



The Epistle

Summer Memories

BY TERRI DEANGELIS

They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts.
Acts 2:46b

It's the height of the summer. My thoughts move fondly toward bittersweet memories of the years of annual reunions organized by my mother's family. We all think longingly of other times when we moved through our lives marking significant milestones—birthdays, holidays, graduations, weddings, or funerals—celebrating important relationships – gathering in churches, organizations, each other's homes, on vacations, dining out, and hanging with our friends. Now everything has changed. How should we respond to the multiple challenges facing us? Change is never easy.

We must devise new ways of doing things, at least until we have viable solutions to the pandemic threatening former attitudes and practices. So what if we have to wear a mask or social distance ourselves. So we will need to find alternative forms of socializing and celebrating. Some of this may seem unfair. I think of young brides whose weddings are now on hold or graduates who cannot revel in their own academic achievements, but then life is not always fair. This is our current reality. It is not encroaching on individual rights; it is common sense and societal responsibility. Our parents'

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NEW FLOORING INSTALLED!

The Capital Campaign Committee and many other volunteers have been busy while St. Paul's building has been closed, getting our new carpet and laminate flooring installed in the sanctuary! We hope to be able to see it in person sometime soon.

Special thanks to:
Eric Bardes
Kris Keith
Jim Sturgill
Bess Sturgill
Christian Lohmeier
Maddie Lohmeier
Livee Lohmeier
Mark Lohmeier,
Spencer Lohmeier
& Grant Lohmeier
for their help during the installation.

The Capital Campaign Committee
(Doug Lohmeier,
Nelson Langefeld,
Janet King, and
Pat Coldiron)

Summer Memories

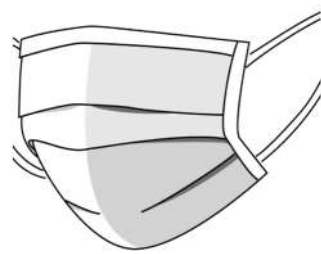
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generation endured numerous hardships during the Great Depression and WWII, rationing, delaying milestone events, and doing without what they wanted or needed. These two experiences did more to strengthen our parents' generation than any other events in their lifetimes.

If we profess to care about one another, we must act to protect and support each other. Is our love for family, friends, colleagues, neighbors, or institutions diminished by precautionary measures? I don't believe so. We can telephone, text, Skype, send cards and notes, simply enjoy being at home with our immediate families. We need to be concerned about the collective good, about improving everyone's lives, even if it means some personal sacrifices. We're all in this together, and we must learn to make the best of it for the sake of all of us. Are we?

Peace in Christ,
Terri DeAngelis

"In-Person" Worship Resumes July 12th



*Please bring your
mask if you have one.*

St. Paul will re-open for worship on July 12th at 10:30am. We are all anxious to meet together again but the health and safety of each and every person is of utmost importance making it **essential for every person do a risk assessment** to determine when and if it is safe for them to return. As per CDC guidelines, consider age, fever, overall health, travel the two weeks prior, and contact with others who may have COVID or may have been exposed to COVID-19. **Online worship will continue to be available indefinitely for those who need or want this option.**

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“In-Person” Worship Resumes July 12th

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WHAT TO EXPECT AT WORSHIP

- Forehead **temperatures will be checked** at the door
- Everyone is asked to **wear a facemask** unless prohibited by a health condition (children age 2 and under excluded). Please bring your mask from home, or we can provide one if needed.
- Use of the church facility will be limited to the **West side parking lot entry, sanctuary and first floor restroom**. These areas will be disinfected prior to worship.
- **Hand sanitizer** will be available at multiple locations.
- Cleaning supplies will be available in the restroom for those that would like to disinfect between uses on Sunday.
- There will be **no coffee and donuts**.
- **Socializing will need to take place outside** using social distancing. The narthex will only be used to enter or leave the sanctuary.
- There will be **no nursery or activity time**. Activity bags for kids will be disposable for taking home.
- Everything will look and feel different- The sanctuary flooring has been changed. **Nonessential items will be removed** including flowers, hymnals, etc for ease of disinfection.
- There will be **no paper bulletins** but a large screen down front, and also an electronic bulletin which you can download to your phone or digital device, if you prefer it to the large screen.
- There will be **no singing or communion** for now.
- **Tithes** can be deposited in a designated box rather than passing the plate. They can also be mailed or given online.
- **Service will be shorter** without singing, communion, passing the plate or passing the peace.

