



# 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)



SEPTEMBER 2021

## From Pastor Amy



As I write to you this month, the news of the last days hasn't been good. Wildfires continue to rage across the western part of the United States. COVID-19 numbers continue to increase dramatically. A 7.2 earthquake hit Haiti resulting in so many losing their lives, their health, and their homes. The Taliban has overtaken the Afghanistan capital of Kabul and U.S. troops are evacuating American citizens and our Afghan allies whose lives are in jeopardy for helping the U.S. Pictures of raging fires, the rubble of buildings destroyed by the earthquake in Haiti, people in desperate need of medical care, and military planes packed with hundreds of scared and anxious people enroute from Afghanistan to the U.S. flood the television screen as I watch the news.

It is so easy to become overwhelmed by the news of these days. The urge is to turn off the television and radio, and turn a blind eye and deaf ear to what is happening all around us. But as people of God, who are called to love our neighbor and to weep with those who weep, we cannot look away. Church, this is our time to rise up with the good news of life and new creation in Jesus Christ. This is the time to put our faith into action and come alongside of the people who need our help and our prayers.

I am proud to be a member of the ELCA, a church that “rolls up its sleeves and gets to work”. For over two decades, the ELCA has maintained a presence in southern Haiti through support for agricultural and sustainable development work through Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR). LDR is collaborating with partner organizations in Haiti to meet relief needs, including food, water, medical supplies and temporary shelter. In the future, other areas of support will include psychosocial care, water and sanitation, and creating sustainable livelihoods through agriculture and livestock.

Lutheran Disaster Response is also working with synods and social ministry organizations in California and other western states to develop a coordinated response to the wildfires. We anticipate that immediate needs will include food and other necessities. Long-term recovery will likely take years and LDR will be there through it all.

Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS) is already at work to welcome and help our Afghan allies settle in the U.S. LIRS will provide modest furniture, a pantry of culturally familiar food, and the basic amenities of an American home. Caseworkers will work with the individuals and families to help them navigate their new community.

How can we help? For now, our financial support is needed both to Lutheran Disaster Response ([www.ldr.org](http://www.ldr.org)) and Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service ([www.lirs.org](http://www.lirs.org)). In the months ahead there may be other opportunities to support the work of these two organizations. I'll be sure to keep you informed!

The ELCA tagline is “God’s Work. Our Hands.” May God use not only our hands, but all that we are, and all that we have to love and serve our neighbor.

*Pastor Amy*

## We're Celebrating September Birthdays



### September 1

Linda Haufe  
Ashley Jones  
Ann Sager

### September 8

Peggy Schultz  
Wayne Sigl

### September 9

Jennifer Moderson

### September 10

Cynthia Douglas  
Mallory Vogels

### September 14

Jill Krabbe  
Emily Pirwitz

### September 15

Ellen Anderson  
Ruth Freye

### September 16

Stacey Dodds  
Kathy Tonn

### September 18

George Mueller  
Darcy Zemlock

### September 21

David Hoks  
Chris Rosenow

### September 22

Nancy Wiegand

### September 23

Paul Hoffman

### September 24

Matthias Festge

### September 25

Vicki Fink

### September 27

David Fischer  
Mason Kramer  
Mary Platta

### September 28

Roger Kavanaugh  
Alexander McCarry

### September 30

Krew Zartner

## We're Celebrating September Anniversaries

### Kara & Randy Gross

September 1, 2000

### Paul & Dawn Roth

September 1, 1979

### Joseph & Amanda Neuman

September 6, 2014

### Judy & Steven Behm

September 8, 2007

### Duane & Lori Sargent

September 11, 1982

### Tammy & Ron McCarry

September 12, 1997

### Amanda & Jake Connell

September 12, 2020

### David & Shana Wolff

September 13, 2013

### Chuck & Deb Wismer

September 16, 1972

### Tim & Marianne Kolb

September 19, 1987

### Wayne & Ruth Streck

September 21, 1974

### Cindy Strong & Peter Pfundtner

September 26, 2015

## 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.

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

## Sunday School and Confirmation Class Registration

It's not too late to register for Sunday School and Confirmation! Registration forms and all the details can be found on the St. Paul Neenah website. You can also email Linda Tipler, Faith Formation Director, at [lтиpler@stpaulneenah.org](mailto:lтиpler@stpaulneenah.org) or call the church office at 920-725-3961. Our first classes will be held Sunday, September 19 at 10:30 a.m. Register today!

