

FALL 2024

UNITY

Quarterly Newsletter of St. Paul Lutheran Church & School of Ann Arbor

Gathering as God's Purpose

By Pastor Ted Hopkins

For seven weeks in September and October, we followed the book of Ephesians as we gathered for worship to grow in our life together as people of God. What a joy it has been! We started the series on Unity Sunday with our all-church picnic, and we worshiped at CUAAs both in the middle and at the end of the series. Joining together in hearing God's Word, connecting Scripture to life in Bible study, and singing God's praises together are all gifts of God. Gathering as a St. Paul family is joy.

I think that it's easy for us to lose sight of how important gathering together is. Church doesn't always feel important. It seems like a small thing to meet for only an hour or two each weekend. Frankly, we might go a few weeks without going to church and not notice much difference in our lives.

Yet, friends, gathering itself is not only to help us do God's purposes, like encouraging one another, forgiving one another, and lifting

each other up in prayer, but gathering is itself part of God's purpose for his people. This is why the Bible commands us to gather (Hebrews 10:25). In Ephesians, Paul presumes a community of people who believe in Jesus and follow him together. For him, all believers in Jesus are "fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers [together] of the promise" (Eph. 3:6). Later, Paul adds that we are "members of one another" (Eph. 4:25). Gathering is not merely an instrument to help each of us individually follow Jesus. Gathering is itself how we follow Jesus because we are part of his body, members of one another.

As a staff, we have been reading pastor Andy Stanley's book, *Deep and Wide*, which is helping us explore how St. Paul can be better at being both deep, encouraging our members to grow in knowing Jesus and serving others, and wide, open to unchurched people. Stanley argues that one of the major faith catalysts for people is

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directly related to gathering. Stanley calls the catalyst “providential relationships.” In short, they are the people whom God puts in our lives to encourage and lead us through different seasons. In each season of my life, God has given me different people who have challenged me to follow Jesus, embodied God’s forgiveness and grace to me, and encouraged me to tell others about God’s love in Christ. I met most of these people through church as we gathered together, and then at the right time, God has used them to make a difference in my life.

Friends, I have two points of encouragement toward this end. First, be present with each other, in church and Bible study but also beyond the weekend. When we are present with each other, God opens doors that our relationships can be conduits of his grace. It usually takes more than just Sunday morning greeting—though fellowship time

and Bible study can start to get us there—to get to know someone well enough to have these kinds of real conversations. Second, God calls us to open our hearts and our gatherings to those currently outside of his church. We need to make our gatherings permeable and open to how God may use us in others’ lives and may use surprising people for our sake. When our lives intersect with those who are not Christians, God will open doors for his mission, whether that’s conversations about forgiveness or even an opportunity to invite a friend to St. Paul. God puts people together in order that each of us can be a light to our neighbors in providential relationships.

At St. Paul, we think that gathering is so important for providential relationships that we are going to be rolling out something new next fall called “**Community Groups**.” We will have groups that meet for a season based on the interests

of a leader—like a book group that meets monthly during the winter, a running group that meets biweekly in the summer, or a Bible Study that meets weekly during the fall. These groups are intended to bring people together, believers and unbelievers, St. Paul people and people who are members of other churches. The idea is that St. Paul wants to help facilitate gathering people together—with regular entry points for new people and visitors—so that God may use these relationships for his providential purposes, for those inside and outside of our church. May God use us to this end!

Be on the lookout for more information about these new community groups starting next September.

God’s peace
Ted Hopkins, Senior Pastor

Upcoming Advent Series: Your Savior Comes

Christmas season is right around the corner. Advent begins on Sunday, December 1 when we will start a series called “Your Savior Comes.” On the four Sundays of Advent as well as Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, we will explore Isaiah 40:1-11, seeing how it describes the coming Savior. Jesus comes with comfort, healing, justice, and power to be that Savior. At the same time he comes with joy to be our gentle, loving Shepherd who “will gather the lambs in his arms” (Is. 40:11).