Reserve your seat- Please let us know when you plan to attend service in person so that we can plan seating with proper social distancing. You can call the church office at 513-821-0987 by Friday noon, or reserve online if you like. Online reservations can be made through the St. Paul Facebook page, in the Events section (at [facebook.com/stpaulcincinnati](https://www.facebook.com/stpaulcincinnati)) or at stpaulreading.eventbrite.com.

Thank you all very much for your patience, understanding and help as we move forward to continue the mission of St. Paul while preserving the health and safety of family and friends. Our social distancing practices and procedures for in person worship and meeting will change and evolve as we work through these challenging times. Stay safe and be well.

St. Paul Council

A Word from Pastor Joan

“I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”
John 13:34-35

Jesus gives this new commandment to his disciples just after unlovable Judas leaves the dinner and goes out into the darkness of the night on his errand of betrayal. It is a single command that overrides all of the rest.

After all, if we love one another, we will not kill each other, or steal from others, or bear false witness and gossip against our neighbors. When we have the love that Jesus commands us to have, we naturally will not act in ways that are harmful to others and ourselves. But the only way we can ever actually come close to living in such love for one another is if we are already keeping the first three commandments about loving and honoring God. We need to belong to God with all our hearts and minds in order to love others because often those others do things that hurt us terribly. Often those darn others we are supposed to love just aren't lovable, and they don't seem to love us back either.

One simple commandment: “Love one another.” Yet our human nature makes this commandment tougher to keep than all the others. Jesus understood that when he said these words to his disciples. He knew they would be facing situations that required love because it is commanded, not because it is evoked by the actions of others. Jesus didn't say these words to offer a “suggestion” of how his

disciples are to live. He commanded them to love and told them that when they love others as he has loved them, it would be so noticeable, so counter the culture of the world in any time or place, that observers would know that they were his followers solely because of it.

Jesus says that this kind of love is a more obvious mark of a Christian than wearing a cross around your neck, or on your bumper, or even going to church. Jesus knew these words would be hard for 21st Century people to live by, just as they were hard for the early church fathers and mothers. Our current cultural moment of reflection on racial justice for people of color calls us to practice this now more than ever.

The only way we can attempt that kind of love is by remembering the kind of love Jesus shows us. His love is so great, he died for us, and rose from the dead on Easter so that we could share his love for us with others. We are an Easter people, living in Easter love and celebrating Jesus' Easter resurrection every morning. The power of the resurrection empowers us to love as Jesus did.

In July we will be experiencing a mini-resurrection of our own at St. Paul. We are going to meet for in-person worship in our sanctuary for the first time in months. Many people have worked hard

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Great News From the Music Director Search Committee!



Council is pleased to announce that Kristopher Keith and Kathryn Wollenburg have accepted the positions of Music Director and Organist respectively. Kris and Kate

will begin these duties as of July 1st, 2020. Kris and Kate, along with their daughter Kathryn, live in Wyoming, Ohio and have been attending St. Paul for several years. Prior to this, the family had a long connection to the Lutheran Faith when they lived in the Columbus, Ohio area. Most of you have heard a sampling of their musical talents during the “on line” editions of our services during the current COVID-19 restrictions.

Kris has a master’s degree in Music from Ohio State University. He was Director of the Adult Vocal and Handbell Choirs at Atonement Lutheran Church in Columbus, Director of Ohio State University Jazz Ensemble as well as several other musical groups at Ohio State. He plays all of the woodwind instruments and has performed in many musical presentations in the Columbus, Dayton and Cincinnati areas.

