

# Christ's Calling Card



**St. Paul's Lutheran Church ELCA**  
401 Mill Street Wilton, WI 54670



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**May - June 2021**  
**Bi-Monthly Newsletter**

## Message from Pastor Cathy Morris

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This past week, we celebrated Good Shepherd Sunday and remembered Earth Day with a special worship service from Lutherans Restoring Creation. The service highlighted God's creation, Jesus' role as the Good Shepherd, and our role as sheep/created beings.

Today, we continue to ponder these themes as we read Psalm 100-

**Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come into his presence with singing. Know that the Lord is God. It is he that made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him, bless his name. For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations. (Emphasis added, NRSV)**

In challenging times, the many gifts that God provides for us can sometimes seem far away. Our thoughts may turn instead, to the pandemic, financial issues, health setbacks, racial injustices in the news, and more. These things can fill our minds and hearts with sadness. But these verses from Psalm 100 remind us that God is the creator of all things, and God's love is steadfast! We are not to lose heart, but to, "Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth!" God's love is stronger, God's love is more powerful than the evils of the world. God's love is forever; from everlasting to everlasting!

Presiding Bishop Eaton's sermon for Good Shepherd Sunday included these words--

We make a mistake, and we miss a lot I think when we try to walk away from our own creatureliness, when we try to somehow escape this world that we're in and are not able to recognize that God still cares about and is still creating this place, this earth, this cosmos, all of it. And that human creatures are just one part of the creation. And we have Con't



## Church Council

Justin Arndt  
*President*

John Ornes  
*President Elect*

Larry Ballwahn  
*Secretary*

Lori Brueggen  
*Treasurer*

Steve Brandau

Joel Arndt

Tim Deichler

Angie Gruen

Bud Osteboe

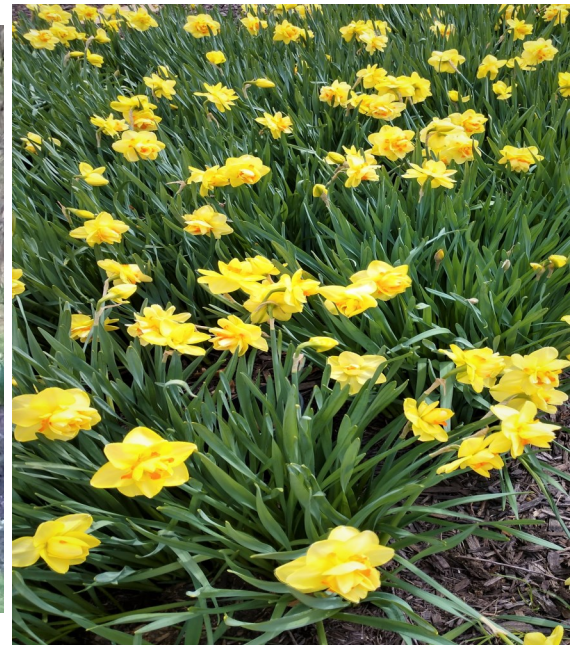
MAY 2, 9:am BACK  
IN CHURCH

**Pastor Cathy Con't**

been called to tend this garden that God has given to us and so when we disavow somehow our own creatureliness, I think we set ourselves off and apart from God. (Transcribed for Good Shepherd Sunday, April 25, 2021.)

How might we acknowledge our creatureliness? How might we connect with God's creation, rather than "set ourselves off and apart from God?" How might we recognize and acknowledge that God's work in the world is not done!

Perhaps we can start simply, by looking for other creatures during walks in the neighborhood, at county and state parks, at Kickapoo Valley Reserve, and Wildcat Mountain State Park. You can bring your camera, and as you walk, you can take photos of some of the creatures you see. Or, you can create your own scavenger hunt form filled with the names of various birds and animals, and check them off as you see them. Or, you can take your sketch pad and draw pictures. Perhaps you too will espy a cardinal nestled in a tree, or three deer (one of them hiding) before you! (See photos.) How fun it is to be able to look back at the pictures, and remember your encounter with God's creatures and your own creatureliness!



We can also enjoy the flowers, shrubs, trees and other flora that grow in the rich soil of God's earth. A field of daffodils may greet you, too, on your next hike! (See photo).

Taking our next steps, we can look to our own carbon footprint and ways in which we can reduce, reuse, and/or recycle on a daily basis. We can compost food waste, use water from a rain barrel for watering plants, plant a vegetable garden, recycle plastic and metal, donate items we don't use anymore to a worthy cause, and more. How we go about making positive changes, begins by looking at our own lives, and taking steps that will make a difference to God, God's creatures, and God's earth.

