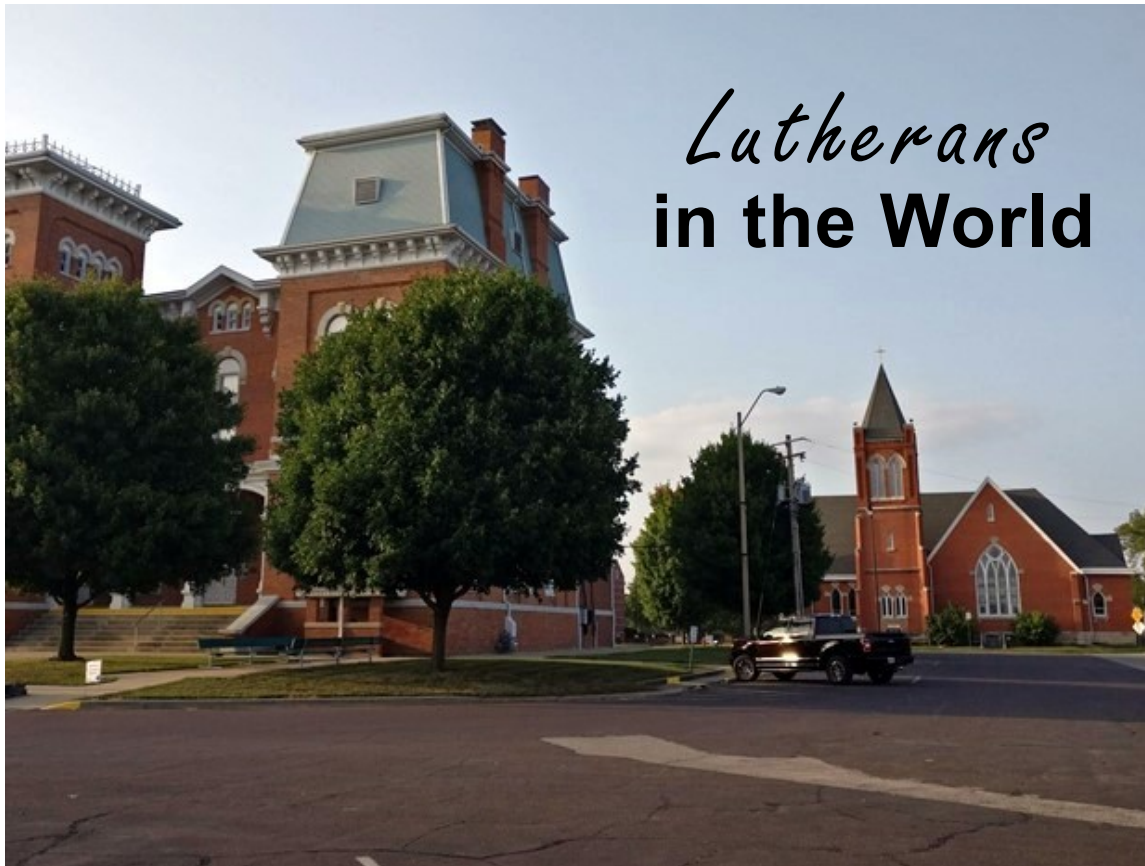


October 2020

Flock Talk

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER



Lutherans in the World

Followers of Jesus in the Lutheran tradition are often very involved in the world—because of Jesus' example, the history of the Lutheran church, and our call to be involved in building God's kingdom.

Where Faith + Hope + Love Abide



A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR *Why Lutherans are Actively Engaged in the World*

Lutherans are not all the same by any means. In part that is because of our great emphasis of freedom that comes from faith in God's grace. So there's shared ideas about the Bible, church practice, and faith in general. But at least in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) of which St. Paul's (Evangelical Lutheran Church) is a member congregation, we don't tell anyone what they must believe, do or not do.

Jesus said: "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." (John 8:31-32, NRSV)

I have always valued that we trust people enough to make informed decisions based on a shared interpretation and application of God's Word in the Bible. Granted, that can make life together difficult at times when we debate and disagree with each other. In the end we hopefully arrive at more faithful insight and decisions if we seek God's will rather than our own personal preferences.

