



ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH LOVELETTER

Share God's Love; Serve all People

329 East State Street, Mason City, IA 50401

641-423-7749

OFFICE HOURS: Tuesday and Thursday 9 a.m. to Noon

September 2020

Worship Update

In September we will meet on the south lawn at St Paul at 9:00am and continue to worship outdoors as the weather allows.

Outdoor worship gives us the ability to physical distance and since we will be outdoors, we can also sing! You can also join the service live on St Paul's Facebook page. Recordings of the service are also being loaded to Pastor Matthew's YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/user/PastorMuters/videos..> We have also added the weekly bulletins to the St. Paul webpage, stpaulmc.com. The home page contains the current week and if you want to view previous bulletins go to Groups then Worship and Music. If you want the bulletin emailed to you let the office know. The following are worship helps for the coming month.

September 6, 2020

14th Sunday after Pentecost

Introduction

Conflict is a part of relationships and life in community. Jesus' words in today's gospel are often used in situations having to do with church discipline. The prophet Ezekiel tells of warning the wicked to turn from their ways, and Paul reminds us that love is the fulfilling of the law. We gather in the name of Christ, assured that he is present among us with gifts of peace and reconciliation.

Prayer of the Day

O Lord God, enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy. Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful, and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Hymn of the Day ELW #729—The Church of Christ in Every Age

Readings and Psalm

Ezekiel 33:7-11—*The prophet's responsibility to warn the people*

Psalm 119:33-40—*I desire the path of your commandments. (Ps. 119:35)*

Romans 13:8-14—*Live honorably as in the day*

Matthew 18:15-20—*Reconciliation in the community of faith*

September 13, 2020 15th Sunday after Pentecost

Introduction

In today's second reading Paul questions why we judge one another, since we all stand before the judgment of God. Yet we do sin against one another, and Jesus' challenge that we forgive seventy-seven times reveals God's boundless mercy. When we hear the words of forgiveness in worship and sign ourselves with the cross, we are renewed in baptism to be signs of reconciliation in the world.

Prayer of the Day

O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Hymn of the Day ELW # 359 When Charity and Love Prevail

Readings and Psalm

Genesis 50:15-21 —*Joseph reconciles with his brothers*

Psalm 103:[1-7] 8-13—LORD, you are full of compassion and mercy. (*Ps. 103:8*)

Romans 14:1-12—*Accepting diversity in the community of faith*

Matthew 18:21-35—*A parable of forgiveness in the community of faith*

September 20, 2020 16th Sunday after Pentecost

Introduction

Matthew narrates one of Jesus' controversial parables in which Jesus says that the reign of God is like that of a landowner who pays his workers the same wage no matter what time of day they began to work. When God changes God's mind about punishing Nineveh for their evil ways, Jonah is angry. Yet God is gracious and merciful, abounding in steadfast love. In baptism we receive the grace of God that is freely given to all. As Martin Luther wrote, in the presence of God's mercy we are all beggars.

Prayer of the Day

Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Hymn of the Day ELW 588 There's A Wideness in God's Mercy

Readings and Psalm

Jonah 3:10--4:11—*God's concern for the city of Nineveh*

Psalm 145:1-8—The LORD is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. (*Ps. 145:8*)

Philippians 1:21-30—*Standing firm in the gospel*

Matthew 20:1-16—*The parable of the vineyard workers*

September 27, 2020 17th Sunday after Pentecost

Introduction

Jesus' parable about two sons who don't do what they say reveals surprises in the reign of God. In the reading from Ezekiel the people claim the ways of the Lord are unfair, while God offers repentance and new life. Paul urges us to look to Christ as a model of humility, putting the interests of others above our own. Nourished by the broken bread and shared cup, we offer our lives for the sake of our needy world.

Prayer of the Day

God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Hymn of the Day # 712 Lord Whose Love in Humble Service

Readings and Psalm

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32—*The fairness of God's way*

Psalm 25:1-9—Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love. (*Ps. 25:6*)

Philippians 2:1-13—*Christ humbled to the point of death on a cross*

Matthew 21:23-32—*A parable of doing God's will*

OFFICE HOURS CHANGING

Beginning August 30 the office at St Paul will be open just Tuesday and Thursday mornings. Diane will be checking and replying to voicemail, email and mail the other days of the week. **If you need immediate pastoral care be sure and contact Pastor Matthew directly at 641-231-4418.**

MINISTRY CONTINUES

Even in the middle of the building being closed our ministries continue. Right before we closed for the virus the quilts were on display and our ladies have been working on packing those quilts and have also put together 245 School Kits that will be taken to Lutheran World Relief in early September. We will bless these items on Sunday, September 6. during worship.



The ladies have also been working on Lily Bags for Crisis Intervention. This ministry has become very important to the community and has even expanded to include bags for children. A total of 38 Lily Bags were taken to Crisis Intervention in August.

Church Council Meeting August 13, 2020

Attendance: Pat Steinfort, Dave Janssen, Pastor Muters, Linda Koopman, Jim Aberg, Geri Barker (guest)

1. Pastor opened with a prayer.

2. Pastors Report: Pastor overviewed his activities for July 2020. Pastor reported the first communion for the outdoor service at Our Saviour's went well! Communion will be provided the first Sunday of each month at outdoor services. Pastor shared he had to modify the prayer of offering when we do not have communion.

Pastor passed out the Action Team Survey Results Report dated July 8, 2020. 56 surveys were mailed out to St. Paul members and 15 were returned, with a response rate of 33%. Strengths and weaknesses were identified for both churches. Feedback was provided on how soon both churches should come together. Other ideas and feedback were included in the report. The action team will continue to plan and address the report.