Kate has a degree in Music from Ohio State and a Juris Doctor from Capitol University Law School. She was Director of

Music Ministries at Atonement Lutheran Church in Columbus. She held other music positions at several other churches in the central Ohio area. Kate is currently Circuit Mediator for U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit, Cincinnati, Ohio. Prior to her current position, she held similar duties for several other court systems in central Ohio. Kate also plays the organ, piano and flute.

As you can see by this brief biography, Kris and Kate have an extensive musical background and we here at St. Paul are so blessed to have them lend their musical talents to our worship program.

At this time, I would like to thank the Music Director Search Committee for all their hard work which culminated in their recommendation of Kris and Kate to fill our Music Director position. The Committee, which was chaired by Cindy Mayhugh, and supported by Nancy Erbeck, Carolyn Koehl, Nick Huitger and Jack Wagner, worked long and hard, and we owe them a big “thank you.”

I would also like to thank Carolyn Koehl for filling in as Music Director while we were without a Director. Her musical talents shone as a light during a very dark time.

I hope you share with me my excitement and joy that St. Paul’s musical future is in the talented and capable hands of Kris and Kate.

Nelson Langefeld
Council President

Presiding Bishop: “Witnesses To The Transcendent”

This article was originally published in the June issue of Living Lutheran.

An amazing thing happened in March. Churches were closed but more people came to church. Millions of us were complying with shelter-in-place and physical distancing recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and state and local officials to stop the spread of the coronavirus. In a matter of days our lives were completely disrupted. The places where we sheltered became our offices, classrooms, day care centers and recreational facilities. Traffic dissipated—I was tempted to leave my house and drive unimpeded up and down the Kennedy Expressway just because it was possible.

Measures to slow the spread of the disease work against in-person gatherings. Coming together for worship wasn't possible. Maintaining 6 feet of distance between people, refraining from touching and wearing face masks aren't conducive to corporate worship. I was in a CDC briefing that pointed out that singing was right up there with sneezing and coughing in spreading the virus. Conventional all-together-in-the-building church was out.

So, what did we do? We found new ways of receiving the word and singing praise to God. All across this church, pastors and deacons, musicians and lay leaders created imaginative and fresh ways to worship. Virtual church, recorded church, livestreamed church happened every-

where. In parts of the country without sufficient Wi-Fi, congregations phoned each other, some on landlines. Pastors and deacons kept in contact with the people, and parishioners called each other. Worship resources to be used at home were shared. We might have been physically distanced, but we were not spiritually or socially isolated.

Many congregations and worship sites reported that online attendance was up and, in some cases, exceeded average Sunday in-person participation. People “attended” several services in a day. And we know that many attending online would never walk into one of our churches.

The problem comes when people confuse the sacred space with the Sacred.

Now, before we get too excited about this new evangelism tool, we need to consider factors that may have contributed to increased attendance—no sports, no Starbucks, limited travel, convenience. This won't last forever. But the restrictions imposed by the pandemic have made it clear that people are searching for hope and meaning and love. The gospel, the good news, the reality of God's unconditional love “poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us” (Romans 5:5), is the message that people long to hear. It is life for the dying, water for the parched, food for the starving, liberty for the oppressed. God has entrusted this word, this evan-

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A Word from Pastor Joan

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to design all the plans that are needed to make that experience as safe as possible for us all. Supplies have been ordered and protocols have been set up. However, no matter how hard we try to implement social distancing, hand sanitizing and deep cleaning, please remember there is still a degree of risk you will be taking on by attending.

As your interim pastor, I will be there to preside and preach for the few weeks that I will serve before Emily returns, but you should know that I will personally not be returning to in person worship at my home congregation after that. I have

health conditions that make me especially susceptible to complications from the novel coronavirus and I am not willing to take that risk when I can worship meaningfully via video. I want all of you to know that just because we have this option available, you do not have to be there if you feel the risk is too great for you. Please stay home if that is the case as we will be continuing to provide worship in video form. We understand your caution. Jesus wants you to stay safe and healthy, and so do we!

