

THE GOOD NEWS

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Fall 2020 Issue

1407 W. Church Road
Beecher, IL 60401
708-946-2050

Pastor Michael Stein

Worship Services on
Sundays at 8:30 am
(live streamed on
Facebook)

Sunday School on
Sundays at 10:00 am

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Message from Pastor...

I have seen the burden God has laid on the human race. He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end. I know that there is nothing better for people than to be happy and to do good while they live. That each of them may eat and drink, and find satisfaction in all their toil—this is the gift of God. Ecclesiastes 3:10-13

Greetings in the name of Christ!

So much has changed since the last newsletter was sent out earlier this year. While we were all busy with Easter plans, a virus came and separated everyone into our homes, quarantined in place to slow the spread. That took much of the usual joy and excitement of the Easter season. There were not Easter egg hunts, family dinners, or even worship services, at least not anything like we all expected. But God is still in control.

So very much has happened since that Tuesday just over 3 months ago, Call Day on April 28. The night when we all found out if or who would be called to serve here. In my family's case, it was a night of anticipation. Four years of wondering "where" would finally be answered.

I have to say it has been such a whirlwind for us these past few months. It is hard for me to think that it has only been 2 months since we arrived here at St. Paul's. I know you all have been a blessing to us. Our top request during the placement interviews and questionnaires was for a "a family friendly" congregation, one that we could call home. I think God has blessed us and honored our request.

None of us guessed this year would be so full of ups and downs. But the Philosopher tells us in Ecclesiastes "[God] has made everything beautiful in its time.... No one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end." We do not understand what our loving Heavenly Father is doing, nor do we know His plans. We do know that He loves, cares, and protects us! Even when things look the worst and things don't make sense, we know His greatest desire is for all His children to be with Him for His eternal feast in Heaven!

I look forward to seeing what He has planned for us as we begin this new chapter together; working out His plans, growing His kingdom so that His banquet may be full!

May God bless you!

Pastor Stein



Ladies Aid and LWML Happenings...

Ladies Aid meets regularly September through May on the second Saturday of the month.

Due to COVID-19, Ladies Aid had to discontinue our in person meetings in March 2020.

We will begin our meetings on September 12, 2020. Of course, we will be practicing good social distancing and wearing a mask if needed. While we do enjoy our lunches, for the time being we will forgo lunch and start our meeting at 1:00.

Ladies are asked to come prepared to offer ideas on activities they would like to do for the coming year. We will discuss our Christmas project at the September meeting, along with LWML Sunday, which is in October.

All ladies of the congregation are encouraged to attend.

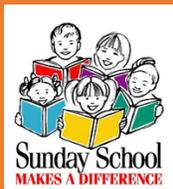
1 Peter 4:10 NIV

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.



Back to Sunday School...

The Board of Education met on August 5th about the upcoming Sunday School year. Curriculum was discussed, plans are in place and subject to change depending on the Covid situation. Pastor has been following what our area sister churches are doing as well for Sunday School. We want our children to receive instruction and learn about Jesus, but we must take their safety seriously as well as the families. Mailed packets were discussed as well as in person instruction. More to be discussed as Sunday School approaches. Tentatively, there will be around 8 students in Sunday School this year.



Greeter and Usher Schedule



September 13

Ushers

Greeters James and Marcy Meyer

September 20

Ushers

Greeters Tammy Braun & Kate Lindemann

September 27

Ushers

Greeters Steve & Paula Weishaar

October 4

Ushers

Greeters Donna Fox & Mary Schwer

October 11

Ushers

Greeters Steve Stein family

October 18

Ushers

Greeters Son & Linda Fette

October 25

Ushers

Greeters Dana Woodruff & Sandy Kregel

November 1

Ushers

Greeters Burgess Family

November 8

Ushers

Greeters Burgess Family

November 15

Ushers

Greeters Karczewski Family

November 22

Ushers

Greeters Janet Wilke & Dorothy Willett

November 29

Ushers

Greeters Dan & Karen Braun

December 6

Ushers

Greeters Tom & Barb Wiater

December 13

Ushers

Greeters Fred & Fern Hoffmeyer

(midweek services are covered by those serving the Sunday before)

Birthday Blessings

Sept. 1 – Willy Karczewski
Sept. 2 - Steve Lange
Sept. 4 - David Mashek
Sept. 6 - LeRoy Plagge
Michelle Hackl
Sept. 8 - Loretta Wilkening
Matt Klomporen
Sept. 15 – Jerrold Tegtmeier
Sept. 16 – Franklin Dhom
Sept. 17 - Joyce Harris
Sept. 28 - Landen Woodruff
Phyllis Stolzenbach
Sept. 29 – Nicholas Wilke
Oct. 1 – Jeff Bleyle
Oct. 4 – Rachel Fox
Oct. 7 – Kyle Wille,
Tammy Bleyle
Oct. 8 – Daniel Wilke
Oct. 10- Debra Hackl
Oct. 12-Megan Klomporen
Oct. 15-Brittany Johnson,
Emery Schwer
Oct. 18-Denise Langreder
Oct. 19-Dorothy Willett
Oct. 21-Linda Hoffmeyer,
Leonard Kregel
Oct. 23-Pam Hunte,
Jill Holzaepfel
Oct. 26-Dan Braun
Oct. 27-Mark Wille
Colin Schwer
Oct. 30-RaeAnn Barthel
Oct.31-Dorothy Stolzenbach
Nov. 9- Michael Harris
Nov. 14-Madelyn Shaefer
Nov. 15-Terry Ryan
Nov. 17-Lucille Tierney
Nov. 18-Steven Weishaar,
Stanley Weishaar
Nov. 22-Laura Schwer
Nov. 27-Sandra Kregel