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### Boxes of Socks and Shoes Shipped to Alaska!

by Sandra Crase



We sent our first shipment of boxes filled with socks and shoes to the school in Alaska in April. We will be sending more this September. We sent 565 pairs of socks, 115 pairs of kids shoes, 22 pairs of gloves, and 65 baby hats. See their letter here:

Dear St. Paul Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your donation of socks, gloves, baby hats and kids shoes to Gladys Jung Elementary School. Our elementary school serves about 350 students, many who use the school clothes closet. Our school is 100% free lunch for all students, and many still need more than that. Students are able to access showers and laundry at the school on a case by case basis. Your donations will help clothe students who don't have adequate access to water or clothing at home. The socks have been particularly popular with the students as they allow them to fully participate in P.E.

The warmer clothing will be critical as we approach winter. Our school policy is that recess happens outside all the way to -20 degrees, and many students do not own or bring proper gear to school. Your contribution to our school closet makes real differences in the health, safety, and comfort of our students.

Thank you again, a thousand times over,

Erin Arno

Bethel, Alaska

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### Special Congregational Meeting Summary from August 8, 2021

Thank you to everyone who joined the St. Paul congregational meeting. We had trouble connecting via Zoom and the Council appreciates everyone's patience and grace. There were approximately 38 people attending in person or by Zoom (quorum is 8). The St. Paul Congregational Council presented the following motion for consideration: *The St. Paul Lutheran Church Congregation authorizes the St. Paul Congregation Council to spend money from the Capital Improvement Fund (CIF) on the minimum maintenance/repair of the roof, Dobson organ maintenance/repair, and Phase 1 installation of a security system at an estimated combined total amount of \$90,000 to \$95,000.*

After the motion, ministry team representatives provided specific capital improvement information followed by congregation question and answer. Thank you to Don Boche, Safety Team; Eric Tipler, Property Team; and Pastor Amy, Music and Ministry Team for discussing each focus area and how the improvements help maintain our mission center. The congregation voted to authorize Council spending from the Capital Improvement Fund (CIF) within the estimated amount with 31 in favor, 4 opposed, 1 abstain (2 non-votes).

Council would like to note the CIF is an on-going Pledge Plus campaign since capital projects can span many years. Also, alternative donation methods are designating proceeds from Lambeau Field volunteering, brat fry, and/or Scrip. The CIF currently has a balance of approximately \$12,000. Your Council and Ministry Teams will work together to communicate CIF project updates and answers to your questions.

This is an exciting time within the St. Paul Lutheran Church community. The Council believes building renewal will allow us to remain a valued center for worship and mission within our neighborhood and community!

# Perspectives on Prayer for September

by Kathy Procknow

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted all of us in so many ways. So much has changed and it's any wonder that cares have snuck up on all of us that we couldn't have imagined 18 months ago. For so many months, we were not able to meet in person for services at St. Paul. Services were and continue to be offered online. Having the ability to meet in person and connect face-to-face with our church family has been amazing. Right now, though, it seems like life is taking a step backward due to the Delta variant. We are back to wearing masks in church and having restricted numbers in attendance.

Fortunately, the ability to pray is one thing that has remained constant. Prayer has continued through the pandemic with the prayer requests submitted to the church office. Lifting up individuals through prayer is so powerful. Matthew 18:20 reminds us of the power of praying together.

*Where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them.*

Difficulties always seem easier when they are shared with someone else. The St. Paul Prayer Ministry Team is excited to bring back the After Service Prayer partners in the small chapel following the service beginning on September 5. We will be there to confidentially share your joy, your pain, your fear, your praise. Come pray with us and experience the power of prayer.

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## Are You a Homeowner Impacted by COVID-19? Leaven Can Help!

LEAVEN is a non-profit organization serving residents of Outagamie, Calumet and northeastern Winnebago counties. Income-eligible homeowners who experienced a financial hardship as a result of COVID-19 may be eligible for mortgage and/or utility assistance from LEAVEN. Call 920-738-9635 to schedule an appointment or [www.leavenfoxcities.org](http://www.leavenfoxcities.org) LEAVEN can also connect you with additional services and resources to help you gain lasting self-sufficiency. COVID-19 impacted renters are eligible for rent and utility assistance through WERA (Wisconsin Emergency Rental Assistance). Residents of Outagamie County, contact CAP Services at 844-314-8004 or [www.capservices.org/wera](http://www.capservices.org/wera). Residents of Calumet and Winnebago Counties, call ADVOCAP at 920-922-7760 or call Energy Services at 1-833-900-9372 for utility assistance.

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## Go, Pack, Go!

by Sandra Crase

The Green Bay Packers' regular season begins this month and we are again volunteering by running food in the suites. We will receive \$100 per person per game, which volunteers can designate toward a specific St. Paul ministry, or other non-profit organization. Volunteers must be at least 14 years old, and everyone under age 18 is required to volunteer with an adult family member for at least their first game. Friends and family are welcome also! The sign up sheets are available at the church information desk. If you (or someone you know) would like more information, or wish to sign up, please contact Sandra Crase at [scrase@stpaulneenah.org](mailto:scrase@stpaulneenah.org) or 920-851-6609.

