

# Church isn't where we go, Church is who we are!

While being mindful of the health and safety guidelines during this time of pandemic, we are staying connected as the Body of Christ through online worship, and outreach opportunities.



Sunday mornings at 10 am worship videos are uploaded to our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/stpaulswarrenil/>

Worship videos are also uploaded to our web page <http://www.stpaulswarren.org/> and can be accessed by anyone without needing to be a Facebook user. The web page is a great resource for KIDS CORNER activities and Advent resources!

For the month of JANUARY, we continue to suspend in person worship inside of the sanctuary. Our church council continue to stay informed on the restrictions and guidelines for gatherings and are faithfully discerning when it will be safe to hold in-person worship again inside our sanctuary. God's Word continues to be proclaimed; the sacrament of Holy Communion is offered as our faith community continues to gather online in Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit! The Church has not ceased, because ***we are the Church*** in the world no matter where we meet.

Every Sunday in January, we will share together Holy Communion in our online worship service 10 am. For those worshipping at home: Before the time of the service you will want to prepare a slice or a small loaf of any kind of bread to share and a cup or small cups of juice — perhaps grape or cranberry — or wine, with or without alcohol. Set these elements in the living room or kitchen where you experience worship electronically with our faith community. Perhaps you want to put them on a lovely cloth or fabric that reminds you of a special time or person. Perhaps light a candle or place a flower or the photograph of someone you wish to bring into the circle of faith beside the bread and the cup.



For anyone NOT connected to the internet, or who does not have the technology resources to join in worship online, please notify Vicar Michelle so other accommodations can be made.

**SCRIPTURE READERS NEEDED!!** Worship includes the whole assembly - and we love to hear and see one another even while we remain apart. Recordings can easily be made from your home and used in our Sunday online services. Please consider serving the church with your gift of time and presence.

*Contact Vicar Michelle to sign up and coordinate the recording. 815-535-6177*



**MARK YOUR CALENDARS for MARCH 7<sup>th</sup> 2021 at 1:00 pm**

The congregational meeting will be held in-person, in the sanctuary in accordance with health and safety concerns. You may choose to participate on-line via ZOOM by registering with Vicar Michelle.

**All annual reports are due to Anita Fry by January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

The annual report will be mailed to each household two weeks prior to the congregational meeting for review. A mail in ballot will be provided to vote on the proposed budget in lieu of attending in person or on-line.

This plan has been carefully constructed by the church council to meet the needs of our congregation and attend to business matters of the church. It is our hope, that we may be able to safely gather for worship at that time, however with that uncertainty, we must plan accordingly.

**DO WE HAVE YOUR EMAIL???????** If you have not been getting emails from Anita about announcements and worship, please share your email ASAP. We don't want to exclude anyone!



## Home Communion Offered:

Vicar Michelle is open to bringing you communion and offering a private time of prayer in your home, as you feel safe to do so. You may also make an appointment to meet privately at the sanctuary. Accommodations can be made to meet the health and safety considerations. For more information, you may call Vicar at 815-535-6177.



## Opportunities for outreach:

**Food Pantry:** The loss of unemployment, or limited employment has affected many families in our community. Financial gifts will help Caring Neighbors continue to meet many needs. Please continue to support our local food pantry by sending funds to St. Paul's Po Box 445, Warren, IL 61087 and note in the memo *Caring Neighbors*.

THANK YOU to our FOOD PANTRY VOLUNTEERS that have been serving at the food pantry to ensure that the shelves are stocked and that each person coming to the food pantry is able to receive canned goods, cereal, meat, milk, eggs, butter, and more!

God bless you in your ministry to feed our community and show the love of Christ to everyone who is served at the food pantry.

If you or someone you know is in need of food, please call Vicar Michelle at 815-535-6177.

If you are looking for a place to serve Christ and your neighbor, volunteering at the food pantry is a wonderful ministry! Contact Shirley Miller or Joyce Kent to ask how you can help. Volunteers are ALWAYS needed!



**THANK YOU for your generous donations for our  
CHRISTMAS COLLECTION for the Women's Recovery Home  
in Amboy, IL!!!!**

Blessing boxes were filled for 15 women with socks, slippers, shirts, journals, notepads, pens, calendars, hand care, shampoo, conditioner, body wash, body lotion, shaving cream, razors, deodorant, toothbrush, toothpaste, hand soap, personal notes of encouragement, and other "extras" to convey love and support for our sisters in Christ. WOW! Thank you for being a part of this outreach ministry sharing the light of Christ to bring healing, hope, and grace.

## Stewardship of Financial Gifts

**THANK YOU** to those who have sent year end gifts as part of our stewardship drive to fund the ministries of our congregation for 2021! **THANK YOU** to those who are continuing with weekly offering. **THANK YOU** to those who have called and asked how they can continue to give. **THANK YOU** for your continued faithful giving to our ministry.

The church's ability to do ministry is dependent upon your regular gifts. 2020 has been a challenging year, yet St. Paul's was able to continue in the mission of the Church because of your faithfulness and financial commitment. While you may be joining us from worship at home, you may mail a check to our congregation. **Your gifts may be mailed to St. Paul's Lutheran Church, PO Box 445, Warren, IL 61087**

~Vicar Michelle & the Church Council



If you are need of prayer, contact Rita Homb, Prayer Chain Coordinator 815-745-2232.

*Ephesians 6:18 And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.*

*THANK YOU to our greeting card ladies who send notes of cheer, encouragement, and extended love through this ministry! Cards are sent for milestone birthdays, special events, and in sympathy. If someone you know from our congregation could use a personal note, or should be added to our birthday and anniversary list, please call the church office with that information.*



[addictionandfaith.com](http://addictionandfaith.com)

*Sunday Night 12 Steps - - A New Meeting for Mainline Christians on Zoom*

*This meeting is open to anyone in 12-Step recovery of any kind and for those interested in learning more about 12-Step recovery.*

*The Center of Addiction and Faith and the Fellowship of Recovering Lutheran Clergy (FRLC) host this meeting, offered every Sunday night at 7 p.m. cst  
All are welcome.*

*Follow the link:*

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81470899913?pwd=UUd1T1lDTnd1ckFDSS84MXJQeXY5QT09>