Join us not only on Sunday mornings but also on Wednesdays (Dec. 4, 11, and 18) at 5:45pm for fellowship and a meal with 7:00pm worship after the meal. During these Wednesdays, we will continue to unpack the themes of waiting for the Savior, as Pastor Kyle Weeks from St. Luke will be included in the Wednesday preaching rotation with Pastor Roggow and me. Please also plan on joining us for Christmas Eve worship at Earhart at 4:30pm or at Liberty at 7:00pm and 11:00pm, and for Christmas Day worship at Liberty at 10:00am.

I am excited to see you during all of our services during Advent, eating together in fellowship and joining

together in worshiping our coming Savior. It’s a busy time of year, but also a great time for us to reflect on who our Savior, Jesus, is, as we look forward to celebrate his incarnation and birth. I’m looking forward it!

Pastor Ted Hopkins

Advent & Christmas Worship Schedule

Midweek Advent Worship (Downtown Campus)

December 4th, 11th & 18th

Advent Dinners @ 5:45pm

Worship @ 7:00pm

Join us for dinner!
Wednesdays in Advent
5:45pm in Fellowship Hall
No cost - free will offering gladly accepted



Your Savior Comes

Christmas Eve Worship Dec. 24

4:30pm (Earhart Campus)

7:00pm & 11:00pm (Downtown)

Christmas Day Worship Dec. 25

10:00am (Downtown)

Downtown Campus (420 W. Liberty)

Earhart Campus (495 Earhart Rd)

A Special Welcome to Sue Francik, SPAA Business Manager



We are delighted to announce that Mrs. Sue Francik accepted the offer to serve as the Business Manager of St. Paul Ann Arbor. Professionally, Sue has worked mostly in finance for the past 25 years in Lutheran churches, schools, and at the university level, including the past two years as the lead account receivable specialist at Concordia University Ann Arbor.

Sue has been married to her amazing husband, Chris, for over 22 years. He currently serves as the principal at St. Paul Lutheran School in Royal Oak, where they are members of the church. They have two sons: Ben, who is 20 and just finished his associate's degree at Schoolcraft College, and Sam, who is 17 and a senior at

Lutheran High School, Westland. Over the course of their ministry, her family has lived and served in Escondido, CA, Louisville, KY, and Topeka, KS. (insert family photo here)

Sue grew up in the suburbs of Detroit, so she is very familiar with the area. Even though the family is not a member of St. Paul, Ann Arbor, they are not strangers, as her parents, brother, and family are members here. Sue and family have visited often over the years and have always enjoyed the warm welcome.

Let's get to know a little more about Sue!

How did you and your husband meet?

My husband, Chris, and I met through family friends in southern California. The first time we met we were in high school and he was babysitting my cousins while I was visiting my family there (I lived in Michigan at the time). We didn't really connect again until about 5 years later after college when I had moved out to California and he was teaching at his first call. On our first date, Chris took me to a play that one of his 4th grade



students was in. I knew then that he had a true passion for education and his students.

What is your favorite thing to do as a family?

We love to travel around the USA and would like to eventually explore different countries. Fun fact - we've been to 45 out of the 50 US states. We also love to play cards and board games.

What are your hobbies or favorite things to do in your downtime?

I love to travel, cook, read, hike different trails, lift weights and spend lots of time with family and friends. My newest hobby is a sourdough starter!

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Work in Progress: New Stephen Ministers in Training



St Paul Stephen Ministers will soon welcome 4 more enthusiastic and empathetic care givers, to join us in delivering Christ-centered care to those struggling through difficulties.

Our 4 trainees are (pictured from left to right): **Kathy Humphrey, Erin Lahrman, Jim Pulford, and Carol Shasko.**

These 4 gather together for 2 ½ hours a week in class from September through December. Class is lecture style that is punctuated by role play to practice each concept. They really feel what it is like to be a skilled Stephen minister and get to know each other well. They are almost ½ way through their training. I am

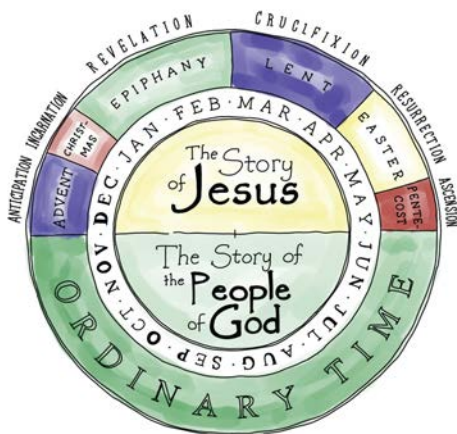
very excited for them to be part of our Stephen ministry family. If you see one of these devoted care givers, please thank them for their time and commitment.