Celebrating Jesus' Easter Love with you, both in person, on paper and online,

Pastor Joan

Presiding Bishop: "Witnesses To The Transcendent"

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gelical word, to the church and has commissioned us to tell it.

People wonder what the post-COVID world and the post-COVID church will look like. No one, except God, knows for certain. Our experience with worshiping remotely has taught us at least two things: the word of God expressed in worship, lament and praise is not irrelevant. And people who find our congregations—the building and people—intimidating or off-putting also long to be part of a community that witnesses to the life we have in Jesus.

I am praying for the day when we gather again. I miss going to church. Church, including the buildings, are sacred spaces. Human beings are drawn to places where they have experienced the holy. Congregations—buildings and people—are witnesses to the transcendent.

The problem comes when people confuse the sacred space with the Sacred. We must take care that our congregations don't become idols. Since we have concrete evidence that people who long to hear about the life, hope and grace that comes to the world through Jesus won't come into our churches, we need to go to

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NOONDAY PRAYERS: NEW FORMAT

Since St. Paul's building has been closed, we've been praying together at noon each day, both for our own needs and for the needs of our community and the world. (Special thanks to Terri and Leslie for coming up with this idea!) Starting in July, we are going to vary the format of these prayers a little, using a resource from the ELCA called Prayer Ventures. Prayer Ventures suggests a brief concern, event, or idea for prayer each day. We'll post these to our Facebook and Instagram accounts shortly before noon so that we can pray them together. The full set of prayer ideas for July also appears on pages 9 and 10 of this newsletter, in case you would like to have them on paper instead.

VBS Takes On a New Look For 2020

Since traditional VBS has been cancelled this year due to Covid-19, we are putting together a virtual program for five days that will be sent out to the kids that have participated in VBS during the past two years through email. The program will also be available online through YouTube and our website. There will be a lesson, game or craft and song for each day. Addy Kruse is heading up the program which is scheduled to go out the week of July 27. Kate Wollenburg and Kris Keith will be doing the music. Other volunteers will be contributing craft and game segments. Sounds like fun!

Day 1: Creation story

Day 2: Trust God in everything

Day 3: Resurrection story

Day 4: Seeing Jesus in others

Day 5: Living out your faith

Celebrations in July



- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 Mark & Connie Lohmeier | 12 Donald Harris |
| 3 Joy Niefeld | 15 Dennis King |
| 6 Donald Hosea | 16 Andrew Bardes |
| 7 Leslie Willet | 17 Linda Miller |
| 7 Terry & Joyce McDowell | 19 Bradley Bronner,
Elain Heskamp |
| 8 Larry & Penny Huber | 21 Marty Lohmeier |
| 8 Karen Dardeen, Don
Grau, Evan Segar | 23 Emma Hedges |
| 10 David Hill | 27 Richard Fox,
Mark Lohmeier |
| 11 Lucy Sturgill | 28 Cindy Reed |
| | 29 Taylor & Pr. Emily
Beckering |
| | 29 Cindy Mayhugh,
Betty Pack |
| | 30 Carol Curless,
Jeanne Fuller |