No matter what challenges life may present you, remember that God has given you, and all created beings, God's beautiful garden to tend, and God's many other creatures to care for and enjoy. How will you stay connected to God and God's creatures? By celebrating today and every day, our creatureliness, and God's creation, as we do our part to help conservation efforts and "Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all ye earth!" Thanks be to God.

Peace,

**Pastor Cathy**

**From Council President, Justin Arndt**



**When this pandemic first started, no one expected the church's sanctuary to be closed to weekly services for over 13 months. The severity and transmissibility of this virus has been relentless and it has touched many of our families. As daily cases locally have become low and the percentage of vaccinated congregation members continue to increase, the church council has decided to return to in sanctuary services starting this coming Sunday (May 2<sup>nd</sup>).**

**As exciting as this news is, it is not a complete return to pre-pandemic times. The virus is still present in our community and not all members are vaccinated. Several precautions will be put in place for the safety of everyone.**

**Wearing a mask is required.**

**Please maintain physical distancing inside the sanctuary.**

**Seating will be restricted to every other pew.**

**Songs will be led from the front of the church; we ask that the congregation speak the words or hum along only. If you or your family would like to lead songs, please contact Nalani.**

**Disinfecting of pews and commonly touched surfaces will take place weekly.**

**Besides the above precautions, you will notice a couple other differences initially – services will be a shorter and you will not hear the organ (see organ article). We will continue monitoring the pandemic and update precautions regularly.**

**Finally, I would like to thank you for your continued support of St. Paul's. The last year has been challenging to all of us. We appreciate your patience and understanding as we have worked to keep our congregation safe and continue to do so in the months ahead.**

**-With the help donations and Thrivent Grants the Dinner cleared nearly \$4,500. On behalf of the congregation, Thank you to Co-Chairs Lori Brueggen and Nalani Bever. LB**

**-Thayden Conner is the new Church custodian.**

**-The Annual Meeting be held on May 23, following the Church Service.**



## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

### May

- Sun., 2<sup>nd</sup>      Worship Service 9:00 am  
Sun., 9<sup>th</sup>      Worship Service 9:00 am  
                    Mother's Day  
Sun., 16<sup>th</sup>     Worship Service 9:00 am  
                    Graduate Recognition  
Sun., 23<sup>rd</sup>     Worship Service 9:00 am  
                    Annual Meeting to follow  
Sun., 30<sup>th</sup>     Worship Service  
                    9:00 am  
Mon., 31<sup>st</sup>     Memorial Day

### **MEMORIAL DAY**



### **Wilton American Legion Post #508 Schedule**

- 9:30 AM St. John's Catholic Cemetery  
(Following times are approximate)  
9:45 AM Hillside Cemetery  
10:00 AM Highway 131 Bridge  
10:15 AM St. Paul's Lutheran Cemetery  
10:30 AM South Ridge Lutheran Cemetery  
10:45 AM Cal Day Cemetery  
11:00 AM Dorset Ridge Cemetery



### June

- Sat., 5<sup>th</sup>      Blood Drive, 7:00 – 11:30 am  
Sun., 6<sup>th</sup>      Worship Service 9:00 am  
Sun., 13<sup>th</sup>     Worship Service 9:00 am  
Sun., 20<sup>th</sup>     Worship Service 9:00 am  
                    Father's Day  
Sun., 27<sup>th</sup>     Worship Service 9:00 am

## **BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES**

### May

- 2<sup>nd</sup>      Brodie Stanek, Amy Steinke  
3<sup>rd</sup>      Debra Paeth  
8<sup>th</sup>      Connor Garske  
9<sup>th</sup>      Ryan Conner  
11<sup>th</sup>     Tammy and Duane Roscovius  
14<sup>th</sup>     Robert Cale, Matt and Diana Ornes,  
            Bud and Lila Speicher  
16<sup>th</sup>     Deacon Erdman  
18<sup>th</sup>     Fynlie Stanek  
20<sup>th</sup>     Kody Tormoen  
22<sup>nd</sup>     Brooklyn Gruen, Carol Nevin  
27<sup>th</sup>     Rachel Fleming  
29<sup>th</sup>     Gary and Barb Bever  
31<sup>st</sup>     Nalani Bever, John T. Dougherty