Need a Stephen Minister now?

Contact one of the Stephen Ministry Leaders: Karen Baker (734) 730-8842, Jane Burch (734) 277-5315, or Cherise Callahan (734) 935-8775

Hey, Pastor: “Why is Everything in Church so Green?”

By Pastor Aaron Roggow



In this Maize and Blue town, I think it's important to show some love to the Spartans in the room. We wouldn't want them excluded, so much of the year, we deck the altar area (and the pastors) in Green and White.

Of course, that's a joke.

The use of Liturgical Color in the Christian church has a long and intentional history. When you look at the front of the church, and even sometimes around the worship space, you'll see one color specifically highlighted for that Sunday or season of the church year. Maybe you're a big fan of the Reformation Red, the Advent Blue, or the Easter White & Gold. Maybe you see these colors and have no idea why they stay Green for so long and then quickly change from week to week.

Well, I'm excited to say that this question (posed with slightly different phraseology) was recently asked by a local “Hey, Pastor” reader. *Side-note: If you have a Hey, Pastor question you'd like to see answered in the future, send it my way!*

The question included a sub-question about “why the Pastor's stoles are always tilted,” which apparently induces an understandable need to

just “walk up and fix it.” No, it's not part of the late 80's V8 Tomato Juice ad campaign. Honestly, they just shift as we move around at church, and we ask for your forgiveness.

To answer the primary (pun intended) question, I'm going to adapt an article written in the early '90s by Rev. Douglas K. Escue called “The Colors of the Liturgical Seasons.” Pastor Escue does a great job of highlighting (yes, again) the use of color in the Liturgical rhythms of the church.

Color's Purpose

Color and its bright message can easily be taken for granted or mistaken for its purpose. The paraments, vestments, altar clothes, and banners, traditionally employed each Sunday are more than an attempt to decorate or give accent to the chancel. Decoration and beauty in worship are important. But a greater service is demanded of our liturgical colors than merely making the surroundings “pretty.”

Five Basic Colors

Traditionally, most liturgical congregations use five basic colors of a festive, penitential, and neutral nature. Recently, with liturgical renewal, three additional colors (blue, scarlet, and gold) have been added to the basic five of white, red, green, violet or purple, and black. So what's the point in using these specific colors?

Green

We'll start by looking at the most common color of the church year, seen during the seasons of Epiphany and Pentecost. Epiphany includes the Sundays between Christmas and Lent and may last up to 8 Sundays depending on when Easter falls (Easter is the first Sunday following the first full moon after the vernal equinox. Who knew?) Pentecost then runs from 50 days after Easter

to the beginning of the next church year (Advent) and can last anywhere from 22-28 Sundays. Green is the appointed color for all but a few of the Sundays during this time.

Consequently, green may be used an average of six to eight months of any liturgical year! Epiphany's message of Christ's revelation to the Gentiles and the season's traditional emphasis on extending Christ's kingdom through missions call for green, the symbolic color of growth. The Sundays following Pentecost, observed as “the time of the church,” share a similar theme to that of Epiphany. Affectionately called the season of the “green meadow,” no doubt because green is the established color, these Sundays also emphasize the subject of growth. Green is a neutral color, but there is nothing colorless about our need to grow and mature as disciples of Jesus Christ. That's why the “green meadow” time of the church year is so lengthy. Time must be given to encourage all worshipers to maintain their faith through the constant use of God's means of grace.

Blue

Blue is the more contemporary color increasingly used by many congregations to observe a new church year. Advent, a preparatory time of waiting and watching, communicates the message of hope. Blue- the color of the sky - helps convey that powerful message. Our Christian faith rests on the hope that Christ, who came in history assuming our flesh, will also return on the Last Day from that same blue sky into which he ascended long ago.

