



ST. PAUL'S EPISTLE

JUNE 2024

ISSUE 11

VOLUME 7



I WILL POUR OUT

MY

Spirit

ON ALL

PEOPLE

ACTS 2:17

JUNE 2024

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR CUMMINGS

Dear Members and Friends of St. Paul's,

In the lyrics of Carousel, "June is bustin' out all over" in the life of St. Paul's.

After a bit of a hiatus, "Bring a Friend to Church" Sunday is back! Our last 10:00am worship service before the summer schedule will be on June 2 and, it is also the day we would love to share our church with your "friends". Think about inviting a friend, a neighbor, a co-worker, or a family member to join you for worship on that day.

The New England Synod Assembly will be held in Worcester on June 6, 7, and 8. This is the annual gathering of the synod to conduct their business meeting. This year, we will be electing a new bishop to serve a 6-year term. It also promises to have inspirational speakers, fellowship, and festive worship. This year Rick Seip, Lynne Matteson and I will be attending on behalf of St. Paul's.

Before long, you will see our new organ in the sanctuary accompanying us during worship. Such an exciting time in the life of our congregation. Please also consider helping out on June 8 for our church workday.

Don't forget that we will shift the worship service to 9:30am beginning on June 9. This will hopefully help keep us cooler during the warm summer months.

I am looking forward to a wonderful summer and pray for your safe travels wherever the road may lead.

**Wishing you Peace and Blessings,
The Rev. Elizabeth A Cummings**

JUNE GOSPEL READINGS

June 2nd: Mark 2:23-36

June 11th: Mark 3:20-35

June 16th: Mark 4:26-34

June 23rd: Mark 4:35-41

June 30th: Mark 5:21-43



Remember Your Offerings

Please remember to keep your pledges up to date. Thank you!



FULLY WRITTEN ARTICLES FOR THE **SUMMER** EPISTLE are due by **June 25TH**.

Please send your article to me exactly the way you would like it to appear: office@stpaulswethrsfield.org

Thank you!
Lorraine

ST. PAUL'S MISSION STATEMENT:

We of St. Paul's Lutheran Church believe in God's grace given to us freely. We are called to faithfully follow God's Word, sharing in the good news of this grace. We are to be God's hands helping those in need—those we know, and those we do not know.

When we say, "Here I am Lord," we express our desire to become disciples of Christ, accepting the mission to do what is asked of us. Our prayer on this journey is to walk with faith, to love one another, to share God's love and to be the hands of God.

JUNE 2024



Worship
Committee

Our next Worship and Music Committee Meeting will be June 11th at 4:30. We will meet in person at the church.



Spring
Cleanup

On June 8th from 10am—12 Noon we will be having an inside cleanup at St. Paul' and we need your help. It will involve organizing the Boiler Room, cleaning up the stairways in the PE Building, doing some kitchen organization washing out garbage receptacles, etc. There is a sign-up sheet on the Whiteboard. It's only a couple hours of your time and many hands make light work. Coffee and goodies will be provided. We look forward to seeing you there!

Your Property Committee



Connecticut

Pancake
Breakfast



PLEASE JOIN US FOR ANOTHER PANCAKE BREAKFAST TO SUPPORT DONATE LIFE ON SUNDAY, JUNE 23RD AT 10:45 AM AFTER WORSHIP. WE ARE HOPING TO RAISE SOME MONEY FOR PEOPLE NEEDING TRANSPLANTS. THERE IS A SIGNUP SHEET ON THE WHITEBOARD TO ATTEND.

COME AND ENJOY A DELICIOUS BREAKFAST AND HELP OUT DONATE LIFE!!



This month, the pantry would appreciate donations of:

Coffee
Canned Soup
Canned Fruit



STOP&SHOP
Bloomin' 4 Good Program
Save the date



St. Paul's Food Pantry has been selected again by the Store Leadership Team as a Stop & Shop Bloomin' 4 Good Program Non-profit Partner! We will receive \$1 for each specially marked \$10.99 Bloomin' 4 Good bouquet sold during the month of June 2024 at:

1380 Berlin Turnpike, Wethersfield CT

Please continue to support our Food Pantry!!



To Pastor, Jennie & Chuck Dotts and Members of St. Paul's

I want to thank you for your kind thoughts and prayers during my recent illness. Prayers do make a difference!!

