

# The Messenger

St. Paul's Lutheran Church  
Greater Milwaukee Synod, ELCA

Vol. 75- No. 9 – September, 2019



[www.gracenola.org](http://www.gracenola.org)

## God's Work Our Hands Sunday September 8, 2019

**"I can do EVERYTHING through Him who gives me STRENGTH"**  
**-Philippians 4:13**

# Pastor's Pen



## Diversity in the Body of Christ

During the first week of August, about 1,000 people gathered for the ELCA Churchwide assembly in Milwaukee.

This gathering happens every three years, in various locations throughout the US and Caribbean, and draws together people from all 65 synods. This year, among the topics discussed and acted upon, the gathered body adopted a new social statement, rooted in theology, addressing the issues of faith, sexism, and justice. The assembly also grappled with issues of racial homogeneity in the ELCA (We are approximately 95% white in our denomination), the challenges our society is facing as relates to immigration, as well as a lot of more “boring” church business.

Throughout the week, the assembly debated, prayed, and wrestled with what constitutes a faithful response to the issues of our present day. As an outgrowth of these conversations, the ELCA Churchwide Assembly passed a measure to declare our denomination a “sanctuary church,” recommitting ourselves to our neighbors, especially those whose lives are most affected by immigration and detention. Although I am clear that God calls God’s people throughout

scripture, and through the life of Jesus Christ, to welcome the stranger, as a pastor in this church, I must admit I am confused by what this means. I sometimes wonder if we cut down on the ideological diversity in the body of Christ when we make sweeping generalizations and pronouncements rather than working on a congregational level to explore and understand how our faith relates to public life through Bible study and conversation.

Here at St. Paul's, we have a long history of welcome and providing sanctuary in our neighborhood, whether that be supporting our neighbors through community night, partnering with a Lao ministry for many years, working together with Amazing Faith, welcoming our LGBTQIA+ siblings, and welcoming many neighbors each month at Kim's Closet. I believe our church is at its best when we are holding space for all people, of all identities, and many political and social ideologies. As we wrestle with what it means for the ELCA to declare itself a "sanctuary church," I hope we can continue to learn, listen, study, and think together about God's hopes for humanity, and our role in the Kingdom in this way. I am grateful to be part of a church with such great diversity of thought, and I am hopeful we can remain in community with one another, even in polarized times. -Pastor Delaney

## Update on the Gathering

As many of you know, St. Paul's has been in conversation with the Gathering in recent weeks, discussing the possibility of their moving to our physical plant. Because of some pushback from those concerned with the development of our neighborhood, the Gathering will not be able to receive the permits they need, and thus will not be joining us in the fall. We put a lot of effort into this possibility, and I had hoped it would go more smoothly, but I remain hopeful that the Holy Spirit will direct us where we are to go. This situation and the dynamics surrounding our neighborhood and the tension between development and those who are in great need is an interesting opportunity for us to consider what our mission is as a congregation in this neighborhood. I look forward to listening to your perspectives on the topic. We have learned a lot about our own flexibility and willingness to be open to change. I look forward to seeing where this new learning will take us in the future. -Pastor Delaney



"By all these lovely tokens September  
days are here, With summer's best of  
weather And autumn's best of cheer."  
- Helen Hunt Jackson

## **What was Pastor Delaney up to in August?**

In August, Pastor Delaney was hard at work making connections and spending time with folks in the community and the congregation. Pastor Delaney met with leaders from Central City Churches (CCC), attended a CCC board meeting, met with leaders from the Gathering, and worked together with the St. Paul's leadership to move toward welcoming the Gathering into the St. Paul's congregation. Although this is no longer a possibility for us, it was an important learning opportunity. In August, Pastor Delaney also spent time with visitors to St. Paul's, as well as pastoral care visits with the homebound members of St. Paul's. Pastor Delaney also facilitated a visioning meeting on August 17, attended an Open Doors Milwaukee orientation, and worked with the Anderson family to preside at baby Cooper's baptism. Pastor Delaney also met with area ministry leaders, attended a neighborhood bus tour with Siebert, and spent time with the Outreach team and Kim's Closet. If you would like to get together with Pastor Delaney in September, please don't hesitate to reach out!





