



## Save The Date

**Sunday  
Sept. 15th**

**Church Council  
Meeting follow-  
ing worship**

**Sunday  
October 27th**



**Oktoberfest  
Potluck & New  
Member Sunday**

We provide the  
bratwursts, bev-  
erages, and cake,  
you bring a side  
dish to share.

# Tidings

September 2019

from St. Philip's Lutheran Church

## *What does it mean when the ELCA says that we are a Sanctuary Denomination?*

Greetings,

On August 5th almost 1,000 ELCA Lutherans gathered in Milwaukee for the triennial ELCA Churchwide Assembly. At this Assembly these 900+ Lutherans conducted the business of the church as the legislative body of this denomination. This business ranged from re-electing Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton to approving a three year budget for the Churchwide expression. However the action that has received the most news coverage was a vote to become a Sanctuary Denomination. This was a historical vote in that the ELCA is the first Christian Denomination in the country to make such a declaration.

This decision by the assembly has raised many questions among ELCA Lutherans across the country. What does it mean to be a sanctuary denomination? Will this require congregations to host immigrants, or break the law? All of these questions are good and we are able to answer most of them, but not all of them, some of them will require learning in the moment. Below are some answers to the most frequently asked questions. If you have other questions I encourage you to come to our Adult Forum on Sunday Sept. 1st and/or be in contact with Pastor Tony.

- **In its simplest form, becoming a sanctuary denomination means that the ELCA is publicly declaring that walking alongside immigrants and refugees is a matter of faith.** The ELCA Churchwide Assembly, the highest legislative authority of the ELCA, declared that when we preach on Sunday that Jesus told us to welcome, we will use our hands and voices on Monday to make sure it happens.
- **Being a sanctuary denomination does not call for any person, congregation or synod to engage in any illegal actions.**
- **We have a broken system regarding immigration, refugees and asylum-seekers.** To declare ourselves a sanctuary church body is to say that we seek to provide concrete resources to assist the most vulnerable who are feeling the sharp edges of this broken system.
- **Being a sanctuary denomination is about loving our neighbors.** While we may have different ideas about how to fix this broken system and may have different ways of loving our neighbors, our call to love our neighbor is central to our faith.

**Blessings,**

**Pastor Tony**

## September Birthdays



**2<sup>nd</sup>** Carolyn Berry & Mary Kramer

**4<sup>th</sup>** Jim Anderson

**13<sup>th</sup>** Sally Conrad

**14<sup>th</sup>** Katie Anderson

**18<sup>th</sup>** Thom Trotter

**24<sup>th</sup>** Lesley

Pedersen

**27<sup>th</sup>** Sarah Berry  
MacGillivray

## Shout Out of Thanks !

Thank you to Carolyn Berry, Barbara Batcher, & Lesley Pedersen for all of the help in the church office while we await the hiring of a new Administrative Assistant .

# Tidings June

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### *Coach's Corner*

### **The Pennant Race**

#### **Teammates,**

I just finished watching the Chicago Cubs sweep a 3 game series with the San Francisco Giants. Every game counts when your team is in a pennant race. Any given week, the Giants seem to be a couple of percentage points either above or below a .500 win / loss record. With a month remaining in the season, a realist might believe the team is a long shot to make the playoffs as a wildcard. However, what I witnessed during that 3 game series with the Cubbies, is a team that isn't about to give up. I saw some great plays. The effort, desire and teamwork are evident. And let's face it, over the course of the 3 games the loss deficit was a total of only 4 runs. Not bad.

Similarly, the effort, desire and teamwork that our congregation has exhibited this past summer has been exceptional. Several of you have played exceptionally well and have not only played into extra innings but have also played an occasional double-header without complaint. That's exactly the kind of team Spirit that will carry us to the series. Regardless, it's nice to have so many of our teammates return to the dugout from their summer adventures.

Throughout these dog days of summer, several key players have stepped up to the plate to keep the front office afloat since the departure of our administrative assistant. I offer a personal high five and debt of gratitude to the following pinch hitters: Carolyn Berry, Barb Battcher, Lesley Pedersen, Sharon Anderson and Anke Richter. The summer season has provided a good learning experience for all concerned. The good news is that relief is on the way. A hiring committee has been created to search for a new Administrative Assistant to the Pastor.

