



St. Paul's Messenger

A monthly newsletter for friends and family

July 2023

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 321 N. Park Avenue, Medford, WI 54451

Phone: 715-748-4909

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EVENTS

- July 11 Joint Parish Council
- July 12 Church Council
- July 19 Ladies Lunch Bunch
- July 20 VBS
- Mobile Food Pantry
- July 30 Joint Worship Service with Our Saviour's

Attendance

June 4	50
June 11	50
June 18	60
June 25	70

**Thank you to Deb Bender
for sponsoring the July
newsletter.**

A MESSAGE FROM COUNCIL PRESIDENT VAL BACH

Well, it feels like summer...finally. I don't know about you, but my family and I have been able to get out and enjoy some of this nice weather and are very appreciative of God's wonderful works. We have made it out to Sackett's for a picnic and some swimming; went fishing and kayaking at our favorite spots (not catching as many fish as last year by this time, but that's OK); planted our garden with hopes of reaping some yummy vegetables soon; got one weekend of camping in the books; took the grandkids to the midway at Dorchester Days (I love seeing their faces as they go round and round and am always amazed at how many different fair foods they can actually eat); and have enjoyed sitting on our deck taking in the beauty of the flowers and wildlife coming in from the woods in our backyard (just to name a few).

July marks the beginning of the second half of the year (already). Here is to new beginnings. With the 4th of July offering many of us extended time off from work to spend with our family and friends celebrating our country's independence, I ask that we all take the time to reflect on the meaning of patriotism in light of the Kingdom of God. Below are some powerful quotes that do just that.

"True patriotism is not worship of our nation but rather, in the light of our worship of the God of justice, to conform our nation's ways of justice."
~ Robert McAfee Brown

"For to be free is not merely to cast off one's chains, but to live in a way that respects and enhances the freedom of others."
~ Nelson Mandela

"We're not just a nation, we're not an ethnicity. We are a dream of justice that people have had for a thousand years."
~ Craig Ferguson

"Jesus' example of patriotism perfected can provide a guidepost to Christians. It's an example that's both pragmatic and romantic, shot through with justice, truth, and love. It's not a nationalistic patriotism—it's a love for a nation that doesn't pit one nation against other nations. Instead, it's a recognition of love followed by a mournful recognition of shortcomings."
~ Ryan Hamm

(Continued on page 2)

(Council President message - continued from page 1)

"With a good conscience our only sure reward, with history the final judge of our deeds, let us go forth to lead the land we love, asking His blessing and His help, but knowing that here on earth God's work must truly be our own."

~ John F. Kennedy

And **we all know** our freedom does not come without a cost. Thank you to all our present, past and future service people. May God's grace and compassion be with you all!

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR BOB GIESE

Members and friends of St. Paul's:

It's hard to believe we'll soon be entering my fourth month as your "administrative interim." In case you don't know what that means, my task is to help St. Paul's Medford (as well as Our Saviour's Holway and Trinity Unity) make sure there is a continuation of good ministry and leadership for worship during the ongoing pastoral "vacancy." This means you'll probably only see me on Sunday morning about once a month, but I will be working behind the scenes with the church council, the joint council (St. Paul's and Our Saviour's), and the call committee. I will also be making shut-ins and sick calls when possible.

In working with the leadership of St. Paul's so far, I am highly encouraged by the way your leaders are dealing with change. Instead of looking back to the "good old days," they are focusing on the future of the congregation and the new relationship with Our Saviour's. I know change is difficult, but we live in a time when it is important.

In particular, St. Paul's has now entered into a parish agreement with Our Saviour's Holway. Initially the main benefit this will have is pooling financial resources as the search for a new pastor continues, which may make affording a new pastor more realistic. But there are other possibilities for the future. The two congregations have already been doing VBS together. Cooperation on more community ministries is likely for the future. I know having a parish partnership is new for St. Paul's, so you may still have concerns about this for the future. If so, please talk to your leaders or me about it.

