



St. Paul's  
Evangelical Lutheran Church



## The Disciple's Connection

June 2021

### Worship Services

Saturday 6:00pm

Sunday 9:30am

### Sunday Bible Study

Adult 8:30am & 10:45am

Children 10:45am

### Staff

Paul D. Sundbom, Pastor

Marlyss Sekki, Director of Music

Peggy McDonnell, Admin Assistant

### Church Office

250 Bowhall Road

Painesville, OH 44077

(440)354-3000

Monday-Friday 9:00am to 12:00pm

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

[office@spicpainesville.org](mailto:office@spicpainesville.org)

### St. Paul's Preschool

Amy Marizek, Director

[preschool@spicpainesville.org](mailto:preschool@spicpainesville.org)

[www.stpaulspainesville.com](http://www.stpaulspainesville.com)

## God's Service to Us



Does it feel like we have turned a number of corners when it comes to the pandemic? I think so, but a little caution still seems to be in order. With the weather now sunny & warm, people can get back to camping, gardening, spending time at the beach, hiking, fishing, and the like.

Lots of things for people to do on weekends, right?

The Church Year in spring gives us Easter, Ascension, & Pentecost. Jesus Christ is risen, He returned to the Father, and He has poured out the Holy Spirit on us all! That is the Good News of this time of the Church Year. We celebrate Jesus Christ risen and ascended. We offer thanksgiving for the Holy Spirit who gives us visible and silent growth in the faith.

There's a song I [and many of you] learned as a child

"Here is the church, Here is the steeple. Open the door and see all the people"

Some of us might think [myself included at times] we might need to adjust that song a bit.

"Here is the church, Here is the steeple. Open the door, and where are the people?"

You can usually count on a small dip in church attendance as the weather warms. But what if the dip becomes a trend? This is not unique to Lake County Ohio. It is a challenge faced by so many churches in America today. A steady decline in people actively participating in a congregation. In some of my reading, I've come across people, church leaders especially in Lutheran circles, attempting to get people to see what happens in the Worship Service in a different light to attempt to reverse this trend one person at a time.

Often, we view worship as something I do and maybe participate in a little bit. I come hoping to get a little something out of it. What really happens on Sat night/Sun morning at St. Paul's? We come together for a Divine Worship Service. It is Divine because God begins it. It is Worship because it is a vehicle to offer praise and thanksgiving to God. It is a Service because when God's people come together, God is there to serve them. It is this Service aspect that I want you to consider. Think about it for a few seconds [then a few minutes later!] God invites me to come and gather with other people, so He can serve us?



## **GOD'S SERVICE TO US** continued

Yet, that is exactly what happens! We gather around God. He assures us of the forgiveness of sins. He opens His Word for us to read and better understand. He feeds us with the Holy Supper of His Son. He gives us opportunity to return thanks and praise to Him for His actions. AND, He gives the chance to be served EVERY WEEK!

What difference would it make if each of us came together with a view of coming together to be served by your Creator? How would that affect/change how you see the other 6 days of the week? What strength it gives to know your Creator desires to serve you, His creation! Receive with joy and thanksgiving the things our God serves regularly & faithfully!

Serving our Lord [who serves us] Together

In Christ

*Pastor Sundbom*

<sup>24</sup>And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, <sup>25</sup>not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another *Hebrews 10:24-25*



# A Tract on Life in Christ

Part 1 of a discussion on Martin Luther's "The Freedom of a Christian"

This year (2020) marks the 500th anniversary of three of Luther's foundational writings: "To the Christian Nobility of the German Nation," "The Babylonian Captivity of the Church" and "The Freedom of a Christian." In "The Freedom of a Christian," Luther lays out the central Reformation assertion that faith in Christ and not works of the law justifies sinful human beings in the sight of God. In 1520 when the essay was written, Luther had not yet been excommunicated. He dedicates the tract to Pope Leo X with an appeal that is both pastoral and polemical. The Reformer shows concern for Leo's spiritual welfare while criticizing false teachings that rob Christ of the honor due to Him alone as Savior and deprive broken sinners of consolation that alone soothes their terrified consciences.