Most of us have not traversed the entire perimeter of our ball park. There is a thick stand of Cypress and brush in the far eastern corner of our property. A neighbor had phoned with fire safety concerns that the trees and brush posed and requested that we clear some of the branches. We thank our utility players, Alan Pedersen, Mike Rupp and Lowell Battcher for volunteering to serve as our in-house lumberjacks. I've seen the before and after photos and can report that the effort was huge.

Heads-up, we have a couple key games coming up on the schedule and team participation is key:

**October 27<sup>th</sup>:** We'll celebrate our New Member's Sunday with an Oktoberfest following worship. Brats and drinks will be provided. We ask the rest of the team to bring a side dish to share.

**November 2<sup>nd</sup>:** Again, team participation I requested for our Church Work Day. Regardless of skill levels, I request your assistance with prepping our stadium for the winter season.

**For Laughs:**

Q: Why was Cinderella so bad at baseball?

A: She had a pumpkin for a coach.

Q: What do male cattle use to write?

A: Bull pens.

**Let's play ball!!**

**Coach Mike**

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### Worship News

HYMN SING Sunday, August 25<sup>th</sup>, was a music-filled worship service, following Martin Luther's thoughts that "singing is like praying twice". Thanks to over 50 requests turned in, we had a great selection from which to choose. If your favorite hymn was not sung at the Hymn Sing, please keep attending worship, as the request list is used by the worship committee to select hymns for the next few months. The committee tries to choose hymns that fit with the themes of each Sunday's readings...we even have some favorites for special seasons, like Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, etc. Suggestions of favorite hymns continue to be welcomed.

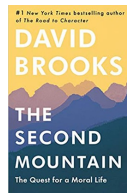
Newly printed and updated version of the familiar Haugen liturgy will be used in our Sunday worship services, beginning September 1<sup>st</sup>. The Chicago Folk Service will continue to be used on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month, thanks to the contributions of Psalm 150 band & pianist Justice Post. The worship committee continues to encourage any individuals or groups to bring any special vocal or instrumental music to enhance the worship services.

Let's have a choir for Reformation Sunday, Oct. 27<sup>th</sup>! Details are forthcoming. Rehearsals will be after church in October...anyone who loves to sing (you don't have to sightread music) will be more than welcome/encouraged to participate! In addition, there may be opportunities for those interested to get together to learn new hymns that could then be sung for the congregation...in hopes that we may discover some new favorites!

*Submitted by Barbara Batcher, Worship committee Chair*

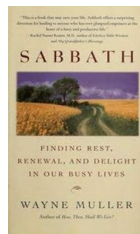
## News from the Library

Have you made a trip down the hall to the St. Philip's Library? No? What will you find there? The shelves are filled with books that explore theology, there are helps for your Bible study, self-help books, novels, St. Philip's publications, jigsaw puzzles, and music CDs. New to the library - *The Second Mountain* by David Brooks, *Sabbath* by Wayne Muller, *From Pain to Joy* by Nancy Hanson, and a study guide *Through the Wilderness of Alzheimer's* by Robert and Anne Simpson. Come on down and visit the library!



In *The Second Mountain*, David Brooks explores the four commitments that define a life of meaning and purpose: to a spouse and family, to a vocation, to a philosophy or faith, and to a community. Our personal fulfillment depends on how well we choose and execute these commitments. Brooks looks at a range of people who have lived joyous, committed lives, and who have embraced the necessity and beauty of dependence. He gathers their wisdom on how to choose a partner, how to pick a vocation, how to live out a philosophy, and how we can begin to integrate our commitments into one overriding purpose.

In short, this book is meant to help us all lead more meaningful lives. But it's also a provocative social commentary. We live in a society, Brooks argues, that celebrates freedom, that tells us to be true to ourselves, at the expense of surrendering to a cause, rooting ourselves in a neighborhood, binding ourselves to others by social solidarity and love. We have taken individualism to the extreme—and in the process we have torn the social fabric in a thousand different ways. The path to repair is through making deeper commitments. In *The Second Mountain*, Brooks shows what can happen when we put commitment-making at the center of our lives.



