



PERSPECTIVE

Monthly Newsletter of

St. Paul Lutheran Church—ELCA

200 N. Commercial Street • Neenah, WI 54956

(920) 725-3961 • stpaulneenah.org



*Gathering Joyfully, Growing Spiritually, & Going Faithfully,
Sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ!*

MAY 2024

From Pastor Amy



I recently read an outstanding book, *“Breakthrough: Trusting God for Big Change in Your Church”* by Pastor Dawn Darwin Weaks. This book captures the story of a Texas church worshipping about 40 people in a big downtown church building and how the

Spirit moved them to revitalize their community of faith. It’s an inspiring story of the work of the Holy Spirit that challenged this particular congregation to doing and being church in a different way.

Pastor Weaks writes, *“That truth has been an essential learning for us: church can happen in weird places. If we were to move beyond the stuck place where the church had been existing, we had to figure out how to do and be church without the building. We needed to be so eager to share and experience God’s love in Jesus Christ that it didn’t matter where it happened, as long as it happened.”* (p. 19) [underlining mine]

I absolutely love this quote! While a church building provides us with a place to gather to worship, study, and enjoy fellowship with one another, we are not confined to the church building. “Church” can and does happen anywhere and everywhere – as Jesus said, *“wherever two or three are gathered in my name, there I am among them.”*

As Cathy Cowling reminded us at our first Congregation Conversation event, church is no longer a “build it and they will come” mission. We need to go out into the community and be with people, joining together in service, conversation, building relationships with others. In the words of Pastor Weaks, we need to be so eager to share and ex-

perience God’s love in Jesus Christ that it doesn’t matter where it happens, as long as it happens!

We at St. Paul Church started an asset mapping activity, naming the abundance of assets with which we as individuals and a community of faith have been blessed. God has called each us to this congregation for such a time as this....not to stay in the safety of our church building, but to go out into the Neenah-Menasha community to share the love of God in Jesus. In what ways can we combine our assets, individually and collectively, to reach out and go out into this community, sharing God’s love through our actions and our words?

On the day of Pentecost, the disciples were moved by the Spirit to go out of the house they were in, out to where the crowds of people were. The disciples spoke in many languages of the risen Jesus and life in his name. What “languages” might we speak the love of Christ – the language of crafting or music? The language of creation conservation? The language of feeding people? Let’s be creative! Let’s pray and ask for the Spirit to spark our imaginations! We are God’s people, filled with faith and joy in the love of Jesus – how might we share that faith, love, and joy with those in the wider community?

Be a part of our next Congregation Conversation with Cathy on May 5, as we take the next step in our process of discovering what God is calling us to do and be in our communities and beyond. May the Spirit stir up our energy, imaginations, and courage to take St. Paul Church “on the road” and share the love of God in Jesus with everyone we encounter!

Praying for the stirring of the Spirit,

Pastor Amy

(continued page 5)



Date	5/5/2024	5/12/2024	5/19/2024	5/26/2024	6/2/2024	6/9/2024
Assisting Minister	Linda Tipler	Eric Thompson	Dave Hoks	Linda Tipler	Eric Thompson	Dave Hoks
Lector	Eric Ihde	Jessica Hess	Audrey Borchers	Kathy Tonn	Eric Thompson	Marianne Kolb
Communion Assistants	Linda Tipler Cindy Strong Lona Jorgensen		Dave Hoks; Laura Wyman; Darlene Kalfahs		Linda Tipler Cindy Strong Lona Jorgensen	
Ushers	Don Boche Gene Evenson Eric Tipler Cody Tipler	Linda Parker; Alicia Macias; Linda Haufe	Roger Bauer; Butch Grondahl; Lyle Hemp	Don Boche; Gene Evenson; Eric Tipler; Cody Tipler	Linda Parker; Alicia Macias; Linda Haufe	Roger Bauer; Butch Grondahl; Lyle Hemp
Greeters	Kathy Procknow	Butch Grondahl	Laura Wyman	Butch Grondahl	Sue Eckrich	Nancy Orlady
Altar Team	Peggy Wendt; Connie Humski; Linda Haufe		Jessica Hess Connie Humski, Linda Haufe		Connie Morgenstern; Connie Humski Linda Haufe	

Rev. Amy Engebose
Pastor
pastor@stpaulneenah.org

Kris Grutzner
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Todd Nerenhausen
Facilities Manager
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Council
Don Boche, President
Kathy Procknow, Vice-President
Audrey Borchers, Secretary
Monika Knapp, Treasurer
Dave Fink
Kurt Mayer
Amy Mentz
Shelley Taycher

