



St. Paul  
Ann Arbor

Sowing Truth. Building Faith. Shining Love.

SPRING 2025

SPRING

Quarterly Newsletter of St. Paul Lutheran Church & School of Ann Arbor

## Shining Love for Eleanor

By Lori Grulke

Throughout the month of April and as part of our chapel offering, our St. Paul school families came together in a heartfelt way to support Eleanor Becker—a brave, sweet, and spunky Kindercutie who is living with Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA). In a beautiful show of compassion and unity, our school and church communities wore orange and purple—the official SMA awareness colors—every Thursday to lift Eleanor and her family in love and support.

Eleanor is part of an amazing family, including her big sister Everly, a joyful and caring second grader at St. Paul. Their strength, joy, and faith have been a true inspiration to everyone around them.

Thanks to the generosity of our St. Paul families, Eleanor's team raised over \$600 through bracelet sales and another \$600 from "Keeping Up with Ellie" team t-shirts, bringing their total to more than \$2,000! On Saturday, May 3rd, Eleanor's team joined friends and family in Lansing for the Cure SMA Walk-n-Roll, an incredible event that brought together 192 participants and raised over \$42,000 to support families and fund research.

The funds raised made a real and meaningful difference. With your help,



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## Shining Love... cont'd from cover

Photo on Cover: **SHINING LOVE:** In April, our students showed their support for fellow student, Eleanor Becker and team "Keeping Up with Ellie!" Chapel offerings were collected to support finding a cure for SMA.



Ellie's team reached some important milestones:

- **\$65** funded a day of use for Cure SMA's Advocacy Action Alert Tool
- **\$100** provided a medical binder and info packet to a newly diagnosed family
- **\$250** funded a care package for a newly diagnosed family
- **\$500** supported a teen or adult with a special care package
- **\$1,000** funded one full week of critical SMA research

Cure SMA is doing incredible work and is expected to submit **four new treatments** for FDA approval this year. It's truly inspiring to know that our love and support are helping make a lasting impact.

We are so proud of how the St. Paul community stepped up—living out our mission of shining love and reminding us all that, without a doubt, **we are better together.**





# Sowing, Building, Shining: Life Together at SPAA

By Pastor Ted Hopkins

What a year, friends! The school year is wrapping up, and we have a lot to celebrate! Over the last nine months alone, God has blessed St. Paul abundantly. We have averaged more than 354 people in worship each Sunday from August 2024 through April 2025, compared to not quite 340 people in worship in the same period of the previous year. Praise God! What a blessing to have more people gathering for worship and hearing the Gospel among us. We have re-started our building campaign to grow the ministry of St. Paul through our school. We have \$1.62 million pledged as of May 1, and we need less than \$400,000 more to launch the entire project. We are also at 63% of our target goal of \$2.6 million to support the building campaign. This is a great start in only 5 months. I praise God for you and your generosity!



We can celebrate so many more ways that God has been at work in our church and school! Our school continues to be a place where hundreds of students are hearing the Gospel from our dedicated and fantastic faculty

and staff. At St. Paul School, students get to know Jesus Christ, discover the truth of the Word and the world, and experience God's love through meaningful connections with teachers, friends, and other staff. Praise God for these students and their families and the opportunities to minister to them! The St. Paul Youth Group is thriving, and Tyler Seehafer is doing an excellent job connecting with 25-30 students in the St. Paul Youth Group. We are excited to send over 30 youth and adults to New Orleans for the National Youth Gathering this summer. Praise God for young people that want to stay connected to the church and for leaders, staff and volunteers, who love them and build them up in their faith!

We had 18 confirmands confirm God's baptismal promises to them on May 4 after they professed their faith on the Friday before. If you want evidence of God at work through St. Paul families, through our school and teachers, and through our church staff, come to the statement of faith night. What a joy to hear these students talk about God's Word means for them in their real lives! God is certainly at work in the lives of these young people. Also, please pray

for these students and their families. Times of transition, like graduating from 8th grade and going to high school, tend to be times when people lose their communities. If you are friends or family—or even just friendly—with any of the confirmands or their families (think also high school and college graduates), reach out to them and make sure they know they are loved by God and St. Paul. That's part of how we shine Jesus' love among one another. Praise God for our confirmands and their faith! Praise God for Pastor Roggow, Tyler, their parents, and the many St. Paul teachers who instructed them in the faith!