Followers of Jesus in the Lutheran tradition are often very involved in the world—because of Jesus' example, the history of the Lutheran church, and our call to be involved in building God's kingdom.

Jesus came to bring God's kingdom to us on earth by forgiving our sins and inviting us into service to our neighbor. Martin Luther reformed the church so that this good news of freedom by God's grace could be known and lived out. And in baptism, we are asked to "...care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace." Being active in the world and loving each other like God is not a choice; it's a responsibility.

In this important election year, I encourage you to be engaged citizens based on our Lutheran heritage.

- This month we will celebrate Reformation Sunday and our Lutheran heritage of being active in building God's kingdom. If you have not read the ELCA's new social message on "Discipleship in Democracy," I encourage you to check out my summary in this Flock Talk. And remember, to vote is an act of faith.

Your Lutheran activist,
Pastor Stefan Munker



BLESSING FOR PETS

During online service on Sunday, October 4, Pastor Munker will offer a special prayer of gratitude for our companions at home which have been a source of comfort during the difficulties of this year's pandemic and which need God's care and protection just as much as we do.

Your pets will be blessed virtually whether they are present to watch worship with you or not.



FREE CARRY-OUT MEALS

Served by Ladles of Love

Each week, a rotating group of volunteers for our Ladles of Love ministry prepares and hands out free lunches with soup, sandwich, chips, dessert and a personal item at St. Paul's on Wednesdays between 11am and 12 noon.



BIBLE STUDY CONTINUES

Gifts of Women

To mark 50 years of ordaining women into ministry in the ELCA, we will continue to read Bible stories about women and discuss today's leadership in the church for proclamation, reformation and celebration on Zoom at 6:30pm on Mondays, October 12 and 19.

- Access with a link for participation through Zoom online video or phone numbers for voice will be emailed to members. Ask Pastor Munker if you need help.

Pastor Munker is considering a study on one of the books that inform our discipleship of life together in community by notable theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer to follow the fourth and final session of studying gifts of women. Watch for an announcement in October.

- + Please note that the time for Bible Study Zoom meetings has changed to 6:30pm beginning in October, due to feedback received. We apologize for any inconvenience.



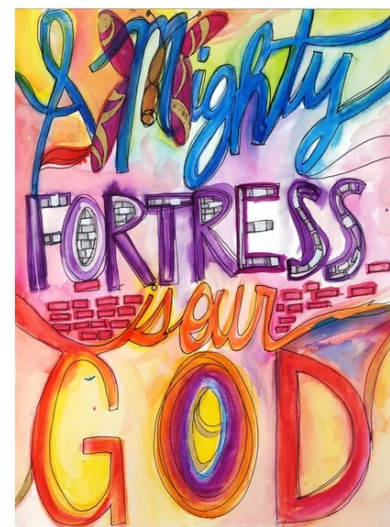
DISCUSSION OF FAITH TOPICS IN THE NEWS

Wednesday Study of Wired Word

The Wired Word is a weekly study of faith topics based on current news events. Join Pastor Stefan Munker and other members of our congregation as we discuss the news and look for answers in the Bible.

- Study lessons with topics and access information for Zoom meetings at 6:30pm on Wednesdays are sent to members via email. If you'd like help joining ask Pastor Munker.

Please note that the meeting time has changed to 6:30pm starting in October, based on feedback received.



REFORMATION CELEBRATION

We Will Not Fear

On Sunday, October 25, we will celebrate the Lutheran Reformation of the 16th century with Martin Luther's hymn "A Mighty Fortress is Our God" encouraging us not to fear. As the lyrics assure, God's Word, Jesus Christ, defeats all enemies—be they death, our human sinfulness, or a coronavirus.

This year's Reformation celebration will include a Litany of Thanksgiving for the women's ordination anniversaries in the ELCA.

Art: Mary Button (<https://www.marybutton.com/about-1>)



PRAYERS FOR HEALING

Online Worship, October 18

On the occasion of the festival of St. Luke who is identified as a physician in Scripture, Pastor Stefan Munker will offer prayers for the sick, for spiritual peace, and for the well-being of all who suffer in our world.



All articles for the November newsletter will be due in the office by Wednesday, October 21. Please be sure to submit any information that should be included in the newsletter to the office in time.