You may have already noticed changes in Sunday Worship. Beginning in June, St. Paul's moved its Sunday Service start time fifteen minutes later to 9:15 a.m. (while Our Saviour's moved 15 minutes earlier to 8:00 a.m.). This is to make it possible for pastors or other worship leaders to travel between the two congregations. The worship liturgy has been shortened a bit to accommodate the organists' needs, The congregation council has asked me to try to schedule at least three Sundays a month with a guest pastor. As we move forward, Pastor Nancy and I are willing to each lead worship once per month, which means finding another guest pastor each month. So far that has worked out fine, but there is a huge shortage of pastors in our Synod (and the whole ELCA), so there will be Sundays when lay members of the congregations will be leading worship and presenting the message, too.

If you've been worshipping with us recently, then you've already been blessed to be a blessing. If you've been absent for whatever reasons, I encourage you to come be part of our Sunday morning worship blessings! You, too, will be blessed to be a blessing!

In Christ's Love,
Pastor Bob Giese

A Note from the Call Committee...

The call committee (St. Paul's representatives: Heidi Haynes, Marie Korner, and Tony Schumacher) will continue to meet with the call committee representatives from Our Savior's. We are diligently working so we are ready to interview when candidates are made available to us from the synod office. If anyone has questions or comments free to contact one of us.

Vacation Bible School



Imagination on the Farm: Knowing Our One True Lord and Savior Thursday, July 20, 2023 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church and St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Medford will be hosting Vacation Bible School on Thursday, July 20, 2023. This will be a one day event for children ages 4 through 7th grade.

Registration will begin at 7:30 a.m. at St. Paul's, 321 N. Park Ave., Medford. After a morning of activities, the children will enjoy a lunch at St. Paul's and then will be transported to Our Saviour's to continue their day of bible stories, activities, music, and a visit from a few farm animals. Pick-up is scheduled to be at 4:00 p.m. at Our Saviour's Lutheran, W7809 Apple Ave, Medford. Please contact Barb Krug at 715-965-5696, or your church office if there are transportation needs.

Snacks and lunch will be provided. Each child is asked to bring a water bottle with their name on it. Indoor and outdoor activities are planned so please plan accordingly.

Registration can be made online at <https://forms.gle/7CQs2ZkdQk6f2qN9A>

Paper copies of the registration form are available at each church

NEEDLES FOR NEEDS

We've been so busy that we surpassed our number of LWR quilts from last year - with 256 quilts completed so far! We've been averaging 10 quilts per week. We are currently planning on completing a few more Veteran apartment quilts in the near future, most likely after the carpet is installed in the Welcome Hall and offices. The apartment quilts are given to former homeless veterans that have now found housing and a new start - all with help from Every Third Saturday. There will be a concert event in Neillsville on August 19 to benefit Every Third Saturday and the veterans they help - please see the Welcome Hall bulletin board for more information.

Please consider picking up flat cotton and cotton/poly sheets at any garage sales and estate sales you may visit this summer - we've been able to find some good deals on sheets, poly blankets and fabric at ones our members have visited. We like patterns and colors best, as they don't show stains as much.

Thank you for all your support in our ministry - we are able to help so many people because of it! God's work, Our Hands.

Tonya Albers

Daily Devotionals

St. Paul's offers free devotional books to assist you with your daily meditations.

Please contact the church office if your contact information has changed.

Phone: 715-748-4909

Email: stpaulslutheranmedford@gmail.com

THANK YOU TO....

- Linda & Randy Sackman, Val & Darrell Higgins, Clem Johnson and Sally & Tim Lemke for supporting our fellowship ministry.
- Val and Dave Bach for painting walls in the Welcome Hall in preparation for the new carpet.
- all the helpers on June 25 for carrying, moving, and lugging furniture out of the Welcome Hall to clear the area for the new carpet.
- the choir members and Tony Schumacher for provide special music throughout the year.
- those individuals who are serving on the Call Committee and the Joint Parish Council
- all of our Alphas, liturgists, song leaders, communion assistants, ushers, and our technology volunteers

COMFORT QUILTS

Comfort quilt quilters continue to support the needs in our community by supplying warm bedding for those in need. Here is another picture of one of their creations.



CHOIR NEWS

The choir will be taking a well deserved break during the months of July and August.



