



# PERSPECTIVE

## Newsletter of

St. Paul Lutheran Church—ELCA

200 N. Commercial Street • Neenah, WI 54956

(920) 725-3961 • [stpaulneenah.org](http://stpaulneenah.org) • [@stpaulneenah](https://twitter.com/stpaulneenah)



OCTOBER 2021

## From Pastor Amy



Last autumn, the ELCA published a new hymnal supplement entitled, “All Creation Sings”. There’s a wonderful song in a book called “Ask the Complicated Questions”.

Ask the complicated questions.  
Do not fear to be found out;  
for our God makes strong our weakness,  
forging faith in fires of doubt.

Seek the disconcerting answers,  
follow where the Spirit blows;  
test competing truths for wisdom,  
for in tension new life grows.

Knock on doors of new ideas,  
test assumptions long grown stale,  
for Christ calls from shores of wonder,  
daring us to try and fail.

For in struggle we discover  
truth both simple and profound;  
in the knocking, asking, seeking,  
we are opened answers found.

Text: David Bjorlin

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I used to believe that having questions of faith was not just wondering, but faithless, and wrong. But I learned, thanks to a wonderful pastor, that questions of faith are not only acceptable, but encouraged and, in fact, are vital to a growing faith. So often we don’t ask our faith questions because we are afraid of looking ignorant or faithless. But God uses our questions to draw us more deeply into the mystery that is God. It’s in the questioning, searching and seeking answers that we come to new understandings of who God is, how God is acting in the world, and how we are to live as followers of Jesus. I believe that the Holy Spirit plants those questions within us, piquing our curiosity, as a means of deepening our faith. Our questions can lead us to “Aha” moments where we come to a new understanding of faith. Other times, our questions don’t come with satisfying answers – somethings are just left to the mystery of God. But it is in the quest for understanding that the Spirit works so powerfully upon us.

I encourage you to exercise your faith muscles and dare to ask the questions the Holy Spirit places on your heart. Ask me. Ask others. Read the Bible. Pray. Be patient. Sit with your questions and see where the Holy Spirit takes you in your quest for understanding.

Questioning with you, Pastor Amy

## We're Celebrating October Birthdays



**October 2**  
Esther La Fond  
Daniel Peterson

**October 4**  
Deb Bushman

**October 5**  
Gracie Henderson

**October 6**  
Krista Bonikowske  
Ken Drace  
Jolene Neuman

**October 7**  
Ralph Freeman  
Wayne Streck  
Diane Turke

**October 9**  
Sherman Jansen  
Lisa Vohen

**October 11**  
Marc Brink  
Ryder O'Dell

**October 13**  
Vernon Rieckmann

**October 14**  
Sara Gilbert

**October 16**  
Bev Quella  
Les Wyman

**October 18**  
Matthew Smith

**October 19**  
Dylan Olson  
Jayce Verhagen

**October 21**  
Jaxon Kramer  
Dan Taycher

**October 22**  
Terry O'Dell

**October 23**  
Janet Douglas

**October 24**  
Courtney Holcomb  
Mel Ravey

**October 26**  
Randy Bonikowske

**October 27**  
Joseph Gilbert

**October 28**  
Jack Ellis  
Eugene Evenson

**October 30**  
Marie Ravey

## We're Celebrating October Anniversaries

**Estin & Courtney Holcomb**  
October 3, 2015  
**Chuck & Mary Jo Kurtti**  
October 4, 1958  
**Eric & Natalie Shea**  
October 6, 2007  
**Russ & Jill Hannemann**  
October 13, 2006  
**Steve & Eileen Swanson**  
October 13, 1973  
**Patrick & Katie Pirwitz**  
October 13, 2017  
**Joe & Amy Shafer**  
October 14, 2005

**Gerald & Torri Arseneau**  
October 17, 1987  
**Patrick McKinney & Sandra Crase**  
October 18, 2003  
**Darrell & Ellyn Wickman**  
October 19, 1974  
**Anthony & Kimberly Heinz**  
October 20, 1995  
**Wayne Sigl & Leesa Erickson**  
October 20, 1990  
**Roger & Jeanne Bauer**  
October 22, 1966  
**Jon & Lona Jorgensen**  
October 26, 1990

## Ask Away!



Do you have a question about theology, logistics, or just curious about something? You are welcome to submit questions using the link found on [stpaulneenah.org](http://stpaulneenah.org) or call the church office at 920-725-3961 and Ask Away!