Black

Black is seen very seldom during the year. The calendar calls for its use only twice: on Good Friday and

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“Why is Everything...so Green” ... *cont'd from pg. 4*

Ash Wednesday. There's no mistaking the message that this sober color gives. Black is the absence of light. Good Friday and Ash Wednesday call for sober reflection on the cost of our redemption. Without Christ's sacrifice on the day the sky turned dark and hid the sun's light, there would be no bright Light of Christ to live in nor new life in Christ to enjoy.

Gold

Gold is the optional color for Easter Sunday. Gold represents value and worth. The golden festival of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ is the event that gives our lives meaning and worth. He is worthy of our praise as we adorn his altar with the color of splendor.

Scarlet

Scarlet (a vivid red or orange) is sometimes used during Holy Week, from Palm Sunday to Maundy Thursday, though not at St Paul (we don't have a Scarlet set). When used, it stands in contrast to the traditional red used on Festival Sundays. Scarlet's use during the somber days of Holy Week helps to offer a different message. As the Manual on the Liturgy points out, “scarlet is a color anciently associated with the passion ... the color of blood” (Pfatteicher, 25).

Purple

Purple, like black, is a penitential color, in contrast to a festive one. It is appropriately used during Lent (and in many churches during the season of Advent). The forty days of Lent, including the six Sundays that fall during this season, use this deep, rich color which has come to represent somberness and solemnity, penitence, and prayer. Violet or purple was a very cherished and expensive color in the world Jesus lived. The dye used to make the color was painstakingly acquired by massaging the neck of a Mediterranean shellfish that secreted a spe-

cial fluid. It was therefore afforded only by the rich and worn most exclusively by the royalty. Jesus, the king of the Jews, wore a purple robe only once. As the soldiers mocked and tormented him, the Scriptures record they placed on him a “purple garment” in order to ridicule him and belittle the claim that he was a monarch. Therefore, purple is used during this penitential season of Lent as a vivid reminder of the contempt and scorn he endured, and the subsequent sacrifice he made for our eternal salvation. Ecclesiastical purple should remind all Christians of their daily need to humbly give attention to leading a life of repentance.

White

White is the color of purity and completeness. The theme for the “great fifty days” of Easter is supported by the use of white. This color, used primarily during these Sundays, conveys that “though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be white as snow.” Christ's triumph from the grave on Resurrection Day is the cause for our rejoicing. His purity before his Father becomes our purity. White reinforces that message of joy. In addition to its use during Eastertide, white is the appointed color for such festive Sundays as Christmas and its twelve days; Epiphany (Jan. 6) and the first Sunday following it, observed as the Baptism of Our Lord; the Last Sunday after the Epiphany, also known as Transfiguration Sunday; Holy Trinity Sunday; and other occasional festivals such as All Saints Day. In all, white serves as the best festive color for the church year.

Red

Finally, red is a power color and is appropriate for use on Pentecost

Sunday. On this day, we remember the power and fire of “the Lord and Giver of Life,” who revealed himself as the promised one. The color red communicates the motif of strength and power the Holy Spirit gives in order for God's people to call on the name of Jesus Christ and share that powerful name with others. There is no question that red is a compelling festive color.

Consequently, it serves well as the traditional color for the heroic martyrs of the church. Their red bloodshed in defense of the Gospel offers perpetual encouragement for God's people to be resolute in living the faith. Red is also commonly used to celebrate Reformation Sunday, Holy Cross Day (Sep. 14,) and various celebrations such as a dedication, church anniversary, installation, or ordination.

Symbolism of Colors

I hope you have a fresh view of the colors displayed throughout the church year. Ultimately, we admit using paraments, vestments, altar clothes, and banners is optional. Even the symbolism behind the traditional colors is somewhat arbitrary and open to additional interpretations as generations pass. However, the important thing to remember is why we retain this traditional liturgical standard. The value of the color scheme rests in its purpose: to serve God's worshiping community by assisting in communicating the holy faith from generation to generation. In every age, the beauty and symbolism of color in the church point us to Him.



Do you have a “Hey, Pastor” question?