*"Thanks be to God for his
incredible gift!"*

2 Corinthians 9:15

He's Here!!!! Meet our new Pastor...

So a thing happened in the middle of June. You may have heard our new pastor was installed on June 14th, 2020. The ceremony was more subdued than usual, without the usual gathering of area pastors to welcome and bless the newly called under-shepherd. But that did not take away from the joy and excitement of the day! Pastor Stein said of the day, "For me, as pastor, it made it a much more personal and intimate time. There was a connection between myself as pastor, the few selected pastors, and most importantly, you the congregation. We all stood before God (well I kneeled for a lot of it) and pledged to begin this new chapter in our part of God's greater story. His is a story that began long before we were born and will continue after us. We have been grafted into His family and I pray we can work together in His harvest field, bringing in much good for His glory!"

After the Installation service there was a wonderful time of fellowship, with an outdoor meal with many in attendance. Thank you to all who helped organize, cook, and volunteered to make the day special!



Anniversaries

Sept. 20 – Doug & Debbie Hackle
Oct. 1- Tim & Mary Hannig
Oct. 6 -Stan & Cherie Heimerl
Oct. 11 – Stan * Cherie Heiml
Oct. 14-Andy & Amanada
Runchey
Nov. 10-Dan & Karen Braun
Nov. 23 –Don & Linda Fette
"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres."

1 Corinthians 13:4-7

Other Events...

- Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. bible study held in the vestry. You can participate either in person at the Church or on online via Facebook or Teams.
- Oktober Fest is being planned for September 20
- Northern Illinois District LWML convention will be virtual this year. Can be viewed online starting September 12 at <https://lwmlnid.org/>

Parsonage fence

The fence at the parsonage has been installed. It is a 5 ft. tall fence going from the west side of the house, out past the maple then back to behind the garage. It is a huge space where we can safely let the kids (and the dogs) run and play. The crew who did the work did a nice job and the entire thing went up in just two days. Pastor and his family thank everyone so much for this. Pastor said, "I know for me it is a big relief to know they have a place to play. It is nice to not worry that they may run out to the road. The first night it was finished I came home from a visit late and everyone was in the backyard playing "red light, green light" and it was a special happy moment. So, again, thank you!"





St. Paul's 7th Annual Oktoberfest is set for Sunday, September 20, 2020. Due to COVID concerns, we will be scaling back the festivities and the event will be held outside. Guests will have the option to take their meals to go or we will have outdoor seating following the CDC guidelines. We will have a large tent with seating and welcome any popup tents for your family if you prefer. In keeping with the spirit of the event, we will be serving brats, burgers, hotdogs, German potato salad, baked beans, and dessert. We will have a basket raffle, Oktoberfest music, and, if enough interest, a bean bag tournament and bingo. We hope to see you all for some food, fellowship, and fun!