Many Blessings,
Carol Hughes & Family



St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church's Prayer Chain Ministry

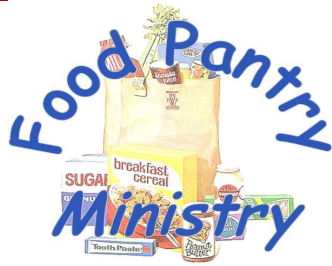
Over 40 years ago, St. Paul's Prayer Chain was begun as part of the Lutheran Church Women organization, which was at that time a very active and sizable

group of women, who felt the need to provide personal prayer support for those dealing with difficult health and personal concerns. The Prayer Chain continues to provide prayerful support for those who express their requests to Pastor Elizabeth or to me. Requests may be made in person, via telephone or email. In times of special need, we can add our concerned prayers for God's guidance and support for those seeking His strength and help in their lives. We also are privileged to share times of requested prayers of joy. All requests are kept confidential within the Prayer Chain personnel. I am pleased to say we have welcomed our first male member into the Prayer Chain Ministry, so we are now a coed group of praying people.

New prayer partners are always welcome. If you would like to participate, you may contact me, Jennie Dotts, via email at: accordinaire47@gmail.com or at 860-563-7918.

I begin the Prayer Chain by passing on a request to the first person in each of two links. That person makes one telephone call to the next person on their link. Presently, we have four people participating in the Telephone Chain Ministry. There are six people, who are receiving prayer requests from me via email. Members can share prayer needs in the privacy of their home or wherever they may be and at a time of their own choosing. As we know, God is always ready to receive our prayers!

Jennie Dotts, Prayer Chain Coordinator



DO YOU KNOW EXACTLY HOW OUR FOOD PANTRY OPERATES EVERY WEEK?

FIRST, A LITTLE HISTORY: The Food Pantry at St. Paul's started many years ago (at least as far back as 2011) first led by former members Don Krug and then Dave Bayek. Both laid the foundation for what the food pantry has become in 2024.

Jerry Hansen took the helm of the pantry in 2019. Since then, the need for food has grown greatly and we have more and more people visiting each week.

While the pantry is open from 10:00-1:00 on Thursdays, there is much preparation that goes into getting it ready for the families that come each week.

We order most of our food from Connecticut Food Share. About five years ago, we were in danger of losing our ability to order from Connecticut Food Share because we did not meet the quota of giving out **3,000** pounds of food in a year. In 2021, we distributed **16,069** pounds of food from Connecticut Food Share. Last year in 2023, we gave away more than **40,835** pounds of food! See how we have grown!

We supplement the food ordered from Connecticut Food Share with donations from local stores and donations from our St. Paul's family. Wednesday is "Delivery Day"! Team Members arrive at the church at 7:00 to prepare for the deliveries. They go out to visit Big Y, Stop and Shop and Aldi's and load up their trucks with breads, desserts, fruits, vegetables and dairy products that these stores donate. All of these items are brought back to St. Paul's between 8:30 and 9:30. The next day, not only are our patrons getting non-perishables, they get to choose breads, desserts, yogurts, fresh fruits and whatever else might have been donated that week from these stores.

These stores also donate frozen food. We work with the town food pantry to get the frozen items transported safely from store to pantry. Recently, our meat delivery has included frozen items including venison, whole chickens, cookie dough, bacon and lunch meat-always a wide variety! Families can often choose two meat items.

WHAT DOES FOOD PANTRY DAY LOOK LIKE AT ST. PAUL'S??

- Members of the team arrive on Thursday as early as 7:00 to get the pantry ready-tables set up, food picked up on Wednesday is displayed on the tables, forms ready (each household can circle the items they would like to have placed in their bags) and instructions given to the team.
- We open at 10:00 officially. On a recent Thursday in May, the line started forming at 9:15 and by 9:30 there were 8 people waiting. We will open earlier if we are ready. On this same day, by the official start time of 10:00 we had already served 12 families.
- As one member of the team is filling the order for food, another is guiding the visitor around the table of food items from the stores. It is very uplifting to see these people leave with the food they need to feed their family for another week. They are always so very appreciative of what we are able to give to them. Families can visit every two weeks.
- If it is a food delivery week from Connecticut FoodShare, the delivered food must be brought downstairs and the shelves need to be restocked, often while we are serving our patrons. This is a huge job!
- We serve about 50 households a week which means approximately 150-200 people are benefitting from our ministry. It is a challenge to keep our shelves stocked.
- Since Covid, the price of food has substantially increased. We recently paid \$350 for 700 pounds of food. As quickly as the food is stocked, it is given away.
- **Jerry applied for and our Food Pantry recently received a \$3,000 grant from Connecticut Foodshare.** This money cannot be used for the purchase of food but it will be most helpful to purchase more storage. Presently we have a freezer and a refrigerator in the pantry and we use the freezer in the kitchen. Jerry is currently investigating the cost of purchasing another freezer and additional shelving on wheels. We will share information about these purchases in an upcoming article.