Millennia ago, the tradition of Sabbath created an oasis of sacred time within a life of unceasing labor. Now, in a book that can heal our harried lives Wayne Muller, ordained minister, therapist and founder of Bread for the Journey, shows us how to create a special time of rest, delight, and renewal - a refuse for your souls. We need not even schedule an entire day each week. Sabbath time can be a Sabbath afternoon, a Sabbath hour, a Sabbath walk. This book was the recent St. Philip's Book Club selection.



## Treasurer's Report

Due to staff changes in the office this section will continue shortly.

**VOLUNTEERS  
NEEDED!**

WANTED – assistants to help in the worship services... greeters, cantors, readers, acolytes, assistant ministers, ushers, altar guild (prepare communion), counters (record offerings & deposit), refreshment servers, Sunday School teachers, etc. Involvement in the worship service always helps everyone gain more in the community worship experience. Talk to Pastor Tony or anyone already serving to see ways you'd like to help.

# June Tidings

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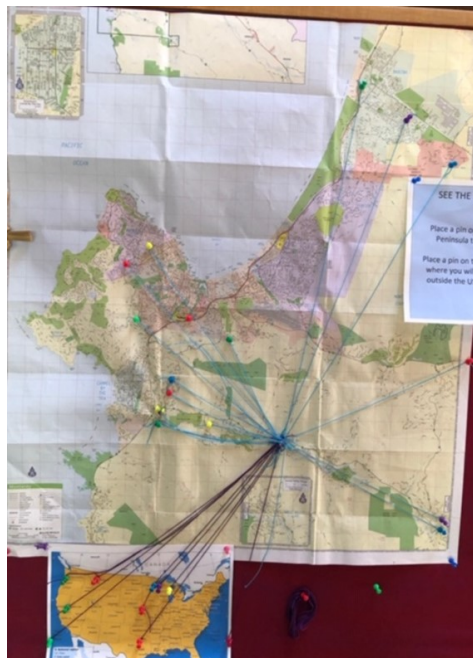


*From Pain to Joy* is written in the voice of God and speaks directly to those who are hurting. This book encourages readers to retain or develop their own spiritual life while confronting changes - big and small. Nancy Hanson, a graduate of Concordia College and Pacific Lutheran University works as a career counselor writer and speaker

While we are in the mode of reading, there is an interest in continuing the St. Philip's Book Club. The recent book was *Sabbath* by Wayne Muller. Have you recently read a book that you would like to share or have yet to read that might be of interest to the group? Suggested readings for the Book Club are gladly taken! Contact Barb Battcher, Carolyn Berry, or Mary Kramer with your ideas. Let's read. *Submitted by Mary Kramer*

## The reach of St. Philips

How far does the reach of St. Philip's extend? On a recent map of the Monterey Peninsula, sixteen families marked their homes on the map and 8 marked where they would head for vacation. As expected, we come to St. Philip's from all over the Peninsula, Carmel Valley, and Marina. We traveled mostly to the Midwest but some reached outside the country. The impact we can have is great. Thanks all for participating. *Submitted by Mary Kramer*



## Opportunities to serve at St. Philip's - there are many

**Worship assistants**—Assisting Ministers, Acolytes, Ushers, Greeters, Sound, Communion preparation, Readers Contact Lesley Pedersen, Carolyn Berry, or Pastor Tony

**Fellowship Hour**— Sign up on the bulletin board in the narthex or contact Nora Reimers

**Education ideas**— Contact Pastor Tony

**Counters**— Sunday morning offerings, Contact Barb Battcher

**Grounds**— Friday Gardeners, Work days, Contact Lesley Pedersen, Keith Johnson

**Outreach activities**— Food Bank food distribution, Food Bank Volunteer day, I-Help - new ideas Contact Mary Kramer

These are the usual activities of the church. If you have other ideas for opportunities to serve that you would like to see implemented, contact Pastor Tony or one of the council members. Council members are Mike Berry, Alan Pedersen, Sharon Anderson, Susan Alexander, and Keith Johnson.

