

November 2020

# Flock Talk

## ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER



**THANKSGIVINGS** *Multiplied*  
*God never stops blessing us.  
So, we keep blessing others.*

*During October 18 online worship, Pastor Munker prayed over some of the quilts that will be sent to Lutheran World Relief together with health and school kits dedicated on Reformation Sunday, October 25.*

*Where Faith + Hope + Love Abide*

### A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

*We are Blessed to Be a Blessing*



In my first church as a new pastor I was Associate on staff with a well-seasoned senior pastor. The motto of Our Savior's was: "Blessed to Be a Blessing." It's short and easy to remember, but also very true and universally applicable. The phrase was based on discussion and prayer in a Bible Study group and adapted from Genesis 12:2 where God blesses Abraham and gives him and his family a purpose.

**Do you realize how blessed you are? We all are very blessed, despite what it may feel like sometimes. God is a generous and faithful giver.**

And beyond the spiritual blessing of God's saving love, we receive God's material blessings daily, and not only for ourselves, but the whole world to share God's blessings with everyone. In that simple but powerful way, God is giving us out of God's endless abundance. All would have enough, if we trusted God enough to share all those blessings gratefully with those who don't have enough. God even promises that when we share blessings they are multiplied.

The apostle Paul wrote: *"He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness."* (2 Corinthians 9:10, NRSV, read vv.11-12 for more)

In many ways that is what stewardship means, why we give offerings, and how the church is caring for any in need. God is the source of everything as we remember in our offering prayer this month, and we in turn ask God to make us generous givers who joyfully witness to the love of Jesus.

- In November, the church not only joins in the thanksgiving for harvest blessings and service of veterans, but remembers all the saints and Christ's eternal kingship. Join the celebration during livestreamed online worship at 10:15am on Sundays. And then multiply God's blessings by being a blessing to others.

Yours gratefully blessed,  
*Pastor Stefan Munker*



## A PRAYER for *Gratitude*

Every good gift comes from you, O God. Inspire us with gratitude in our hearts so that we freely share your daily blessings for the good of all. Make us careful stewards of your earth, and teach us how to live as joyful witnesses of Jesus, our Savior and Lord. Amen.



## *Livestreamed* **WORSHIP**

*during Covid-19 Pandemic*

Because Covid-19 continues to be a serious danger with steady infections, we hope that you will join for streamed services starting in November.

**You can watch St. Paul's worship on YouTube LIVE at 10:15am on Sundays.**

To join a YouTube Live event like worship is not very difficult. We are emailing links with instructions. If you subscribe to our channel, then you will be automatically notified.

You can always later watch a recording online, but viewing with others live creates a sense of togetherness. Links will also be posted on our website and Facebook page.

- If you need help let us know. For those who prefer monthly worship texts and copies of pastor's sermons are available through regular mail. We can also provide recordings of services on DVD upon request.

*Pastor Munker shared a **Video Message** about livestreamed worship that can be found on our website's Covid-19 page:* [www.stpaulshillsboro.net/covi-19](http://www.stpaulshillsboro.net/covi-19)

## ALL SAINTS SUNDAY



Because of the tremendous losses and grief caused by the Coronavirus pandemic, this year's worship for All Saints Sunday will include names of individuals or groups of people submitted by St. Paul's members in our first YouTube Live service on Sunday, November 1.



## WATCH WORSHIP on *YouTube Live*

St. Paul's is using YouTube for livestreaming worship on Sundays at 10:15am beginning November 1.

***Here's how you can join either live or watch a recording:***

Each week, we email a link to the livestream service, together with the worship bulletin that includes the words of the service and ministry announcements.

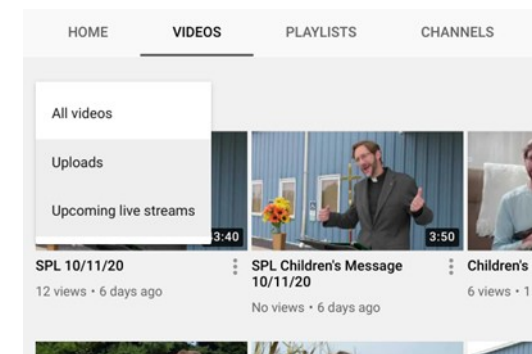
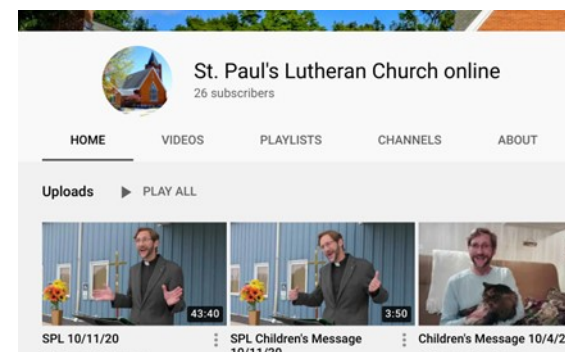
- Find St. Paul's YouTube channel by going to our church website at [www.stpaulshillsboro.net](http://www.stpaulshillsboro.net) and clicking the "Worship on YouTube" button.