A big thank you to everyone who helps to deliver Meals On Wheels, especially in this time of great need. Our next scheduled week for Meals on Wheels is October 26-30. Please contact Carol Calvert or Marina Mondragon for more information or to volunteer.



ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

Remembering and Celebrating

While we take time to remember those who have died in the previous year, All Saints Day is a celebration of all believers being given eternal life.

Because of the tremendous grief and worry during the Coronavirus pandemic, this year's worship for All Saints Sunday on November 1, will lament and remember all who have died while also giving thanks and praising the Lord for the grace that we are part of the communion of Saints past, present and to come.

- Please call or write Pastor Munker if you would like a name or group of people lifted up during the online service for All Saints, November 1.



LSSI VIRTUAL TRUE FRIEND GALA

"Home is Where the Heart is"

This year, Lutheran Social Services of Illinois is bringing the party to you!

Join for an online celebration benefiting LSSI's Children's Community Services on Saturday, October 10. Register for free, and learn more details at the event website: lssi.org/truefriend. For more information, contact Mariah Heinz at 847-635-4656.



DWELLING IN THE WORD

in September-October

Dwelling in the Word is a spiritual practice for individuals or groups. A Bible text is read aloud three times with time for silent and shared reflection about guiding questions.

The passage for September-October is: 2 Corinthians 9:10-15.

- What captures my attention?
- What questions do I have? What do I wonder?
- Where might God's Spirit be nudging us?



DISCIPLESHIP IN DEMOCRACY

Pastor's Summary of ELCA Social Message

Commissioned last year by the ELCA Church Council, a new Social Message "on the vocation of citizenship, civic engagement, and church and state" was adopted unanimously in June, 2020.

The message is an attempt to summarize Lutheran teaching and belief on the role of government and the responsibility of citizens based on teachings of the Bible. While God is the supreme ruler and humans sin, God uses the gift of secular institutions to protect and improve life in communities. As followers of Jesus we hold that secular institutions can be beneficial or harmful, and thus require both accountability and involvement.

The authors point to differences among Lutherans in regard to particular policies but state that political involvement is a Christian virtue and responsibility. And while various sentiments about the performance of government in the United States are mentioned, it is also pointed out the benefits self-governance offers if done in service to the common good and in accordance to God's will.

The message was completed in time before an important election date to encourage Lutheran Christians to be involved in the support of government and understand their role in it such as through voting, being informed, and praying. Listing dangers of abuse and possible ways democracy can work, we are reminded to use the command of Jesus as a guide in public as in religious decisions: to love our neighbor.

- The complete text of the ELCA's social Message "Government and Civic Engagement in the United States: Discipleship in a Democracy" is available online at www.elca.org.



A PRAYER FOR GOOD GOVERNMENT

Almighty God, we lift before you all those who govern. May those who hold power understand that it is a trust from you to be used not for personal glory or profit but for the service of the people. Drive from us cynicism, selfishness, and contempt. Grant in your mercy greater just and honest government. Give us grace to strive together in unity and peace so that all people may benefit. Amen.



Through “Beyond our Walls” we contribute each month to support ministries in our local community and around the world. We may not be meeting at church where we can place cash donations into our normal Beyond Our Walls jug, but we are still sending any donations received to our chosen ministry for each month.

In October, offerings designated for Beyond Our Walls will go toward Coats for Kids. The annual project provides winter coats and other warm clothing for students in need in the Hillsboro School District. With the uncertain year we are having in 2020, we anticipate the need may be higher than usual. Please consider helping this cause.

We appreciate the many ways that you enable us to serve others through Beyond Our Walls. Thank you for your generosity.



You will be enriched
in every way to be
generous in every way.
which through us will
produce thanksgiving
to God.

2 Corinthians 9:11



FLOCK BUDDIES PROGRAM

St. Paul's Members Stay Connected

Please keep in touch with each other to maintain personal connections among members of our church during the Covid-19 pandemic. We frequently hear how easy it is for all of us to feel alone, but that having someone call or write is a reminder that God cares, especially when one truly is living alone.

- If you have questions about the program, or information to share about your buddies, please let Marina Mondragon or Pastor Munker know.



CONFIRMATION???