We'd love to know! Just send your question to Pastor Roggow at: aroggow@stpaulannarbor.org

Camp Arcadia Women's Retreat

By Lexie Brown, Director of Family Life Ministry



The weekend of September 20-22, nearly 20 women in our church made the 4 hour drive up to Camp Arcadia for the annual Women's Retreat. It was a glorious weekend to spend time in worship and enjoying beautiful Arcadia, Michigan. This year's speaker was Donna Snow and she walked us through the book of Esther and made this section

of Scripture come alive for us in ways that were relevant and applicable to our lives.

We had amazing weather the entire weekend. During free time, many of us were able to take part in a hike through the Arcadia Dunes just 5 minutes north of Camp Arcadia. Others were able to swim, kayak, and paddle board in Lake Michigan. Women also had the opportunity to be part of a choir for the weekend that prepared and performed a piece for Sunday worship. Something I really appreciate about this retreat is the opportunity to get to know other women in my church family better. At meals and in the car I got to talk with a lot of ladies who I often see in passing at church, but don't get to stop and have a longer conversation with.



For many ladies, this was their first experience at Camp Arcadia. Here is what a few of them had to say:

"It is special and sacred to devote a weekend to Jesus in the company of other women of faith. Camp Arcadia is the perfect setting—the speakers, the band, nature, comfortable accommodations, and good food. I was refreshed spiritually, mentally and physically. The fun weekend went too fast! I'm looking forward to next year." -Cherise Callahan

"I so enjoyed my first Women's Retreat at Camp Arcadia! I was familiar with Camp Arcadia through many trips dropping off or picking up my kids from the teen weeks and hearing their recaps of all the fun they had. The Women's Retreat was a perfect blend of spiritually uplifting speakers, joyful music, fun fellowship and free time to walk and enjoy God's beautiful creation. A highlight was attending



the Holden Evening Prayer service by candlelight and singing alongside the women in my small group Bible study! I'm looking forward to being a repeat attendee next September!" -Corrina Orlando

"Friends of mine had talked about this amazing Retreat for years, encouraging me to go. This was the year! I had thought what I needed to feel restored was more time at home, time to myself with the Lord, time away from the fray. What it turns out I needed was community and I found this beautiful community of women all coming together on the shores of Lake Michigan. I was particularly struck by the multi-generational aspect and inspired to see women walking just a little ahead of me in the journey. My heart was refreshed by meeting faithful daughters from all over the country, the message of the Speaker from Esther's story, and the helpful breakout sessions. The food was amazing and being cared for and provided for all weekend truly lightened my load. I am so thankful I got to be a part of this gathering! And I carry with me and reflect on the things we learned together." - Lisa Altevogt

It's never too early to start thinking about next year! Join us the weekend of September 19-21 of 2025 for another amazing Women's Retreat at Camp Arcadia! Registration for this retreat opens in December.



Youth Ministry

By Tyler Seehafer, Director of Youth Ministry



Middle School

We are rolling with our middle school ministry and have more events planned for Faith, Fun & Fellowship. These events are for all students, grades 6th-8th! All events take place in the school gym (Earhart Campus). These gatherings start at 4pm and end at 5:30pm.

- **Dec 18 - Ugly Christmas Sweater Party**
- **Jan 15 - Faith Fun & Fellowship**
- **February 26 - Faith Fun & Fellowship**
- **Coming in April - Our 2nd Annual Lock-in!!**

Confirmation Camp @ RKD

We had an amazing experience at confirmation camp! A fantastic group of 13 eighth graders came together to appreciate the beauty of Camp Arcadia, enjoy inspiring speakers, and engage in worship and fellowship with peers from across the state. This was a valuable opportunity for our students to deepen their faith and explore how God influences their daily lives..



High School

Our High School Ministry is thriving! More than 30 students are engaged at various levels. Recently, we've established a Youth Board consisting of students to lead events and enhance their leadership skills and faith. If you know any high school students interested in joining a community that discusses real-life faith applications, encourage them to explore our ministry.



National Youth Gathering 2025 (Endure)

Our High School Ministry is in full swing preparing for the National Youth Gathering. We have 33 adults and students registered to travel to New Orleans in July, joining 20,000 other participants! Over the next few months, we'll intensify our fundraising activities and hope our congregation will unite to support our students! This gathering presents an exceptional opportunity for our students to experience the body of Christ on what is likely the largest scale possible. It's a chance to see their peers gathering to celebrate their faith and deepen their spiritual growth as part of the larger LCMS youth community.

