



ST. PAUL HIGHLIGHTS

June 2021

VOLUME 70 ISSUE 06



Happy Father's Day

Direct your children onto the right path,
and when they are older, they will not leave it.

PROVERBS 22:6

IMPORTANT DATES FOR THIS MONTH
JUNE 6TH-D-DAY, CHURCH REOPENS
JUNE 14TH-FLAG DAY
JUNE 20TH-FATHER'S DAY-1ST DAY OF SUMMER

DATE	TIME	ASSISTING MINISTER	MUSIC LEADERS	ALTAR GUILD	AUDIO/VIDEO	USHERS/ GREETERS
6/6	9:00	Taffy Pavlick	Sherrill Crawford	Lois Wolfe Trish Jacobs	Dave Kushman	Team 1&2
	11:00	Meg Montag	Sherrill Crawford	Nancy Thompson Barb Daniels	Phil Sultan Nate French Jeff Campbel	Team 1&2
6/13	9:00	Sherrill Crawford	Culley Coughlin		Dave Kushman	Team 3&4
	11:00	Liz Wittmann	Culley Coughlin		Phil Sultan Nate French Jeff Campbel	Team 3&4
6/20	9:00	Cindy Cain	Cindy Cain		Dave Kushman	Team 5&6
	11:00	Jon Montag	Culley Coughlin		Phil Sultan Nate French Jeff Campbel	Team 5&6
6/27	9:00	TBD	Lynne Morella		Dave Kushman	Team 7&8
	11:00	Dean Firing	Liz Wittmann		Phil Sultan Nate French Jeff Campbel	Team 7&8

JUNE CELEBRATIONS



Joan & Ken Green are celebrating 65 years of marriage.

Glenn Hutchison is celebrating his 90th Birthday, June 16th.

HAVE A CELEBRATION COMING IN JULY?

If you have a June celebration you would like in this space,
please notify the office by **June 18th**.

FINANCIALS NOT AVAILABLE AT PRINT TIME



Everyone Should Be Loved Unconditionally

The Lutheran insight is that human beings should be loved unconditionally. We offer no defense of this. We offer no basis for this. This **is** the basis. This is the **bedrock**.

There is no answer to the questions, "Why am I to receive love?" or, "Why should they receive love?" Love is given and received unconditionally, without why. To answer the question would be to upend the foundation. We proceed to love and receive love by faith alone.

Faith, in this case, is the ground floor of the structure of life. It is not a reason, but the deliberate refusal to give a reason. It says gracious loving is the axiomatic principle from which all other things flow.

Faith is an orientation toward both the self and the neighbor that affirms the priceless value of each, and drives one to express this in the way one lives. That is to say, faith is not mere belief, an alternate way of knowing. Faith, rather, is the substance of a life formed by love. Faith is a word we use to describe love in action.

In the first sentence above, I slipped in the word "should." It's a bold move, and, frankly I'm not entirely happy about it. Should, according to whom? Here, we reach the limits of language. How does one describe an unconditional reality?

It's tempting to posit God here. As in, "God is the reason we should love." But we have to remember that whether metaphysical reality or metaphorical representation, God does not actually supply an answer. God only pushes the question back a step, and transforms it into, "Why **should** God love?" So, "should," remains problematic, God or no.

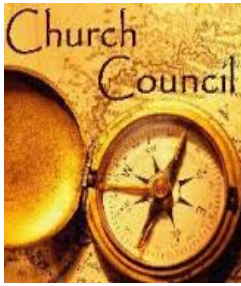
Maybe the best way to look at the "should" in the question, "Why should people be loved unconditionally?" is to think of it in the same way that when a rock falls, it obeys the law of gravity. Why **should** the rock obey gravity? Neither gravity, nor the rock stop to think about their duty. Rather, "the law of gravity" is quite unlike a law that something **should** obey, and much more like a description of how things actually are.

So it is with love. We **should** be loved and give love, freely, in the same way that a rock **should** fall when dropped from a height. It is the nature of things that it should be so.

So, Jesus, as he is seen in the Gospels, does not love out of contractual obligation, but rather out of ontological constitution. That's just who he is, and what he does. And that is because that is just who God is, and what God does.

The natural course of things is that humans are so constituted as to receive and give love freely, on pain of ceasing to be human, and ultimately ceasing to be altogether (consider: loneliness, depression, hate, violence, murder, war, etc.). It's only when something gets in our way that the flow of love is interrupted.

We Lutherans have traditionally talked about love in the language of justification by grace alone. Love is received and given without reason, explanation, or obligation, or, as it were, by grace. It simply **is** (or, so we assert) the way the world works, when the world is working best.