3. Treasurers Report: Reviewed July 2020 financial information. Church giving for the fiscal year is down approximately \$22,000 through July 31, 2020. Church expenses down approximately \$15,000 through July 31st 2020. \$5,000 was transferred from investments in July 2020 to defray expenses. Pat made a motion to accept the treasurer's report, seconded by Jim, council voted to approve treasurer's report.

4. Monthly Benevolence: Council put on hold any benevolence giving for the month of July 2020 due to financial constraints.

5. Action Team: Dave reported the Action Team with St. Paul and Our Saviour's met on July 8, 2020. Dave reported the meeting went well. Progress is being made on planning for two churches to come together. The next meeting will be in September 2020.

6. Resuming Church Services within the Church: Discussion took place on resuming church services within the church when the weather gets cold. The council did feel it is best to continue outdoor services for the time being. It was agreed that the Worship teams from St. Paul and Our Saviour's will meet to develop a plan for indoor services. Initial ideas included rotation of services between both churches. Initial plans have been proposed for how to spread attendees out at St. Paul and Our Saviour's. Discussion took place on the need for safety and cleaning. The plan for resuming church services within the churches will need to be approved by both councils.

7. Outdoor church services at St. Paul: Geri Barker attended to give a progress report on providing outdoor church services at St. Paul in September 2020. Services would start on September 6th at 9 am. Geri has talked to the police department about blocking off the road on the southside of St. Paul for the service. We would pick up barricades from the police department to block off the street. Dave will talk to Mike Olson about using the keyboard and sound system. Pastor will talk to Mary about playing the keyboard. We will need volunteers to help with set up at St. Paul on Sunday mornings.

8. Old Business: Sunday August 30, 2020 at 9 am will be the polka service at the East Park band shell.

9. New Business: no new business

10. Jim made a motion to adjourn, Pat seconded, the council voted to adjourn. Pastor closed with prayer. The next council meeting will be September 13, 2020 at 6:30 pm.

PRAYERS AND SYMPATHIES

Please keep the following families in your prayers.



Longtime member of St Paul, Margaret Simkins passed away on Monday, August 24th at Good Shepherd. Margaret was one of our dedicated WELCA ladies in the past.

Also remember Larry Stockberger and his family as Larry's mother, Vera Stockberger, passed away on August 12 at Good Shepherd.

Message from LSI—Direct Support Professionals Week

Do you know someone who is a caregiver to a loved one? It is a role that is both demanding and meaningful. During September's National Direct Support Professionals Week, we celebrate all the ways in which professional caregivers help children and adults achieve their goals and build meaningful lives, especially during the extra challenges surrounding COVID-19 this year.

One way LSI empowers Iowans is through our Services for People with Disabilities. From 24-hour support to occasional respite care, the LSI team lifts up Iowans with disabilities as they find the confidence and independence they need to thrive. In recent months, our DSPs have been dedicated to the people we are privileged to serve, adding extra safety measures to continue supporting individuals in our 24-hour facilities and providing new activities to keep everyone entertained and busy when leaving the house was not safely an option.

This high-quality care is possible because of you – thank you for lifting up your Iowa neighbors in times of crisis! If you would like to learn more about how you can support crucial programming like LSI's Services for People with Disabilities, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI director of philanthropy and church relations, at 563-676-2065 or Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org.

Our Mission: Lutheran Services in Iowa responds to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service. LSI is an affiliated social ministry partner of the Iowa congregations of the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) and a member of LSA (Lutheran Services in America). We proudly serve people of all ages, abilities, religions, sexes, gender identities, national origins, ethnicities, races, and sexual orientations. Learn more at www.LSIowa.org and www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa.

It's important to pray for ALL our family & friends, so our list is rotated among our congregation.

Keep this in a convenient place for prayer time. If you don't have a daily prayer time, this might be a good time to begin.

1. NE Iowa Synod
2. St. Paul Lutheran Church
3. Our Saviour's Lutheran Church
4. Our government, military leaders, troops & families
5. All who suffer from illness, infirmity or loneliness
6. Confined shut-ins (home, hospital, nursing home)
7. Those who are dealing with losses in their lives
8. All who hunger and/or are homeless
9. All who seek God; finding comfort, peace, renewal
10. Bob & Heather Thompson & family
11. Ken & Dawn Truka & family
12. Jim & Chris Wallace & family
13. Karol Wallskog & family
14. Tad Wendorf & family
15. Tom & Patricia Wetter & family
16. Jim & Elaine Aberg & family
17. Lori Angell & family
18. Michael Angell & family
19. Stephanie & Shaun Arneson & family
20. Sue Aves & family
21. Jim & JoEllen Bailey & family
22. Don & Geri Barker & family
23. Bryan & Bethany Bjorklund & family
24. Lyle & Corrine Butler & family
25. Karen Cornick & family
26. Zell Cottrell & family
27. LaVern & Tanya Dahl & family
28. Roger & Beverly Ennis & family
29. Harold Gaiser & family
30. Jack & Anne Gannett & family

PRAYER CHAIN

Please call any Prayer Chain member below if you have a prayer request. All requests are kept confidential and you can share as much information as you are comfortable with. You may call any member and they will start the chain.

Prayer Chain members:

Geri Barker 641-423-5525

(please do not leave message)

Anne Gannett 641-421-6852 (leave message)

Margaret Movick 641-201-1250

(leave message)

Diane Murphy 641-512-5851

(leave message)

Happy September Birthday!

- 9/9 Marv Murphy
 9/10 Lily Stockberger
 9/13 Becky Lundblad
 9/20 John Meyer