Watch the Perspective for an answer from our "experts". This is St. Paul's version of the "Ann Landers" column.

**Rev. Amy Engebose**  
Senior Pastor  
[pastor@stpaulneenah.org](mailto:pastor@stpaulneenah.org)

**Sandra Crase**  
Director of Mission & Ministry  
[scrase@stpaulneenah.org](mailto:scrase@stpaulneenah.org)

**Linda Tipler**  
Director of Christian Education  
[ltpiler@stpaulneenah.org](mailto:ltpiler@stpaulneenah.org)

**Tamie O'Dell**  
Parish Administrator  
[todell@stpaulneenah.org](mailto:todell@stpaulneenah.org)

**Lora Oravec**  
Office Administrator  
[loravec@stpaulneenah.org](mailto:loravec@stpaulneenah.org)

**Eric Ihde**  
Handbell & Sanctuary Choir  
[ihdeeric@gmail.com](mailto:ihdeeric@gmail.com)

**Todd Nerenhausen**  
Facilities Manager  
[tnerenhausen@stpaulneenah.org](mailto:tnerenhausen@stpaulneenah.org)

**Linda Parker**  
Custodian

**Council:**  
Peg Hoks, President  
Jessica Hess, Vice President  
Dave Wolff, Secretary  
Diane Turke, Treasurer  
Alicia Macias  
Dave Fink  
Alissa Jones  
Jody Tews

## Ministry Team Contacts:

**Worship Ministry:** Pastor Amy Engebose  
[pastor@stpaulneenah.org](mailto:pastor@stpaulneenah.org)

**Property Ministry:** Todd Nerenhausen  
[tnerenhausen@stpaulneenah.org](mailto:tnerenhausen@stpaulneenah.org)

**Mission Team:** Jill Hannemann  
[jilli1216@aol.com](mailto:jilli1216@aol.com)

**Quilting Angels:** Bev Quella  
[baquella@gmail.com](mailto:baquella@gmail.com)

**Men's Fellowship:** Don Boche  
[dboche@gmail.com](mailto:dboche@gmail.com)

**Prayer Ministry:** Mike Dvorachek  
[mdvorachek@centurylink.net](mailto:mdvorachek@centurylink.net)

**Meal Ministry:** Kathi Jones  
[kathi@moderncashregister.com](mailto:kathi@moderncashregister.com)  
Lisa Schroeder

**Stewardship:** Chuck Kurtti  
[ckurtti@new.rr.com](mailto:ckurtti@new.rr.com)

**Safety Team:** Don Boche  
[dboche@gmail.com](mailto:dboche@gmail.com)

**Knit2gether:** Marcia Kavanaugh  
[mkvisions22@gmail.com](mailto:mkvisions22@gmail.com)

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**WORSHIP: In-Person & Online Sundays at 9:30 a.m.**  
**EDUCATION TIME: In-Person Sundays at 10:30 a.m.**  
**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: Mon—Fri 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

## Ask Away!



Dear St. Paul Church,  
Why don't we kneel anymore?  
Signed,  
From the Bench

Dear From the Bench,

I miss kneeling during prayer as well! We are not using the kneelers for the same reason we are not using the hymnals, passing the offertory plates and welcome pads. All these items are “touch points” in the pews during worship. In today’s heightened awareness for personal safety, the St. Paul Safety Team chose to remove these items from the worship space for due diligence in care for the congregation. “Touch points” could be sources of virus transmission so our ability to thoroughly sanitize these surfaces and the time it would require was taken into consideration.

Kneeling during prayer is another change we look forward to returning to when the risk of virus transmission has dropped. Praise the Lord!

Signed,  
Pastor Amy and the St. Paul Safety Team

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## MARK YOUR CALENDARS - FAITH FORMATION

Mark your calendars for these upcoming Faith Formation milestones and opportunities to grow spiritually! If you have any questions or are interested in helping, you are invited to contact Linda Tipler at [ltipler@stpaulneenah.org](mailto:ltipler@stpaulneenah.org). We continue to seek help with Sunday education time. There are plenty of ways to help (virtually or in-person) and tasks to do (organizing supplies, leading a lesson or helping with seasonal tools like Lent in a Bag or the Christmas Worship, etc.)!

- ◇ Every Sunday: Confirmation & Sunday School @ 10:30 a.m.
- ◇ October 10th: 3rd Grade Bible Presentation @ 9:30 a.m.
- ◇ October 10th: Generations in Faith Together @ 10:30 a.m.
- ◇ October 17th: Confirmation Retreat @ 5:30 p.m.
- ◇ October 31st: Kindergarten Story Bible Presentation @ 9:30 a.m.