Julie Owens
Parish Administrator
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Eric Ihde
Handbell & Sanctuary
Choirs
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Linda and Gary Parker
Custodians

Jill Hagen
Organist and Custodian

MINISTRY TEAM CONTACTS

Worship Ministry: Pastor Amy Engebose
pastor@stpaulneenah.org

Prayer Ministry: Mike Dvorachek
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Property Ministry: Don Boche
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Meal Ministry: Alicia Macias
aliciacamimilooscar1@yahoo.com

Mission Team: Jill Hannemann
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Knit2gether: Diana Vieth
nina500@icloud.com

Quilting Angels: Bev Quella

Safety Team: Don Boche

Worship Services: Sundays at 9:30 a.m.
(in-person and online at Facebook and YouTube)
Office Hours: Monday—Friday, 8:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.





Council Corner

Our Council Meeting on April 9 took place right after the council retreat, so we spent some time reviewing our thoughts and perceptions from the retreat. Council met at Linwood Community in Appleton on April 6. We started with a thorough reading of the constitution related to council requirements and regulations. Then Don Boche led us into deep Spirit-filled conversations, insights and growth through scripture, devotional readings, poetry and thoughtful questions. We ended the day with a video about a church in Texas that was revitalized which prompted rich discussion with implications for our own situation.

The remainder of our meeting on the 9th included planning for our next meetings with Cathy Cowling on April 14 and May 5. The next step in the process of discerning God's will for the direction and future of St. Paul Church is to establish a discernment team. This team's work will be facilitated by Cathy Cowling. We also talked about the possibility of having another congregation nest with St. Paul Church at our location.

Final discussions included an ELCA Neenah Churches' Chili Cook-off in November and having a presence in the Memorial Day Parade: marchers with banners? a float? We ended the meeting with the news that Linda and Gary Parker will be retiring from their custodial positions in July. We thank them for keeping St. Paul fresh and clean, and for going above and beyond in their duties to care for us and our building. Thank you, Linda and Gary!!

Submitted by Audrey Borchers, Council Secretary

VBS Registration Open for Volunteers and Students!



August 5-8 at St. Paul Church promises to be one of the best weeks of the entire summer -- it's Vacation Bible School week! This year's theme is Camp *Firelight*. Our camp call-out is "Whenever I feel afraid, I put my trust in God!" (Psalm 53:6). Sign up online at neenahvbs.cokesburyvbs.com.

We are also in need of A LOT of volunteers to make this year's VBS a huge success. We need people to help decorate, check students in and out, pass out lanyards, be small group leaders, assist the teachers, and more. As the host church, we need to provide many volunteers. If you are able to help prepare for VBS, or help any mornings of VBS, please sign up on our registration page neenahvbs.cokesburyvbs.com! Click "volunteer registration" at the top of the page.

Office Notes

Pastor Amy will be out of the office May 13-18 as she participates in continuing education conferences and the synod assembly. She will return for Pentecost on May 19.

Congregation Conversation Events with Cathy Cowling

Our next Congregation Conversation with Cathy Cowling is **Sunday, May 5**, right after worship. Please plan to join us in the fellowship hall as we continue our work in discerning what mission work God is calling us to in this community!

And don't forget to check out all of the assets we named that are posted on the walls in the fellowship hall and hallway. What combination of assets might we combine together to form a mission outreach opportunity for this community?

Star Words

Remember the "star word" you picked back on Epiphany Sunday in January?

- How is that word coming to life for you?
- Why do you think your word is important?
- Make a list of ideas for "living" your star word based on what God is saying to you.

St. Paul's Blessing Box



The suggested donation for the month of May are **Oral Hygiene Items**: travel-size toothpaste, toothbrushes (adult and child), dental floss, and travel-size mouthwash.

Please leave donated items on the display table or in the wooden crate in the narthex. Thank you, as always, for your ongoing and generous support of this important ministry!

2024 Financial Information as of March 31, 2024

2024 Total Budget	\$363,343
Year-to-date Income	\$105,373
Year-to-date expenses	\$ 91,294
Difference	\$ 14,079

From Pastor Amy (cont. from page 1)

P.S. If you would like to read Pastor Weaks's book, we have multiple copies in the church office that can be checked out, read, and returned. Thank you to Cindy Rieck for applying for a Thrivent Grant to purchase these books. The book is an easy read and only 99 pages! Please note that while Pastor Weaks's church did ultimately sell their building and relocate, I am highly recommending this book not because of the relocation aspect, but because of the revitalization piece.

