

St. Paul's Lutheran
Church ELCA

401 Mill Street
Wilton, Wisconsin 54670



September October 2020
Bi-Monthly Newsletter

Christ's Calling Card

Pastor Cathleen Morris



"Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Tuesday, September 22, is the official start of fall (*Farmers Almanac*, online). Although we have had some very hot weather this week, as September begins, we look forward to cooler, more comfortable, temperatures. This reprieve will be welcome, as we seek to work outside in our gardens, fish, swim, walk, run and/or bike.

During this time of the Coronavirus pandemic, most of us are spending more time at home in front of our computer screens and televisions. Some of us are doing this because we are working from home. Some of our young people are doing this due to social distancing necessities and the cancellation of outdoor group sports activities. It is important as the months of the pandemic continue, for us to try to maintain healthy lifestyles by getting outside, exercising, soaking up Vitamin D from the sun rays, and more.

As I have mentioned in previous letters, we are fortunate to have so many outdoor recreational areas near us to enjoy and explore. These include the bike trails, Kickapoo Valley Reserve, Wildcat Mountain State Park, as well as local and county parks. There are also the recreational areas and trails operated by the Mississippi Valley Conservancy in Monroe, Vernon, Richland, Crawford, Grant, La Crosse, Jackson, Trempealeau and Buffalo Counties.

Recently, I heard about a program offered by the Mississippi Valley Conservancy called the Trail Trek Challenge. When you register online, you receive a downloadable *Trail Guide & Hike Log*. The "log" allows you to keep track of the trails you have hiked, the distances, and more.

Continued



Church Council

Justin Arndt, President
John Ornes,
President Elect
Larry Ballwahn,
Secretary
Lori Brueggen,
Treasurer
Steve Brandau
Joel Arndt
Tim Deichler
Angie Gruen
Bud Osteboe

Looking Ahead

The New Normal ?

Pastor Cathy, Continued

The Trail Trek Challenge is a year-round opportunity that allows those who participate to get some fresh air and exercise as they explore trails throughout the driftless area. Even more so, participants get to see God's creatures in their natural habitats and enjoy the beauty of God's creation!

When I was in seminary, I recall a group activity that was offered to us. We were challenged to walk/run/bike the distance from one location to another. The quest was to track one's individual miles and combine them with the miles of others, to "travel" the distance between a set location and Jerusalem, Israel! After each participant walked/ran/biked, they wrote down the number of miles that they had completed. Once a week during the specified time frame, they would contact the student coordinator to let him know how far they had gone. He would add up the numbers for all the participants and come up with a total number of miles. That number was calculated for the week, marked on a map, and emailed to the seminary community. As the weeks progressed, we vicariously got closer and closer to Jerusalem!

Perhaps you could do something like this, as well. For example, the distance from Nazareth to Jerusalem is 64 miles. You could set a goal to walk/run/bike this distance, utilizing the sidewalks, trails, and/or bike paths in our local area. For some persons, it might take a week to complete. For others, it might take a month, two months, or longer. The amount of time is not important, if you are setting appropriate goals for your ability level. The idea is to challenge yourself to exercise outside, as the weather becomes more comfortable, and especially during this time of the pandemic.

God cares about us; our whole selves. God cares about our spiritual health, but also our emotional, psychological, social and physical health! Not only does our time in God's creation lift our spirits, but it clears our minds of the many things that draw us away from God in our world today. Instead of focusing on the challenges of our present time, let us focus our minds and our hearts on God! Like the psalmist, we too can "Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth; sing the glory of his name; give to him glorious praise."

Peace, Pastor Cathy

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Calendars, Church information & cemetery reports/pictures: Nalani Bever

Congregation pictures: April Arndt

**The Website & Facebook page were developed & are administered by April Arndt

CEMETERY LOT PRICE ADJUSTMENT

The Cemetery Committee recently met and adjusted the price of the cemetery lots as follows:

Member	\$ 600.00
Former member	\$ 800.00
Non-member	\$1,000.00



FROM COUNCIL PRESIDENT, JUSTIN ARNDT

I hope that this newsletter finds everyone doing well. I know that these last 5 ½ months have been extremely challenging for all of us. Our lives have been turned upside down. After initial hopes that COVID-19 would run its course in a couple months, we have realized that it will be staying around a while.