There are so many other wonderful things we can celebrate. VBS is coming up, and many helpers and students have already signed up. Lexie Brown has done a fantastic job organizing VBS as well as our thriving women's ministries and milestones ministries. Praise God for these ministries and for children and families taking a next step in their faith! We had over 618 people in worship on Easter Sunday. Praise God for our wonderful choir, brass, and other musicians, especially Dr. Boonenberg, that share the good news of Jesus through music! We were able to bring 500 bagged lunches to Hope Clinic to feed hungry people in our city. We had 27 people clean up flower beds and spread mulch at both campuses during our Spring clean-up day. Praise God for faithful volunteers and servants!

## Sowing TRUTH. Building FAITH. Shining LOVE.

There is so much to celebrate with what God is doing at St. Paul. I'm only scratching the surface in this article. I tell you these things because I want you to recognize all the great things that God is doing through your church, which tells us a bit of where we've been, and helps us to see where God may be leading us to go.

Where are we going over the next year? Later in May, we are bringing together a team of 9 people—men, women, older, younger, people who usually worship at both sites—to discuss where we want to go over the next year. Of

(cont'd on pg. 12)



# “Hey, Pastor: Why do we start services by saying we’re poor and miserable?”

By Pastor Aaron Roggow

I get it. Some days, the beginning of the worship service can feel like a downer. Of course, it's not all bad. We begin many services with an Opening Hymn that usually reflects the service theme or the church season. We then start with an “Invocation” (from the Latin word “invoco,” meaning “to call upon”). Just as God placed His name on us in the waters of Baptism when we were Baptized “In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit” (Matthew 28:19), we gather as God’s people, as God’s church, as the Body of Christ to call on that name. We begin by stating that we’re all united under that same baptismal identity, and our gathering and worship are all done in His name at His gracious invitation. We make the sign of the cross to remember that we’re baptized into the death and resurrection of Jesus. That’s not a downer - that’s a joyful reality! But then, right after the Opening Hymn and the Invocation, we often have a moment of Confession and Absolution.

To understand why this may strike some as odd, it helps to reflect on a little history and religious context. Having a moment of confession at the beginning of the service can appear different in contrast to churches that reflect Baptist or Pentecostal fundamentalist theologies in American Christianity. In recent years, these churches have developed liturgies that begin much differently than what you will typically find in a Lutheran church. Within those traditions, you may find services that have a simple structure. They begin with praise music and then conclude with a sermon. This type of focus in worship has roots in both Pietism in the 17th century and Rationalism in the 18th century. (And breaking both of those down would take a whole other article or two, so check out some more history on those if you’re interested.) The influence of Rationalism on the church greatly minimized a focus on sin or guilt and led to the loss of a focus on forgiveness and redemption. With this view, sin is reduced to a failure to live up to human potential or a drifting away from what is good. The problematic result of this way of thinking is to see God’s Word as a set of rules to teach right from wrong, or as a guidebook to help us be our best selves in the work of God. With that in mind, back to the origin: Why do we begin our services by talking about sin?

God’s Word can’t be boiled down to a self-help book and it isn’t just a teaching of what is right or wrong. The point of the Bible is to recognize Jesus as the promised Messiah who has come to die and rise from the dead to give humanity forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation. When Jesus started His public ministry, after His baptism and

temptation in the wilderness, Matthew records His first word as “Repent!” (Matthew 4:17). In the same breath, He says, “for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” Jesus is calling people to recognize their sin, repent of it (in Greek this word means a call to think differently, have a change of heart, turn away from one way of life and walk in a new direction), because He is bringing His world a new way of life, literally heaven on earth, in His ministry.

*“The influence of Rationalism on the church greatly minimized a focus on sin or guilt and led to the loss of a focus on forgiveness and redemption.”*

So the beginning of the liturgy that we often use at St. Paul reflects the Christian life. In our baptism, we are united to Jesus and given a “new creation” identity. Yet, we live under the curse of sin that we continue to participate in (which definitely results in our poor misery). We don’t love God with our whole heart (Deuteronomy 6:5) and we don’t love our neighbor as ourselves (Leviticus 19:18). Because this is our daily reality, we follow Jesus’ calling to repent of that sin and ask for His forgiveness. This same request is brought before God in the Lord’s Prayer: Forgive us our trespasses. Martin Luther’s explanation reminds us of why we continue to pray this prayer. “We pray in this petition that our Father in heaven would not look at our sins, or deny our prayer because of them. We are neither worthy of the things for which we pray, nor have we deserved them, but we ask that He would give them all to us by grace, for we daily sin much and surely deserve nothing but punishment.” That daily sin leads us to daily repentance, remembering our nature apart from God’s grace shown to us in Jesus Christ.