### June

- 1<sup>st</sup>      Jada Garske  
2<sup>nd</sup>      Brent Garske  
3<sup>rd</sup>      Bob Buchholz  
4<sup>th</sup>      Myles Garske  
5<sup>th</sup>      Eric Steinke  
6<sup>th</sup>      Dan Brandau  
8<sup>th</sup>      Leonard Arndt  
10<sup>th</sup>     Dan and Janelle Buchholz,  
            Ryan and Rachel Conner  
11<sup>th</sup>     Emma Gruen  
12<sup>th</sup>     Larry Bever  
13<sup>th</sup>     Katie and Brent Garske,  
            Rob and Lana Ross  
15<sup>th</sup>     Allen Roscovius  
16<sup>th</sup>     Larry Ballwahn  
19<sup>th</sup>     Alaina Holthaus  
21<sup>st</sup>     Jack Arndt  
23<sup>rd</sup>     Jim and Carol Brandau  
27<sup>th</sup>     Lori Brueggen  
28<sup>th</sup>     Collin Niedfeldt  
30<sup>th</sup>     Miranda Arndt, David Gruen

## WORSHIP NOTES FOR MAY & JUNE, 2021

The following are the Scripture readings that we will be sharing in worship during the months of May and June.

**May 2 – Fifth Sunday of Easter**  
Acts 8:26-40; Psalm 22:25-31;  
1 John 4:7-21; John 15:1-8

**May 9—Sixth Sunday of Easter**  
Acts 10:44-48; Psalm 98  
1 John 5:1-6; John 15:9-17

**May 16— Seventh Sunday of Easter**  
Acts 1:15-17, 21-26; Psalm 1  
1 John 5:9-13 John 17:6-19

**May 23— Day of Pentecost**  
Acts 2:1-21; Psalm 104:24-34, 35b  
Romans 8:22-27; John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

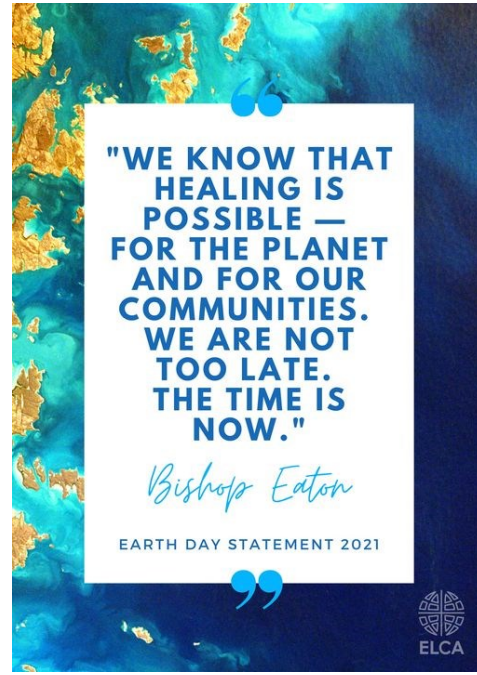
**May 30— The Holy Trinity**  
Isaiah 6:1-8; Psalm 29;  
Romans 8:12-17; John 3:1-17

**June 6 – Second Sunday after Pentecost**  
Genesis 3:8-15; Psalm 130;  
2 Corinthians 4:13--5:1; Mark 3:20-35

**June 13 – Third Sunday after Pentecost**  
Ezekiel 17:22-24; Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15;  
2 Corinthians 5:6-10, 14-17; Mark 4:26-34

**June 20 – Fourth Sunday after Pentecost**  
Job 38:1-11; Psalm 107:1-3, 23-32;  
2 Corinthians 6:1-13; Mark 4:35-41

**June 27 – Fifth Sunday after Pentecost**  
Lamentations 3:22-33; Psalm 30;  
2 Corinthians 8:7-15; Mark 5:21-43



### THOSE SERVING IN MAY

#### Readers:

May 2<sup>nd</sup> Larry Ballwahn;  
May 9<sup>th</sup> Leonard Arndt;  
May 16<sup>th</sup> Justin Arndt;  
May 23<sup>rd</sup> Greg Bever;  
May 30<sup>th</sup> Bud Osteboe

**Communion Server:** Leonard Arndt

### THOSE SERVING IN JUNE

#### Readers:

June 6<sup>th</sup> Arlis Ballwahn;  
June 13<sup>th</sup> Lori Arndt;  
June 20<sup>th</sup> Barb Ornes;  
June 27<sup>th</sup> Kirstin Arndt

**Communion Server:** Justin Arndt

# W-ELCA NEWSLETTER

MAY/JUNE 2021



Several women have been doing “well-masked” quilting in the basement. Quilts have been completed for our six High School seniors who will be graduating this year.