Cancelling church services on March 15th was not an easy decision, but one that the church council felt was necessary given the guidance provided. The church council has met several times over the last few months to discuss the best way to restart worship services. After the initial surge this Spring, daily case counts fell, and we were hopeful to start gathering in person in July. However, as cases started to increase again in June, we realized that gathering in close contact with others is not in the best interest of many in our congregation.

As an alternative to in person services, the Galetta Brandau family donated money to purchase a radio transmitter. Since July 12th, we have been worshipping in our cars in front of the church on radio frequency 91.5. Yes, the first couple of weeks were a bit rocky, but Pastor Cathy and Nalani have done an excellent job adjusting and providing a wonderful service.

I have been asked “What is the concern? Other churches have gone back to in-person services.” The concern is you. We want everyone to be safe and feel safe when they attend service. COVID-19 is a tricky virus. We are a congregation with many high-risk members. Not everyone with COVID-19 shows symptoms, so some may pass it along without knowing they have it.

This past Sunday, the church council met again to discuss the upcoming fall schedule. COVID-19 cases are starting to decrease, but not to a level where we feel comfortable yet. In addition, students are going back to schools next week. We are hopeful that the school re-openings go well but will remain cautious. Due to that, we are postponing the start of Sunday school until October. We will also continue to hold drive-in services at 9:00 am, not the normal 10:15 am service time, through the end of September.

We want to gather again in our church soon, but in the meantime, we look forward to seeing you on the streets outside the church on Sundays.



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

September

- Sun 6th Worship, 9:00 am
 Sun 13th Worship, 9:00 am
 Chicken Dinner Fundraiser
 Sun 20th Worship, 9:00 am
 Sun 27th Worship, 9:00 am

October – Tentative Schedule

- Sat., 3rd Blood Drive, 7:00 AM – 1:00 PM
 Sun 4th Sunday School, 9:00 am
 Worship, 10:15 am
 Sat 10th LWR Boxcar in La Crosse 7:00-11:00 am
 Sun 11th Sunday School, 9:00 am
 Worship, 10:15 am
 Sun 18th Sunday School, 9:00 am
 Worship, 10:15 am
 Sun 25th Sunday School, 9:00 am
 Worship, 10:15 am
 Confirmation

St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Wilton continues to broadcast its Sunday Church Service to parishioners and guests in their automobiles. Broadcast on 91.5 FM, the complete service, including music, is available to those parked near the church. Pastor Morris and organist, Nalani Bever, lead worship which includes communion. Various members help with bulletin distribution, reading and communion.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

September

- 1st Dylan Dougherty
 2nd Bart Arndt
 3rd Janelle Buchholz
 4th Kay and Gene Dougherty
 5th Libby Thorsen
 6th Jessica Steinke
 7th Rhonda Cook, Amanda Loging
 13th Bryce Gruen
 15th Lois and Gordie O'Rourke
 16th Darcy Buchholz, Gloria Meltesen
 20th Julitta and Marty Arndt
 24th Barb Bever
 25th Dale Graunke
 28th Joanne Schachtely, Kari and Kurt Radke
 29th Ava Gruen, Amber Pasch
 30th Kathy Cale



October

- 1st Judy Arndt, Mary Ann Arndt, Brady Zimmerman
 2nd Angie and Jared Gruen
 4th Jan Brandau, Ed Ross, Jr., Duane Roscovius
 7th Sierra Cook, Mark Gruen
 9th Kirstin and Justin Arndt
 10th Kaden Brandau, Marcus Buchholz
 11th Donovan Riedesel
 13th Don Buchholz, Darcy and Don Buchholz
 14th Marah Gruen, Brek Anderson, Joanne and Jim Schachtely
 15th Kristy and Scott Tormoen
 16th Tim Deichler
 17th Ann Anderson
 19th Barb and Ron Savall
 20th Dana Cale, Deb and Morry Paeth, Wanda and KenThorsen
 22nd Randy Schwerin, Nalani and Greg Bever
 24th Richard Cale, Tracy Schwartz, Rhonda and Todd Cook
 25th Linus Arndt
 27th Sarah Gruen
 28th Madelyn Gruen
 29th Laura Roscovius

WORSHIP NOTES FOR September/October, 2020

The following are the Scripture readings that we will be sharing in worship during the months of September and October, 2020.