Therefore, as we continue to reflect the Christian life in worship, we move from the gracious act of God in our baptism, to our daily struggle with sin. Sometimes, before the confession, we use words from Scripture that speak of what we do with sin in the presence of God. Psalm 124:8, “Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.”; Psalm 32:5, “I acknowledged my sin to you,

(cont’d on pg. 5)





# Auction Success & Playground Update!

By Carolyn Steenstra

## THANK YOU - St. Paul Church and School!



We had a fantastic auction on April 12th, raising over \$101,000 for the new playground! We are so grateful to the Special Gifts Committee for providing the opportunity for a one-to-one matching gift, made possible by the Oscar and Kay Haab Foundation. As a result, our takeaway amount from auction night was \$203,000! Wow! Thank you also to Pastor Roggow, who challenged us to raise \$100,00 for him to shave his beard - and we did it! Praise God, from whom all blessings flow!



Over the past two years, we have raised over \$442,000 for the new playground at St. Paul School. This is phenomenal, and the Playground Committee is so grateful to the generosity of our auction attendees, school PTL, Special Gifts Committee, and two anonymous donors for making this achievement possible. Despite this amazing progress, we are still \$25,000 short of our total amount needed. **Please consider donating to the playground in our one final push to \$25,000 [https://onecau.se/\\_a9m6c1](https://onecau.se/_a9m6c1) Donors that have given \$500 or more will be named on signage at the new playground.**

While we wait for the last \$25,000 to be raised, Phase 1 equipment is at school and ready to be installed! Though the installation date has been delayed by rainy weather and a mid-April snow, we hope to see groundbreaking late April or early May.



## Hey Pastor... *cont'd from pg. 5*

and I did not cover my iniquity; I said, 'I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,' and you forgave the iniquity of my sin." Therefore, as we gather in worship, we don't gloss over or try to hide our sins. We weekly confess our sin to the one who has taken our sin away.

During Confession, we make statements of our poor miserable nature not to be down on ourselves, but because we have a Savior who has promised to lead us daily as we follow Him. In Luke 9 Jesus says, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it." We're poor and miserable in our sin because we realize that it always leads to broken relationships, including our relationship with God. We also realize that denying ourselves and following Jesus isn't the easy road either. Repenting of that way of life can be a struggle, but it leads to full life in Christ.

The reason that we begin services at St. Paul with Confession is because the confession is always followed by God's gracious words of Absolution. Your sins are forgiven in the

name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. For you and for me, this is an unambiguous, unconditional statement of God's grace. God comes to us in our worship with His Word of forgiveness so that we would be rescued from our poor and miserable sinful state.

The next time that you come to a service that begins with Confession and Absolution, you'll probably be walking in with a burden of sin for which you are ashamed, sins of thought, word and deed, by what you have done and by what you have left undone. In this you justly deserve the consequences of your actions and can only appeal to the mercy of God. But bringing that burden to the Lord is precisely what He invites you to do! Deny your whole self to be forgiven, renewed, and lead by Jesus. Pick up your cross and delight in His will and walk in His ways to the glory of His holy name. Because God's word of promise that he proclaims to you through the mouth of your pastor is that you are forgiven, set free, and filled with the new life of Christ once again. And to that we can boldly proclaim, AMEN! THANKS BE TO GOD!

**Do you have a  
"Hey, Pastor"  
question?**



**We'd love to know!**  
Just send your question to  
Pastor Roggow at:  
[aroggow@stpaulannarbor.org](mailto:aroggow@stpaulannarbor.org)



# Celebrating 35 Years of Stephen Ministry at St. Paul

By Lexie Brown

An important way St. Paul shines love to those inside and outside our congregation is through Stephen Ministry. Galatians 6:2 tells us to "bear one another's burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ," and that is exactly what happens through Stephen Ministry. Pastor Parke Frederick & Ade Zielke worked together to get this ministry started at St. Paul and, 35 years later, it is still going and making an impact. Roughly 240 hours of care have been provided by our Stephen Ministers to care receivers in just the last 2 years. It's safe to say that over the last 35 years, thousands of hours of care have been provided by St. Paul Stephen Ministers to care receivers.

