



# The Disciple's Connection

St. Paul's Lutheran Church - Painesville, OH 44077

July/August 2020

## Worship Services

Saturday 6:00pm  
Sunday 8:15am & 10:45am  
Sunday Adult Bible Study 9:30am  
Sunday School 9:30am

## Staff

Paul D. Sundbom, Pastor  
Marlyss Sekki, Director of Music  
Peggy McDonnell, Admin Assistant

## Church Website

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

## Church Office

(440)354-3000  
[office@stpaulpainesville.org](mailto:office@stpaulpainesville.org)

## St. Paul's Preschool

Amy Marizek, Director  
[preschool@stpaulpainesville.org](mailto:preschool@stpaulpainesville.org)

## St. Paul's Preschool Website

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



The calendar says it's still 2020, right? Some of you might be wishing 2020 was done and over with. But here we are, at the end of June/beginning of July, only half done with the year. Some good news: the 4th of July is right around the corner!! Bad news: opportunities to watch fireworks and celebrate this year look to be few and far between. That does not change what the 4th of July/ Independence Day is all about. It has always been celebrated as the birthday of this wonderful country we live in. From the founding of the United States, the importance of Christianity has always been recognized. The landscape in 2020 might seem like Christianity is under attack more than it is recognized. We used to know that America was a strong, Christian nation. Today, it might be hard to see Christianity in action. With high unrest among people now, and with markers of our history be taken down each day, some may wonder if the windows & steeples of churches are the next targets.

Believe it or not, most of us carry around every day a reminder of the foundation of our nation. Take out a coin from your pocket or a dollar bill from your wallet. What do you see? The motto "In God We Trust". How many of you know the history of how that motto came to be on our money? Let me share a brief history. From the days of the colonies until Civil War times, coins were the only form of money. It was during the Civil War that any interest in a religious inscription on coins came to light. Many citizens and ministers wrote the Treasury expressing the opinion that by not having an inscription on coins we were disowning God and our religious heritage. Secretary of the Treasury Solomon Chase instructed the Director of the Philadelphia mint to come up with a motto for all coins used at the time, which were one-, two-, and three-cent coins. Director James Pollack came up with the 4 simple words "In God We Trust". With a March 3, 1865 act of Congress, In God We Trust was first put on the two-cent coin. With only small interruptions, that motto has appeared on all minted US coins since 1916. It wasn't until a bill passed by Congress and signed by Pres. Eisenhower on July 30, 1956 that In God We Trust has appeared on all paper money printed by the Treasury.

Over at least the last 10-15 years, and most likely longer, there has been movement among a group of people to remove this motto from our money and other places. In a quick search online, I discovered multiple petitions to the US Treasury to remove from all future currency printed and minted the statement In God We Trust. Each of these online petitions have varying number of signatures. These signers believe that it is unconstitutional for you & I to force our thoughts about God or a god upon another American.

*From the Pastor continued*

In God We Trust. Each of these online petitions have varying number of signatures. These signers believe that it is unconstitutional for you & I to force our thoughts about God or a god upon another American.

What does it mean for this country and its' people to have the words In God We Trust on all our money? I believe it means that not only are people in America still free to express their religion in an appropriate way, but they are also still free from the tyranny or oppression of others who believe differently. Not every American will be a Christian. Not every American will believe in a religion at all. As Christians, let us thank God that as citizens of this country we are free to proclaim with our lips and lives that we trust in God. Thank God that His Word is not bound but has free course still in America. Thank God for the opportunities He gives us to share that Word. As we celebrate the birthday of this great nation, let us not forget the religious freedom we enjoy as citizens of the United States. Let us boldly proclaim with words and actions In God We Trust.

Serving our Lord Together

*Pastor Sundbom*

But I trust in you, O Lord; I say, "You are my God." Psalm 31:14

## ANOTHER SCOURGE

*By: Lawrence R. Rast Jr.*



**"The production of natural resources is crippled ...** Business is suffering; places of amusement, schools, even the churches are closed in many and large sections, and the fear of death is tormenting many."<sup>[1]</sup> As contemporary as this description sounds, it actually appeared in *The Lutheran Witness* of Oct. 29, 1918. The author of the article, simply titled "The Epidemic," was Pastor Richard Jesse, who believed the coming of the Spanish flu was God's means to drive people to repentance. The epidemic was, in his mind, "another scourge of the Almighty."