- 7** We understand well Paul's struggle between the inclinations of human nature and following the ways of God and teachings of Jesus. Pray for forgiveness and strengthened faith when we are weak or make poor decisions; pray that we will be guided and encouraged by the Spirit of God that dwells within us.
- 8** Thank God for our special relationship with the Episcopal Church, a full communion partner with the ELCA since 1999. Pray for the church, its diverse ministries and its members and leaders, and pray that together we will find mutual support, new partnerships and new resources for the work of sharing the gospel and serving our neighbor.
- 9** Give thanks that "the Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. The Lord is good to all, and his compassion is over all that he has made." Pray that our joy and thanksgiving will move us to be witnesses to God's presence, grace and mercy in the world for the sake of all people.
- 10** Pray for the 120 ELCA companion synods that connect our congregations with Lutherans and ministries worldwide. Give thanks that together we participate in God's mission, support each other, share our joys and sorrow, and use our gifts and resources to respond to human needs and grow the church.
- 11** Remember in prayer refugees and immigrants throughout the world and at our borders who hope for and seek welcoming, safe communities where they can reestablish their lives and raise their families. Pray that they will have access to health services, food and resources to meet their daily needs during this time of heightened vulnerability and isolation.
- 12** Pray that we will sow the seeds of the good news of Jesus Christ without bias or judgment as to how people will receive it, and that we will trust the Spirit to accomplish what God intends through our witness and service in the world.
- 13** Pause to reflect on the significance of the 50th anniversary of a Lutheran church choosing to ordain women in the United States. Give thanks for the leadership, ministry and gifts of women who have served the church throughout history and for those women who endured the hardships and work leading to the ordination of women.
- 14** Pray for Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton, that God will sustain her faith and strength and guide her leadership and decisions, particularly during this difficult and uncertain time in our church and society when we are looking to her for guidance and vision.

- 15** Give praise to God, for God's word is powerful, clear, true and trustworthy.
- 16** Pray for businesses that are struggling or reopening or have shut down, and for their owners, their employees and all the other people and businesses they impact. Ask God to help them make decisions and implement new health precautions that take into consideration the well-being and needs of their employees, the people they serve and their community.
- 17** Pray for voting members of the Western North Dakota Synod gathered for a special meeting and elections, and for members throughout the synod who will participate through livestreaming. Ask that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and encourage them in choosing leaders, proclaiming the gospel, growing the church, serving our neighbor and doing God's work in an ever-changing world.
- 18** Give thanks that God's word is a light to our path throughout life that guides us in our baptismal journey, fills us with hope and joy, and illuminates truth and justice.
- 19** It is a painful, nagging reality that there are both good and evil in the world. Pray that the Spirit will renew our faith, trust and patience that God's righteousness, judgment and mercy will reign when the end of time comes.
- 20** Give thanks for rostered ministers in our church who are active in call, on leave from call, awaiting call or retired. Praise God for their faith, gifts, caring leadership, example and sacrifices in response to God's call to a life of ministry and service.
- 21** We are church together, many members of the one body of Christ. Pray that the Spirit will unite us in our commitment to condemn sexism, anti-Semitism, white supremacy and racism against indigenous people and people of color, whenever and wherever these sins occur.
- 22** Pray that, like God, we might be "merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness."
- 23** Pray for our ELCA colleges, universities and seminaries and their faculties, staff and students as they work to adapt to and overcome the disruptions and difficulties posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Pray that faculty and staff will find effective ways of caring for students, continuing educational experiences both in person and from a distance, enriching faith and helping students discern and prepare for their vocations.
- 24** Pray that we will be filled with and led by the Spirit so that our actions, words and faith reveal who we are – children of God, followers of Christ.

25 Remember in prayer the leaders, voting members and others gathered for the South Carolina Synod Assembly, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and encourage them in choosing leaders, proclaiming the gospel, growing the church, serving our neighbor and doing God's work in an ever-changing world.

26 How do you envision and understand the kingdom of heaven? Pray that we might stay well-rooted in Scripture and the teachings of Christ to better understand the kingdom of heaven, and to be cautious in embracing cultural myths, traditions handed down and false promises about the kingdom of God.

27 Pray that we will continue turning to and prayerfully studying Scripture – individually and together. Pray that doing so will strengthen and deepen our faith, comfort and encourage us, guide us in loving our neighbor, and be a source of joy and thanksgiving.

28 What gives you cause for happiness and hope these days? Give thanks and praise to God for desiring joy, healing, renewed life and freedom for us and all humanity.

29 Praise God for the joy and reassurance of knowing that there is nothing – absolutely nothing – that can separate us from God's love in Jesus Christ.