Celebrating God's Colorful Creation

By Monica Slack, Preschool Director

Preschool at Earhart has been learning about God's wonderful Fall Creation. The classes have learned about apples and made applesauce. We finished our unit on apples by going to the apple orchard to pick apples and taste donuts and cider! We've been watching the trees change colors outside our windows and on the playground. We have gone on a fall walk to use our senses and collect fall leaves. We finished October with our Fall Harvest Parties by learning about pumpkins.



Exciting News: School Playground - Phase 1 Begins This Spring!

In anticipation of the future school expansion, which will require space from the current playground, St. Paul School has been planning and fundraising for a new playground. With funds raised at the 2023 and 2024 school auctions, in addition to the generous donation of an anonymous donor, the Playground Committee is thrilled to share that Phase 1 is fully-funded! Construction on the new playground will begin in March next year and will take 3 weeks to complete. The new playground will be built in the safe and open grassy area to the west of the middle school hallway. Phase 2 fundraising will kick-off with the 2025 St. Paul School Auction on April 12, 2025. Look for ways you can support us as we continue to work toward the completion of this exciting project!



The Playground Committee: Liz Bahr, Carolyn Steenstra, and Lauren Warren

St. Paul Eighth Grade Goes to Washington D.C.

By Anne Shinn, 8th Grade Parent Chaperone



World War II Memorial, Lincoln Memorial, Korean Memorial, and Vietnam Veterans Memorials. Our afternoon walk of Arlington National Cemetery showed us the Changing of the Guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. We traveled down Embassy Row to the National Cathedral, which had our whole group in awe of the art and sense of reverence.

On October 14th, the 8th grade class embarked on their trip to Gettysburg, Pennsylvania and Washington D.C. All students went on the trip, and were blessed to have almost as many parents as students come along. The bus left SPAA parking lot before 5am for Gettysburg, picking up our amazingly talented tour guide, Lynn, along the way.

Our first stop in Gettysburg was the Gettysburg National Military Park Museum and visitor Center. There, we watched a film about the Civil War and saw the Cyclorama. This immersive experience with lights and sound effects is a 377 feet in circumference and 42 foot high oil painting that depicts Pickett's Charge during the Battle of Gettysburg. It was one of the students' favorite stops on the trip. We concluded our day in Gettysburg with a two hour battlefield tour (enjoyed the most gorgeous fall weather) and dinner at a local restaurant. After a long day of travel, we arrived in DC at 10pm and concluded the day with student led devotions.

Day two had us hitting the ground to see monuments and Arlington National Cemetery. Memorials we saw that day included the Marine Corps Memorial Iwo Jima Statue,

Again, we were blessed with the most perfect fall weather, 60 degrees and sunny. Other high points of the day were riding the subway, and a tour of the U.S. Capitol building.

Day three was all about museums! The first stop was to the Smithsonian- students go to pick to visit the Museum of Natural History or the Museum of American History. Since we were there in the "off season," when hardly any other groups were there, we were able to get right in and explore all the exhibits up close. Next stop was a group favorite, the Museum of the Bible. The museum documents the narrative, history, and impact of the Bible since the very first writings through present day. We probably could've stayed there all day! Of course, we finished with a trip to the gift shop. That afternoon, our guide and Mrs. C. worked hard to add a stop to the National Archives, where we saw the original Declaration of Independence (proof that in fact,



Nicholas Cage did not steal it), along with other important historical documents. The day concluded with visits to the MLK, Jr Memorial, FDR Memorial and Thomas Jefferson Memorials and dinner at the Hard Rock Café. We did make a stop to see the Whitehouse, but with extra security measures in place for the election, we almost needed binoculars to see it!

Day four, our feet were tired but we said goodbye to D.C. and boarded our bus for Annapolis, where we visited the US Naval Academy. The students were surprised to hear some of the rules that the students there were required to follow! We departed Annapolis for home and arrived at SPAA around 12am. Everyone was thankful to have Friday as a rest day!