Devastating diseases have been a part of the human experience since the fall of human beings into sin, with its disastrous effects on God's good creation. The current COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted our lives and thrown our ordinary routines, including our churchly ones, into complete chaos. Is this "another scourge" from God? How can we make sense of these times? How has the church reacted in the past, and how should we react today?

Investing contemporary events with theological meaning is always risky business, but it is also a natural thing for us to do. Apart from a specific biblical word such efforts always remain interpretations, but all of us engage in them. And we Lutherans have consistently done so, as both the words of Jesse above and the following stories show.

**ANOTHER SCOURGE continued**

the following stories show.

A devastating epidemic of yellow fever broke out in Philadelphia in 1793. Philadelphia at the time was the temporary capital of the United States and the largest city in the country. Its population of about 50,000 decreased by at least 8% over the course of the epidemic (Aug. 1 to Nov. 9, 1793). Among the 4,031 people buried during the epidemic, 641 (16%) of them were from the Lutheran congregation served by J.H.C. Helmuth (1745–1825).

Helmuth's account of the epidemic, published as *A Short Account of the Yellow Fever in Philadelphia for the Reflecting Christian* (trans. Charles Erdman, 1794), offers insight into how Christians struggled with the sudden appearance of a sickness that they lacked the ability to understand. Its descriptions sound hauntingly contemporary at times: "The external appearance moreover of those who met one another in the street, increased the alarm. They generally had sponges or handkerchiefs before their mouths and noses, and some even had the mouth entirely covered. They shunned each other through fear of being infected." [2]

Because they did not understand the cause of the fever, people struggled to determine the best ways to protect themselves and the larger community. Those who had the means simply deserted the city; upwards of a third of the population pursued this avenue — including President George Washington. Those who remained and took sick were treated generally by bleeding. Needless to say, such treatments hurt more than they helped. What was more beneficial were the efforts to decontaminate houses and to clean the particularly filthy areas of the city. Later, Philadelphia passed quarantine laws and posted guards at the city's borders to deny entry to citizens of other towns and cities that were experiencing the fever.

Among the most controversial of Helmuth's actions was continuing to hold services, which may have increased the death toll among the Lutherans. At the same time, Helmuth did so out of his conviction that "the Lord brought all this dying to our town. He makes no differences in his punishment." [3] The real cause of the epidemic, in Helmuth's opinion, was the corporate sinfulness of Philadelphia as a whole as manifested in the sinfulness of its individual citizens. Drinking, cursing, sabbath breaking and attending the theater were all pursuits that continued in the midst of the plague. And such activities invited the wrath of God. How then, asked Helmuth, could the church possibly refrain from gathering and turning the people from their sins to a life that God could bless?

With the cooler autumn weather of 1793, the epidemic released its grip. It returned, however, almost annually, with another especially destructive outbreak in 1798. And through the years it seemed that God continued regularly to send "another scourge" upon the people of the United States. Years later, in 1918, when an epidemic of the Spanish flu had devastating effects throughout the world, one of the hardest hit cities was Philadelphia, which did little to mitigate the impact of the flu.

Other cities did address the problem, including the imposition of what were broadly called "Churchless Sundays." St. Louis closed the churches for one Sunday, Oct. 13, 1918. J.H.C. Fritz, chairman of the St. Louis Pastoral Conference and later professor at Concordia Seminary, noted that it was "customary among Lutherans to have family worship," and he recommended that "the 'lessons for the day' be read from the Bible in lieu of the church service." [4] In other places government directives extended these

**ANOTHER SCOURGE continued**



over several Sundays. What could be done in a world with no opportunity for livestreaming or video delivery of sermons? In Knoxville, Tenn., the Rev. K. Kretschmar encouraged his flock to have family devotions so that Sundays, “though churchless,” might be “God-full.”[5]

Our Synod was affected by the pandemic. At least 19 pastors and three teachers died of the flu. Both seminaries closed and one student, H. Kern, died at the St. Louis seminary. Several district conventions were postponed or shortened. And yet, in

time, the pandemic passed, and we were able to gather together once more around pulpit, font and altar.

In the midst of the pandemic, there was profound uncertainty and anxiety, not unlike that of 1793 — and 2020. By late September 1793, Pastor Helmuth nearly despaired as he wrote in his journal: “The sickness and death are all around us. Lord Jesus, help us. Do not leave us alone.” Jesus does not abandon us, especially in uncertain times. For we are His church, and as the dearly beloved children of God, we have His promise never to leave us or forsake us.