Yes, Pastor Stefan Munker and parents are considering how to provide faith formation for young people in preparation for their affirmation of faith. In other words we are trying to see how to safely and meaningfully have Confirmation this school year for those who are ready to dig deeper into the Bible, explore Luther's Catechism, and practice discipleship.



VIRTUAL SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School students at St. Paul's are kicking off the new school year with a brand new curriculum set up to be accessed from home. The children watch a video with a Bible lesson and worship song, and participate in a corresponding activity with coloring sheets and conversation starters to dive deeper into learning for the week. Older kids use the Go+ Guide with prayer, journal, art, and Bible reading prompts. We may not be able to meet in person, but we are still learning about God in fun ways!



STORIES OF FAITH IN ACTION

Given the challenges of 2020, we need stories of hope and unity more than ever before. This year's edition of Stories of Faith in Action magazine tells how God is at work across the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America thanks to your generosity through mission support from congregations like St. Paul's and individual gifts to shared ministries.

- Visit elca.org/SOFIA today to download a PDF of “Stories of Faith in Action” with a special message from our presiding bishop and a devotional, and watch three videos accompanying stories in this year's publication.



YOUTH GROUP DURING PANDEMIC

Yeah, honestly we haven't met that often. And that's really sad! Eddy, our mascot, misses everyone. And so do your adult group leaders. ;-)

But you have not been forgotten. We're trying to figure out how to get together more regularly online or safely in person, check in by text, and make preparations for the national youth gathering in 2021.



ELCA AND LWR PARTNER TO FIGHT COVID-19 AROUND THE WORLD

The ELCA is working with Lutheran World Relief to repurpose \$160,000 in project funding for emergency responses to the COVID-19 pandemic in Latin America, Africa, and Asia.

Worship UPDATE

WORSHIP DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Online and Drive-in

Our St. Paul's church council has considered the question about resuming gatherings in person at church during every meeting. Last month your leaders concluded again that nothing has changed since the coronavirus pandemic spread, and that it will neither be safe nor desirable to hold worship inside, even and because of guidelines.

Please make every effort to keep connected to God and each other through online or drive-in services. We may not be able to continue worship in cars at the Event Center through the winter months, but Pastor Stefan Munker and volunteers are doing their best to provide you with uplifting experiences each week.

Online Worship

YouTube videos show recordings of services from St. Paul's or drive-in services each week. Links are emailed and posted on our church Facebook page.



Drive-in Worship

As long as the weather allows we will continue to hold services with Communion in cars at the Event Center, 9:30am on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month. Watch announcements for any changes.



Remember our SHUT-INS

While it is not possible to visit members who are homebound or in nursing homes, and who are particularly vulnerable to the Covid-19 virus, prayers and calls or cards from the rest of our members are even more important than usual and much appreciated.

Doris Benny,	Betty Darda,	Doris Enochs,	Joyce Gooding,
Charles Grimes,	Robin Houser,	Lynn Keeper,	Lyn Lingle,
Carolyn Meier,	Delores Plunkett,	Rosemary Voyles,	Rex White,
Kris Whitley			

This list does not include everyone in need of special care. Please reach out to others you know could use a greeting, helping hand, or prayer. Share any needs, additions, or updates with Pastor Munker.



COVID-19 INFORMATION

Pastoral Care

- + Please contact Pastor Munker if you become ill, especially from the coronavirus. Call or text 217-851-1250, or email pastormunker@gmail.com.
- + You may also contact the pastor if you need practical assistance, have a prayer request, or just want to talk.

Church Office

- + Contact Administrative Assistant Marina Mondragon at church email address office@stpaulshillsboro.net, or on her cell phone if it is urgent.
- + Our custodian Greg is maintaining the building, organist Cassie is providing music for recorded online services, and other staff remain home or take precautions when performing necessary work at the church office.

Worship Schedule

- + Online worship is available every weekend on St. Paul's YouTube channel. Look for St. Paul's Lutheran Church Online and subscribe. Links are also emailed to members and posted on our church Facebook page.
- + As long as weather permits, drive-in services with Communion will be held at 9:30am on 2nd and 4th Sundays in the Event Center parking lot until further notice.

Find more information and resources on St. Paul's Covid-19 web page:

www.stpaulshillsboro.net/covi-19.