JOIN OUR LAWN MOWING TEAM

We are in need of families or individuals that are willing to help maintain the church lawn during the mowing season. The mower and gas are supplied by the church. The weekly sign up schedule is located in the Welcome Hall. Thank you to all who have and or will be helping mow the lawn.

July 2 - 8	Dave & Val Bach
July 9 - 15	Steve Danen
July 16 - 22	Steve Danen
July 23 - 29	Staci Egle
July 30 - August 5	????

Weeks in August & September are unfilled at this time.



WORSHIP TIMES

Our Saviour's Lutheran	8:00 a.m.
St. Paul's Lutheran	9:15 a.m.

Every 5th Sunday – 9:00 a.m. joint worship:
to be hosted on a rotating basis between
Our Saviour's and St. Paul's.

July 30th – Joint Service Hosted by Our Saviour's
October 29th – Joint Service Hosted by St. Paul's

MOBILE FOOD PANTRY

**The Mobile Food Pantry served 57 households
on June 15.**

18 individuals ages 0-17

39 individuals ages 18-59

61 individuals ages 60+

118 total number of individuals

14 individuals visited the pantry for the 1st time

If you would like to help sponsor the food pantry, simply make out your check to St. Paul's Lutheran Church and include "food pantry" in the memo line. Business and individual sponsors are welcome.

**Thank you to the Willis Whetstone for sponsoring
the June 2023 Mobile Food Pantry.**



**The next Mobile Food Pantry
will be on Thursday, July 20.**
Volunteers meet at 1:00 p.m.
Distribution begins at 4:00 p.m.

LADIES LUNCH BUNCH

When: Wednesday, July 19

Time: 11:15 a.m.

Location: Hill of Beans

Highpoint Village,
W3075 Co Rd RR,
Ogema, WI



All are welcome to enjoy fun and fellowship.
Meet at 10:15 in church parking lot for car pooling.

**For more information, contact
Michelle Danen, 715-560-4397
ALL WOMEN ARE WELCOME**

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES FOR THE MONTH OF JULY 2023

July 2	Kim Gasek
July 3	Jack Machon
July 4	Nicole Homeyer
July 7	Logan Egle
July 8	Staci Egle
	Craig Krug
	Rayna Rodman
July 9	Alli Ranum
	Sophie Sperl
July 10	Jill Lybert
	Gretta Tlusty
July 11	Daniel Higgins
July 14	Cassandra Peterson
July 15	Patty Lubahn
July 16	Ryan Hillebrand
	Sydney Sperl
	Lori Willner
July 18	Joseph Kraemer
	Eric Melvin

July 19	Shannon Emmerich
	Katie Razink
July 20	Donna Albers
	Megan Melvin
	Matthew Razink
	Sarah Schreiner
July 21	Chad Emmerich
	Kari Rappe
	Sandra Schreiner
July 22	Sophie Brost
	Kay Halopka
July 23	Anna Konrad
July 28	Phyllis Widmer
July 29	Trista Shore
July 30	Bruce Brunner
	Laynee Kalmon
July 31	Thomas Kraemer

Anniversaries

July 1	Vanessa & Ryan Hillebrand
July 4	Staci & Kevin Egle
July 5	Kathy & Tony Schumacher
July 7	Melissa & Ryan Pilgrim
July 8	Erin & Vince Wojcik
July 11	Kathy & Ross Hackbarth
July 13	Ann & John Bauer
July 15	Valerie & Darrell Higgins
	Debra & Lanny Dassow
July 22	Joan & Jason Steliga
July 23	Michelle & Brock Kalmon
July 26	Jo & Dennis Cypher
July 31	Kathy & Kurt Alexander
	Sue & Terry Gebert



A Meditation Moment

Courtesy of the Kuse Farm Museum and
Nature Preserve webpage
<http://www.kusemuseum-naturepreserve.org>

Wild Blue Phlox (Phlox divaricate)



I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, Philippians 1:3 (NRSV)

Blooming Together

The combined effect of the blue, rose-violet, and white blooms of Wild Phlox, Wild Geraniums, and white Trilliums would be impossible to match in a small, purchased florist's bouquet. Each individual plant has special beauty but together a blanket of these different plants causes the viewer to stand in awe of God's creative work.