The collection of items for Personal Care Kits has continued and will soon be packed for shipping.

W-ELCA will not participate in the Village Wide Rummage Sales in May, since the church has not yet been open for activities.

**All women of St. Paul’s are members of W-ELCA and new faces are always welcome at any and all events.**



## First Quarter Financial Figures

**The first quarter 2021 (January-March) offerings totaled \$17,821.43 while our expenses were \$21,858.08, or \$4,036.65 in excess of our offerings.**

**For comparison sake, we held first quarter 2020 services in the sanctuary, with the exception of March 22 & 29, and the expenses exceeded our offerings by \$4,315.00.**

**It would appear, pandemic or not, the first quarter has proven a challenge perhaps caused by property taxes, income taxes, and other typical household expenses during the first quarter, regardless of the year.**

## Worth Your Time

A member of our book club shared this with us and I shared it with a friend. LB

... I would like to pass it onto you because ... you are good people, I believe it will touch your souls in a meaningful way. As the pastor said to his all white congregation at the end “you now can not say I didn’t know “

**You can just google YouTube Brian Rudesill Racism: Why Are They So Angry.**

Friend’s review: This is amazing. Best one hour description of black life in America I have ever seen. Everyone should have to watch that.



## Take Note!

### FAMILY FARM PROJECT (update)

#### La Crosse Area Synod 2020-2021

The emphasis for the 2020 Synod Assembly was to have been “Synod Barn Raising”. Since the Assembly was not held last year, the Project has been extended into 2021. Each Congregation was given a barn cut-out to decorate and use as a goal. Our barn was painted and decorated by Ayawyn Conner. Thank you, Ayawyn. The cost of a “Family Farm” through ELCA Good Gifts is \$715. Each Congregation is encouraged to provide several “farms”.

St. Paul’s has to date raised enough to purchase 3 farms through the Christmas Angel Project, W-ELCA donation and personal contributions toward World Hunger. Can we do better? The 2021 Assembly will be held virtually in June. Please consider a donation for World Hunger. Each farm includes a cow, two goats, two pigs, a dozen chickens, seeds, tools and agricultural training.

Arlis Ballwahn, Hunger Leader



### CHICKEN DINNER FUNDRAISER

With the help of \$5,764.00 in ticket sales as well as a Thrivent Grant and donations from several folks, we were pleased to report a profit of \$4,484.71 to the church council members at their meeting held yesterday.

This fundraiser could not have happened without the help and support of so many in our congregation. Selling and buying tickets, cash donations, help in the meal preparation, serving the meal, and on and on. This is such a collaborative effort, rather than run the risk of leaving a name off a “thank you” list, if you helped in any way please know how much your help was appreciated.

We also wish to thank folks for their patience when we were unable to start serving at 11:00 am. The damp weather slowed the grilling process, speaking of which, thanks to Jamie Thomas and his crew from Ontario who grilled the chicken. It was delicious and we are hoping all would agree, worth the wait.

St Paul’s Lutheran Church

Lori Brueggen & Nalani Bever, Co-chairs



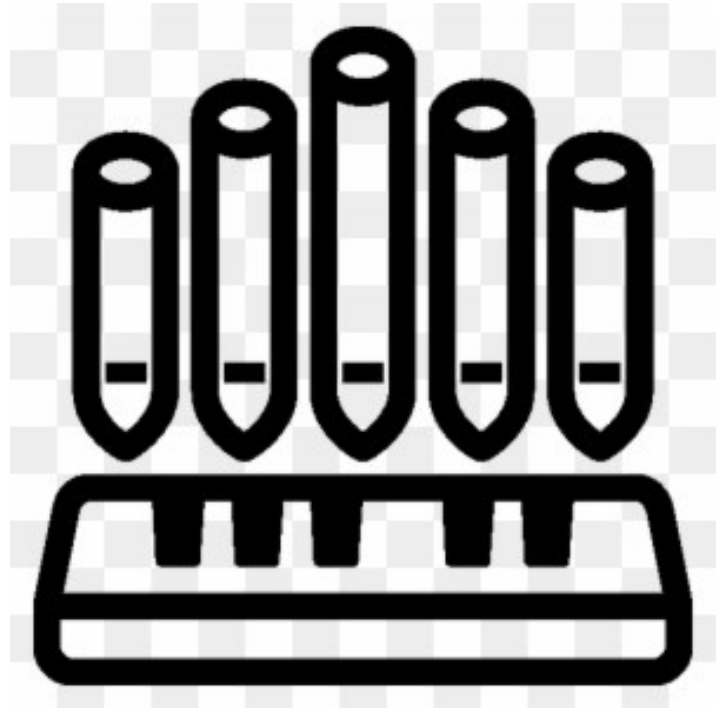
# Organ Renovation

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Calendars, Church  
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Nalani Bever**

