in the immediate vicinity of St. Paul's inviting them to donate goods as well as to shop. This increased the demographics of shoppers and the variety of goods to sell. Our bag sale at 2:00 pm was well attended, too. Our immediate plans are to donate \$2,000 to Neighbors, Inc. this summer as food banks are 'hit hard' when kids are at home every day.

Here some comments from a few of our volunteers...

•*"I was so impressed with the number of volunteers this year, not to mention the tremendous amount of items donated. Over thirty St. Paul's members, family and friends helped pull off the highest revenue sale ever! In recent years we were thrilled to achieve \$2,000 or more. This year we reached \$3,920! It truly was a team effort!"*

Barb Goin

•*"A lady told me what a nice sale it was and she was so pleased that we were sending the profits to neighborhood areas of need. Another lady inquired about our church attendance, saying their Lutheran Church was experiencing low turnouts. I turned on the light to the altar area and she was so impressed by the purple wall and Gethsemane windows, saying we must have had a great decorator.*

Then a lady and her teenage daughter came in and the teenager exclaimed, "I love the butterflies, Mama, I want them for my bedroom."

Rhea Nyquist

•*"Having all jewelry in individual packages at the "premiere" table made it more manageable. So nice to have so much help at the end including the "Fritsche kids"! Comment heard- "This is a nice event for the local community plus what you do for missions."*

Deb Curran

•*"The labeled boxes made it look a lot neater and easier to locate clothing!"*

Janet Schrankler

•*Two comments from customers. "This is such a nice sale, everything is so organized." "This is my favorite sale, I never miss it."*

Barb Jorgenson

•*"I love the way I can basically 'rent' stuff for a year and then bring it back- keeps stuff moving and creative!"*

Andrea Larson

•*"This new annual purse exchange is an awesome way to also sell some rummage odds and ends!"*

Deanna Sellers

I also want to thank Vicki Corrigan for the many years she helped with checking out folks who shopped the sale. Vicki has decided to 'retire' from the check-out job. A bit of history... 30 years ago Vicki sewed the canvas sale sign with the colored flags we stake out in the church lawn the Saturday of the sale. Currently, she is working on some repairs to the sign. Thanks, Vicki!

Again, thanks to all our friends, neighbors and congregation for supporting local missions!

Nancy Pierson



SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Worship: 10:00 am
 One Room Sunday
 School: 10:15 am
 Kidz 2gether Worship
 2nd Sundays of the month: 10:00 am
 Communion: 1st and 2nd 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

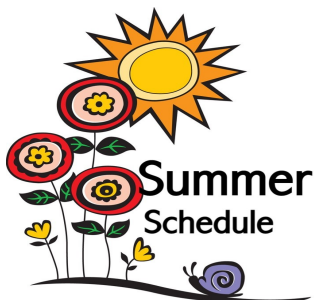
Director of Music Ministry:

Lane Skoglund-Anderson,
laneskoglundanderson@gmail.com

Administrative Assistant:

Diane Pelinka,
info@stpaulsmn.org

**Minnesota Annual
 Conference:
 St. Cloud MN
 May 31—June 1**



SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE BEGINS:

June 4th, 10:00am

ONE ROOM SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS:

June 18th, 10:15 am

LITTLE FREE LIBRARY STEWARD NEEDED



The Little Free Library in front of our church has been maintained in the past by the late Carol Egan. We are now looking for a new steward(s) to curate the Little Free Library, making sure that interesting, uplifting, and fun books are available for our neighbors. Our church is part of a free book distribution that helps the stewards. Please contact the church office, 651-452-5683, if you are interested in being a Little Free Library steward.



Corinne Mahoney
cfmahoney0@gmail.com

Thank You!

Thank you for the hard work and heartwarming generosity you showed to Neighbors during the Minnesota FoodShare March Campaign! Members of your congregation donated a total of \$500 and 350 pounds of food (also United Methodist Women of St. Paul's UMC donated \$500).....Your kindness has made a real difference.....*Neighbors Inc.*

On May 21st we said a special THANK YOU to all of our Sunday School teachers and volunteers: Pam Eggen, Barb Jorgenson, Walt Judd, Nancy Pierson, and Jude Rikala. During worship, the children and youth handed out cards and flowers to each teacher with a personal note of appreciation. Thank you to all of our Sunday school teachers at St. Paul's United Methodist church. We so appreciate you, and all you do. The Lord works wonders through wonderful people like you!



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<i>Italicized events are conducted by outside groups renting space at the church.</i>				1	2	3
4 No Sunday School 10:00 am Worship w/ Communion	5 6:00 pm Central Leadership Mtg	6	7 6:00 pm Handbells Rehearsal	8	9	10 <i>Recital In afternoon</i>
11 Graduation and Camping Sunday w/ Guest Preacher No Sunday School 10:00 am Kidz 2gether Worship w/guest preacher 11:00 am Mission Mtg <i>Recital In afternoon</i>	12	13	14 6:00 pm Handbells Rehearsal	15	16	17
18 Father's Day 10:00 am Worship 10:15 am One Room Sunday School	19 <i>4:45 pm 4H</i>	20	21	22	23	24 Mission Trip to July 1 →
25 10:15 am One Room Sunday School 10:00 am Worship Mission Trip →	26	27	28	29	30	July 1

Pastor Amy Jo will be on retreat June 11—16, 2023.

St. Paul's United Methodist Church

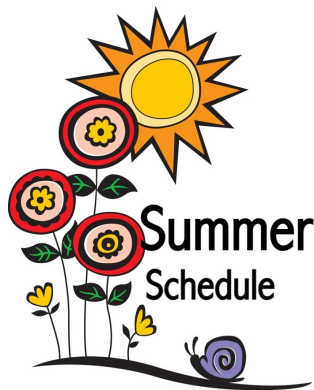
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Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors
The People of the United Methodist Church®



**SUMMER WORSHIP TIME
BEGINS JUNE 4th: 10:00 am**

**ONE ROOM SUNDAY SCHOOL
BEGINS JUNE 18th : 10:15 am**

There will be no Sunday School on June 4th and June 11th

There will be no One Room Sunday School on the
2nd Sundays of the month when the children and youth are in
Kidz 2gether worship