

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Two Wilton community outreach programs that have their roots at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, are the blood drive and the food pantry. Both were programs that once were held/housed at the church. As time progressed and needs increased, they were moved to larger venues. Yet, even though they are no longer based at St. Paul's, both remain important programs for which you are encouraged to provide your ongoing support.

Last night on WKBT news 8--La Crosse, there was a segment about a severe shortage of blood and platelets. The need for blood and blood products has been very high in recent months, and from last night's news report, that need persists. Every pint of blood, every platelet or blood product donation that is made, is greatly appreciated!

This Saturday (August 7) the Wilton Community Blood Drive will take place at the Community Center from 7:00 to 11:30 a.m. This is the first of five blood drives held in cooperation with the Brookwood FFA for 2021-2022. As such, each pint of blood not only gives the "gift of life" to someone in need, but it also translates into a \$10 donation toward a student scholarship for a Brookwood FFA student. While this is more than enough reason to give blood, participants will receive a free T-shirt, too. (See photo.)

If you have never given, now would be a wonderful time to begin. If you have given in the past "now and then," please become a regular donor. **High school and college-age students, and all adults (no matter what your age) are encouraged to donate!** The hope is to increase giving at the Wilton Community Blood Drive from 60 total units, to 70 or more total units donated at each blood drive in 2021-2022. Please help! You can schedule an appointment online using Wilton's zip code of 54670, or call the Red Cross at 1-800-733-2767. If you need assistance, call or text Nalani at (608) 387-2311 with two or three time slots that would work for you. Thank you for your anticipated assistance in this important endeavor!

Along with this program, I would like to remind you that the needs of the people served by the Wilton Food Pantry are ongoing. The pandemic has been especially hard on some folks, so providing fresh produce from your gardens, and/or staples such as peanut butter, boxed or canned meals, canned fruit, soup, beans, and other vegetables; or whatever food you can provide, is helpful. If you prefer, you can make a monetary donation to the food pantry that can be used to purchase food items at reduced prices. However you wish to help, please know that your assistance is greatly appreciated!

God provides us with many opportunities to share what God has given us. Here are two opportunities close to home, that can make a real difference. Let us individually, and collectively, serve God and help our neighbors in need.

Peace,

Pastor Cathy