This summer, St. Paul's began a new, creative worship opportunity called Dinner Church. It has gone so well that we are planning to continue into the fall! Dinner Church is a potluck-style meal, which includes elements of worship and community. Dinner Church takes place at 6pm on the following dates:

- Wednesday, September 25
- Wednesday, October 23
- Thursday, November 7

***ALL are welcome!***

## **A New Small Group Opportunity!**

Beginning in September, participants at St. Paul's who find themselves in their 20s, 30s, and 40s are invited to take part in a new small group. We will meet for a pot luck, conversation, and Bible study from 5-7pm on the following dates:

- September 9
- October 21
- November 4
- December 2

**\*\*If you're interested,  
please contact the church  
office for more info\*\***





**God's Work Our Hands  
ELCA Dedicated Day  
of Service  
Sunday, September 8th**

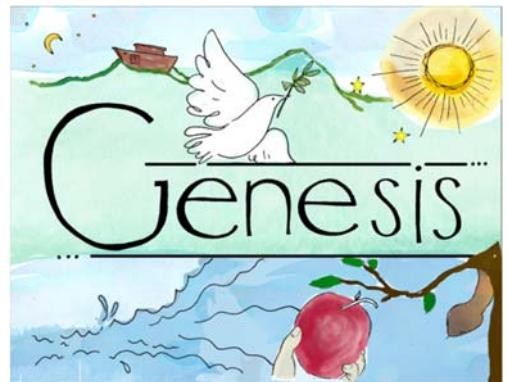
Don't miss 'hot dog' Sunday and an opportunity to help

with a service project! After worship, enjoy a hot dog, chips, beverage and cookies and then help the Board of Outreach with the following:

- Serving hot dogs to our neighbors outside
- Packaging welcome basket items for ACTS Housing, an organization that helps people buy a home for owner-occupancy, primarily in central city neighborhoods. ACTS then helps the family plan and execute home rehabilitation often reclaiming vandalized foreclosures. ([actshousing.org](http://actshousing.org))
- Preparing class room supply boxes for Neighborhood House, primarily for their early childhood programs. ([neighborhoodhousemk.org](http://neighborhoodhousemk.org))

**Sunday Morning Christian Formation**

Starting September 8, Adult Education will resume at 8:30am. This fall, we will read the book of Genesis. As we explore where God is calling St. Paul's, we will explore the many calls in the book of Genesis. Join us!



## **Join the Choir!**

The first choir practice for the 2019-20 season will be Wednesday, September 4th at 7:00pm. The Choir meets on the first Wednesday of every month at 7:00pm, and we also practice on Sundays before service at 9:15am.



If like to sing and would like to be a part of the music ministry at St. Paul's, please join us!

Contact Nick Scaffidi at [scaffidin@tds.net](mailto:scaffidin@tds.net) if you have any questions.

## **September 4-6 Continuing Education**

Pastor Delaney is headed to Pennsylvania to participate in a friend's installation and go on a short spirituality retreat for a couple days at the beginning of September to start fall off on a refreshed foot. If you are in need of pastoral care while she is away, you can contact Pastor Lindsey Beukelman of All People's Church. Contact the office for Pastor Lindsey's phone number.



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community leaders.

Buildings for the 2019 program will be published later this month. We are excited that St. Paul's Lutheran Church will be among the buildings with Doors Open! Mark your calendar for September 28 & 29 and visit.

## THANK YOU!!

In an effort to prepare the building for Doors Open Milwaukee in late September, we have been using the report from the Mission Consultant to update our spaces in the building. Thank you to all who stayed after the Visioning Meeting on 8/17! Thank you to all who arrived later to help paint the south alcove and welcome/lounge area!

\*\*We're not done yet, stay connected via our website where we will post other painting and clearing out times this month before our DOORS OPEN!

**Doors Open Milwaukee** is a two-day public celebration of Milwaukee's art, architecture, culture and history. This event offers behind the scenes tours of more than 170 buildings throughout Milwaukee's downtown and neighborhoods and 30+ ticketed tours led by



## **NOISY OFFERING COLLECTION**

Bring your loose change for special offering collection at the Worship Service every first Sunday of the month.

### **September 2019 New Worship Materials**

This month's Noisy Offering will be used to help defray the cost of Worship Materials for fall and the season of Advent.



**Dorothy Karbel**, long time member of St. Paul's passed away on Monday, August 26<sup>th</sup>. Dorothy was very active in the life of our congregation. Dorothy was a Sunday School teacher, Superintendent of the Sunday School, and a greeter. She prepared lunches for Vacation Bible School and for the Work Ministry Program. Dorothy's funeral will be held on Sunday,

September 1<sup>st</sup> at 3pm, visitation at 1:00pm until the time of Service at Schmidt & Bartelt Funeral Home, 10121 W. North Avenue in Wauwatosa. Dorothy was 97.