Sept. 6th – 14th Sunday after Pentecost

Ezekiel 33:7-11

Psalms 119:33-40

Romans 13:8-14

Matthew 18:15-20

Sept. 13th – 15th Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 50:15-21

Psalms 103:8-13

Romans 14:1-12

Matthew 18:21-35

Sept. 20th – 16th Sunday after Pentecost

Jonah 3:10--4:11

Psalms 145:1-8

Philippians 1:21-30

Matthew 20:1-16

Sept. 27th – 17th Sunday after Pentecost

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

Psalms 25:1-9

Philippians 2:1-13

Matthew 21:23-32

October 4th – 19th Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 5:1-7

Psalms 80:7-15

Philippians 3:4b-14

Matthew 21:33-46

October 11th – 20th Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 25:1-9

Psalms 23

Philippians 4:1-9

Matthew 22:1-14

October 18th – 21st Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 45:1-7

Psalms 96:1-9

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

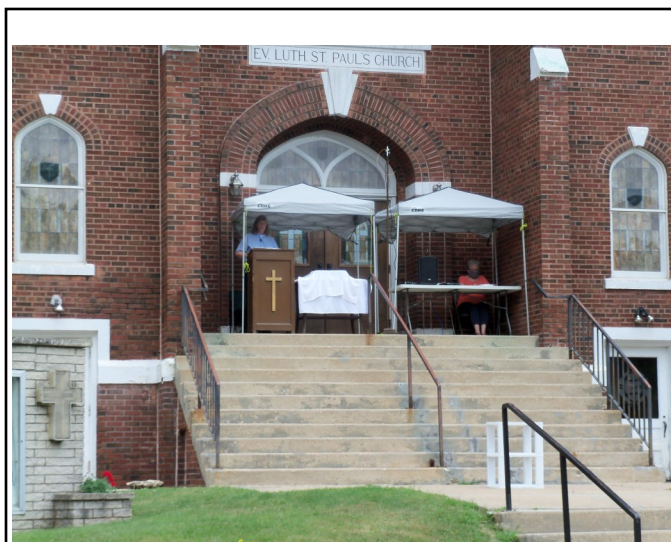
Matthew 22:15-22

October 25th – Reformation Sunday

Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18

Psalms 1

1 Thessalonians 2:1-8



Worship 8-2020

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Church Council Meeting Minutes

August 23, 2020



The meeting was called to order by Council President Justin Arndt at 10:00 AM. Council members in attendance were Joel Arndt, John Ornes, Bud Osteboe, and Lori Brueggen.



Steve Brandau joined the meeting, via conference call, shortly after the meeting began. Pastor Cathleen Morris and Nalani Bever were also in attendance.

Pastor Morris shared a prayer.

A report with regard to the upcoming chicken dinner fundraiser was made by Lori Brueggen. With just one week left for ticket sales, there now seems a possibility to sell in excess of the original 300 ticket goal. Work schedules, etc., will be determined the first week of September.

Council President Arndt advised the members he had spoken with several of the parents of our Sunday School children. The parents expressed a desire to see how the school openings go before a decision is made on when to begin Sunday School. After discussion, the consensus of the body was to delay the start of Sunday School until October.

Pastor Cathy shared her thoughts that it is important for the children to have some type of contact with the church, while returning to the classroom, at their respective schools. She suggested each child receive a Story Bible. This will enable the children the opportunity to continue learning the stories of the Old and New Testament in a form which, at their age, is easier to understand than the formal Bible. Motion by Joel Arndt, second by Bud Osteboe to gift a Story Bible to our Sunday School children. MC

Pastor Cathy stated she is still planning to hold confirmation for our 4 students on October 25, 2020. Her intent is to meet prior to this date with each student. The meetings will be outside, one-to-one, with social distancing. The students will use this time to complete their memorization and favorite Bible passage requirements.