COUNCIL CORNER

Members of St Paul,

By now I am sure most, if not all of you, have read or heard that we are moving both services back inside the sanctuary beginning June 6th. This decision is based on the science that the vaccine works and will protect those who have received the vaccine. We do ask, for the safety of all, that if you have not been vaccinated, or are in the process of getting vaccinated, you continue to wear your mask.

We also understand that there has been some push back in regards to Virtual VBS. Please understand that Susan Moore has been planning Virtual VBS for months now. With the health order changes only happening recently, there is no way to hold VBS on site. She has reiterated that we will have in person VBS in 2022.

As we head into the summer months, we would like to ask for additional volunteers to step forward and assist in any way that you can. We are in need of Worship Assistants, Ushers, Singers, Greeters, Sound Board Assistants, etc. Please prayerfully consider assisting your fellow members by volunteering in any of these areas. This is another area where you can offer your gifts to glorify God.

Church Council hopes you all have a blessed Memorial Day weekend.,

Jonathan Montag
Church Council President.

Council Members: Peter Brumenschenkel, Gary Grizzell, Chris Hall, Amy Hofmann, Dennis Mille, Scott Miller, Jon Montag, Phil Sultan, Donna Tindera, Erika Tully and Pastor Skillman.



PROPERTY COMMITTEE

With a return to having services in the Sanctuary, the task of determining when we can do that with reasonable safety for all has become an even greater challenge. The Property Committee will work with the Worship Committee and the Church Council to provide a comfortable environment without unnecessarily stirring up the air in the Sanctuary. Of additional concern is that all worshippers may not have gotten vaccinated, making themselves not only vulnerable to the virus infection, but able to spread it as well. We will attempt to provide the safest possible worship environment possible. Please take advantage of your ability to be vaccinated and protect not only yourself but those around you as well.

The new office air conditioning system was installed and fully operational, so we can relax now and forget about the system failure that was 20 years overdue. The new system operates much more efficiently and quietly and uses standard home furnace filters that are easily changed to keep the air cleaner. We are continuing to search for a reasonable reflective film source to cover the inside of the office windows to reflect the sun and further increase the efficiency.

Church Mutual Insurance Co., who insures our building, also insure Rocky River United Methodist Church, and has suggested that RRUM Church consider asking St. Paul's Safety and Security team to assist them in formulating emergency plans like ours. Rocky River United Methodist has received and reviewed a copy of St. Paul's Emergency Manual and is very impressed with the level of detail and thought that went into its preparation. A group from RRUM Church has requested a tour of our building and is anxious to have our input as they begin to develop a manual of plans for their Church also. As we begin to resume activities in our church, there may be changes necessary in the emergency plans required by some of the changes. We will do our best to maintain a safe church with reaction plans that suit the activities and locations of people within our church.

The usual monthly reminder: When the major repairs and replacement of parts of St. Paul was built into the budget 8 years ago, the congregation was advised that a 7% increase in giving would be able to support that plan. The congregation has been faithful to their unanimous approval and allowed St. Paul to make several improvements that have reduced the upkeep and operating expenses for the congregation. In the November congregation meeting, the financial report showed that the level of giving has decreased about 5% in the last year, making it difficult if not impossible to continue with the annual repairs in the future years. Please prayerfully consider what you may be able to do to help offset this decrease so that we can continue to make the necessary repairs and replacements before they become a more costly emergency situation.

Jim Jungeberg

WORSHIP COMMITTEE



In last month's Highlights our Council President asked for "patience." We too ask for patience during this upcoming transitional time as we move back into the building.

On June 6th we discontinue the Drive-In service and begin two In-Building worship services with full communion (bread and wine) and singing. Worship may look different from time to time as the service is adjusted to the number of volunteers.

Service times: Will remain **Sunday 9am and 11am.** We will continue to broadcast to the parking lot via FM 88.5 and Listen Everywhere during both services for those who wish to attend in the parking lot and not come inside. The 11am service will also be captured on YouTube.

Full Communion Inside: Pastor and the Assisting Minister will offer communion at the front of the sanctuary. You will be asked to come forward in a continual line, take communion, dispose of your cup in the basket, and return to your pew by the side aisles.

Full Communion Outside: At the end of each service Pastor or the Assisting Minister will be under the Portico with self contained communion elements. If you are in your car and wish to receive communion, please drive up to the Portico and it will be given to you in your car.

Offering: At this time, the collection of the offering will remain the same. Inside, the offering trays will be in the Narthex. Outside, the collection box will be as you depart.