30 Give thanks for the special gifts, skills and minds of scientists, researchers and explorers who strive to better understand creation, improve the human condition, solve complex problems that cause us suffering, and restore and steward creation with a long view of sustaining future generations. Pray that they will make wise, responsible and just use of their research and discoveries for the well-being of all people and our planet.

31 Lift up in prayer our neighbors who are unemployed or underemployed and seek safe, meaningful work that will help them develop self-sufficiency and confidence and meet the needs of the people for whom they provide care, assistance and support.



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

PRAYER VENTURES

JULY 2020

These petitions are offered as guides to prayer for the global, social and outreach ministries of the ELCA, as well as for the needs and circumstances of our neighbors, communities and world. Thank you for your continued prayers for the life and mission of this church.

1 As this time of stress and uncertainty continues, pray that we will be persistent in our generous support for the mission of the church: comforting and caring for our neighbors, responding to the global impact of the pandemic, providing food and basic necessities for people in need, reaching out to the isolated and lonely, and aiding organizations that work for the health, well-being and restoration of our communities.

2 Give thanks for God's ever-present love and care, and for the message of the psalmist who proclaims, "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble."

3 Ask the Spirit to help us express our gratitude and concern for first responders, nurses, doctors and hospital employees, and to show us how to serve as God's hands and voice in caring for their spiritual, physical and emotional needs.

4 Ask God to help us cherish and not abuse the blessings of freedom and liberty, work to change our society where there is injustice and oppression, and accompany our global neighbors and companion churches striving for freedom, justice and voice.

5 Give thanks that God's love and truth are revealed to us through faith in Jesus Christ and that the Spirit is at work inspiring and equipping us to share the good news, spread truth and invite others to believe.

6 Pray for wisdom and patience as we navigate how to gather as congregations and discern what is appropriate, safe, caring and respectful of the ongoing concerns of our members, communities and nation.

This resource may be copied and shared among members and friends of the congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
Contact info@elca.org for additional information. Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, 8765 W. Higgins Road, Chicago, IL 60631-4101.
Telephone: 800-638-3522, ext. 2458.

Our Life Together

For emergency pastoral care, please call the after-hours line at 513-760-5884.

If you have requests for the Prayer Chain, call Penny Huber, 513-931-6420. To remove people from the list, contact the office.

We pray for **Mary and her granddaughter Kyra** (friend of Paul Pieper); **Berkeley** (Carol Curless's great-grandson); **Pr. Lisa Bernheisel**; **Louise Barry**; **Teresa Bell** (former member); **Stephen Black** (Kim Coulehan's nephew); **Bobby** (Christian Lohmeier's friend); **Brett** (Kings' step-nephew); **Jodie Calhoun**; **Christian**; **Kathy Curless**; **George Demetriades** (Portmanns' friend); **Katie Demopoulos** (Diana Hawkins's niece); **Hazel Deuble** (Carolyn Koehl's aunt); **Dick** (Linda Miller's brother); **Jeremy Doan** (Jean Winkle's grandson); **Jerry Doan** (Jean Winkle's son-in-law); **Norb Eble** (Portmanns' friend); **Eckerle and Wuestefeld families**; **Tom Eckerle** (Les Eckerle's cousin); **Lee Erbeck**; **Larry Faulkner** (Freda's son); **Justin Feldman** (Bess Sturgill's father); **Ben Ferguson** (Les Eckerle's cousin); **Micki Ford** (Fords' niece); **Jeanne Fuller**; **Scarlett Gally** (Beth Wernery's great-niece); **Clara Garcia** (Cindy Mayhugh's sister); **Nathaniel Gibson** (Les Eckerle's step-nephew); **Hannah**; **Matthew Harrison** (Seals' neighbor); **Sandy Hatcher** (Linda Holt's sister); **Elain Heskamp**; **Richard Hoffman** (Cindy Mayhugh's brother); **Andrew Horton**; **Ellen Hunter** (Jeni Cathcart's grandmother); **Jo and her daughter** (Jeanne Fuller's friends); **Joan** (Penny Huber's friend); **Kate** (granddaughter of Dennis King's friend); **Dennis King**; **Jay King** (son of Jamie King); **Loretta Kombrink** (Marilyn Portmann's aunt); **Lewis Laine** (Chet Laine's brother); **Richard Lane** (Elinor Schieman's nephew); **Regina Laursen** (Portmanns' friend); **Carroll Mayhugh Sr.** (Carroll Mayhugh's father); **Samantha Mersch** (Mayhughs' daughter, Sarah Papin's sister); **Tony Meyer** (Portmanns' nephew); **Jessica Mink** (Donald Harris's cousin); **Doris Minton**; **Barbara and Jack Moorhouse**; **Jean Nolte**; **Ervin Oerther** (Portmanns' brother-in-law); **Ann Ohr**