In our weekend services on April 5 and 6, we celebrated how God has brought healing to many people through the listening and caring of Stephen Ministers at St. Paul. We had Stephen Ministers serving as greeters, readers, and ushers at all 3 of our weekend services and also had a special time in the service where current and former Stephen Ministers and Stephen Leaders were recognized and prayed over.

At the end of the services, for the ministry highlight, we viewed a video that includes one of our Stephen Leaders explaining a little about what Stephen Ministry is, and then 2 former care receivers shared about their experience having a Stephen Minister. Finally, Pastor Roggow shared about how partnering with Stephen Ministers has been a blessing to him as a pastor. After the Sunday services, there were light refreshments provided by the Stephen Ministry Team.



Photo from L to R: Cherise Callahan, Lexie Brown, Brenda Marshall, Greg Marshall, Karen Baker, Carol Shasko, Peggy Glahn and Brian Hoppe.

If you or someone you know is grieving a loss, or navigating a health crisis, SPAA is here for you. Our trained Stephen Ministers offer compassionate, confidential, and Christcentered care. Contact Cherise Callahan at 734-395-8775 to connect with a Stephen Minister who will offer a listening ear and a caring heart.



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Mark your calendars!

## Congregation Voters' Meeting

MAY 20TH @ 7PM, SCHOOL GYM

Including 2025 Board of Director & Elder Elections

Scan for candidate packet & meeting handouts!



### Attention Congregation Members:

Join us on Tuesday, May 20th at 7pm in the gym at our School Campus (495 Earhart Rd). This meeting will include many topics including voting on 2 open Board of Directors positions and also a slate of Elders (including 2 new open Elder positions). Handouts for review prior to this meeting (including January meeting minutes and a "Meet the Candidates" packet) are available by scanning the QR code. Hard copies can be found at worship entrances.





# Spring Clean Up Day at St. Paul



A huge thank you to the 27 dedicated volunteers who joined us for our annual Spring Clean-Up Day at both our Downtown & Earhart (school) campuses! With willing hands, cheerful spirits, and plenty of gardening tools, we were able to refresh and beautify the church and school grounds just in time for the season.

From pulling weeds and planting to trimming and mulching, every effort made a difference—and the results speak for themselves! It was a wonderful day of fellowship and service.

Special thanks to Wynn Krzyske for coordinating this effort! We're grateful for everyone who came out to help and for the joy that comes from working together as a community.



## Celebrating Month of the Young Child

April was the “Month of the Young Child” and to celebrate God’s precious children, our Earhart Preschool hosted Family Breakfast for the Preschool Families. The children made decorations for the tables and walls. Families enjoyed fellowship with staff and other families.





# Vacation Bible School 2025!

By Lexie Brown, Director of Family Life Ministry

Our planning team is excited to guide kids on the ultimate Alaskan adventure where northern lights glow over majestic mountains, racing rivers, and glistening glaciers. As kids trek the tundra, they'll explore how easy it is to lose sight of what's true in our wild world today. Pointing them toward Jesus, True North VBS shows them that he is a faithful friend we can always trust. He's our True North! VBS is open to children who have turned 4 by June 1 through children who have completed 4th grade. You can serve as a volunteer at VBS once you have completed 5th grade. The week of June 16, we will gather at St. Paul Lutheran School from 9:00 am until noon. Registration for both participants and volunteers is now open!

Vacation Bible School is one of the biggest community outreach events of the year for our church. We are so excited to welcome kids from our community, and hopefully, get a chance to connect with their families. It is an amazing week of sharing the love of Jesus... but we need some help! **We are looking for volunteers to serve in a variety of ways at VBS** and we are especially looking for crew leaders. Crew leaders don't have to prepare anything in advance. They just show up to one of our volunteer training sessions and then show up to VBS and guide children through each station. As a high schooler and college student, I was blessed to serve as a crew leader for VBS many times and if you love children, this is probably the most rewarding volunteer position you can have. St. Paul hopes to encourage children to grow in their faith at home, at church and at school. VBS

is a fun way for them to experience that during the summer and there are so many ways you can be involved no matter your age.