Luther wrote the dedicatory letter to Pope Leo in polished Renaissance Latin making a careful and nuanced appeal to the pontiff for due consideration of Luther's confession of the Gospel. He addresses Leo as a "most blessed father" (474)\* who had to endure incompetent and dangerous advisors so that Leo sits as a lamb among lions, just "as Daniel in the midst of lions, and you dwell with Ezekiel among the scorpions" (478). Luther expresses empathy for Pope Leo even as he implores Leo to give a fair hearing for the Gospel that Luther puts forward in the tract.



## **A TRACT ON LIFE IN CHRIST continued**

### **Subject to none; subject to all**

In “The Freedom of a Christian,” Luther takes faith as the starting point. Faith is not a human virtue or power but the Spirit-worked trust in Christ’s promise lived out by the believer under tribulation and trial. The existence of the Christian is constituted by faith alone. This means the Christian lives paradoxically as one who is both free and in servitude:

*“The Christian individual is a completely free lord of all, subject to none.  
The Christian individual is a completely dutiful servant of all, subject to all.”  
p. 488*

While these two statements appear contradictory, they actually agree. They are derived from Holy Scripture. Luther appeals to 1 Corinthians 9:19, “For though I am free from all, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win more of them,” and Romans 13:8, “Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law.”

Luther maintained that just as Christ Jesus is true God, He is also true man. He is Lord of all and yet, He became a servant for us (Phil. 2:5–11), just so, the Christian has two natures. Yet in the Christian, these two natures are opposed to one another. Luther refers to the inner person (the new, spiritual being) and the outer person (the old, fleshly sinful being). There is a fight going on: “For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do” (Gal. 5:17). Christian freedom does not consist in submission to fleshly aspirations, for that would be slavery ending in death. The freedom of the Christian is not found in bondage to the old nature which is decaying, wasting away (2 Cor. 4:16), but is given only in Christ whose blood sets us free from sin, death and the devil.

### **Not external freedom**

Christian freedom is not an external thing at all. Externally, Luther noted, the body may be active, enjoying food and drink and doing what it pleases while being enslaved completely to sin. On the other hand, the body might be plagued with chronic illness and physical affliction, lack food and drink, or suffer imprisonment, and yet the soul remains free in Christ. Likewise, the body does not benefit spiritually from outward performance of pious works:

*Thus it does not help the soul if the body wears sacred robes set apart for priests or enters sacred places or performs sacred duties or prays, fasts, abstains from certain foods, or does absolutely any work connected with the body. Righteousness and freedom of the soul will require something completely different since the things just mentioned could easily be done by some ungodly person and since such efforts result only in producing hypocrites. On the other side, the soul is not harmed if the body wears street clothes, goes around in secular places, eats and drinks like everyone else, does not pray aloud, and fails to do all the things mentioned above that hypocrites could do. (490)*



## **A TRACT ON LIFE IN CHRIST continued**

The false belief that good works establish a righteous relationship to God can only lead to hypocrisy or despair, both of which enslave the soul.

### **One necessary thing**

The one necessary thing for Christian freedom is the liberating Word of Christ, the Gospel. Human works, though outwardly righteous, can never substitute for Christ. Luther cited numerous biblical texts to demonstrate this point: “[Jesus is] the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in [Him], though he die, yet shall he live” (John 11:25). “If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed” (John 8:36). “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God” (Matt. 4:4). The Christian may live without anything else except the Gospel, because it is “the word of life, truth, light, peace, righteousness, salvation, joy, freedom, wisdom, power, grace, glory, and every imaginable blessing” (491). No wonder Luther then refers to Psalm 119, noting how the Christian, like David of old, sighs and yearns for God’s Word.