# SUNDAY GOSPEL READINGS

## September 4 - 25

<p><u>September 1</u></p> <p>Proverbs 25:6-7 Psalm 112 Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16 Luke 14:1, 7-14 <i>Semicontinuous</i> <i>First Reading and Psalm</i> Jeremiah 2:4-13 Psalm 81:1, 10-16</p>	<p><u>September 8</u></p> <p>Deuteronomy 30:15-20 Psalm 1 Philemon 1-21 Luke 14:25-33 <i>Semicontinuous</i> <i>First Reading and Psalm</i> Jeremiah 18:1-11 Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18</p>
<p><u>September 15</u></p> <p>Exodus 32:7-14 Psalm 51:1-10 1 Timothy 1:12-17 Luke 15:1-10 <i>Semicontinuous</i> <i>First Reading and Psalm</i> Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28 Psalm 14</p>	<p><u>September 22</u></p> <p>Amos 8:4-7 Psalm 113 1 Timothy 2:1-7 Luke 16:1-13 <i>Semicontinuous</i> <i>First Reading and Psalm</i> Jeremiah 8:18--9:1 Psalm 79:1-9</p>

## September 29

Amos 6:1a, 4-7  
Psalm 146  
1 Timothy 6:6-19  
Luke 16:19-31

*Semicontinuous*  
*First Reading and Psalm*  
Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15  
Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16



## Fall Preaching Themes

This fall, we will be exploring a new theme for preaching each month. Join us, beginning September 8, for a season of exploring the following themes:

September "God's Upside-Down Economy"  
October "God's Economy of Blessing"  
November "God's Blessings In Disguise"



## Anniversaries

7<sup>th</sup> Marty and Eileen Harrison



## Birthdays

1<sup>st</sup> Karen Bromberek  
2<sup>nd</sup> Joanne Seeger  
6<sup>th</sup> Earl Walter  
16<sup>th</sup> Eileen Harrison  
24<sup>th</sup> Marty Harrison  
24<sup>th</sup> Breanne Monzel



# Hospitable

*When you give a banquet, invite those who cannot repay you...*

—Luke 14.13

Make of your life a welcome home.

Make your heart a buffet of goodness.

Make yourself a front porch, wide,  
two chairs, only one step up.

Think of yourself as a free sample,  
a rocking chair, a bench by a lake.

People need a place to belong, to matter,  
to receive without question.

Round up all your furniture of love and respect,  
all your heirlooms of special treatment,

and put them out on the curb.

Go ahead and make a sign that says FREE.

It's not about airing your laundry, "being yourself."  
It's about letting them do that.

After all, you live in God's house,  
who has given you the run of the place.

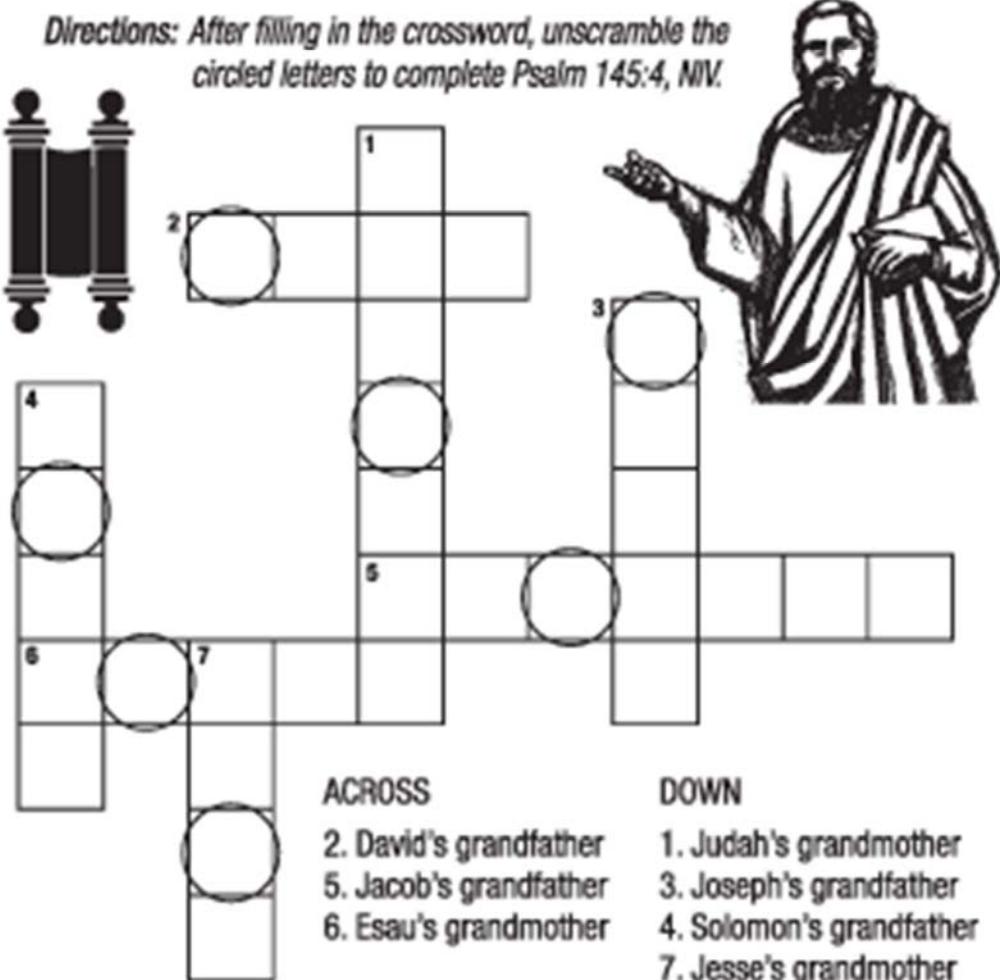
*Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that  
some have entertained angels without knowing it. —Hebrews 13.2*