**If you'd like to be involved with VBS this summer, more information is available at the QR code below!** Questions can be directed to Lexie Brown at lbrown@stpaulannarbor.org.

## Registration Open!

Register by June 5, 2025



## Youth Ministry at SPAA

By Tyler Seehafer

### Middle School Lock In: May 23-24

Dear Parents,



We're excited to announce that our Middle School Lock-In has been rescheduled for May 23-24—and we'd love for your student to be part of it!

This overnight event is designed for 6th-8th grade students and offers a fun, safe, and faith-centered environment where students can grow in their relationships with one another and with God. So far, 22 students are already

signed up, and it's not too late to register your child.

Throughout the night, students will participate in a variety of engaging activities, including games, team-building challenges, and group discussions. These experiences are not only a lot of fun, but also help foster friendships, promote teamwork, and encourage spiritual growth.

The lock-in is a great opportunity for your student to step away from their regular routine and enjoy a night filled with community, connection, and meaningful conversations.

If you have any questions or would like help with registration, please don't hesitate to reach out. We'd be thrilled to have your student join us. Scan the QR code to register!



(cont'd on pg. 9)





# Youth Ministry at SPAA... *cont'd from pg. 8*

## High School - Journey of Faith



We are excited to send our students and adult leaders to an incredible faith-filled National Youth Gathering this July. This is a time for spiritual growth, connection, and transformation and will allow our young

people to deepen their faith, build lasting friendships, and experience God's presence in powerful ways.

We are deeply grateful for the overwhelming support from our congregation. Thanks to the hard work of our parent leaders, the dedication of our students, and your generous contributions, we've already raised thousands of dollars to make this journey possible. Your support is making a lasting impact in the lives of these young people.

As we prepare for this trip, we ask you to continue walking alongside us. Please take time to connect with our students and leaders—ask them about their hopes for the trip, encourage them, and hold them in your prayers. For many, this will be the farthest they've ever traveled, and the days will be long and full. We ask for your prayers for energy, strength, and above all, for the Holy Spirit to move mightily through every moment.

Pray that God would work through each leader and student, drawing us all closer to Him and shaping us into bold witnesses of faith. Below is the list of students attending from both congregations. Let's continue to lift them up and send them off with love and prayer.

### Students

Andrew MacDonell, Jacob MacDonell, Becky Reddeman, Breanna Justavino, Elise Grulke, Lillian Ratzow, Maiah Ratzow, Livia Pierce, Aaron Joshua, Maiah Dunham, Henry Altevogt, Gaby Hannewald, Natalie Hannewald, Madeline Potts, Catarina Potts, Grace Gady, Corynn Gady, Thomas Hopkins, Ryan Shasko, Noah Hendren, Emma Hasey, Sophia Forbes, David Knickelbein, Lizzy Knickelbein, Charlie Holst

### Adult Leaders

Pastor Aaron Roggow, Jennifer Reddeman, Tyler Seehafer, Jackson Miles, Suzzy Knicklebein, Wesley Shasko, Pastor Ted Hopkins, Lisa Altevogt, Hina Joshua

## High School Ministry – Summer Schedule

This past school year has been amazing for our High School Ministry! We've welcomed a whole crew of new freshmen, shared tons of laughs, and made unforgettable memories—whether at Sunday night youth group, ice skating, ballroom bowling, or preparing together for the National Youth Gathering.

More importantly, we've seen real spiritual growth. It's been incredible to watch students dive deeper into their faith, build stronger relationships with one another, and discover more of who God is in their lives.

This summer, we're shifting gears and relaxing a bit. We'll be meeting Wednesday nights from 6–8 PM at the Youth House for campfires, s'mores, and real conversations. It's the perfect midweek reset—a chance to connect, reflect, and have fun in a laid-back setting. Come as you are. Bring a friend. Let's grow together this summer!

**8th graders**—we're excited to invite you to start joining us on Wednesday, June 11th! This is your next step as you move into high school, and we can't wait to welcome you. You belong here, and we know God has big things in store for you!