*Submitted by Mary Kramer*

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## News from Mt. Cross Lutheran Camp

### MT. CROSS WOMEN'S RETREAT SEPT. 20-22

#### THE BIBLE IN THREE DAYS: GENESIS TO REVELATION Bring your Questions, your Imaginations, and your Bibles

Whether you've never read the full Bible  
or you want a refresher  
or you're a pro...  
come for a weekend of digging into the biblical story as a whole!

**Who: Women!** One of the highlights of our time together is an evening of fellowship and drinks, so we ask for folks to be 21+, but ask us if this is problem.

**Times: 7PM on Friday - 11AM on Sunday, Sept. 20** We'll have refreshments on Friday but no dinner, and will finish before lunch on Sunday.

**Registration: Opens July 20 and closes September 12**

**Cost: \$95** For those registering September 1 or later, the cost increases \$30. Registration requires a \$50 non-refundable deposit, with the remaining balance due September 10.

**Housing is assigned on a first-come, first-served basis.** You will sign up for your lodging preferences during registration. If you have mobility needs, please let us know so that we can plan to accommodate you.

#### About the Schedule:

**Friday:** We'll start with refreshments, an intro session, and devotions.

**Saturday:** We'll keep digging into the Bible throughout the morning. The afternoon is for you - catch up with friends; try our high ropes course; do a craft; it's up to you! In the evening we'll have another session, worship, and fellowship!

## St. Philip's Staff & Council

*Pastor Tony Rhodes*

*Justice Post*

*Pianist & Organist*

*Jose & Luz Perez*

*Janitorial Staff*

### COUNCIL MEMBERS

*Mike Berry - President*

*Sharon Anderson -  
Treasurer*

*Susan Alexander -  
Secretary*

*Alan Pedersen -At Large*

*Keith Johnson -  
Property Chair*

*Anke Richter  
Financial Secretary*

**Sunday:** We'll have breakfast together and a closing session and then we're done!

#### **About our Presenter:**

Rev. Sharon Amundson is the pastor at Mariposa Lutheran Church in Mariposa, CA. She has led women's retreats for many years. Born a cradle Lutheran, one of four children born to a Lutheran Pastor and his wife in North Dakota; she is a happy California transplant. A graduate of California Lutheran University (BS Accounting '91), and Luther Seminary (MDiv 2017), Pastor Amundson was a CPA for twenty years before completing seminary. She brings a unique perspective to bible study, bringing ancient texts to life. Come join us for a Bible overview from Genesis to Revelation!

**Go to the Mt. Cross website to register; [mtcross.org](http://mtcross.org)**

## Fall Fest & Homecoming

**Reconnect ~ Participate ~ Learn ~ Give**

**We're celebrating another great year of ministry - come for a day of enjoying and supporting Mt. Cross!**

**Whether you're here to reconnect with old friends or to experience Mt. Cross for the first time, we'd love to have you.**

**Date: Saturday, October 5**

**Time: All Day;** Throughout the day, we'll have activities to participate in: Archery, Hiking, Yoga, Kickball, Crafts....Food, a program highlighting our ministry, and opportunity to give are also included. A full schedule of events will be available in early September.

**Cost: Free;** However, we hope you'll take the opportunity to support our ministry while you're here!

#### **What about the rest of the weekend?**

Saturday is the only day of food and programming. However, if you let us know ahead of time, you're welcome to stay the night before or after. We know travel can be hard AND one day of Mt. Cross just might not be enough!

**RSVPs... are amazing.** If you don't rsvp, still come! However, taking 2 minutes to let us know who's coming helps us plan and it allows you to let us know of any dietary restrictions or other needs you may have. RSVP at [mtcross.org](http://mtcross.org)

### **MORE EVENTS COMING UP SOON:**

Nov 15-17

[UFO \(Unfinished Objects\) Retreat](#)

Dec 6-8

**Advent Retreat**

*Submitted by Anita Johnson*