## Grandparents of the Old Testament

Can you name these biblical grandparents? If you get stuck, find an Old Testament family tree in your Bible or online.

*Directions: After filling in the crossword, unscramble the circled letters to complete Psalm 145:4, NIV.*



One G \_ N \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ N commends your works to another; they tell of your mighty acts. Psalm 145:4, NIV

# WORSHIP AND HOSPITALITY TEAM: September 2019

	September 1 Pentecost 12	September 8 Pentecost 13	September 14 Pentecost 14	September 22 Pentecost 15	September 29 Pentecost 16
Assisting Minister	Bob Bromberek	Jeri Jende	Nancy Day	Jeri Jende	Nancy Day
Usher Team	4	1	2	3	4
Altar Guild	Jane Prahlow Marilyn Zirbel	Ron Karbel	Nancy Day Mark Van Engen	Ethel Walter Judy Ruehrmund	Judy Gilbertson Marcia Mikich
Greeter(s)	Needed	Needed	Needed	Needed	Needed
Communion Assistant	Mary Klug or Mark Van Engen	MaryEllen Voelz	Bob Bromberek	Kurt Ruehrmund	Judy Gilbertson
Communion Type	Traditional	Continuous	Continuous	Continuous	Continuous
Open	Mark Van Engen	Bob Bromberek	Ron Karbel	Wayne Ringwolski	Mark Van Engen
Close	Ron Karbel	Mark Voelz	Bob Bromberek	Ron Karbel	Mark Voelz
Counting Team	3	4	1	2	3
Fellowship	Needed	Needed	Needed	Needed	Needed

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 8:30am Adult Education 10am Worship 11:30am Amazing Faith Ministries Worship	2 <b>Labor Day</b> Office closed	3 	4 7:00pm Choir Practice Fr. Delaney - cont. ed.	5 	6 Movie Club	7 Painting 9am-11:30am
8 8:30am Adult Education 10am Worship God's Work Our Hands Sunday! 11:30am Amazing Faith Ministries Worship	9 5pm-7pm 20-30-40 Group	10 10am Reformation Liturgy Meeting	11 7:00pm Council	12	13 	14
15 Hispanic Song Set	16	17	18	19 	20 10am October Messenger Deadline	21
8:30am Adult Education 10am Worship 11:30am Amazing Faith Ministries Worship	Office Closed	Office Closed	Office Closed 6pm Kim's Closet	26 9:00am Dorcas Quilting Circle	27	28 10am-5pm Doors Open Milwaukee
22 8:30am Adult Education 10am Worship 11:30am Amazing Faith Ministries Worship	23 Office Closed	24 	25 6pm Dinner Church	29 Anniversary 178yrs 30 		
8:30am Adult Education 10am Worship 11:30am Amazing Faith Ministries Worship 10am-5pm Doors Open Milwaukee						

**St. Paul's Office Hours**  
**Monday 8:30am to 12 Noon**  
**Tuesday 8:00am to 2:00pm**  
**Wednesday 8:30am to 1:30pm**

# September, 2019