### Join Our Student Ministry Volunteer Team!

Do you have a heart for students and a passion for helping them grow in faith? We are currently looking for caring, committed adults to join our High School and Middle School Ministry volunteer team! Whether you have experience working with youth or just a willingness to show up, engage, and build relationships, we would love to have you be part of what God is doing in the lives of our students. We're looking for volunteers who can serve in the following ways:

#### High School Ministry:

- Weekly gatherings on Sunday nights from 6–8 PM
- Engage with students, help lead conversations, and foster connection and community

#### Middle School Ministry:

- Sunday morning Bible study
- Monthly Faith, Fun, and Fellowship events (held on Tuesdays or Wednesdays after school)
- Build relationships, encourage spiritual growth, and have fun along the way

We're also in need of support for special events, service projects, youth trips, and other opportunities throughout the year. Whether you can commit weekly, monthly, or for specific events, your presence can make a real difference. Our ministry thrives on adults who are authentic, present, and willing to invest in the next generation. **If you're interested or just have questions, please reach out to Tyler Seehafer at [tseehafer@stpaulannarbor.org](mailto:tseehafer@stpaulannarbor.org).** We'd love to talk with you about how you can get involved.





# MISSIONS



St. Paul Lutheran  
Church of Ann Arbor

Sowing TRUTH. Building FAITH. Shining LOVE.

## Puerto Rico Mission Trip - Postponed until 2026

By Tyler Seehafer

We're grateful for the excitement and interest around our planned mission trip to Puerto Rico. After much thought and prayer, we've made the decision to **postpone the trip until 2026** in order to give us more time to build a **full, well-rounded team**.

Our goal is to form a group of 10 to 16 committed individuals who are excited to serve alongside **Rev. James and Deaconess Christel Neuendorf** in meaningful ministry. We believe that by waiting, we'll be able to provide a stronger, more effective experience for everyone involved—both for our team and for those we'll be serving in Puerto Rico.

If you've ever considered going on a mission trip—even if you're not sure yet—we'd love to hear from you. Whether you're ready to commit or just want more information, please **reach out to Tyler Seehafer at [tseehafer@stpaulannarbor.org](mailto:tseehafer@stpaulannarbor.org)**. Expressing your interest now helps us begin forming the team and planning ahead for a powerful experience next year. We remain excited about what God has in store and look forward to seeing how He will work through this opportunity in 2026.



## Paper Peace Corps By Ruth Schmude

Through Paper Peace Corps, Christian resources are mailed to these mission partners & their congregations:



Please pray for these pastors & churches:

Pastor Ekon (Africa)

Pastor Moses (India)

Pastor Maglanque (Philippines)

Thank you very much for all of you who have contributed to the Paper Peace Corps. Pastor Moses in India has received the boxes of Bible, Catechisms & commentaries. **"These books have been utilized in the retreats and distribution"** writes Pastor Moses. They have started summer vacation VBS camps in different villages. Prayers have been requested that children will be able to attend the villages and hear the love of Jesus for them.

If you would like to help support this ministry in the future please contact Ruth Schmude at 734-483-7483.





# Serving Hope

By Lexie Brown, Director of Family Life Ministry

During the month of March, St. Paul collected donations for sack lunches for Hope Clinic. This included entrees like canned ravioli, tuna, and spaghetti, bottled water, and many many different snacks. This was a wonderful opportunity for our church and school to partner together. People dropped off their donations before and after our worship services and school students brought in snack donations as their March chapel offerings. Then, on Wednesday, April 2 we gathered to assemble the lunches. This was a wonderful opportunity for intergenerational fellowship as we had kids as young as 5 or 6 helping us pack the lunches. We also had some Concordia students



join us as well as a few of our friends from Emmaus. Our original goal was to pack 300 lunches, but because we had such a generous outpouring of donations from church and school, we **were able to pack over 500 lunches!**

After we finished the packing, we enjoyed pizza dinner and some fellowship before the 7:00 pm midweek Lenten service. The next day, a crew of 11 loaded the lunches into 5 large vehicles and transported them over to Hope Clinic. When we arrived to drop off our donations, the staff at Hope Clinic was extremely grateful! They give out around 1,000 of these sack lunches every week to help tide people over between the hot meals they provide. Hope Clinic's Food



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HOPECLINIC

**Thank you St. Paul...**  
**We packed 500 lunch bags!**



& Basic Needs Manager, Megg, shared with me that this time of year especially, the donations were greatly appreciated. They see a lot of donations come in around the holidays, and that usually starts to taper off for them around March or April.