This brings Luther to the point where he puts his finger on the disaster that necessitated the Reformation: a famine of hearing the Word of the Lord (Amos 8:11). God sent His Son, the Word made flesh into the world not to condemn the world but to bring salvation through His death and resurrection. God sends forth His Word to bring healing and deliverance from destruction (Psalm 107:20). “And Christ was not sent into the world for any other office than the word” (491). Christ was not sent as a teacher of morality or a new Moses, but as the One who rescues sinners by His death and gives them life in His resurrection. Whether apostles, bishops or clerics, Luther firmly insisted that these offices and orders exist only for the ministry of the Word. Those in the preaching office are not to bind consciences with human regulations but set them free with the divine Word authorized by the crucified and risen Lord Himself. The preacher does not sniff out secret sins like an ecclesiastical detective or an enforcer of civil righteousness, but proclaims forgiveness as a literal “evangelist” who comes with the Word of life, the Gospel of the forgiveness of sins. Preachers proclaim this unfettered message not to imprison but to unlock the chains that bind, to set the captives free.

The task of preaching is to declare the glad news of God, namely that He sent His Son into flesh to suffer, die and rise from the dead, and is now glorified as Lord. “To preach Christ,” Luther wrote “means to feed, justify, free, and save the soul—provided a person believes the preaching” (491). Preaching uses God’s efficacious Word to create and sustain faith wherein there is the freedom for which Christ has set us free. Such freedom is given only through faith in the Savior.

*July/August Disciple’s Connection: Part 2 How Does Faith Give Freedom?*

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\* All citations are taken from “The Freedom of a Christian” translated by Timothy J. Wengert in *The Annotated Luther*, Vol. I: The Roots of the Reformation (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2015), 467–538.



June 2021

## ***Congratulations Graduates!!***



### ***Hannah Reichert***

(Adopted daughter of Kathleen Pennell)

Graduate of Franklin University

Hannah is an accountant at Lakeland Community College and is planning on getting her CPA.

### ***Alex Horvath***

Graduate of Mentor Christian High School

Alex will be attending Lakeland Community College in their RN program. Alex is also working part-time at Roll-Kraft, Inc.



### ***Paul Rutkosky***

Graduate of Riverside High School

Paul participated in Riverside's CCP by attending Lakeland Community College his senior year. He is planning on attending Lakeland in the fall and will determine his course of study in the future.



### ***Nick Kerver***

Graduate of the University of Dayton

Nick graduated with honors with a degree in Sports Management. He will be doing a 6-month internship with the Mid Atlantic PGA in Stafford, VA





June 2021

## ***Congratulations Graduates!!***

### ***Pavel Lindrose***

Graduate of Riverside High School

Pavel will be attending Baldwin Wallace University in the fall to pursue a dual degree in Music Performance and Science



### ***Jacob Shutic***

Graduate of iSTEM Geauga Early College High School  
and  
Lakeland Community College

Jacob graduated from iSTEM with an Honors Diploma and Lakeland with an Associates Degree of Science and an Associates Degree of Arts. He will be attending Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in the fall to study Aerospace Engineering.



### ***Joshua Shutic***

Graduate of iSTEM Geauga Early College High School  
and  
Lakeland Community College

Joshua graduated from iSTEM with an Honors Diploma and Lakeland with an Associates Degree of Science and an Associates Degree of Arts. He will be attending Kent State University in the fall to study Aerospace Engineering and will be joining the Air Force ROTC Program.







## Life Quotes for June

**June 6** “The boundaries He establishes serve not to forbid any of sexuality’s blessings but to gather its goodness into a single setting so that nothing deprives the marriage bed of its rightful delight.” *Pastor Michael Salemink, Executive Director of Mission and Ministry, Lutherans For Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • [lutheransforlife.org](http://lutheransforlife.org)*

**June 13** “It’s a terrible thing to see any life that is used and abused instead of being protected and cared for. The value of life should not be based on the benefits it can offer. So we pray to the Lord to move all people to value and appreciate all life as God’s gift.” *Rev. Peter Sulzle, St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, Redwood Falls, Minnesota – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • [lutheransforlife.org](http://lutheransforlife.org)*

**June 20** “The dad who keeps his eyes focused on Christ, prays for his children and expresses his unconditional love for his kids, will, in the end, have been a good father and be blessed with adult children who will always be grateful for the dad God gave them.” *Abbot Tryphon – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • [lutheransforlife.org](http://lutheransforlife.org)*

