

SPLC News & Calendar of Events 08-11-2021

WORSHIP

- **10:00 am worship through September 5**, in-person and livestreamed. **Starting September 12**, worship will be in-person at 9:00 am and in-person and livestreamed at 11:00 am. To view livestreamed or recorded services online, go to: <https://www.stpaulmissoulamt.org/watch-live> This page provides a link to the worship service along with a link to the bulletin and a way to make your offering online.
- **Weekly MCAT broadcasts:** SPLC services are broadcast on Wednesdays at 4 pm on MCAT, Spectrum cable channel 189.
- **Children's Ministry and Worship:** We are currently asking all worship attendees, including children, to wear a mask through the entire service. Additionally, in an effort to minimize contact between kids, we have temporarily closed the PrayGround at the front of the sanctuary. We still welcome families to attend worship with their children, and Colter will continue to give his Children's Message as part of worship. A coloring page and a children's bulletin will be offered each Sunday in the back of the sanctuary for kids, and parents are encouraged to bring coloring implements (crayons and markers) from home. Small bags of crayons are available as well, and we ask that you take them home with you if you use them.
- **Watch a replay of this past Sunday's service** here: <https://youtu.be/Fes0arG3yR0>
There have been 34 views of this video since Sunday.
Readings for Sunday, August 15: Proverbs 9:1-6; Psalm 34:9-14; John 6:51-58

COVID GUIDELINES UPDATE:

A message from our Montana Synod and the Worship Committee of St. Paul Lutheran Church.

During this pandemic, gathering in person has required a delicate balance as we Christians weigh our need for being together as people of all ages, infant through older adult, alongside our commitments not to harm our neighbors through accidental spread of disease. We affirm that Christians may find different, faithful solutions to these challenges so long as we do not endanger ourselves or others. We offer guidance for how we can gather in careful ways that can minimize the risks so that our bodies and our fellowship may flourish.

As we enter the second year of the pandemic, our synod joined an ecumenical group of theologians, scientists, physicians, pastors, bishops, and practitioners from United Methodist, Evangelical Lutheran, Episcopal, Pan-Methodist, Presbyterian, American Baptist, and Roman Catholic traditions, among others, to share their expertise and recommendations as conditions may vary over the months ahead. The link to the document prepared by this group, *Care-Filled Worship and Sacramental Life in a Lingering Pandemic*, is found here: <https://bit.ly/carefilledworship>

Already conditions in Missoula have varied. As of July 27, 2021 Missoula County reported 30 new COVID-19 cases. This is the highest number since March 27, 2021. There are 100 active cases in the County. Based on the latest science concerning the Delta variant, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends both vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals in counties experiencing significant spread of the virus to wear masks inside enclosed public areas. Missoula County was identified by the CDC as a county that should follow this guidance. Friends, the pandemic lingers, but "let us not grow weary in doing what is right" as we "work for the good of all" (Gal . 6:9-10).

During this pandemic, love of neighbor requires careful planning and openness to flexibility in response to changing circumstances. Because we love God, we want to offer worship that brings our very best. Because we love our neighbors, we want to do everything we can to make sure we bring no harm to anyone when we gather.

While we continue to have in-person worship, we are now implementing the following COVID guidelines due to the recent surge in Delta variant cases:

- Wearing of masks in worship
- Use of hand sanitizer upon entering church
- Engage in physical distancing
- Hymns sung by designated singers; congregation, hum or sing softly
- No physical sharing of the peace

- Discontinue the coffee hour fellowship - fellowship outside as desired
- When communion is offered, please pick up wafer and juice packet at the back of the church as you arrive and take the packet with you to your pew
- PrayGround will be closed but Colter will still provide Children's Messages
- Please stay at home if you are sick