ST. PAUL'S WORSHIPS, LEARNS, AND SERVES

Thanks to Your Offerings

Thanks to your faithful and generous offerings during the Covid-19 pandemic, we are able to continue our ministries that *praise* God, *teach* God's Word, and *reach out* to our community.

- Please share your regular tithes and special gifts for God's work through St. Paul's: **Mail** checks to P.O. Box 266, make a transfer through your **Bank**, or give **Online** using Tithe.ly via our website www.stpaulshillsboro.net.



ELCA DISASTER RELIEF

As we face multiple crises, Covid-19, hurricanes, wildfires, and more, together we can reflect Christ's light and hope to our neighbors in their

time of need. Gifts to "ELCA Disaster Relief" through St. Paul's will be used at 100%.

Other ways to give:

- + Mail checks payable to Lutheran Disaster Response to: Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, P.O. Box 1809, Merrifield, VA 22116-8009
- + Call 800-638-3522 to make a donation with a credit card, or
- + Donate online at elca.org/disaster.

"You who live in the shelter of the Most High, who abide in the shadow of the Almighty, will say to the Lord, 'My refuge and my fortress; my God, in whom I trust.'" (Psalm 91:1-2)



ST. PAUL'S #GODSWORKOURHANDS

Service Activity

At our Rally Sunday drive-in worship on September 13, St. Paul's members signed a card template that was copied and included in cards to let homebound and special care people know that our congregation is thinking and praying for them.

Pastor Munker mailed cards from St. Paul's for this year's ELCA Day of Service activity.



Our sympathy to Harrel and family on the death of his wife Caroline on September 14.

We mourn the loss of faithful St. Paul's member Bob Mullins, who passed away September 16.

Our condolences to family, friends, and all loved ones of Caroline and Bob.

The Lord is mindful of our need for comfort and has promised, "I will not leave you comfortless, I will come to you." (*John 14:18*)



Thank you to Mike, Heather, and August from the Plunkett family for recording the readings included in our Labor Day weekend online worship.



A big thank you to members of St. Paul's for supporting the walk and bake sale for Cross Over Ministries. Your contributions helped raise over \$3,700 that will support mental health in Montgomery County. Suicide is the #2 cause of death for ages 10-34 and is preventable. Thank you.



To the congregation of St. Paul's:

On behalf of Harvest of Hope Food Pantry, we would like to thank you for your donations to the food pantry. It is the help from church families like yours that keep this ministry going. Your dedication to helping our community won't go unnoticed.

Because of compassionate citizens like you, we are able to better serve people in and close to Hillsboro that are in need.

Thank you for making a difference in our community.

In Christ,
World Harvest Church





- 10/1 Kirk Hess,
Emmett Stewart
- 10/3 Julie Jenkins,
Isaiah Hopley
- 10/4 Pico Jolliff
- 10/7 Bradley Taylor
- 10/8 Lydia Mutchler
- 10/9 Kacy Brewer,
Sandra Moody
- 10/10 Jarred Allen
- 10/11 Andrew Brinkman
- 10/12 Juleighan Klein
- 10/15 Alisia Moore,
Kevin Wille
- 10/16 Rex White
- 10/18 Barrett Moore
- 10/20 Pax Stewart
- 10/21 Delores Plunkett
- 10/22 Marcia Sandlin,
CJ Thornton
- 10/25 Jean Brauer,
Walt Duzan,
Janine Sherer
- 10/28 Kamdyn Putnam
- 10/30 Aaron Wille
- 10/31 Tracy Jurgena

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Facebook: www.facebook.com/stpaulslutheranchurchonthecourt-housesquare

Pastor Stefan Munker
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Email: pastormunker@gmail.com

* * * * *

Church Council

- President** – Bob Mulch
- Vice President** – Gail Schaal
- Finance** – Brenda Gibb
- Secretary** – Anita Swick
- Christian Education** – Marina Mondragon
- Church in Society** – Paula Keepper
- Evangelism** – Carol Calvert
- Fellowship** – Pam Schaefer
- Property** – Greg Schoen
- Stewardship** – Lori Evans
- Worship & Music** – Cindy Duncil
- Youth** – Melanie Sherer
- Youth Representative** – Mia Sherer