Alone, each of us can allow God's love to shine through us. Together, the people of God can share the beauty of God's love in ways individuals alone cannot do. What kind of natural bouquets do we form in the places where we live?

Dear Lord,

Thank you for friends and co-workers in our family, church, and community. Help us to work together to share your love. In your name we pray, Amen.

© Dr. Hildegard Kuse and Dr. Loretta Kuse

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, June 14, 2023

Members present: Marie Koerner, Heidi Haynes, Leon Gasek, Val Bach, Carrie Zirngible, Dave Hrabý and Gail Heurung. Missing: Sally Lemke, Kathy Hackbarth and Dan Higgins. Guests: Pastor Bob Giese and Nancy Jones.

Meeting was called to order at 6:06 p.m. by Val Bach who led the group in a prayer. Milestones and concerns were given.

Motion by Dave, second by Marie to accept the agenda...motion carried

Motion by Leon, second by Dave to accept the meeting minutes from May 10th...Motion carried.

Treasurer's report: Nancy addressed items of interest on the Treasurer's Report. Motion to approve the report by Gail, second by Leon...Motion carried.

Membership update: Val discussed the Status of Membership updates. Discussed friends and members. Val will talk to Our Saviour's to see what exactly they are looking for. Nancy gave updated numbers - 593 active members, 357 inactive members. Households were 452 are now 228 active and 105 inactive and 40 deleted.

Lay people: Short discussion on lay workers in the church. Next month, Val would like to look at recruiting lay people in the church.

VBS is set for July 20th. Will start promoting. Nancy reminded the group that Food distribution will be that same day at the church.

FIN: Leon will talk to FIN group - possibly address some FIN questions as the message on a Sunday we need a worship leader.

Freezer: Leon said that there are only about 20 pizzas left in the downstairs freezers. Once the food share is done this week...hopefully we can move the pizzas to the freezer in the welcome hall and turn off the freezers downstairs to save energy.

Joint Council will be meeting on July 11th and will plan the July 30 Joint Service at Our Saviour's.

Call Committee has been putting together interview questions in preparation for any upcoming interview we may have. 30+ vacancies right now....not enough candidates to go around.

Repairs - Val will be in touch with Perrin's on the flooring. We also need some more painting done on the walls to the bathrooms....and some rooms downstairs. Will put up an announcement looking for someone to paint..

Community Mission with Jesus: Val is still the Community Mission with Jesus contact....Many large requests in the past month.

Discussion on the benevolences for 2023. We would like to work on quarterly contributions. A motion was made by Leon, seconded by Marie to take \$2500 from the general fund and make a payment to the Synod for benevolences for the 2nd quarter. We will address the 3rd quarter in September and the 4th quarter in December. Motion carried.

Vacations: No vacations planned for staff at this time.

Pride Poster: Val had a request to put up a poster for the PRIDE group. Okay with the council, as we believe in inclusion and all are welcome.

Shut-ins: Bob showed us a card that he is sending to shut-ins introducing himself and giving them his contact information.

Lawn Mower: Discussed the used mowers...a motion was made by Gail, seconded by Leon to have Val put the mowers that Dave Bach has looked at on the Marketplace...motion carried.

Adult Bible Study: Sue King expressed interest in leading the adult bible study. Val will reach out to her.

A motion to adjourn by Dave, seconded by Marie, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Gail Heurung

TREASURER'S REPORT

	2023		2022		YTD % of Change
	May	YTD	May	YTD	
General Giving	9,813	54,207	10,918	50,538	7.3%
Mortgage Giving	1,855	10,395	3,295	10,710	-2.9%
Total Giving	11,668	64,602	14,213	61,248	5.5%
General Expenses	4,593	35,467	2,525	39,148	-9.4%
Mortgage Expense	2,782	13,910	2,782	12,938	7.5%
Total Expenses	7,375	49,377	5,307	52,086	-5.2%
Net Surplus (Deficit)	\$4,293	\$15,225	\$8,906	\$9,162	
Designated Giving	8,057	111,175	8,272	25,119	342.6%
Designated Expenses	16,938	62,162	3,787	20,724	200.0%
Net Designated Income	(8,881)	49,013	4,485	4,395	
Net Combined Income (Deficit)	(\$4,589)	\$64,238	\$13,391	\$13,558	