While it seems that we must endure “another scourge,” in truth we know that God works all things together for the good of those who love Him (Rom. 8:28). That is His promise to you and me — to us as The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Truly, it seems to be the case that the issue of gathering together in our congregations is more on the minds of our Synod than it has been in years. While we may have taken this blessing for granted, we don’t any longer. Now, as we anguish over being separated from one another, this leads us to look forward to that time when we gather together around the Word and Sacraments. At the same time, we see the Scripture being shared over social media as never before. Christ is being proclaimed. In the midst of challenge, there is an opportunity to confess God’s faithfulness, to serve our neighbors in their bodily and spiritual needs, and to reach out to them with the Good News of Christ’s death and resurrection. As we do so, we must act wisely in the midst of the present uncertainties. In all things, we trust in God’s unwavering promise to us: “And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age” (Matt. 28:20).

*The Rev. Dr. Lawrence R. Rast Jr. is president of Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne.*

*This article originally appeared in print in the June/July 2020 issue of The Lutheran Witness.*

[1] “The Epidemic,” *The Lutheran Witness* 37 (1918): 339.

[2] Helmuth, *Yellow Fever*, 40.

[3] “Rev. Helmuth’s Diary,” 3 November 1793, [bobarnebeck.com/helmuth.html](http://bobarnebeck.com/helmuth.html), accessed April 19, 2020.

[4] “Churchless Sundays Will Be Observed Because of Plague,” *St. Louis Globe-Democrat*, Oct. 12, 1918.

[5] “Revive Worship Sunday in Home,” *Knoxville Sentinel*, Oct. 19, 1918.



## Life Quotes for July

July 5 "Today we thank God that He believed so strongly in freedom from pain, sadness, mourning, and death that He was willing to sacrifice his Son for us. So even as we celebrate with our 'close' eye, our 'far away' eye is 'longing for a better country—a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them' (Hebrews 11:16)." Linda Buxa, Time of Grace – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • [www.lutheransforlife.org](http://www.lutheransforlife.org)

July 12 "What does it say to our neighbor when in our own families we care for our elderly, become foster parents, adopt children, care for the handicapped, or carry through with an unplanned pregnancy? What does it say to our community when in our churches we care and pray for each other, offer families respite care, visit nursing homes, or provide for the needs of pregnant women? It says that we are truly For Life because we are living it." Diane E. Schroeder, former president of Lutherans For Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • [www.lutheransforlife.org](http://www.lutheransforlife.org)

July 19 "Lifting each other up, as we share our faith in Christ Who came to make all things new, is the only hope we have. Let us not waste this life God has given us, but let us move forward in faith, together, knowing that ultimately the gates of hell will not prevail against those who love God." Abbott Tryphon, Vashon Island, Washington – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • [www.lutheransforlife.org](http://www.lutheransforlife.org)

July 26 "Our lives may be full of stress, but Jesus is with us as He has always been—walking with us, holding us in His hands, keeping us in His care. Nothing can take God's love away from us. Nothing, not even death—not even death on a cross!—can keep Jesus from the people He came to save." Dr. Kari Vo, Lutheran Hour Ministries – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • [www.lutheransforlife.org](http://www.lutheransforlife.org)



## Life Quotes for August

August 2 "If God does not remember your forgiven sin, then why should you? Paul knew that when a penitent person confesses [his or her] guilt to God and seeks pardon through the merit of Christ the Savior, God forgives the sinner completely, absolutely, and without reservation." Rev. Dr. Armin Oldsen, former speaker of "The Lutheran Hour" – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • [www.lutheransforlife.org](http://www.lutheransforlife.org)

August 9 "[W]hen a child is adopted into a family, there is a real family formed there. Our entire Gospel is at stake in that recognition because there is no such thing as an 'adopted child,' only children who were adopted. Adopted in the New Testament is a past-tense verb, not an adjective." Dr. Russell D. Moore, author of "Adopted for Life: The Priority of Adoption for Christian Families" and chair of the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention. – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • [www.lutheransforlife.org](http://www.lutheransforlife.org)

August 16 "Christianity proclaims a God who valued humanity so much that in Jesus God took on flesh, becoming human. He took on His own jar of clay and in so doing gifted all of humanity with immeasurable treasure." Margaret Manning Shull, Ravi Zacharias International Ministries – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • [www.lutheransforlife.org](http://www.lutheransforlife.org)