**Congregation pictures:  
Contributed -  
Facebook**

**\*\*The Website & Facebook pages  
were developed & are administered  
by April Arndt**

**April also developed the front page of  
the Newsletter**



## Organ Renovation Update

The renovation is currently at a standstill as we await the replacement of the tall pipes that sit in the very back of the organ chamber. These were considerably damaged over the years because of water leaking into the chamber and the damaged plaster falling on them. The other interesting fact is the pipes are made of lead, a soft metal, easily bent or mangled. The good news, which we just learned today (4/26), is the pipes that we thought totally beyond repair, have indeed been repaired!!

We have raised approximately \$19,000.00 toward the cost of the renovation, which will probably end up in the area of \$25,000.00. You will recall, Marlene Korth donated \$25,000.00 in honor and memory of her mother Louella Martalock, a longtime organist at St. Paul's. When it appeared nothing was going to be done with the organ, we placed \$8,500.00 in an account and applied the remaining funds to the restoration of the large stain glass window on the south side of the sanctuary. (In Honor of Louella & Pete Martalock by Gary & Marlene Korth).

Fast forward to this project. For all practicable purposes we have replenished the funds used for the stain glass window and are nearing the entire use of the remaining funds donated by the Korths.

We will certainly continue to accept donations to the organ fund with the ultimate goal of donations covering the entire project.



## Every Member Visit Recommendations

At the request of the council, the every member visit committee met to provide recommendation based on the congregational surveys completed last year. The committee met twice to review the comments and formulate these recommendations. They have been split into 5 categories, although some would fit under more than one. The recommendations include ideas pertaining to both congregation and pastoral improvements as we try to grow our church once again.

### Being a welcoming congregation

Greeting guide

- Set of best practices for welcoming people into the church
- Review with greeters and congregation on regular basis

Create a "first visit" committee

- Group of people to engage and welcome visitors
- Create/provide visitors with one-page takeaway
- Send a follow-up note

Have the Pastor greet people prior to service

- Council to ensure Pastor's availability

Have a social time prior to service

- Remove the back pews to create space
- Weekly coffee & treats

### Enhancing weekly services

Reduce quiet/meditation time to the last 2-3 minutes of the prelude

Opening welcome

- Pastor to welcome everyone to the service
- Invite moments of celebration from the community
- Recite the congregation Mission Statement: As God's children we are Inviting People to Journey with Christ's Family in Spreading God's Love and Mercy

Worship is a celebration of God and our community

- Sunday school singing during the service
- Celebrate birthdays & anniversaries during the service

Provide Pastor with mentoring for sermon development & presentation

### Promoting youth involvement/growth

Youth planned/led services

Provide more youth activities

- High school youth meeting regularly/trips
- Confirmation trips/retreats

Promote attendance at Sugar Creek Bible Camp

### Nurturing spiritual growth

Provide a monthly bible study

Provide opportunities to serve

- God's work our hands
- Church/parsonage clean-up
- Community projects

Congregational movie nights

- Show a religious or family movies
- Have short discussion following

### Increasing congregation/ community engagement

Card engagement committee

- Group of people that sends cards/ letters to fellow members
- Special occasion – birthdays, anniversaries, births, graduations, etc.

Phone engagement committee

- Group of people that make phone calls to fellow members
- Regular contact with older/less connected members

Have a float in the Wood Turtle Days parade

### Every Member Visit Committee

Justin Arndt (Chair)

Larry Ballwahn

Steve Brandau

Louise Buchholz

Rachel Conner

Thadyn Conner

Bud Osteboe -

(Original chair; resigned the role due to an accident)

Congregational Bible trivia nights

Younger adult's group

Opportunity for those in their 20s, 30s and 40s to gather

Gathering could be adult only and/or for entire families

Arrange babysitting (if needed) for adult only gatherings.

Men's group

Inviting people to journey with Christ's family in spreading God's love and mercy.

Christ's Calling Card  
St. Paul's Lutheran  
Church



**St. Paul's Lutheran Church**

"A Welcoming Place for over 125 years"

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