There will be one student for a confirmation class this year. This student is from Elroy and Pastor has discussed the possibility of having the student join the confirmation class at Grace Lutheran Church in Elroy. Grace will start confirmation the first of the year. Council members supported this possibility, understanding the benefit of multiple students in a class. Pastor will keep the Council informed after speaking with the parents of the student.

A brief discussion was held as to when to return to a 10:15 worship service. In view of Sunday School being delayed until October, as well as the chicken dinner fundraiser, John Ornes made the motion to continue the 9:00 AM drive-in service through the month of September, second by Lori Brueggen. MC

Nalani Bever reported the offerings for the month of July were in excess of expenses by \$3,000.00, thus reducing our year-to-date deficit to \$2,170.00. There are no out of the ordinary expenses for August, but she noted September would bring an insurance installment.

Nalani Bever made a report on the church organ restoration and advised the members, as with any remodeling project, we can anticipate some additional costs. Steve Brandau has repaired the plaster damage caused by years of the leaking roof, as well as installing additional lighting in the pipe chamber. All but the tall wooden pipes have been removed from the chamber, which exposed damage to a number of pipes caused over the years by falling plaster. We should be able to find used pipes to replace these, at a reasonable cost. Nalani indicated she will be making a report with regard to the restoration in the newsletter and advise folks that additional contributions will be needed. This is a very labor intensive project as all electrical connections must be done by hand. No easy way other than one at a time. Considering there are around 500 pipes folks should be able to understand the increased labor costs. The organ should be ready for the Christmas service, and perhaps earlier.

August 23, 2020 Church Council Meeting Minutes
Continued



John Ornes brought the matter of First Communion to the table. We currently have two students in third grade. John wanted to remind members of this important time for children and be sure, with all the changes, this did not get forgotten. First Communion class will be a priority once Sunday School begins. This class will be led by Pastor Cathy.

Lori Brueggen inquired with regard to a baptism and Pastor indicated she felt the outdoor service could certainly be a setting for the baptism.

Pastor Cathy will be scheduling Assistant to the Bishop Libby Howe to participate in a service. Libby had been scheduled to share a service prior to the pandemic shutdown.

Pastor Cathy will be away from October 7 through October 13 and suggested the possibility of a lay member service, in her absence, with resources coming from the Synod Creation Care Team.

Following The Lord's Prayer, motion by John Ornes, second by Bud Osteboe to adjourn the meeting. MC Nalani Bever

Recording Secretary

SCHOOL KITS

We're collecting school supplies once again this year to be sent to Lutheran World Relief for distribution throughout the world. The items needed are as follows:

- FOUR 70-sheet notebooks of wide- or college-ruled paper, approximately 8" x 10 ½"; no loose leaf paper
- ONE 30-centimeter ruler, or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other
- ONE pencil sharpener
- ONE pair of blunt scissors (safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well)
- FIVE unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers; secure together with a rubber band
- FIVE black or blue ballpoint pens (no gel ink); secure together with a rubber band
- ONE box of 16 or 24 crayons
- ONE 2 ½" eraser

The LWR boxcar will be in La Crosse on October 10, so we'd ask that you donate supplies no later than October 4. This will allow time for assembling and packing the kits for transportation. Please

bring them to church with you on Sunday or call Nalani and she will make arrangements to get the supplies from you. Thank You.



FINANIAL REPORT

For the seven months ending July 31, 2020, our expenses have exceeded our offerings by

\$2,170.38. Not too bad considering the six-month deficit was \$5,260.47. We're headed in the right direction!!



The final figures for August aren't yet available but it looks as if we might be close to breaking even. That's just for the month mind you, and while the deficit may not grow, it won't be getting any smaller.

CHICKEN DINNER FUNDRAISER UPDATE

Unfortunately, the time to sell tickets is past. We should be close to our original goal of 300. We might even surprise ourselves and go over that number! Wouldn't that be great?



Lori and Nalani, Co-chairs

ONLINE OFFERINGS

St. Paul's has partnered with Vanco Services (endorsed by ELCA) to receive offerings directly from your checking/savings account or credit card account to our bank account. You will have several options, as follows:

One time or recurring offering (weekly, bi-weekly, monthly, etc.)
Designate a specific fund or split your offering between the following funds:

General Fund
Steps Fund
Organ Fund
Improvement Fund

For those of you with internet capabilities, you may initiate an offering by visiting the church website, <https://www.stpaulswilton.com/>, click on the GIVE+ icon, and complete the information.