Masks: For those who have not been vaccinated, masks are required to be worn inside. For those who have been fully vaccinated, you have the choice to wear your mask or not.

Hand Sanitizer: We will still offer hand sanitizer in the hallway as you come in door #2 and in the Narthex.

Volunteers: All the various parts of our Worship services rely on volunteers, and during the pandemic we have relied on a small number. Please consider volunteering or re-volunteering as an Assisting Minister, Singer, Sound/Video, Usher, Greeter, Altar Guild or anywhere else you feel called. Training will be provided. Contact the office and let us know where you would like to serve.

Dean Firing

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL IS COMING!

Good news! Our virtual VBS will be coming on July 6-9. Our theme is “Rocky Railway-Jesus’ Power Pulls Us Through”. We will be learning that Jesus’ power helps us do hard things, Jesus’ power gives us hope, Jesus’ power helps us be bold and Jesus’ power helps us be good friends.

All of our children will be given a VBS Bag that will be filled with activities ... a train whistle, an engineer’s bandana, a Bible booklet, a music CD, a sticker activity, 4 crafts (1 for each day), and a Berea Dairy Queen coupon for a free Dilly Bar.

We will also have a special guest each day on our St. Paul Youtube. Steven Wagner will be leading us with our Bible message-of-the-day, some fun songs and I bet some crazy (and bad!) jokes. Steven’s message will come on at 11:00am each day. If you miss it, it can be watched at another time later in the week. Steven is a good friend of ours. He has been to many of our past VBS weeks.

When you get your VBS Bag, I suggest you keep it until July 6 so that it will make a fun VBS week to do the projects then.

Some special notes-

1. If you would be able, a small donation would be appreciated to help cover a portion of our VBS Bag supplies. There is an envelope enclosed that can be mailed back to the church. If you are unable to do so, we sure understand. We are just happy that our children and families have the chance to celebrate VBS week even in a virtual way.
2. You will see that there is a brown bag enclosed. All year we have talked about kindness and serving others. There is a large brown bin in the front of St. Paul. We would appreciate it if our families and children could put some food items in our bin. It can be 1 or 2 items or fill up the bag! Any food donations are appreciated. They can be placed right in the bin. We are hoping that we can all donate throughout the year and that folks in need can take items from the bin when they are in need. Thanks so much!
3. Many thanks to Steven Wagner for being a part of our Vacation Bible School. We always love having you!
4. Many thanks to Berea Dairy Queen for donating 100 Dilly Bar coupons to our VBS. We will be cooled off, thanks to you!
5. If you have any questions, you can reach me at children@stpaulbera.org

Many thanks, Susan Moore children@stpaulbera.org



For many years, St. Paul has had a two-year catechetical program leading up to Confirmation. That seems to have worked well, and I see no reason to change it. However, I do think we might benefit from changing who teaches in that program.

In years past, the Catechism Class was led by a very small handful of dedicated volunteer teachers. This past year, I taught the class by myself. I had a lot of fun doing that, and I think it's in the best interest of the congregation that I remain a significant contributor to the catechetical program going forward. However, I also think it's important that we continue to involve others as teachers in the program as well.

What I'm envisioning going forward is this: I will teach the Catechism Classes that begin in the even numbered years, while you, my friends in the congregation, will teach the classes that begin in the odd numbered years. That means, it's your turn this year (2021-2022).

Now, I know that most of you are busy people with full calendars. And most of you aren't trained teachers, let alone trained theology teachers. So, I'm not asking that any of you volunteer to take on the responsibility of teaching for the entire year. Instead, what I'm asking of you is to consider the Catechism Class calendar laid out below, and sign up for 1 to 3 sessions. Your responsibility would be leading the children through the relevant section of Luther's Small Catechism for that particular class period, and then teaching that portion, and fielding questions from the children, based on your own experience and journey in the faith.

At the beginning of his Small Catechism, Martin Luther wrote these words: "As the head of the family should teach in a simple way to his household." In other words, Martin Luther never envisioned pastors leading the Catechism Class. He saw members of the congregation doing that, and in particular the mothers and fathers of the children. I think there is a lot of wisdom in this.

For starters, if we have a large number of teachers, our children will get to hear many different points of view. They will hear the faith presented in many different ways. This alone will teach them something very valuable.

But just as important, this will provide an opportunity for a mingling of the generations in the congregation. The children will be introduced to a large number of the adults who attend worship services at St. Paul's, and you adults will be in a position to make relationships with, and mentor the children who may just lead this congregation someday.

I'm going to start by requesting volunteers. If this looks interesting to you, please look at the schedule below, and give the office a call to sign up.