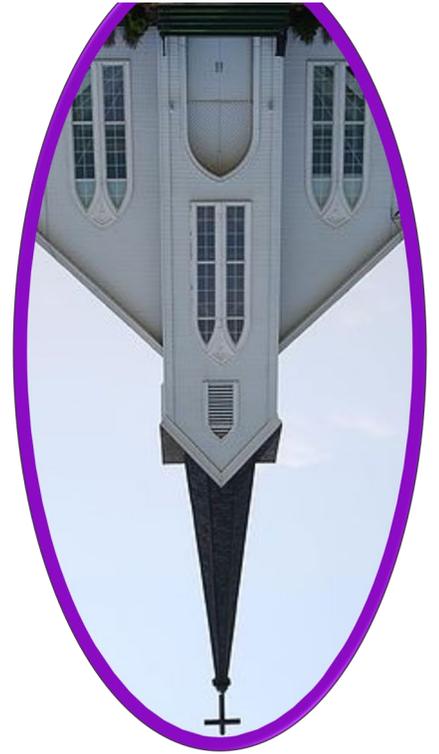


Farmers Market 2020

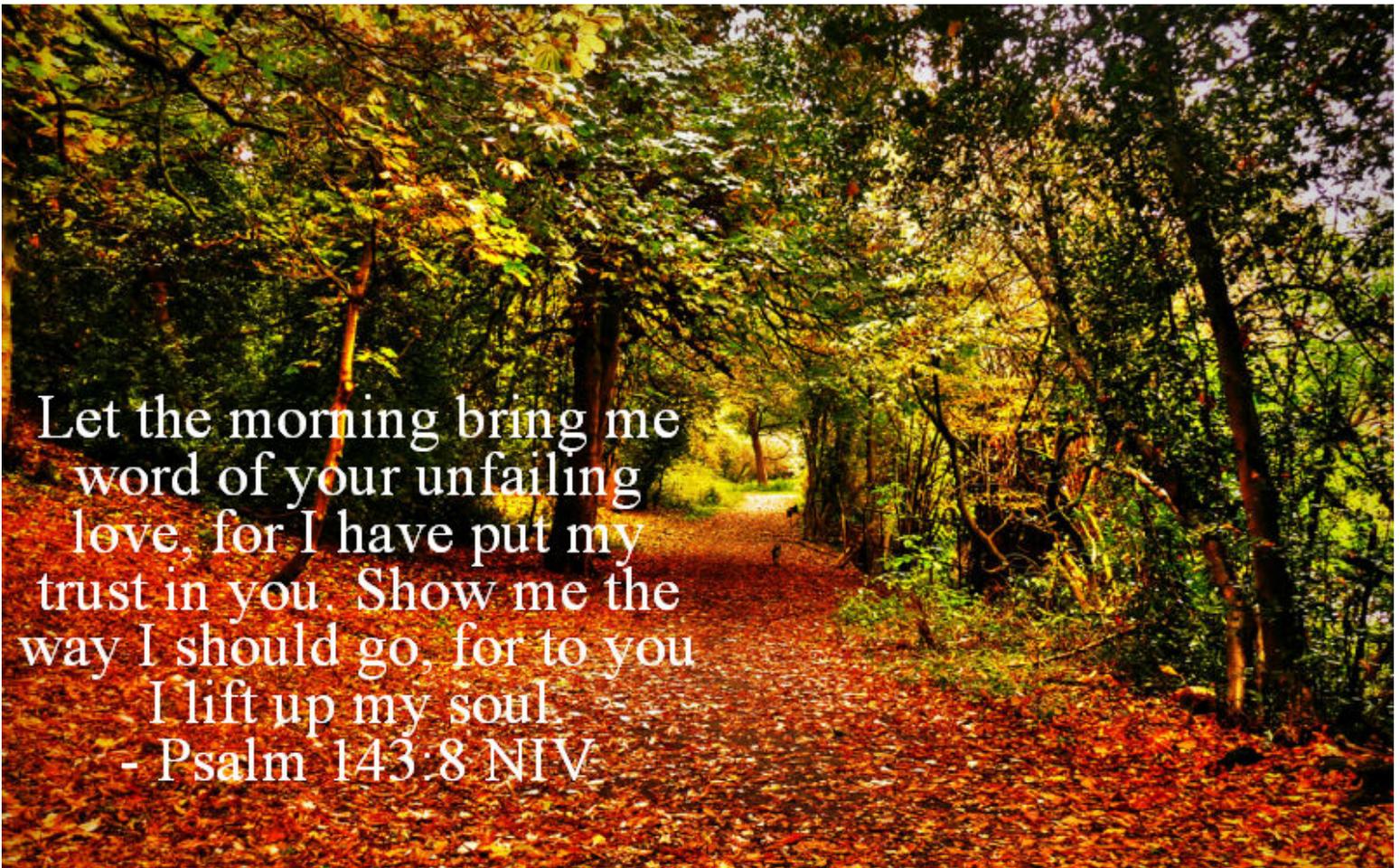
This market season has started off great! We started off with 20 vendors and the number increases each market. We are busting out of our seems! Parking is at the bowling alley and we are running out of parking spaces. On average we have two produce vendors, honey, Amish canned goods, our meat vendor who also makes lunch for purchase, a donut vendor, and a few other food vendors among other great artisans and crafters. I'm working on flyers to hand out at the market about our church and Sunday School. Safety precautions are taken with Covid-19 in mind. Masks are mandatory. We have signs posted that vendors and customers must wear masks. We also have a notice from IDPH about mask wearing and social distancing. I also have a hand sanitizer station. We have a great group from church that help out most if not all markets so far. Linda & Don, Steve & Paula, Joan K., Parker, Cherie, Mary H., and Kate L. Help is needed. We could use two parking attendants. If you are interested, please reach out to me. Financially speaking, each vendor is charged a \$15 vendor fee. The first two markets we averaged between \$200 and \$250. The last market we collected \$450. This money benefits the church. Our next market is August 22, operating on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays at the village hall, 625 Dixie Hwy, 9am to 1pm. Come shop or visit. We are under the orange canopy. We are looking for more food related vendors. If you are interested, contact me and we can work with WCHD since we are regulated through them. Not bad for our little country market in the parking lot 4 years ago!

Special thanks to all those that help, including Linda and Don Fette who sell plants and Joan and Bill Karczewski who see eggs, both donating the proceeds to our church.

See ya at the market!



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Let the morning bring me
word of your unfailing
love, for I have put my
trust in you. Show me the
way I should go, for to you
I lift up my soul.
- Psalm 143:8 NIV