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## Generations in Faith Together (G.I.F.T.)

On the second Sunday of every month, October – May, we will be having a G.I.F.T. time during the education hour! G.I.F.T. is a time for EVERYONE in the congregation to join together in learning. This year’s G.I.F.T. sessions will focus on the theme of “Boundless: God Beyond Measure” (borrowed from the 2022 National Youth Gathering).

In October we will focus on “Boundless Love”, exploring the immenseness of God’s love for all humanity. Please plan on joining us after worship on October 10th for our first G.I.F.T.!



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## ***DON'T FORGET***

The Youth Gathering registration deadline is November 1, 2021! Cost is \$150 (registrants are asked to pay \$100 and the church pays \$50). Contact Pastor Amy to register.

No one will be turned away for any reason!

# Perspectives on Prayer for October - Let Go and Let God

by Christine Ellickson

Recently, Sam and I were in Oregon visiting our kids. The Airbnb we were staying in gave us access to a kayak. I gladly took our host up on that. Early one morning, I excitedly ventured out onto Lake Oswego, the lake we were staying on. The day was glorious, and I was pretty excited about being out on the water. I was busy gawking at the out-of-this-world homes along the steep hills of Lake Oswego, and unfortunately, hadn't paid attention to where I was paddling for the last 45 minutes. Thinking it was time to head back, I turned the boat around to head home, but everything looked so different. My sense of direction not being so great left me totally confused and anxious. Which direction was back to the condominium? Looking around, even the buoys I was supposed to be in between looked faraway and odd. I prayed. Dear Lord, show me which way to go. I chose to go right, surely that was the way. But no! NO! The boat, on its own, headed left. I am not kidding. I paused, stupefied. God, you really want me to go that way? I doubted, and thought, no God, this doesn't feel right. I paused, prayed again and surrendered. I let it happen. I let go and let God direct the kayak. We went His way. This whole time I'm feeling that this couldn't be happening. Is this really a God-thing? I was not sure. My attempt to surrender and prayers continued. Admittedly, I still only semi-believed that God had really turned the kayak in the opposite direction I had intended to go, but it was the way to go. He turned my boat around. I made it back to the condominium. God had directed my path. No doubt about it. It felt miraculous. It was miraculous.

Let go and let God direct our paths. It's okay that we have doubts. It's okay that we don't know how to pray. God just wants us to rely on Him, to ask for help and which way to go.

I love the following verse. It always reminds me that with God I will be okay even with my doubts. And it only takes a tiny bit of belief in Jesus to move mountains.

In the verses before Matthew 17:20, the disciples are asking Jesus why couldn't they heal the epileptic boy? "Because you're not yet taking God seriously," said Jesus. "The simple truth is that if you had a mere kernel of faith, a poppy seed, say, you would tell this mountain, 'Move!' and it would move. There is nothing you wouldn't be able to tackle."

Take God seriously.

The Prayer Ministry team invites all of you to tell your faith story or describe a nudge from God. These kinds of stories help all of us to believe a little bit more each day. I believe. Lord help my unbelief.

## The Prayer Ministry

Kathy Procknow  
Christine Ellickson  
Mike Dvorachek

## Prayer Writers

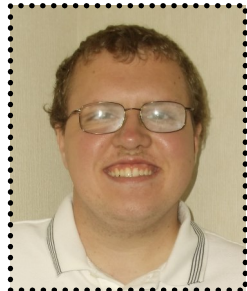
Connie Morgenstern  
Amy Mentz

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## A Warm Welcome to the New Members of St. Paul Lutheran Church!



Tammy Boche



Eric Thompson



Jill Hagen



Jim Henderson  
Marge Christianson



Judy  
Schwandt





## St. Paul Financial Information *As of August 31, 2021*

2021 Total General Fund Budget	\$ 400,869.86
Year-to-Date General Fund Budget	\$ 267,246.56
Year-to-Date General Fund Expenses	\$ 245,984.23
Year-to-Date General Fund Income	\$ 243,156.87

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## Trunk or Treat October 31st

To give children a safe place to trick or treat, we are hosting a Trunk or Treat event. Church members are invited to pass out candy or other treats to our trunk or treaters. Feel free to decorate your car trunk – or just come to pass out treats! There's a prize for the best decorated trunk! Plan to arrive before 3:00 as we will not allow cars in/out of parking lot during trunk or treat time to ensure the safety of the children. Sign up to reserve a spot for you car/truck at the Trunk or Treat event! You can sign up on the St. Paul website, app, or at the church information desk.