Graduate Recognition

Do you have a graduate in your family?

We will be recognizing high school graduates during worship on Sunday, May 19. If you have a graduate in your family, please send a photo of your graduate, school from which they are graduating, and their plans for the future to Julie in the church office at parishadmin@stpaulneenah.org. We would also like to hear from those graduating from college or tech school as well.



On Saturday, April 20 some of our St. Paul Youth and Pastor Amy participated in the synod bowling event in Oshkosh. We had a “ball”! Pictured here are Ellie, Pastor Amy, Maren, and Evelyn.



BIRTHDAYS

May 1
Deb Fiebig

May 2
Bill Vogels

May 3
Rebecca Kramer
Emma McCarry

May 4
Betty Jonely
Harrison Kaufman
Greg Wendt

May 5
Bella Erickson

May 6
Richard Platta

May 8
Jack Pirwitz

May 10
Donna Garrett
Tim Seager

May 11
Payton Koeune
Kjersta Lind

May 12
Tim Sommer

May 13
Kelly Thacker

May 14
Lindsay Henderson

May 16
Brian Fiebig
Macy Weber

May 18
Eileen Swanson

May 19
Dorothy Forslund
Richard Gear

May 22
Ryan Kaufman

May 23
Derek Jansen
Mary Jo Kurtti
Chuck Wismer

May 27
Bella Henderson
Steve Lind

May 29
Patrick Spearick

May 30
Samantha Rodriguez

ANNIVERSARIES

May 1, 1982
Randy & Lisa Vohen

May 3, 1980
Gary & Kathy Procknow

May 3, 1985
Dan & Shelley Taycher

May 10, 2003
Dave & Peggy Hoks

PARISH RECORDS

Death: Gladys Schwandt

May Calendar



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 9:30am In-Person & Online Worship 10:45am GIFT Time 5:30pm Confirmation 7:00pm Al-Anon	29	30 9:00am Quilting Angels 11:30am Community Table	1 10:00am Staff Meeting	2 9:00am Conversations on Scripture @ Shellatte's 7:30pm Sanctuary Choir practice	3 9:00am Knit2gether	4 11:30am Community Table
5  9:30am Worship 10:45am GIFT 10:45am Cong. Conversation w/ Cathy Cowling 5:30pm Confirmation 7:00pm Al-Anon	6 1:30pm Memory Care Respite 6:30pm Building Task Force	7 9:00am Quilting Angels 11:30am Community Table 6:15pm Executive Committee mtg. 7:00pm Property/Safety Team mtg.	8 10:00am Staff Meeting	9 9:00am Conversations on Scripture @ Shellatte's	10 9:00am Knit2gether	11 11:30am Community Table
12 9:30am Worship 10:45am GIFT 7:00pm Al-Anon	13 1:30pm Memory Care Respite	14 9:00am Quilting Angels 11:30am Community Table 6:30pm Council	15 10:00am Staff Meeting	16 9:00am Conversations on Scripture @ Shellatte's	17 SYNOD ASSEMBLY 9:00am Knit2gether	18 SYNOD ASSEMBLY 9:00am Spring Spruce Up 11:30am Community Table
19  PENTECOST 9:30am Worship Graduate Recognition 7:00pm Al-Anon	20 11:59pm Perspective Deadline	21 9:00am Quilting Angels 11:30am Community Table	22 10:00am Staff Meeting	23 9:00am Conversations on Scripture @ Shellatte's	24 9:00am Knit2gether	25 11:30am Community Table
26 9:30am Worship 7:00pm Al-Anon	27 Memorial Day Office Closed	28 9:00am Quilting Angels 11:30am Community Table	29 10:00am Staff Meeting	30 9:00am Conversations on Scripture @ Shellatte's	31 9:00am Knit2gether	1 11:30am Community Table



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Neenah, WI 54956

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO HELP SPRUCE UP THE CHURCH

We are looking for 3-4 people to help with planting in the south flower garden across from the Neenah/Menasha YMCA. We will gather **Saturday, May 18, 9:00 until about noon.**

We are also looking for people to do window work in the fellowship hall. There are 11 windows that are in need of:

1. Removal of storm windows
2. Clean the windows
3. Repair glazing
4. Prime storm & double-hung windows
5. Reinstall storms

Because of the steps involved, the work will be done over three Saturday mornings from 8:00-1:00.

- * May 18
- * June 15
- * July 20

Your help is greatly appreciated!