**June 27** “Such commands to ‘practice hospitality,’ ‘to entertain strangers,’ ‘to care for the poor, the widows, the suffering,’ and to ‘remember the least of these’—all of these are invitations to step further into all that the resurrection said and did and says and does now through us.” *Jill Carattini, Ravi Zacharias International Ministries – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • [lutheransforlife.org](http://lutheransforlife.org)*



June 2021

## Announcements

### “Carpenter Hands...Christ’s Hands...Our Hands”

This is the theme of the 28<sup>th</sup> LWML Northeast Zone Retreat. All ladies are invited to join us at Zion Lutheran Church in Painesville. (**Note this is a change of venue** – The Perry YMCA is not opening to groups this fall) Check the Friendship Board for the retreat poster and packets for this fun-filled, Christ-centered event. Cost is \$25.00/person. Registration deadline is September 15. Questions? Please contact [bllelle@roadrunner.com](mailto:bllelle@roadrunner.com).



Northeast Zone  
Ohio District



## 2021 LWML Convention

Please keep the LWML Convention to be held in Lexington, KY on June 24-27 in your prayers. This convention is being hosted by the Ohio, Michigan and Indiana districts. New officers will be elected by its delegates. They will also be voting on mission grants for the \$2,150,000 mission goal for 2021-2023. All in attendance will grow from Bible studies and interest sessions. The convention will also be lived streamed at <http://lwml.org> for those unable to attend in person. Billie Lelle will be participating in the **Photo Finish Mission Walk** at the convention. If you would like to sponsor her (all pledges go toward the 2021-2023 LWML mite goal) – please contact her. May you see God’s faithful blessings as YOU “run the race-looking to Jesus”

## To Our Sunday School Teachers

Thank you to the 2020-2021 Sunday school teachers, Eric West, Rich Szoradi and Erin Cardina, for the tremendous job they did for jumping in during Covid and making sure the word of the Lord was shared with our youth. I am so grateful for their contribution and dedication.







## Summer 2021 – Adopt-A-Flower Bed

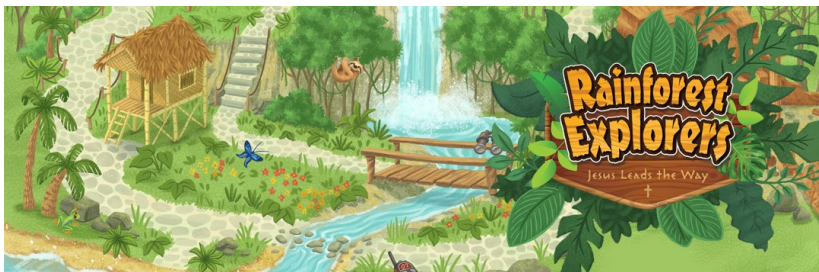
*Help maintain the flower beds around St. Paul's*

The church grounds have been split into 5 sections to make weeding easier for the summer months (June-August). Sections are still available. Check the sign-up sheet on the double doors at the back of the sanctuary.

Bring your own gardening tools and remember “many hands make light work” so bring friends or your family to help.



## VBS at Zion Lutheran Church June 21-25, 2021



At *Rainforest Explorers* VBS, children will learn that Jesus leads the way! They'll look into the Bible, God's Holy Word, and explore five Bible accounts where God points us to our Savior, His Son, Jesus. He treasures us, and He is our treasure! He leads the way to eternal life with Him! To register or find out more about this year's VBS go to

[zionpainesville.com/vbs-registration-2021](http://zionpainesville.com/vbs-registration-2021) . To volunteer go to [zionpainesville.com/vbs-volunteer-sign-up](http://zionpainesville.com/vbs-volunteer-sign-up)

## Lutherans in Africa Mission Presentation



### A glimpse into the work of Lutherans in Africa


When Pastor May is not in Africa, he visits congregations sharing the mission and vision of Lutherans in Africa. Earlier this year Pastor May held a mission presentation at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Austin, TX. This presentation was recorded and later on split into shorter segments by a member of Atonement Lutheran Church Glendale, AZ. These segments and the entire presentation are posted on YouTube and linked to [LutheransinAfrica.com](http://LutheransinAfrica.com). Scroll down to the “What We Do” section to find the presentations.