(Barbara Moorhouse's cousin); **Richard Osborn** (Betty Pack's brother); **Rosie Osborn** (Betty Pack's sister); **Eric Papin**; **Richard Peterson** (Shirley Harbaugh's brother); **Don Pflieger** (Kings' brother-in-law); **Ginny Pape**; **Linda Perin** (Moorhouses' cousin); **Paul Pieper**; **Faith Pirrmann**; **Pat Popplewell** (Dennis King's friend); **James Savoy** (Jean Winkle's great-grandson); **Shawn Schnetzer** (Sturgills' cousin); **Sheila Schultz** (Betty Pack's friend); **Brenda Schumacher** (Marilyn Portmann's friend); **Shannon and Dane** (friends of Riddle family); **Keith Shupe** (father of Kelly Shupe); **Jason Simpson** (Freda Faulkner's grand-nephew); **Elizabeth Smith** (Elain Heskamp's sister); **Scott Songer**; **Judy Songer** (friends of Jean Winkle); **Crosley Spelman** (Spelmans' grandson); **Jack Spelman**; **Britney Jean Teems** (Jean Winkle's granddaughter); **Teresa** (friend of Marty Lohmeier); **Randy Thaman** (friend of Marie Calhoun); **Geri Toland** (Carole Replogle's neighbor); **Treasure** (Les Eckerle's cousin); **Ralph Turner** (friend of Dennis King); **Jack Wagner**; **Daryl Wesselman** (Betty Pack's granddaughter); **Jean Winkle**; **Susan Winkle** (Jean Winkle's daughter-in-law).

We pray for those with ongoing health concerns who are unable to come to church every week: **Louise Barry**, **Jack and Barbara Moorhouse**, **Jean Nolte**, **Heather Segar**.

We pray for our armed forces members: **Graham Barton** (Fords' neighbor); **Paul Cordes** (Elinor Schieman's grandson); **Victoria Derry** (Elinor Schieman's great-granddaughter); **Jared Forst** (Jim and Loretta's grandson); **Beau Glenn** (Karen Koehl's son-in-law); **Kylie Hahn** (Gretta Hahn's granddaughter); **Donald Hosea** (Karen Koehl's son); **Samuel McLoughlin** (friend of Cindy Sieckman); **Scott Minton** (Doris Minton's son); **Jobeth Ramirez** (friend of Karen Koehl); **Joshua Rodriguez** (friend of Karen Koehl); **Trent Schwegman** (cousin to the Erbecks and Fords); **Dustin Silvey**; **Mack Thompson** (Freda Faulkner's grandson); **Alex Wisecup** (son of Nadine and Barry Wisecup).

St. Paul
Lutheran Church

As a community of Christian believers, we are called by God to use the many gifts He has given us, within the church and the community, so others may come to know Him.

From the Presiding Bishop

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them. We have done this in creative ways and through online worship during the pandemic. Don't stop. When we are able to return to our sacred spaces, let's make an honest assessment of the ways that our congregations are witnesses to the transcendent, places where we are nourished for the journey and then sent out to serve. Or have they become barriers to those seeking the love and freedom God has given to all people in Christ?

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop of the ELCA

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

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