Bank Accounts - As of:	5/31/23	YTD Change		Comments
<u>General Checking</u>	\$126,825	\$15,652	\$88,694	
<u>Designated Funds in Checking</u>				
Building Maintenance	65,395	\$60,322	2,287	
Comfort Quilts	516	(\$229)	661	
Designated Memorials	2,878	\$0	2,218	
Fair Trade Sales	568	\$45	405	
Mortgage Fund	0	\$0	1,072	
Thrivent Choice	332	(\$10,947)	11,156	
Mobile Food Pantry	6,118	(\$536)	5,322	
Sunday School	1,102	(\$355)	1,510	
Youth Group	11,348	\$308	10,926	
Total Funds in Checking	\$215,083	\$64,260	\$124,252	
<u>Other Accounts</u>				
Events/Fund Raiser Acct	3,326	7	3,032	
Needles for Needs Acct	1,871	(1,238)	2,542	
Scrip Acct	8,241	2,278	7,680	
Total Other Accounts	\$13,439	\$1,047	\$13,254	
Total - All Accounts	\$228,521	\$65,307	\$137,506	
PPP Loan Balance	\$0	\$0	\$0	Loan forgiven 3/15/21
Mortgage Balance	111,776.07	-\$38,902	\$187,475	

St. Paul's Giving Options

Mail your check to St. Paul's Lutheran Church,
321 N. Park Ave., Medford, WI 54451

Simply Giving contributions are deducted from your checking or savings account.

Giving via St. Paul's Website

E-Giving Download the app "GivePlus Church"



SCRIP cards make great gifts for weddings, graduations, or other special occasions. A portion of each gift card purchase enables St. Paul's to do ministry. Check with the SCRIP counter on Sunday morning or call the office and someone will help you.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

321 North Park Avenue, Medford, WI 54451

Mission Statement:

Saved and strengthened by Christ, we proclaim God's love through worship, education, and service to our congregation, community, and the world.

Contact Information

Nancy Jones (Parish Administrator)

Office phone: 715-748-4909

Office email: stpaulslutheranmedford@gmail.com

Pastor Bob Giese (for pastoral emergencies)

Phone: 847-899-7122

rjgiese@gmail.com

Pastor Nancy Amacher (for pastoral emergencies)

Phone: 715-223-5316

revnia10@gmail.com

Tina Dassow (Treasurer)

tinadassow@gmail.com

Church Council

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Sally Lemke

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Carrie Zirngible

715-493-1696

cczirn@gmail.com

Additional Information

Sunday Service: 9:15 a.m.

Sunday School 9:15 a.m. (during school year)

Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday

10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Facebook: [StPaulsMedford](https://www.facebook.com/StPaulsMedford)

Website: www.stpaulsmedford.org



Please read the prayer list in the weekly service. If there is someone that needs to be added or removed from the prayer list, please contact the church office at 715-748-4909 or send an email to: stpaulslutheranmedford@gmail.com

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Phone: 715-748-4909 Email: stpaulslutheranmedford@gmail.com

July 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 9:15 Worship / Communion	3	4 4th of July	5	6	7 6:00 p.m. AA Meeting	8
9 9:15 Worship	10	11 9:00 a.m. Needles for Needs Work Day 5:15 p.m. Joint Parish Council	12 6:00 p.m. Church Council	13 1:00-5:00 p.m. Mobile Food Pantry	14 6:00 p.m. AA Meeting	15
16 9:15 Worship / Communion	17	18 9:00 a.m. Needles for Needs Work Day	19 11:15 a.m. Ladies Lunch Bunch	20 8:00-4:00 p.m. VBS 1:00-5:00 p. m. Mobile Food Pantry	21 6:00 p.m. AA Meeting Newsletter Deadline	22
23 9:15 Worship / Communion 6:00 p.m. Suicide Support Group	24	25 9:00 a.m. Needles for Needs Work Day	26	27	28 6:00 p.m. AA Meeting	29
30 9:00 a.m. Joint Parish Worship Service at Our Saviour's	31					

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
321 North Park Avenue
Medford, WI 54451-1420

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