June 2021



Register online at [lutherhaven.org/program/summer](http://lutherhaven.org/program/summer)

*Check out the website to see how Camp Lutherhaven  
has been impacted by,  
and is responding to, COVID-19*



# 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Walk for Hunger & 5K Run



## Virtual Participants

**Date:** Monday, May 24, 2021 thru  
Friday, June 4, 2021

**Time:** Submit your time by 9pm Friday, June 4, 2021

**Location:** Cleveland Metroparks Zoo

**Register online at [give.hungernetwork.org/walk](http://give.hungernetwork.org/walk)**

# Hospice of the Western Reserve

Be the difference. Be a Hospice Volunteer.





June 2021



## May Meeting Notes

- 1) Pastor's Report: Pastor made 18 calls and 2 shut-in visits and 4 confirmations. He also confirmed transfers out of Ray Cavender and Ed & Linda Prib.
- 2) President's Report: Aaron reported he and others continue to work with Pastor Ziemann to improve Pastor's communication. Also working with other Elders to refocus their efforts.
- 3) Vice President's Report: Eric reported the Nomination committee continues to seek filling slate of candidates for Annual Meeting.
- 4) Treasurer's Report: Finances continue to be fair despite lower contributions over the past few months.
- 5) Education Report: Attendance for Sunday school and Adult Bible classes are fairly steady, and that the kids have made cards to be handed out on Mother's Day. Also, gifts will be collected for Adopt-a-Family this winter.
- 6) Preschool Report: Kathy reported that work continues on updating policy manual. So far \$615 has been collected for teacher appreciation gifts.
- 7) Elder's Report: Craig reported he has agreed to be interim lead elder and are working with Pastor on improving communication and calls. Also, the worship schedule would remain as is for now.
- 8) Stewardship Report: Matt reported setting up volunteers for Adopt-a-Flower bed and air conditioner fundraiser. He also would like to have youth involved with growing our social media presence.
- 9) Outreach Report: Kristi reports in May groups will distribute dog tags and perform garbage pickup in several nearby neighborhoods. Movie Nights will continue and wood toys for missions still collecting ideas.
- 10) Building & Grounds Report: Joe reported several bulb replacements, finalized mowing schedule, checked mowers for the season. Spring cleanup will be May 15.
- 11) Contribution Secretary Report: Dennis reports contributions have dropped \$3938 (7%) YTD from last year.

### Old Business:

- 1) Annual Meeting May 16 after Sunday services. Reports in to Peggy for meeting.
- 2) Nominating Committee still working to fill positions for council positions.

### New Business:

- 1) Russ presented proposed fiscal budget for 2021/22. He projects a deficit of \$18,802, based on estimate revenue trends, but we have a positive cash reserve to meet our needs.
- 2) Dennis suggested a complete review to clean up our By-Laws above the current pro-posed changes. Terry agreed to help with the review and present to Annual Meeting.

**Next Meeting:** Next meeting is June 2 @ 6:30pm, with new and old members present.



# St. Paul's Preschool

## *Thank you from the Preschool*

St. Paul's Lutheran Preschool would like to thank the congregation for their continued support and prayers for our program. We have shared the message of God's love and grace with over 35 children and their families this year. Registration for the 2021-2022 school year will continue through September so if you know of anyone that may be interested please let them know that we still have openings. Registration forms are available in the Preschool Office and the Church Office. If anyone has any questions, please see Amy Marizek or contact her by phone at 440-354-3000. We pray that God continues to watch over all of the missions and ministries of St. Paul's Lutheran Church. See you in the fall!