For those of you with a smartphone, scan this barcode-like QR code image with your smartphone's QR decoder and it will instantly connect you to the mobile version of St. Paul's web page. To individuals who are familiar with QR codes, it will provide a quick and easy way to access our web page without having to type out a long web address and locate your link.

-You may also download the Give+ app to your cell phone.

We can also do it the "old fashioned way"!! Drop a note or leave a message on the church voicemail and we'll get the necessary form to you.

ORGAN RESTORATION

UPDATE

Well.....where to start? The good news is the donations to the organ fund have totaled near \$9,000.00. You will recall, we were looking at an \$8,000.00 expense to repair the 2 bellow

chambers and figured unexpected costs might be in the neighborhood of \$10,000.00 so we are nearly there on that goal.

The first bellow was removed without any problem. The second bellow presented a significant challenge caused mainly by the room, if you will, that houses the pipes, wind chest, and bellows. There is barely enough space to turn around. Getting the bellow out was complicated even more by the distinct possibility the electric boards would be damaged. It appeared they had been knocked and jarred around a bit over the years, inadvertently, as folks of varying sizes repaired, tuned, or performed other work in the close quarters. We decided it was time to bite the bullet and replace the two boards with one which takes up half the space. Figuring we could be looking at an additional \$5,000.00 we then looked to where the funds would come from, at least until we could expand the current campaign.

Continued Right

.We ask that all members join the Women of ELCA and pray this prayer as you rise in the morning and as you prepare to retire each evening.

Lord, Jesus Christ, I bring to you:

Jada, Myles, & Conner Garske; Britain Hahn, Gracie & Kaden Brandau; Katie Pagel, Amara Brandau; Chase Brandau; Avery Brueggen; Riley Brueggen; Nolan & Logan Buchholz; Thadyn & Ayawyn Conner; Vanessa & Elliott Ornes; Lailah Eckes; Lena Ornes; Porter Sorenson; Kennedy & Josie Ornes; Brooklyn, Madelyn, Kaylin, Emma, Bryce, Marah, Bria, Ava, Katie, & Benjamin Gruen; Brady Zimmerman; Braylee Zimmerman; MaKenzie & Cooper Powell; Wesson Mayne; Vanessa, Mia, & Brek Anderson; Tyler & Jaden Bever; Carlee, Collin, & Camden Neidfeldt; Morgan Speicher; Avery, August & Addison Arndt; Krista & Sierra Cook; Tyler Brandau; Franklin & Douglas Wildes; Sophia, Derek & Deacon Erdman; Kody Tormoen; Angel Brueggen; Robert Cale; Callie Fleming; Sara Osteboe; Miranda, Daphne & Linus Arndt; Natalie, Brodie & Fynlie Stanek; Emma Elder; Bryson Lamb; Alaina & Braxton Holthaus; Jada Leis; David, Sam & Zachary Ross; Gannon Tormoen; Jase & Margo Picha.

That your spirit will dwell with them according to your will. That they will grow in the knowledge of you and know that they are dearly loved by you. I pray that you will protect them from deception by the evil one and all his darts that would lead them astray. May they do well in school, learning and discerning what direction you have in mind for them. I also pray for all children every where, that you would keep them in your care.

In Jesus name I pray. Amen

Organ Restoration Continued

You may recall a gift given to the church by Marlene and Gary Korth to honor Marlene's mother, Louella Martalock, a longtime organist at St. Paul's. The majority (\$17,000.00) of the \$25,000.00 gift was used to restore one of the large stained glassed windows. We have used the remaining \$8,000.00 over the years to "loan" funds to the general fund if we were running short. The general fund account would then repay the "loan". In view of the connection of this account to Louella, the decision was made to loan funds to the restoration project.

We anticipate the organ will be ready in time for Christmas Eve, if not sooner. Although it will be several weeks before we know the final tally on this project, please consider making a donation.



Inviting people to journey with Christ's family in spreading God's love and mercy.

Christ's Calling Card
St. Paul's Lutheran Church



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"A Welcoming Place for over 125 years"
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