Jesus taught that love of God and love of every neighbor are two inseparable aspects of one great commandment for the people of God (Matthew 22:35-40). For the sake of the common good, we will have to consider the health and the vaccination status of people who gather and worship at St. Paul. We lament the pain and difficulty of these limitations, and we look forward to the day when we no longer have to wear masks and maintain physical distance from those outside our immediate households.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Office Hours, St. Paul Lutheran Church:** 10:00 am until 2:00 pm, Monday through Thursday, or by appointment.
- **Sunday Morning, August 15:** Please feel free to join Sarah Schroefel from St. John's United for coffee and donuts (from Veera) after the service this Sunday to get an update on St. John's United, Five Valley's Senior Services and the new At Home program that is coming to Missoula. The At Home program is designed to allow older adults to live their life to the fullest, while aging in the place they call home. Sarah will be *in the Lower Level Fellowship Hall after the service concludes at approximately 11:00 am* to give a short presentation and answer any questions.
- **Volunteers Needed in August for Family Housing Center/Family Promise:** The Family Promise Coordinators are hoping that you'll take time to provide volunteer services for our church's rotation at the Family Housing Center / Family Promise the week of August 16 – 22. Below is the Sign Up Genius link where you can indicate if you wish to provide a salad, dessert, help serve dinner or serve as an overnight host. Hopefully you'll be able to double up one or more of the activities on any one night. The chart is designed for both St. Paul Lutheran and Our Savior's Lutheran Church, as we work together to fill the week of August 16 - 22. The families appreciate the spacious surroundings of the Housing Center and their independent living spaces. We hope you'll be able to support them in this upcoming rotation. There is a number to call in the Sign Up Genius link if you have questions.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080D4AA5AB2DA2FA7-stpaulour>

CHURCH YARD SALES:

Our Savior's Lutheran Church

Friday, August 20 – 9 AM to 7 PM and Saturday, August 21 – 8 AM to 3 PM

St. Ann's Catholic Church

Saturday, August 21 – 8 AM to 3 PM Polish Sausages & Sauerkraut 11 AM to 3 PM

Corner of Highway 200 and Highway 10 East Bonner MT

- **St. Paul/Habitat for Humanity Build Day: August 25, 2021** is the scheduled day for St. Paul volunteers to work on building new homes with Habitat for Humanity of Missoula. Three homes are in the building process in East Missoula. We need your help. Let's do our share! Please call Frankie at 549-8210 to volunteer on the building site. If you can help provide lunch for the workers, please contact Betty Rude, 543-3219. Thank you.
- **Women's Bible Study:** The Women's Bible study of the book of Matthew will begin Thursday, September 2, at 1:00 pm in Room # 208. The study will continue on the first and third Thursdays of each month, All women are welcome and encouraged to study and share the gospel of Matthew. We are all learning together. If you have questions, visit with other women who have attended this study or contact Hazel Sorensen at 544-5913 or Betty Rude at 543-3219. No sign-up is necessary but it would be helpful to know how many lesson sheets to prepare. Thanks.
- **WELCA Women's Fall Retreat:** Register by September 7 to get the **EARLY BIRD RATE** for the **WOMEN'S FALL RETREAT**, October 15-17, 2021, at Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp. Motivating Speaker, Fun, Fellowship, Service Projects, and Music, Great Food (no cooking)! Bring a friend along! Registration and details at www.imluchurch.org/womensretreat Questions? Contact Nancy Solum at 406-240-0023 or WomensSpringRetreat@gmail.com Sponsored by Women of the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church of America) Five Valleys and Great Divide Clusters.
- **Fall Rummage Sale! Save the Dates, September 9 and 10**
The Fall Rummage Sale is set for Friday, September 10, from 8 am until 3 pm and Saturday, September 11, from 8 am until noon if we feel we can safely manage the Health Department guidelines. Please be patient. Rummage items may be brought to the Lower Level Fellowship Hall of the church beginning Sunday, September 5, after the worship service and

on Tuesday and Wednesday from 10 am - 5 pm. Sale set-up begins on Wednesday, September 8. We really appreciate your rummage and your support. Thanks!