August 23 "We run to help people in need; we run to deal with emergencies and crises and the problems of every day; we take the Good News to people we love, family and friends and neighbors alike. But there are also times we can sit—and rejoice that Jesus is risen, that evil is conquered, and that God's victory is certain." Dr. Kari Vo – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • [www.lutheransforlife.org](http://www.lutheransforlife.org)

August 30 "The One who created the heavens and the earth, the Author of the sun and the stars in the sky, is also the One who came Himself as the promise of light. Into the darkness of this world, the Word at the very beginning became flesh to dwell among us. Of this remarkably authored story, one witness writes: In Him was life and that life was the light of all people. The Light shines in the darkness and the darkness did not overcome it. (John 1:4-5)" Tejdor Tiewsoh, Ravi Zacharias International Ministries, Shillong, India – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • [www.lutheransforlife.org](http://www.lutheransforlife.org)

## Announcements



### 2021 LWML CONVENTION

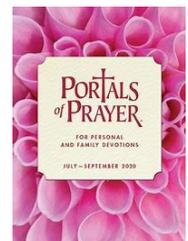
**A Long Race?** It is a distance to the beginning of the 39<sup>th</sup> Biennial LWML Convention to be held in Lexington, Kentucky, June 24-27, 2021. The convention theme, "Running the Race...Looking to Jesus," is based on this verse from Scripture, *Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that*

*is set before us looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God* (Hebrews 12:1-2). A runner knows that he must set a careful and deliberate pace to reach the goal. Pray for the 2021 Host Convention Committee and the host districts, Indiana, Michigan and Ohio, as they set the pace adding runners/volunteers to join them as they run toward the 2021 convention. Prayerfully consider attending the convention and assist the Host Convention Committee with your time and talents. Check the LWML Indiana District website, [www.lwmlindiana.org](http://www.lwmlindiana.org), for a list of the many opportunities available to serve on the Call for Workers form. Pray that as we run the race set before us to proclaim His name, we do so "Looking to Jesus." **You** have special gifts and talents. Pray for the Lord to lead and guide you as you look for the opportunity to volunteer. Prayerfully make plans to attend the 2021 LWML Convention, whether as a volunteer, delegate, or as a guest, and be part of an uplifting and lifetime experience as we are "Looking to Jesus."

Additional information is also available at <http://lwmlohio.org>. If you have other questions you can contact Billie Lelle at 440-867-2747.

### ***New Portals of Prayer Available***

The July—September 2020 Portals of Prayer daily devotions are now available. Copies can be found at the back of the sanctuary by the double doors or the resource area, on the coat rack shelf by the kitchen, or the literature rack by the church office.



### **Updated Congregation Members Directory**



The forms to update our congregation member directory were placed in your mailbox on June 22, 2020. After two weekends far we have received 40% of the forms back. WAY TO GO!!! If you have not returned the form please review the printed information making any necessary changes. Your address, phone number and e-mail are used to keep you up to date on what's going on at St.

Paul's. If possible please complete the form before you leave church. Please place the form in basket near the bulletins even if there are no changes.



## July Birthdays

Christopher Franz	2nd	Deborah Lawlor	12th	Rory Srebernak	27th
Jim Franz	2nd	Eleanore King	21st	Frank Vosicky III	27th
Matt Greig	4th	Robert McDonnell	21st	Marian Sweetapple	28th
Rosemary Galayda	8th	Ed Prib	22nd	Margaret Hiller	30th
Aaron Lindrose	11th	Scott Javins	24th	Ed Hines	30th
John Doeing Jr.	12th	Jacob Shutic	25th	Craig McConnell	31st
Kathy Doeing	12th	Joshua Shutic	25th	Marie Rusnak	31st
Stephanie Javins	12th				

## August Birthdays

Roy Greig	1st	Ellie Cardina	11th	Ray Cavender	26th
Kirsten Ponsart	1st	Meaghan Sundbom	12th	Eric Greig	27th
Helen Carver	2nd	Molly Doeing	15th	Sam Doeing	28th
Ed Kujala	3rd	Susan Geyer	15th	Johanna Sistik	28th
Jaclyn Sweetapple	3rd	Molly Lindrose	22nd	Donna Salminen	29th
Karen Tuttle	3rd	Joshua Sundbom	22nd	Wendy Somerville	30th
Joe Doeing	6th	Kurt West	25th	Adam Krueger	31st