Worship on YouTube

- Click the "Subscribe" button on St. Paul's YouTube channel page, in order to receive automatic notifications of new videos or when we go live. It's like church bells on your device!

SUBSCRIBE

- You can browse all past video recordings (since spring 2020), and you can find scheduled live streams in the "Videos" menu by selecting "Upcoming live streams" from the "Uploads ▼" drop down (where you are able to set a reminder and more).



A link of either the live or recorded service will also be posted on our church Facebook page.



## PRAYER FOR VETERANS

Pastor Munker will offer a special appreciation and prayer for all veterans during our online service on Sunday, October 8.





## Why NO ONLINE COMMUNION?

With the closing of churches during the Covid-19 Coronavirus pandemic that affected the US in early 2020, many congregations moved worship online in a few different forms. Over the summer months, St. Paul's drive-in services were well attended and included Communion but will now cease as of the end of October.

It may seem that sharing worship online could include the celebration and reception of Communion despite physical separation. After careful reconsideration of both theological and practical issues involved in the question about virtual Communion, Pastor Stefan Munker has concluded that the sacrament is better reserved for a physically gathered worship community.

This is not an easy decision but is shared with ELCA Presiding Bishop and supported by our synod bishop. Our congregation definitely wants to protect the health of our members and community during the Covid-19 pandemic. If we decided to allow limited numbers of worshipers in our sanctuary during the winter months, precautions would limit attendance to passive watching and services would not include Communion.

The Word of God is the all-sufficient means of giving us forgiveness, life, and salvation. Pastor Stefan Munker longs for the time when we can safely resume the meal celebration of our life in Christ together. He provided a more detailed explanation to our church council including that Lutherans do not condone private Communion without an ordained presider, and the difference between watching live or a recording later.

- While we worship, learn and serve apart, may Christ who is always present among us through the gift of the Holy Spirit continue to give us peace, preserve our health and keep us united, as we abide in faith, hope and love thanks to the grace and mercy of God who is the source of our life and salvation.



## HARVEST CELEBRATION

During YouTube Live worship on the Sunday before the Thanksgiving holiday, we are going to thank God for our blessings and celebrate our congregation's generosity.



## CHRIST THE KING

Jesus does not rule the world like the powerful on earth. As Christians we pledge complete loyalty to a divine Lord who is King above all human leaders. On Christ the King Sunday therefore, our worship will include special praise in devotion to the One who wants to govern our hearts and world with his love.



## FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

2020 has been a truly different kind of year, especially for the worship of our church. It's hard to believe that we will begin a new church calendar year. The season of Advent is a reminder that we are waiting for Christ's return, but also that he comes to us through faith in his salvation. Let us worship with expectation, especially for new health.



## Monday BIBLE STUDY

*The Cost of Grace, Discipleship, and Church Community*

*What does it mean to be a Christian today?* Dietrich Bonhoeffer sought to answer that in Germany under Nazi rule. His thoughts are still relevant as we seek to discern and apply what God's message is for us, what it means to follow Jesus, and how to shape life with other believers confronted by current challenges of pandemic, faith, and church.

Join Pastor Stefan Munker for six weekly sessions about writings by one of 21st century's most noted theologians, activists, and martyrs. The study sessions began October 26 and examine various aspects of faith and look at Bible passages during our discussion. *Discover more meaning and reclaim hope in the face of adversity.*

- Access information for Zoom meetings at 6:30pm on Mondays is emailed together with study materials to members.



Daylight Saving Time ends Sunday, November 1. Be sure to set your clocks back one hour. You may also wish to check smoke alarms and change batteries.



Wednesday 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.