- **ICE CREAM SOCIAL at Franklin Park, this evening, AUGUST 11TH, 6:30 pm**

Everyone from St. Paul is invited for ice cream in the park, yard games, and fun for all. The splash deck will be open, bring your swimsuit if you want! Let Colter know you're coming: colter@stpaulmissoula.org

- **Habitat Youth Build:** Last Thursday, Colter Murphy and Eli Penny helped out during Habitat for Humanity's youth build week. They put down plastic ahead of a concrete pour and hung exterior sheathing. St. Paul has its own upcoming Habitat Build Day on August 25th. If you're interested in lending a hand, email colter@stpaulmissoula.org.

- **35th Annual Gary Turbak Memorial Back to School Clothing Project – 2021** happens on August 16th. We really need more helpers between 1:00 pm and 7:00 pm on the 16th. You can sign up on the chart in the back of the church. It will be a great, busy day. It's never too late to donate to the project -- make out your check to St. Paul and note in the memo that it's for school clothes. Thank you for your involvement and prayers!! Jan

- **Furniture Sale for Children Youth and Family Ministry:** Furniture in the chapel room on the 3rd floor has been marked for sale, and the money raised will go to Children, Youth, and Family Ministry. All furniture will be "you-haul" and Colter can help provide some muscle if needed. Contact Colter to view the furniture, make a donation offer, and arrange pickup: colter@stpaulmissoula.org.

FLATHEAD LUTHERAN BIBLE CAMP: UPCOMING FLBC RETREATS & EVENTS

Visit <https://flbc.net/annual-programming/> for information about our year-round programming and registration for each of these retreats.

- **LABOR DAY WEEKEND RETREAT - Register by August 20**

September 3-6, 2021 Join FLBC for this *free* retreat over Labor Day Weekend! Enjoy good food, fellowship, and fun, while helping camp with some work projects!

- **GRIEF RETREAT - Register by August 27**

September 10-12, 2021 This retreat is for any adult (18+) who has lost a loved one such as a partner, friend, parent, or child. You are invited to spend a weekend at Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp. There will be opportunities for learning and fellowship, and time for peace and quiet. CEU credits are available through the NRIT. <https://flbc.net/annual-programming/grief-retreat/>

- **Please contact the church office if you have a particular need**, as we have members who are interested in helping, and we can match needs with volunteers. Don't be shy. Help us be the church by assisting you!!

PRAYERS

This week we pray for: † Comfort for Chuck Bryson and family mourning the death of his son David, comfort for John Medlinger and Jan Riva who mourn the death of John's sister Sue; † patience in healing and relief for Ian's best friend Alex; † peace and comfort for Linda Aronson & family, as Linda's brother, Kurt, enters the final stages of Alzheimer's disease; † peace and comfort for Kristin's aunt, Melba Thomsen and family; † peace for Justin and Dawn; † healing and recovery for Jane Taylor, Bruce Culler Ginny, Gene Alex, Dallas, Derald, and all who are ill; † strength for Jan's brother Joe; † peace for Marsha; † help for all who face unseen illness and challenges; † comfort for Diane's mother and for Bonnie and her family; † guidance for Troy and Joshua Hiniker; † all who grieve; † comfort for the dying; † resilience for all working in healthcare facilities with surging caseloads of COVID patients; † people to step up to receive coronavirus vaccines; † efficient and swift distribution of COVID vaccines to all the world; † all who are in prison; † respite for the homeless and hungry; † an outbreak of common sense, gratitude, and kindness; † the birds to be fed every day in the winter and to be protected. **Amen**

If you have a prayer request, send us an e-mail at stpaul@stpaulmissoula.org, leave us a message at the church office at (406) 549-4141, or fill out a prayer request card at <https://www.stpaulmissoulamt.org/submit-a-prayer-request>.

GIVING

Your support of the ministry of St. Paul is greatly appreciated. A donation can be made on our website at www.stpaulmissoula.org/give, by choosing "Give" in the church app, or by mailing a check to the church office. Thank you for your continued generosity!

God's Peace,

Pastor Chris & the St. Paul Staff (406) 549-4141