The trip was amazing for the students and adults alike - to see our nation's rich history and remember why we are blessed to live here. We are so thankful to Mrs. Contreras for organizing and leading the trip; for PTL and the school for their support; for all the parents that chaperoned; to our tour guide, Lynn; and the kids' favorite bus driver, Derf. We praise God for keeping us safe and blessing us with beautiful weather and memories!

St. Paul Caring Trees are up!

Looking for a meaningful way to help spread the joy of Jesus this Christmas season?

ST PAUL CHRISTMAS CARING TREES

GIFTS ARE DUE BY DEC 2ND!



Our St. Paul Christmas Caring Trees will be set up the weekend of November 16th and 17th!

Caring Tree at Earhart (School) will request gift cards for People of the Book Lutheran Outreach (POBLO*), students at Concordia, and Krista Stapleton, a Kindergarten teacher at St. Matthew Westland (widow and mother of 6) who's family lost their home in a fire this past summer.

Caring Tree Downtown will request gifts for children in foster care through Samaritas, and also some gift cards

for those in our community.

All gifts, unwrapped, will be due on December 2nd!

Please note, we will not have Sunday services on November 24th since we will be at Concordia so please make plans to pick your tags prior to that weekend and bring your gifts to church the following weekend.

This is a wonderful opportunity for members and friends of our congregation to share Jesus' love and show care and kindness to our community this Christmas season.

*Cynthia Kahn (POBLO) writes:

"Thank you for always supporting POBLO especially at Christmas time with your generous support. (Last year) cards were distributed to single moms with kids, refugees and immigrants to buy clothes, groceries and toys. Families who received gift cards were from Afghanistan, Mexico, India, Iraq, Syria, Jordan, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Ukraine, Pakistan, Bangladesh and some local single moms from Detroit."

Paper Peace Corps: A Thank You from Pastor Moses

Pastor Moses thanks St. Paul Lutheran Church for their valuable support through the Gospel, the literature Bibles, Daily Devotion books, 100 Bible Story books and so man commentaries. They are praying for damages that hit the U.S. this past summer. They pray for safety and protection.

Thank you for the members of St. Paul who have contributed Bibles and religious materails to our churches in Africa, India and the Philippines.

Several boxes will be sent to Pastor Maglanque in the Philippines. You can help by donating any Bibles or Catechisms you may have that are not being used. Place them in the Paper Peace Corps box located under the mailboxes in Brauer Hall (Downtown Campus) or in the



box at the Earhart (School) Campus in the Welcome Center desk in the gym. If you have any questions please contact Ruth Schmude at 734-483-7483.

Welcome Sue Francik... cont'd from pg. 3

What are you most excited about in serving at SPAA?

I truly love working in a church and school. I love the balance of using my financial and administrative skills while also building relationships with others around me. I have a passion for jumping in and helping wherever

needed at the moment.

Sue hopes to get to know all the people of St. Paul very soon. When you see her, please extend a warm SPAA welcome!

Puerto Rico Missions Team Update:

Official Interest Meeting: December 1, 2024

We are excited to share that we are forming a Mission team to collaborate with LCMS Missionaries in Puerto Rico, including Rev. James and Deaconess Christel Neuendorf. Our aim is to partner with them and help in various areas they will specify once our team is established. Rev. James has noted a need for support with Bible study and outreach efforts directed at college students, and he also seeks choir members to assist in engaging their congregation through singing and learning hymns. Furthermore, we will join the missionaries in their ongoing ministries, which encompass worship, fellowship events, and weekly Bible study sessions. If you're interested in becoming part of our inaugural mission team to Puerto Rico or would like further details, please reach out to Tyler Seehafer at tseehafer@stpaulannarbor.org. The first meeting is Sunday Dec. 1st at 12:00pm in the Fine Arts room (Earhart Campus).



Serving the Lord in Nairobi, Kenya *News from the Odemba Family & Project 24*

Last month, our family had the privilege of joining other missionaries serving in the Africa region for our annual continued education retreat. A visiting professor from the St. Louis Seminary led a session on how to effectively reach out to Muslims. He began by offering an overview of the diverse Muslim communities, highlighting their beliefs, values, and what matters most to them. He then shared practical insights on how we, as Christians, can connect with them in meaningful ways. One key takeaway was the reminder that outreach to Muslims is not a project but a relationship. Building genuine connections first creates the foundation for a meaningful conversation about Jesus.