## Preschool Teachers Needed

St. Paul's Preschool is currently looking for a teachers to work part-time mornings. For additional information please contact Preschool Director, Amy Marizek at 440-354-3000





## June Birthdays

Gretchen Tracy	1st	Jack Lelle	13th
Michelle Szoradi	1st	Karen Krueger	16th
Pamela West	5th	JoAnn Hennessey	20th
Joe Graziadei	7th	Owen Cardina	22nd
Jerry Ladany	8th	Lea Brandt	23rd
Tom Cardina	8th	Audrey Butzin	26th
Debbie Bennington	9th	Russ Tuttle, Sr.	28th
Becky Franz	12th		



## June Anniversaries

Russ & Roxanne Walton	27 years on June 4
Carl & Joellen Graziadei	41 years on June 14
Keith & Karen Kruger	40 years on June 20
Dave & Kathy Murphy	57 years on June 20
Tom & Erin Cardina	21 years on June 24
Pat & Jan Shutic	32 years on June 24
Robert & Gretchen Tracy	55 years on June 25



## Altar Flowers



Is there a special someone, date, or event you would like to celebrate, honor or remember. A great way to do that is with Altar Flowers. The Altar Flower Chart is posted on the wall next to the double doors leading out of the sanctuary. All you have to do is sign up next to the appropriate weekend. Be sure to print clearly what occasion is being honored and who the flowers are given by. Altar flowers are \$30.00. This can be placed in an envelope labeled "Altar Flowers" and the date of the weekend, then place in the collection plate.



# Those Who Serve: June 2021

## ELDERS:

6:00 P	Saturday	Aaron Lindrose
9:30 A	Sunday	Craig McConnell & Rich Szoradi

## LECTORS:

06-05-21	6:00 P	Saturday	Pastor Sundbom
06-06-21	9:30 A	Sunday	Craig McConnell
06-12-21	6:00 P	Saturday	Frank McVan
06-13-21	9:30 A	Sunday	Sandy Heckler
06-19-21	6:00 P	Saturday	Pastor Sundbom
06-20-21	9:30 A	Sunday	Jack Lelle
06-26-21	6:00 P	Saturday	Frank McVan
06-27-21	9:30 A	Sunday	Eric West

## COUNTERS:

Jenn Drake, Craig McConnell, Kristi McConnell

## GREETERS:

6:00 P	Saturday
9:30 A	Sunday

SIGN UP IN JUNE TO WAVE YOUR  
GREETING TO YOUR FELLOW DISCIPLES.

Sign-up sheet located on the double  
doors at the back of the Sanctuary.



# June 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Bulletin Announcements Due Wednesdays</p> <p>June Birthstones: Alexandrite, Pearl, Moonstone</p>	<p>Office Hours Monday-Friday 9:00am-12:00pm</p> <p>June Flower: Rose</p>	<p>1 National Safety Month</p> <p>Men's Health Month</p>	<p>2 6:30pm Council Meeting</p>	<p>3 7pm Virtual Bible Study</p>	<p>4 National Cheese &amp; Donut Day</p>	<p>5 Walk for Hunger &amp; 5K Run</p>
<p>6 D-Day Anniversary</p>	<p>7 Pastor Out of Town</p> <p>World Safety Day</p> <p>National Chocolate Ice Cream Day</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9 6:30pm Elder's Meeting</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11 Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekend</p>	<p>12</p> <p></p> <p>Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekend</p>
<p>13</p> <p></p> <p>Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekend</p>	<p>14</p> <p></p> <p>14 JUNE FLAG DAY</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17 7pm Virtual Bible Study</p> <p>Pastor Returns</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19 Juneteenth</p>
<p>20</p> <p></p> <p>Happy Fathers Day!</p> <p> First Day of Summer</p>	<p>21 7pm Outreach Meeting</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24 7pm Virtual Bible Study</p>	<p>25 Take Your Dog to Work Day</p>	<p>26</p> <p></p>
<p>27</p> <p></p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	<div>  <p>COMMUNION SERVICE</p> </div> <div> <p><b>WORSHIP SCHEDULE</b></p> <p>Saturdays - 6:00pm</p> <p>Sundays - 9:30am</p> <p>Adult Bible Study—8:30am &amp; 10:45am</p> </div>		