Thank you to all at St. Paul's who continue to donate food. We will be announcing each week during Sunday announcements the food items that we especially need for the coming week.

We welcome anyone who might be interested in helping out or would like to make a visit some Thursday to see how we operate!

JUNE 2023

OUR FOOD PANTRY IN ACTION!!!



JUNE 2024



There are many tasks that keep our food pantry running smoothly to serve those in need.



JUNE 2024

PENTECOST SUNDAY
MAY 19, 2024



JUNE 2023

Our old organ is moved to the narthex following the service on May 19th to make room for the new organ being delivered in May!



JUNE 2024

HELPING HANDS!!



We officially welcome
Laura as the newest
member of our St. Paul's
family!



JUNE 2024

BIBLE VERSE OF THE MONTH

Go therefore and make
disciples of all nations,
baptizing them in the name of
the Father and of the Son and
of the Holy Spirit, teaching
them to observe all that I have
commanded you.

And behold,
I am with you always,
to the end of the age.

Matthew 28:19-20

June 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1 SALEM CHURCH
2 FRIENDSHIP SUNDAY 10:00 AM WORSHIP COFFEE FELLOWSHIP	3	4 WORSHIP & MUSIC 4:30 PM	5 GET TOGETHER WEDNESDAY GROUP 10:00 AM	6 FOOD PANTRY 10:00-1:00 PM SYNOD ASSEMBLY	7	8 SALEM CHURCH 10 AM SPRING CLEANUP
9 9:30 AM WORSHIP 10:45 AM OUT- REACH MTG. COFFEE FELLOWSHIP	10	11 PARISH ADMIN 6:30 PM	12	13 FOOD PANTRY 10:00-1:00 PM COMMUNICA- TIONS MTG. 6:00 PM	14	15 SALEM CHURCH
16 FATHER'S DAY 9:30 AM WORSHIP COFFEE FELLOWSHIP	17	18 CHURCH COUNCIL MTG 7:00 PM	19 GET TOGETHER WEDNESDAY GROUP 10:00 AM	20 FOOD PANTRY 10:00-1:00 PM	21	22 SALEM CHURCH
23 9:30 AM WORSHIP 10:45 AM Pancake Break- fast after Worship	24	25	26	27 FOOD PANTRY 10:00-1:00 PM	28	29
30 9:30 AM WORSHIP COFFEE FELLOWSHIP						



JUNE 2024

WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS - JUNE THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE

JUNE 2ND - 10 A.M.

ASSISTING MINISTER: Carol Bruce
READER: Patty Bengtson
USHERS: Jerry Hansen, Walter Ruppap & Sophia
ALTAR: Carol Bruce
COUNTER: Judy Gerken
FELLOWSHIP HOUR: Jerry Hansen & Judy Lundin

JUNE 9TH - 9:30 A.M.

ASSISTING MINISTER: Mary Procyk
READER: Mary Procyk
USHERS: Jerry Hansen, Walter Ruppap & Sophia
ALTAR: Elaine Strecker
COUNTER: Bob Bowman
FELLOWSHIP HOUR: Jerry Hansen & Judy Lundin

JUNE 16TH - 9:30 A.M.

ASSISTING MINISTER: Patty Bengtson
READER: Name _____
USHERS: Jerry Hansen, Walter Ruppap & Sophia
ALTAR: Deb & George Howe
COUNTER: Heather Christensen
FELLOWSHIP HOUR: Jerry Hansen & Judy Lundin

JUNE 23rd - 9:30 A.M.

ASSISTING MINISTER: Name _____
READER: Rory Cummings
USHERS: Jerry Hansen, Walter Ruppap & Sophia
ALTAR: Deb & George Howe
COUNTER: Mary Procyk
FELLOWSHIP HOUR:

JUNE 30TH - 9:30 A.M.

ASSISTING MINISTER: Joy Hansen
READER: Joy Hansen
USHERS: Jerry Hansen, Walter Ruppap & Sophia
ALTAR: Carol Bruce
COUNTER: Dave Hourigan
FELLOWSHIP HOUR: Jerry Hansen & Judy Lundin

JUNE 2024

PASTOR:

The Reverend Elizabeth Cummings
pastor@stpaulswethersfield.org

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT:

Lorraine Gianakos
office@stpaulswethersfield.org

MINISTER OF MUSIC:

Melissa Cheyney
missycheyney@yahoo.com

**SUPERINTENDENT OF
SUNDAY CHURCH SCHOOL:**

Alice Ruppap
aruppap@sbcglobal.net



ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Tuesday — Friday

9am — 1 pm

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