In Christ,
Pastor Skillman

2021-22 St. Paul Catechesis Schedule
(All Classes 7-8:15pm, Monday nights)

Pre-Session 30 August Teacher orientation (teachers only)

1st Semester

Session 1	13 September	The 10 Commandments
Session 2	20 September	The 10 Commandments
Session 3	27 September	The Apostles' Creed
Session 4	04 October	The Apostles' Creed
Session 5	11 October	The Lord's Prayer
Session 6	18 October	The Lord's Prayer
Session 7	25 October	Holy Baptism
Session 8	01 November	Holy Baptism
Session 9	08 November	Holy Communion
Session 10	15 November	Holy Communion
Session 11	22 November	The Office of the Keys / Absolution
Session 12	29 November	The Office of the Keys / Absolution

Make-up dates if necessary:

06 December

13 December

2nd Semester

Session 13	24 January	The 10 Commandments
Session 14	31 January	The 10 Commandments
Session 15	07 February	The Apostles' Creed
Session 16	14 February	The Apostles' Creed
Session 17	07 March	The Lord's Prayer
Session 18	14 March	The Lord's Prayer
Session 19	21 March	Holy Baptism
Session 20	28 March	Holy Baptism
Session 21	04 April	Holy Communion
Session 22	25 April	Holy Communion
Session 23	02 May	The Office of the Keys / Absolution
Session 24	09 May	The Office of the Keys / Absolution

Make-up dates if necessary:

16 May

23 May

Confirmation Date:

Sunday 05 June (Pentecost)

CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!



Gianni Morella-North Royalton High School

**Ashley Murray (Hennings' granddaughter), Chemical Engineering,
University of Kentucky**

Tyler Thomas(Rev. Deb Michaels' grandson)-Cape Coral High School

Natania Doris French, BSN, Cleveland State University School of Nursing

**Note: There may be other graduates-these are those we were notified of-we
congratulate all of our graduates!**



PIERSTORF MEMORIAL FUND

Applications will be accepted beginning April 15th through June 30th for interest-free loan funds. This year the maximum, interest -free loan is \$3000 for the school year. Please go to www.Pierstorf.org and complete the 2021-2022 application

This is an interest-free loan for Lutheran Students who are or will be enrolled full time in a four-year undergraduate program at any accredited college or university.



ONCE UPON A TIME....

1866- Pastor Fuehr was on his way to America from Bavaria(Germany) to be St. Paul's first Pastor.

1964 - During the summer a garage was built at back of parking lot

1964 – Teen league formed

1966 – Parsonage completed and Pastor Menchhofer and family moved in at 388 Wallace Dr.

1970 – new contemporary liturgy being introduced

1973 – Brian Haller ordained, becoming another Son of the Congregation.

1981 – First pictorial phone directory published

1985 – Pastor Henderson began as Associate Minister

1987 – Karen Ward ordained, becoming first Daughter of the Congregation

1980 and 1990 – Good News Singer Reunions

1991 - Father and Son Banquet celebrating 125th Anniversary

1989 - Fellowship Hall Windows and exterior doors replaced

1999- Bonnie Sears resigned as Christian Education Director

2010 – special congregational meeting to decide on hiring full time Youth Director

- Council approved security cameras
- Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) acquired

2011 – new sound system installed in sanctuary

2012 – though Pastor Rauch had retired, he celebrated the 50th Anniversary of his ordination in Florida on June 3rd. St. Paul members were requested to send photos/anecdotes to family for celebration

- Parlor renovated

2018 – at a special congregational meeting, St. Paul approved calling Pastor Skillman.



REDEEMER CRISIS CENTER

Hunger is the inability to identify where your next meal is coming from.

The Center's goal is to help families and individuals with the food resources necessary to feed themselves and their families in their homes for the next 9 – 12 nutritious meals. Since joining the Hunger Network of Greater Cleveland in 1976, we have served people living on the near west side of Cleveland who continuously struggle to survive financially.