## July Anniversaries

Jim and Becky Franz	42 years on July 1
Lea and Bill Brandt	14 years on July 4
Wendy and Keith Somerville	23 years on July 4
Don and Debbie Bennington	39 years on July 11
Jack and Billie Lelle	50 years on July 11
Cheryl and Barry DeWit	34 years on July 19
Scott and Stephanie Javins	16 years on July 24



## August Anniversaries

Ken and Hasnah Chaffe	27 years on August 7
Harold and Margie Dennison	57 years on August 10
Aaron and Michelle Lindrose	24 years on August 10
Kathy and Peter Emrich	43 years on August 13
Joe and Star Graziadei	12 years on August 29
Roy and Julie Greig	39 years on August 29



## Altar Flowers



Is there someone special, a special date, or a special event you would like to honor. 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: JULY 2020

**ELDERS:**

6:00 P	Saturday	Aaron Lindrose
9:30 A	Sunday	Dale Kerver/Eric West

**LECTORS:**

07-04-20	6:00	Saturday	Pastor Sundbom
07-05-20	9:30	Sunday	Jack Lelle
07-11-20	6:00	Saturday	Frank McVan
07-12-20	9:30	Sunday	Eric West
07-18-20	6:00	Saturday	Pastor Sundbom
07-19-20	9:30	Sunday	Sandy Heckler
07-25-20	6:00	Saturday	Frank McVan
07-26-20	9:30	Sunday	Terry Wakelee

**COUNTERS:**

Terry Wakelee, Dennis Concoby, Connie Concoby

**GREETERS:** None

### THOSE WHO SERVE: AUGUST 2020

**ELDERS:**

6:00 P	Saturday	John Doeing
9:30 A	Sunday	Jeff Troutman/Rich Szoradi

**LECTORS:**

08-01-20	6:00	Saturday	Pastor Sundbom
08-02-20	9:30	Sunday	Dale Kerver
08-08-20	6:00	Saturday	Frank McVan
08-09-20	9:30	Sunday	Ken Chaffe
08-15-20	6:00	Saturday	Pastor Sundbom
08-16-20	9:30	Sunday	Craig McConnell
08-22-20	6:00	Saturday	Frank McVan
08-23-20	9:30	Sunday	Kathleen Pennell
08-29-20	6:00	Saturday	Pastor Sundbom
08-30-20	9:30	Sunday	Jack Lelle

**COUNTERS:**

Ken Chaffe, Craig McConnell, Kristi McConnell

**GREETERS:** None



# July 2020



**Sun      Mon      Tue      Wed      Thu      Fri      Sat**

			1	2	3	4
<div style="display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="text-align: center;">   <b>COMMUNION SERVICE</b> </div> <div style="text-align: right;"> <p><b>SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE</b>            Saturdays - 6:00pm            Sundays - 9:30am            No Sunday School or Bible Study</p> </div> </div>						
5	6	7 World Chocolate Day	8	9 Virtual Bible Study 7:00pm	10	11 
12 	13	14 National Mac and Cheese Day	15	16 Preschool Board Meeting 6:00pm (tentative)  Virtual Bible Study 7:00pm	17	18
19	20	21	22	23 Virtual Bible Study 7:00pm  National Vanilla Ice Cream Day	24	25 
26 	27	28	29	30 Virtual Bible Study 7:00pm  International Cheesecake Day	31	<div style="border: 2px solid red; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: auto;"> <p style="text-align: center;">Bulletin Announcements Due Wednesdays</p> </div>



# August 2020



**Sun**

**Mon**

**Tue**

**Wed**

**Thu**

**Fri**

**Sat**

 <p><b>COMMUNION SERVICE</b></p>		<p><b>SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE</b>                  Saturdays - 6:00pm                  Sundays - 9:30am                  No Sunday School or Bible Study</p>				
2	3	4	5 Council Meeting 6:30pm	6 Virtual Bible Study 7:00pm National Root Beer Float Day	7	8 
9 	10	11	12 Elders Meeting 6:30pm	13 Virtual Bible Study 7:00pm	14	15 Computer, Television, CRT, Monitor & Household Electronics Collection @ Lake County Fairgrounds 9:00am—3:00pm
16 National Roller Coaster Day	17 Black Cat Appreciation Day	18	19 OSL—First Day of School	20 Virtual Bible Study 7:00pm	21 	22 
23 	24	25	26 National Dog Day	27 Virtual Bible Study 7:00pm	28	29 
30	31					