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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.





## St. Paul Financial Information As of July 31, 2021

2021 Total General Fund Budget	\$ 400,869.86
Year-to-Date General Fund Budget	\$ 233,840.75
Year-to-Date General Fund Expenses	\$ 221,000.82
Year-to-Date General Fund Income	\$ 216,084.96



## St. Paul Blessing Box

by Vicki Fink



St. Paul Blessing Box is next to the bus stop on Commercial Street. It is stocked with a variety of items for anyone in need. *Individual microwaveable meals and healthy snacks are in the highest demand.* You can donate items for the Blessing Box during church office hours.

### ***September Donation Focus: Travel-size personal hygiene products***

These items are in greatest demand:

- ◇ Bar soap
- ◇ Deodorant
- ◇ Feminine care products
- ◇ Toothbrushes
- ◇ No razors please

New coordinators for the Blessing Box are Caryn Boehler, Cheryl Douglas, and Vicki Fink along with Clarence Harms filling in as needed. Many thanks to the previous volunteer who did this work faithfully for the past three years! *Your support of this ministry to help those in need is making a difference. Thank you!*

## St. Paul Serves Fox Valley Community Table on September 21!

by Cindy Rieck

Please mark your calendar for the fourth time St. Paul serves Fox Valley Community Table this year: Tuesday, September 21! Thank you to all you wonderful St. Paul folks who have helped. Please check in September to find out how you can help contribute to this important ministry!

As I looked through a folder recently, I found a quote on serving from Rachel Remen, shared by Pastor Paul Huxtable. She writes:

*"Serving is different from helping. Helping someone incurs debt. When you help someone they owe you one. It's like a debt. But serving, like healing, is mutual. There is no debt. I am as served as the person I am serving. When I help, I have a feeling of satisfaction. When I serve, I have a feeling of gratitude. These are very different things."*

*Serving is also different from fixing. Fixing is a form of judgment and all judgments create distance, a disconnection, an experience of distance. In fixing, there is an inequality of expertise that can easily become a moral distance. We cannot serve at a distance. We can only serve that to which we are profoundly connected. When I fix a person, I perceive them as broken, and their brokenness requires me to act. When I serve, I see and trust that wholeness. What I am responding to and collaborating with is the wholeness in that person."*

*We serve not because it is broken, but because it is holy.*

*A server knows that he or she is being used and has a willingness to be used in the service of something much greater, something essentially unknown. Everyone who has ever served through the history of time serves the same thing. We are servers of the wholeness and mystery of life."* Thank you for your service!



**East Central Synod of Wisconsin**  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Introducing the brand new ECSW logo drawn, developed, and designed in conversation with Jens Bringsjord who has been working with the synod to develop a new, fresh, more intentional communication strategy.

The ECSW give thanks to God for Jens, his wisdom, encouragement, and presence. Stay tuned for the new website coming soon!

# Community Christmas Dinner Held July 31<sup>st</sup>

by Kathleen Wollersheim



The lunch was met with great enthusiasm by all involved churches, the wonderful volunteers who were able to participate that day, and most of all, our guests who attended the celebration.

A total of 97 guests were served a delicious BBQ lunch and, at the same time, browsed the many “give away” items that were displayed.

The “give away” items were donations from our Community Christmas Dinner in December. Because of a much lower attendance due to COVID-19, we had a great deal of hygiene, toiletry, and paper goods stored away. Some guests came with boxes in hand to stock up on toilet paper, paper towels and Kleenex, along with many other goodies. It gave us all a wonderful feeling to see the gratitude on our guest’s faces.

Thank you to everyone donated items, volunteered and supported “Christmas in July” in any way! Watch for more information soon about the annual Community Christmas Dinner in December.



## A Huge Thank You!

by Sandra Crase

A HUGE “Thank You” to Becky Gillis and Bryan Jones for all of their help with our shoe drives. The most recent one (which ended in April, 2021) raised \$2645.20 for missions (some of those proceeds were used to ship the socks, shoes, etc. to Alaska). In appreciation of all of their time and effort, Becky and Bryan were presented with Packer jerseys.



## Sunday Morning Meal Delivery!

A Sunday morning meal delivery is tentatively scheduled for September 26 after worship. We may need to change, or possibly cancel, due to COVID numbers and guidelines. Please watch Facebook, bulletin announcements, and Luther Lines for more information as it gets closer to the date.