### FREE LADLES OF LOVE *Lunches*

Each week, a rotating group of volunteers for our Ladles of Love ministry prepares and serves carry-out meals with soup, sandwich, chips, dessert and a personal item. If you would like to help donate food, money, or time talk to Diane Singler.

- Anyone is welcome to pick up a free lunch and gift at the St. Paul's church driveway on Wednesdays between 11am and 12 noon.



### DVD COURSES *for your Home*

*How would you enjoy getting your own personal lectures on your TV at home this winter?*

Thanks to Merle Imler and her late husband Dave, we have a selection of DVDs in the Great Courses series in our church library. Titles include:

- The Old Testament
- The New Testament
- The History of Christian Theology
- The History of Christianity in the Reformation Era
- The Lives of Great Christians

If you are interested in checking one of these titles out, let Pastor know and we'll arrange for either you picking the DVD up or delivering it to you.



The next newsletter will cover the month of December plus half of January. All articles will be due in the office by Friday, November 20. Please be sure to submit any information that should be included in the newsletter to the office in time. Thank you.



### Community THANKSGIVING DINNER

There is a free meal planned this year, despite the constraints of a pandemic. However, following guidance from local health authorities, the dinner will be carry-out only at the Event Center.

St. Paul's will provide green beans again. If you can help shop, contact Paula Keeper. Those preparing bacon and onions are asked to follow CDC precautions for food safety.

Extra volunteer help will be required for packaging and serving meals, and for cleanup of the hall after the event on November 26.

- If you can help or have questions please contact dinner coordinator Melanie Tyszko, 217-556-4990.



### 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. As we face prolonged isolation during the winter months, it is especially critical to reach out and keep in touch. Simply let others know we are in this together and check to see if there are any needs with which we can help one another.

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



### DWELLING IN THE WORD

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 November-January (Advent) is: John 1:35-46.

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





## Updated COVID-19 INFORMATION

### Pastoral Care

- + Please contact Pastor Munker if you become ill, especially from the coronavirus, or look for any kind of spiritual support. Call or text 217-851-1250, or email [pastormunker@gmail.com](mailto: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

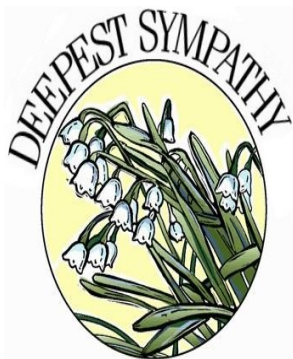
- + Contact Administrative Assistant Marina Mondragon at church email address [office@stpaulshillsboro.net](mailto:office@stpaulshillsboro.net), or on her cell phone if it is urgent.
- + Our custodian Greg is maintaining the building, organist Cassie is providing music for recorded online services, and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

### Worship Schedule

- + Online worship is available on St. Paul's YouTube channel livestreamed at 10:15am on Sundays and recorded for later viewing. Subscribe for automatic notifications. Links are also emailed to members and posted on our church Facebook page.
- + Inquire about other worship resources, including mailings, DVDs, and devotional books.

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

[www.stpaulshillsboro.net/covi-19](http://www.stpaulshillsboro.net/covi-19).



We share our prayers and sympathies with family and friends of Fran Justison who died unexpectedly on September 20.

Our prayers and condolences are with Pastor Cynthia Munker after the passing of her mother, Lois Oset, on September 19.

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)



### St. Paul's Partners Multiply Relief

*Thanks to your Offerings and Gifts*

Thanks to your regular offerings and special gifts during the Covid-10 pandemic, our congregation has been able to donate food to our community pantries, respond to U.S. natural disasters, and provide health supplies around the globe.

- 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](http://www.stpaulshillsboro.net).



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.

The Ronald McDonald House in Springfield is the recipient of our support for November. They provide a supportive place for families to stay while their child is receiving medical care, and support programs that directly improve the health and well-being of children. Thank you, in advance, for contributing to this very worthy campaign.

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



### 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	Lynn Keepper
Betty Darda	Lyn Lingle
Judie Donham	Carolyn Meier
Doris Enochs	Delores Plunkett
Joyce Gooding	Rosemary Voyles
Charles Grimes	Rex White
Robin Houser	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.