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## Communion at Home!

*by Sandra Crase*

If you are unable to attend worship in-person and would like to have someone bring communion to your home, please contact Sandra Crase (email [scrase@stpaulneenah.org](mailto:scrase@stpaulneenah.org) or text 920-851-6609) or the church office. We would also love to hear from those of you who might be interested in the opportunity to take home communion to members of our church family.

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## NYG Shoe Drive

*by Sandra Crase*

Don't forget that we have a shoe drive which ends this month. Proceeds will help support our youth who are going to NYG in the summer of 2022. All types of new and gently-used shoes are accepted. We also need additional volunteers who can help sort and bag the shoes. Please contact Sandra Crase if you can help, especially if a member of your family is planning to attend NYG (email [scrase@stpaulneenah.org](mailto:scrase@stpaulneenah.org) or text 920-851-6609).

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## Community Christmas Dinner

*by Sandra Crase*

The Community Christmas Dinner is being held on December 11, 2021. Similar to last year, we will be offering to-go meals only. Gift bags will be given out that day and each church is asked to provide some of the needed items. Can you help? We have been asked to donate shampoo for women (65), shampoo for men (65), and combs (34). We don't need conditioner, but shampoo PLUS condition is fine. Please fill out the online form (under the sign-up tab) on the St. Paul website, or contact Sandra Crase at 920-851-6609 or [scrase@stpaulneenah.org](mailto:scrase@stpaulneenah.org). Please have your donations to church by December 1. Thank you!



## By Heart: Conversations with Martin Luther's Catechism

Pastor Amy is starting a new small group study in October! This study focuses on Martin Luther's Small Catechism. All participants will receive a copy of the Small Catechism. This study will generate meaningful conversations about the biblical and historical context of the Small Catechism, its link to the church's faith, and its connection to Luther's life and your life today.

Study sessions will meet in person on Mondays at 7:00 p.m. and Wednesdays at 1:00 p.m. Choose the session time that works best for you! If you are interested in participating in either of the sessions online, please contact Pastor Amy. Sign-up for the study will be on the St. Paul website and mobile app (under the sign up heading), and at the church information desk..

The schedule for the By Heart study is:

Monday, Oct. 4	Wednesday, Oct 6	The Story of the Small Catechism
Monday, Oct 11	Wednesday, Oct.13	The Ten Commandments
Monday, Oct. 18	Wednesday, Oct. 20	The Apostles' Creed
Oct. 25 and 27 – <i>no sessions</i>		
Monday, Nov.1	Wednesday, Nov 3	The Lord's Prayer
Monday, Nov. 8	Wednesday, Nov.10	Sacrament of Baptism and Confession
Monday Nov. 15	Wednesday, Nov. 17	Sacrament of the Altar
Monday, Nov. 22	1:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.	Daily Prayer

The book, "By Heart: Conversations with Martin Luther's Small Catechism", can be ordered through the church. Please indicate, when you sign-up, if you would like to order a book. Cost of the book is \$14. It is helpful to have the book, but not necessary for you to participate in the sessions. The book will give you a greater background to the Small Catechism. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Amy.