Please pray for:

- The Project 24 students who are now on home leave with their families. May they share the love of God with their families and community.
- Those who specifically share the Gospel with Muslims, may they be bold in their faith.

Give Thanks for:

- Those who serve as member care facilitators and care for missionaries around the world.

Praise God for:

- The many congregations and individuals who pray for us, encourage and support us.

Sponsor a Project 24 Student



Did you know that there are over 550 students currently enrolled in the Project 24 children's program here in Kenya? These students range from Class 1 all the way through university. Of these many students, 250 are individually sponsored by generous donors in the United States. The remaining students receive support through one-time gifts.

If you are considering sponsoring a student or making a one-time contribution, please reach out to Jennifer Hummel, who is part of

the Mission Advancement team at the LCMS Office in St. Louis. You can contact her via email at jennifer.hummel@lcms.org or by phone at 888-THE LCMS (843-5267).

Your gift will enable a student to receive excellent care through our partner Lutheran church.

Thank you for your prayerful consideration and continued support!

Thank you for your prayers as we continue our work here in Kenya. Your support means a lot to us.

May God continue to bless and keep you all!

Love and Hugs,

Britt, Micah, Rael and Silas



With One Heart - Worship with us at CUAU on November 24!

November 24, 2024
Sunday Worship at Concordia
4090 Geddes Rd, Ann Arbor

With One Heart
Worship together with local LCMS churches

Bible Study @ 9:30 AM (Kreft)
Worship @ 10:30 AM (Chapel)

St. Paul is teaming up with local LCMS churches to bless Concordia students and staff and honor the mission and ministry of Concordia University Ann Arbor through the years with worship together.

Discipleship Hour and Christ Connections will be held in the Kreft Center on those Sundays from 9:30-10:15am and we will have fellowship afterward (just outside the chapel). Worship will begin at 10:30am in the Chapel of the Holy Trinity. We will have a golf cart available to help bring people with less mobility from the parking lot to Kreft or the Chapel.

Please note: on CUAU Sundays, St. Paul will only have this one Sunday morning service. We will still have the Saturday evening service at 6:30pm at the Liberty-Downtown Campus. *Come celebrate with one heart and bless the CUAU community!*

Kindergarten & Beyond:
St. Paul School Preview Night

Join us for an informative evening to learn about kindergarten and K-8th grade at St. Paul.

- Meet our dedicated kindergarten teachers
- Get your questions answered by our k-8th parent panel
- Discover how St. Paul supports your child's **academic, spiritual, and character development.**
- Children's entertainment & Balloon animals during event

Date: January 15th

Time: 6:30- 8 PM

Location: St. Paul School- Gathering Place

495 Earhart Rd
Ann Arbor, MI 48105

Please RSVP



we look forward to welcoming you!

Thanksgiving Worship
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 28
10 AM DOWNTOWN CAMPUS

Our 2024 Thanksgiving Offerings will be sent to:

- Family of God, Detroit**
Serving the homeless in Southwest Detroit and those struggling in the community with free meals, Bible study and care programs.
- Love Ypsilanti MISSION**
A new food pantry ministry out of Cross & Resurrection/EMU Chapel serving those in need in the Ypsilanti area.

SAVE THE NEW DATE!

The Songs of Christmas
K-8 Christmas Service

This year, we have changed the long-standing tradition of a Sunday afternoon for our St. Paul K-8 Christmas Service. We have the opportunity to support the CUAU community with our Christmas Service being held there in December and have chosen a new date and time to accommodate the change. Thank you for noting the change and welcoming your family, grandparents, and friends to celebrate our annual K-8 Christmas Service at CUAU!

19 DECEMBER 2024 | 06.30 PM
CUAU Chapel of the Holy Trinity

To learn more about the ministries of St. Paul Ann Arbor visit our website at: www.stpaulannarbor.org

If you would like to submit an article or news item for any of the St. Paul communications please contact Natalie Nesbitt, Media Outreach Coordinator at nnesbitt@stpaulannarbor.org