As we transition from recorded worship and drive-in services to livestreaming, we express our church's appreciation to all who are sharing their gifts so that we continue to hear God's Word online and can join together in virtual prayer and praise. We owe thanks to our organist Cassie Gunn, video tech Bob Mulch, the Sherer family for making their venue available, Cindy Duncil for organizing volunteers and decorating, and all who have lent a hand, participated, and attended. We are grateful for Liz Allen and August Plunkett who will operate video and computer for sharing Sunday worship services live on YouTube.



God bless all the caring and dedicated people who quilted, shopped, packed, and delivered items for Lutheran World Relief during this challenging pandemic year when those are urgently needed to keep so many people warm, healthy or learning.



I am so grateful to know that my ministry does make a difference and is appreciated. Thank you for the presentation of a lovely card and gift for delicious treats. I was very touched by Bob Mulch's kind (and funny) words and the honking of cars. Additional gifts and personal notes from individuals were most generous and encouraged me tremendously. I thank God for being your pastor at St. Paul's, and I pray that we will continue to be blessed serving Jesus together, as the Spirit binds us together in faith, hope, and love.

Yours with deep gratitude,  
your *Pastor Stefan Munker*



Thank you to Paula and members of Thrivent for helping us get lots more candy in addition to that donated by other sweet members so that St. Paul's could participate in this year's "Honk or Treat" drive through Hill-o-ween event sponsored by area churches.



Thank you to all who sent cards of condolences, as well as memorial monies, after the death of my mother, Lois Oset. Your cards, prayers and messages have sustained me and my family at this time. I give thanks to God for you.

— *Pastor Cindy Munker*



Dear friend,

Praise the lord! We thank you for supporting us through your prayers and listening to how God has called you to support our ministry.

Thank you so much for your donation. We truly appreciate your generosity. Because of your obedience to God's call, we are able to provide continued support to the women and families right here in this community. God bless you and have a wonderful day.

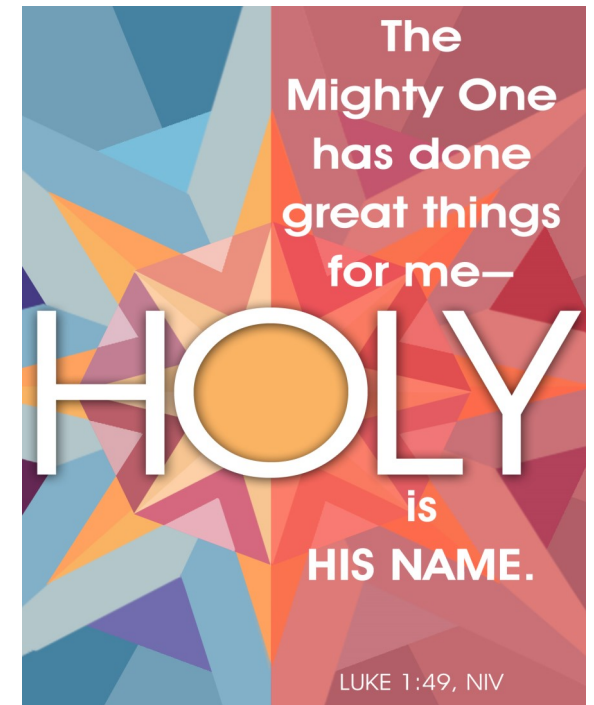
— *Living Alternatives  
Pregnancy Resource Center*



Dear St. Paul's Lutheran Church,

Thank you so much from the bottom of our hearts for choosing the library as your charity for your summer donation project. All proceeds will go towards funding the remodeling of our future location at 420 S. Main St. Hopefully this winter you will see some big updates and progress!

Sincerely,  
*Shelley Kolb*





**11/2** Paul Houser  
**11/3** Robin Houser  
**11/5** Lori Evans,  
Dagny Thornton  
**11/9** Kristina Lingle  
**11/10** Christopher Storm,  
Lindsey Storm  
**11/12** Betty Bledsaw  
**11/14** Cindy Duncil,  
Brian Hess  
**11/15** Marilyn Booher  
**11/17** Sean Priewe  
**11/18** Eleanor Shroyer  
**11/20** Bob Pollard,  
Tim Storm  
**11/21** Kristy Parr,  
Brandon Wille  
**11/22** Melissa Wood  
**11/23** Jim Brinkman,  
Pam Schaefer  
**11/24** Amy Taylor  
**11/27** Sean Hess  
**11/29** Joshua Duzan,  
Crystal Gunn

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Pastor Stefan Munker  
Cell Phone: (217) 851-1250  
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#### 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