**Christmas is coming.  
We could use your help!  
Contact Carol Ihde @  
(920) 722-2961.**

# OCTOBER 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					<b>1</b> 10:00 A.M. Knit2gether	<b>2</b> 11:30 A.M. Community Table
<b>3</b> World Communion Sunday 9:30 A.M. In-Person & Online Worship 10:30 A.M. Education Time	<b>4</b> 7:00 P.M. Martin Luther's Small Catechism with Pastor Amy	<b>5</b> 9:00 A.M. Quilting Angels 11:30 A.M. Community Table 6:30 P.M. Executive Committee 7:30 P.M. Worship Team Meeting	<b>6</b> 10:00 A.M. Staff Meeting 1:00 P.M. Martin Luther's Small Catechism with Pastor Amy 6:30 P.M. Safety Committee 7:00 P.M. Online Bible Study	<b>7</b> 9:00 A.M. Online Bible Study 6:15 P.M. Handbell Choir	<b>8</b> 10:00 A.M. Knit2gether	<b>9</b> 11:30 A.M. Community Table
<b>10</b> 3rd Grade Bible Distribution 9:30 A.M. In-Person & Online Worship 10:30 A.M. Education Time (G.I.F.T)	<b>11</b> 7:00 P.M. Martin Luther's Small Catechism with Pastor Amy	<b>12</b> 9:00 A.M. Quilting Angels 11:30 A.M. Community Table 6:30 P.M. Council Meeting	<b>13</b> 10:00 A.M. Staff Meeting 1:00 P.M. Martin Luther's Small Catechism with Pastor Amy 7:00 P.M. Online Bible Study	<b>14</b> 9:00 A.M. Online Bible Study 6:15 P.M. Handbell Choir	<b>15</b> 10:00 A.M. Knit2gether	<b>16</b> 11:30 A.M. Community Table
<b>17</b> 9:30 A.M. In-Person & Online Worship 10:30 A.M. Education Time 5:30 P.M. Confirmation Retreat	<b>18</b> 7:00 P.M. Martin Luther's Small Catechism with Pastor Amy	<b>19</b> 9:00 A.M. Quilting Angels 11:30 A.M. Community Table	<b>20</b> 10:00 A.M. Staff Meeting 1:00 P.M. Martin Luther's Small Catechism with Pastor Amy 7:00 P.M. Online Bible Study	<b>21</b> 9:00 A.M. Online Bible Study 6:15 P.M. Handbell Choir	<b>22</b> 10:00 A.M. Knit2gether	<b>23</b> 11:30 A.M. Community Table
<b>24</b> 9:30 A.M. In-Person & Online Worship 10:30 A.M. Education Time	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 9:00 A.M. Quilting Angels 11:30 A.M. Community Table	<b>27</b> 10:00 A.M. Staff Meeting 7:00 P.M. Online Bible Study	<b>28</b> 9:00 A.M. Online Bible Study 6:15 P.M. Handbell Choir	<b>29</b> 10:00 A.M. Knit2gether	<b>30</b> 11:30 A.M. Community Table
<b>31</b> Kindergarten Picture Story Bible Distribution REFORMATION 9:30 A.M. In-Person & Online Worship 10:30 A.M. Education Time 3:00 P.M. Trunk or Treat						

St. Paul Lutheran Church – ELCA  
200 North Commercial Street  
Neenah, WI 54956

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

St. Paul Lutheran Church has been actively utilizing COVID-19 protocols. In order for us to continue holding in-person services, we ask that you physically distance in a safe manner. *Because of the increase in COVID cases, masks are required whether or not you are immunized.* We love our congregation and want to keep everyone safe!

## ESTHER'S 18th Annual Banquet

ESTHER's 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Banquet has been rescheduled to Sunday evening, February 6, 2022 and will be held at Liberty Hall in Kimberly. Our focus will be "Bridging Our Differences" and the keynote speaker is Pardeep Kaleka, Executive Director, Interfaith Conference of Greater Milwaukee and the Zeidler Group. He is also the founder of Serve 2 Unite, as well as co-author (with Arno Michaelis) of *The Gift of Our Wounds*.

A native of Punjab, India, Kaleka grew up in Milwaukee and received his B.A. at Marquette University, and M.S. at Alverno College. He is a former police officer and educator in the inner city of Milwaukee. As a clinician, he uses a trauma-informed approach to treat survivors and perpetrators of assault, abuse, and acts of violence.

After evaluating the current state of the pandemic and its projected trajectory, we have made the decision to reschedule our 18th Annual Banquet from its original date to February 6, 2022. The event venue remains Liberty Hall in Kimberly.

## St. Paul Has Updated Their Giving Envelopes

St. Paul has updated their giving envelopes, beginning in October, with the intention of streamlining church funds. We removed "flowers" from the front of the envelope and changed "food bank" to "blessing box". The "building fund" was removed as this will now be the "capital improvement fund". If you have any questions, please contact the church office at 920-725-3961.



## Usher Meeting Scheduled for November 7th

The St. Paul usher meeting will be held November 7, 2021 at 8:00am in-person at church, with mask and social distancing. Please put it on your calendar. We have much to talk about, including new duties for ushers. We continue to make changes to keep up with an ever changing world. New topics will be safety and security, and first aid. The agenda will be available the week before the meeting. I cannot stress how important the usher meeting is and your attendance and comments are needed. Please contact Don Boche with any questions or concerns at [dboche@gmail.com](mailto:dboche@gmail.com) or 920-850-4969.