A very special thanks to CUAA Family Ministry Practicum Student, Alison Roehrig for all of her help with promoting and putting on this servant event. It is our hope that this experience will be something she can carry with her to whatever congregation she serves next. Please join me in praying for Alison as she transfers to Concordia University in Nebraska to finish out her studies. We have been tremendously blessed to have her serving alongside us at St. Paul this semester!

## Summer Worship at SPAA

Please take note of our summer worship times (and no Discipleship Hour/Christ Connections) beginning Memorial Day weekend and running through Labor Day weekend. Holy Communion will still be offered at both campuses every weekend.

**Join us for Fellowship Sundays this summer!** Catch up with your SPAA family on the first Sunday of each month (June 1, July 6 and August 3) immediately following worship at both campuses. Stay after church and enjoy lawn games and an extended coffee hour with fellowship time!

### ST PAUL SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

**SATURDAY**  
6:30 PM DOWNTOWN

**SUNDAY**  
8:30 AM \* DOWNTOWN  
\*Livestream to Facebook

**SUNDAY**  
10:15 AM SCHOOL

[Memorial Day Weekend - Labor Day Weekend]

Join us for Fellowship Sundays!  
June 1  
July 6  
Aug 3

Begins Saturday May 24!



## Sowing, Building, Shining... cont'd from pg. 11

course, we will continue the great things we have been doing for decades in building faith in our church and school. We certainly will continue preaching God's Word, in both Law and Gospel, so that Jesus is always at the center of our worship and life together. We certainly will continue to gather around God's Word in Bible Study and seek to understand the Scriptures together. But we also want to start looking at what we can do better: How can we better minister to families in our school, both Earhart and the IT house, who aren't part of our church? How can we build on the service that we already do at St. Paul to be a church that looks outward toward our community, that is a "church for others," in Dietrich Bonhoeffer's provocative phrase? How can we strengthen our relationships with one another to be more encouraging and loving as a church? How can we build relationships with others outside of St. Paul and shine the love of Jesus before those who don't yet know Christ? (By the way, if you are interested in being part of one of these teams in the future, please tell me! Everyone can't be part of the group every year, but I'd love for you to be part of planning the future ministry of St. Paul).

We have a few ideas as a staff for what we want to do next year, but we also need input and commitment from church members. St. Paul Lutheran Church and School does not belong to the staff. It certainly does not belong to me, to Pastor Roggow, Mr. Burgess, or Sue Francik. St. Paul Lutheran Church and School belongs to the members. The staff are merely servants of the congregation. To go forward as a church and school, we go forward together, each of us playing a role within the Body of Christ. Together, we sow the truth of God's Word in his world—always with open ears, ready to listen first, as we share with others the love of Jesus. Together, we build up the faith of one another—learning God's Word, praying for one another, and encouraging our brothers and sisters. Together, we shine the love of Jesus—serving our neighbors in the Ann Arbor community and serving one another at St. Paul. I'm excited to see what the Holy Spirit will do among us in the next year!

Your servant and brother in the Lord Jesus,  
Pastor Ted Hopkins

## Confirmation Sunday: A Joyful Day in Christ!

*"Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life."*  
Revelation 2:10

On Sunday, May 4th, we celebrated with great joy as 18 of our students affirmed their baptismal faith through the Rite of Confirmation. These young people have spent time learning, growing, and preparing to publicly confess their faith and take this important step in their walk with Christ. We give thanks to God for each of them and pray that the Holy Spirit continues to guide and strengthen them in faith, love, and service. God's blessings to our Confirmands!

Photos curtesy of Elisa Schulz Photography



To learn more about the ministries of St. Paul Ann Arbor visit our website at:  
[www.stpaulannarbor.org](http://www.stpaulannarbor.org)

If you would like to submit an article or news item for any of the St. Paul communications please contact Natalie Nesbitt, Media Outreach Coordinator at [nnesbitt@stpaulannarbor.org](mailto:nnesbitt@stpaulannarbor.org).



St. Paul  
Ann Arbor

We equip families and individuals to know Christ,  
to discover truth, and to create meaningful connections.