Our clients include:

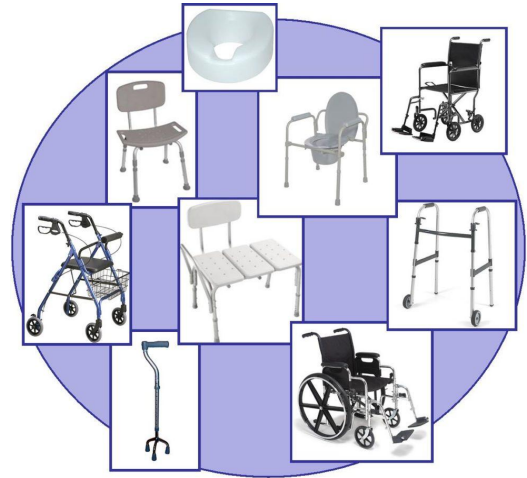
- Senior Citizens and the Disabled on Fixed Incomes
- Recently Unemployed/Underemployed Families
- The Homeless
- Those Below the Poverty Level
- People Facing Unexpected Circumstances
- The Working Poor

Programs provided by Redeemer Crisis Center

**Family Food Bag-Clothing Bank-Household Goods-Community Meals
Parent & Family Support Programs-Tea With Friends-Summer Youth
Programs-Holiday Bag Packs-Community Garden-Furniture**

MEDICAL EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE FOR MEMBERS

Did You Know?...St Paul has a lending closet of Durable Medical Equipment (DME). What is DME? Simply stated (as opposed to Medicare/insurance definitions), it is equipment used to assist people in caring for themselves, or even assist others to care for them. Many of these items are considered a "convenience" by insurance companies, requiring patients to purchase or rent them on their own. So before you buy something, check us out!!! We have several items in our attic that are currently available to loan:



Bariatric Rollator (extra heavy and wide)

18" Transport wheelchair

Bedside commodes in various sizes. These can also serve as a raised seat over a toilet, or as a shower chair. Some appear to have never been used.

Tub Benches

Arms for installation on a toilet

Shower seats - one without back, one with back

Walkers – standard with and without wheels various sizes

Pyramid cane (sometimes called a walk cane)

Canvas walker bag

Straight canes various styles

Bed rail

"Hip kits" (reacher, long handled shoe horn, sock aid, long handle sponge, long shoe horn)

The above are currently available, but donations are accepted and the inventory may change slightly. In this world of Covid, you should know all the equipment is sanitized and wrapped with plastic before going into the church attic.

If you wish to donate something, you may bring it into the church office or Room F during the week. We are especially in need of quad (4-prong) canes. Please be sure any equipment donated is in excellent condition.

If you need something and you don't see it at the church, please feel free to call Jan Bairoti (440-234-1535) – she also has many items from taking care of her father that she is willing to lend.

When you borrow something, please sign it out through the church office. There is no charge. Also, if you have questions about the use of any item, or adjustments needed to fit the person using it, Jan Bairoti is an occupational therapist and is willing to assist you in the safe and proper use of the equipment, just give her a call.

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND – What a relief!



The virus has put a great deal of stress on a lot of marriages. So now is the perfect time to sign up to attend a **Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekend June 11 – 13**. This is designed to bless your relationship, whether you have been married a year or 60+, or whether you are happy, arguing, or “doing ok.” The registration fee has been waived, AND they are offering this “Virtual” so that you can experience this event in the comfort, safety, and privacy of your own home, and for just \$100, as there are no hotel bills to cover. The **deadline is June 4th**, to allow for the mailing of materials to your home. (Payment is refundable. And if \$100 causes financial hardship, scholarship assistance can be discussed.) Go to www.GodLovesMarriage.org.



WHEELS FOR THE WORLD EQUIPMENT DRIVE SATURDAY, AUGUST 14, 2021

Start looking for wheelchairs, walkers, rollators, canes and crutches to bring to the drive! (no electric wheelchairs accepted) The equipment drive will be from 9am - 1pm. Watch for more information in Highlights and bulletins.



MONTHLY COLLECTION FOR BERA COMMUNITY OUTREACH

**IF YOU ARE ABLE TO DONATE ITEMS FOR
THE FOOD BANK, PLEASE TAKE THEM
DIRECTLY TO THE FOODBANK AT
535 WYLESWOOD DRIVE, BERA.
PLEASE CALL NATALIE AT
440-826-5800 X 4401 FOR HOURS**



COMMISSION ON AGING FOR SENIOR CITIZENS

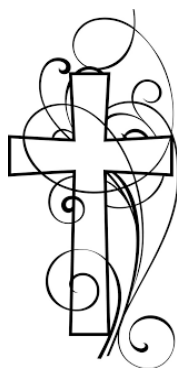


**All activities for the Active Senior
Network have been suspended
indefinitely.**

**As soon as we have information about
the resumption of services, we will
publish it.**

MEMORIALS

Sara Downie
Hilda Henning



OFFICIAL ACTS



ST. PAUL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
276 EAST BAGLEY ROAD
BEREA, OHIO 44017
440-243-1144
www.stpaulberea.org

FIRST CLASS
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



DID YOU KNOW?



We have a whole row of beautiful peonies along the East side of the church under the windows of the Kitchen and Fellowship Hall!