### 2021 Rocky Railway VBS may be over, but...

Jesus’ power still helps us do hard things.  
Jesus’ power still gives us hope.  
Jesus’ power still helps us be bold.  
Jesus’ power still lets us live forever.  
Jesus’ power still helps us be good friends.  
*Trust Jesus!*





## September 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 7:00 PM Online Bible Study	2 9:00 AM Online Bible Study	3 10:00 AM Knit2gether	4 11:30 AM Community Table
5 COMMUNION 9:30 AM In-Person & Online Worship	6 Labor Day	7 9:00 AM Quilting Angels 11:30 AM Community Table 6:30 PM Executive Committee Meeting 7:00 PM All-Team Meet- ing Night	8 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 7:00 PM Online Bible Study	9 9:00 AM Online Bible Study 6:15 PM Handbell Choir 7:30 PM Sanctuary Choir	10 10:00 AM Knit2gether	11 11:30 AM Community Table
12 9:30 AM In-Person & Online Worship NEW MEMBERS RECEIVED 10:30 AM ELCA God's Work. Our Hands.	13 1:30 PM Memory Care Respite	14 9:00 AM Quilting Angels 11:30 AM Community Table 6:15 PM Handbell Choir 6:30 PM Council Meet- ing	15 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 7:00 PM Online Bible Study	16 9:00 AM Online Bible Study 6:15 PM Handbell Choir 7:30 PM Sanctuary Choir	17 10:00 AM Knit2gether	18 11:30 AM Community Table
19 COMMUNION 9:30 AM In-Person & Online Worship 10:30 AM Education Time	20	21 9:00 AM Quilting Angels 11:30 AM St. Paul SERVES FVCT	22 ST. PAUL'S 109th ANNI- VERSARY 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 7:00 PM Online Bible Study	23 9:00 AM Online Bible Study 6:15 PM Handbell Choir 7:30 PM Sanctuary Choir	24 10:00 AM Knit2gether	25 11:30 AM Community Table
26 9:30 AM In-Person & Online Worship 10:30 AM Education Time 10:30 AM Meal Delivery Sunday (Shellate's)	27	28 9:00 AM Quilting Angels 11:30 AM Community Table	29 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 7:00 PM Online Bible Study	30 9:00 AM Online Bible Study 6:15 PM Handbell Choir 7:30 PM Sanctuary Choir		



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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!**

#### Getting Ready for School? Don't Forget Our Shoe Drive!

As you are getting ready for back-to-school and Fall, please don't forget that we have a shoe drive which runs through October 10. 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. The shoes go to an organization which pays us by the pound, and then they train individuals in developing countries how to repair and sell the shoes. So, it costs us nothing to clean out the uncomfortable, outgrown, and unused footwear from our closets. Folks get jobs, others can buy nice, affordable shoes, and we keep footwear out of the landfill...it's a win-win all around. 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).

#### God's Work. Our Hands. Sunday, September 12

St. Paul will be hosting a neighborhood party following worship on September 12. We are looking for people to walk the neighborhood and deliver invitations, as well as people to help serve lunch and welcome our neighbors. More information will be shared through Luther Lines and bulletin announcements. Please plan on joining us for the neighborhood party!



#### Are you a BAG (BLESSED and GIFTED) Lady? Attend the ECSW Fall Retreat

Planning is in full swing for the annual fall retreat. Registration is open! (Early registrations are appreciated.) All women are welcome to attend whether you have a formal WELCA group or not.

The "Are You a BAG Lady" fall retreat is going to be a full day of learning and laughter. Pastor Judy Deckert will be our featured retreat leader. You may have seen her preliminary "Bag Lady" Bible studies on the East Central Synodical Women of the ELCA Facebook page. Her wit and humor will be engaging as she leads the workshops. We welcome Bishop Anne Edison-Albright who will be leading a dynamic worship service with Holy Communion.

In addition to workshops and worship, there will be door prizes, a silent auction, time to explore the remodeled lodge, music, devotions, food, and fellowship. Plus, time to meet with others from your conference. Don't forget to take a picture with our official "Bag Lady" greeter.

For in-kind donations, gently used handbags, purses, and wallets are being collected at the retreat for "Handbags for Hope". These "bags" are then filled with personal hygiene items and distributed to ladies in shelters. Collecting a "bag" of personal hygiene products and donating to your local women's shelter or food pantry is encouraged. Consider utilizing a Thrivent Action Team grant to make a larger impact in your community. The worship offering will be evenly split between Handbags for Hope, synod women's organization and the church wide Women of the ELCA.

Register now! For additional information contact Carol Cleveland at [cacleveland50@gmail.com](mailto:cacleveland50@gmail.com) (Registration due by 9/7/2021) or Deb Martin at [Debmartin04@gmail.com](mailto:Debmartin04@gmail.com) Looking forward to meeting you in September!