



# Newsletter

**MAY 2023**

**Worship God.**

**Follow Jesus.**

**Serve Others.**

“O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.”

Psalm 118:29

Dear Friends in Christ,

Many individuals quote verses from Psalm 118 because they are beautiful, true and blessed. Sometimes we quote verses from Psalm 118 without knowing what we are quoting. Because verses are familiar and we have heard them before, they become a part of our scriptural reference, and we therefore recite them. But could we tell the particular source from which we speak? “This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it” is one such verse. We all know the verse and can repeat it, but likely cannot say that it is Psalm 118 verse 24.

The verse quoted above is another such verse. “O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.” is beautiful, true and blessed and we may be able to quote it without reading or referring to Psalm 118. But because it is the first and last verse of Psalm 118 (1 and 29) it carries considerable importance. The verses are “bookends” holding together all that is written within. Not only does the written verse hold together the thoughts and inspiration of the psalm writer, but the truth of the verse holds our lives of faith together as well.

The goodness of the Lord as well as the eternal nature and endless quality of God’s love, holds us together. How we live and grow, physically, emotionally, relationally, and spiritually, is held together by the truth that God loves us and always will. Between the bookends of God’s character and being is where we live out our lives. It is comfortable and encouraging to know that our life is important to God and enveloped by the certainty of God’s presence and love.

Thanks be to God.

Blessings,

Wade Panse, Pastor

## BIBLE STUDY IN THE MONTH OF MAY

Our Pastor is leading a Bible study of the Book of Ruth in the Old Testament. On Wednesday evenings May 3, 10, 17 and 24 we will gather in the Fellowship Hall of the church at 6:30 and enjoy the teaching and inspiration from the Word of God, Holy Scripture. The Book of Ruth has important historical significance and personal application for each of us.

The Bible study will be one hour in length, concluding by 7:30 each Wednesday. Light refreshments will be served and lively discussion will be enjoyed by all in attendance.

Please bring your own Bible and expect a blessing as you attend each week.

## SERMON SCHEDULE FOR MAY

May 7	5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter	"A Chosen People"	People of God	1 Peter 2:2-10
May 14	Mother's Day	"Water Washed, Spirit Born"	Baptism	Matt 1:18 Luke 1:26-38
May 21	Ascension Sunday	"After You Have Suffered"	Restoration	1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11
May 28	Pentecost	"If Anyone Is Thirsty"	Holy Spirit	John 7:37-39



We thank all our members who are participating in the Harding's Rewards Program. If you are NOT participating, please consider doing so. Ask the church secretary if you need assistance, or go to [Hardingscommunityrewards.com](http://Hardingscommunityrewards.com).

# Thank You!

*(From a thank you card addressed to Barb Mesko)*

*Thank you so much for your donation of socks to Sam Adams Elementary School! We go through a lot of socks and underwear for our students, so these donations are so helpful!*

*Sincerely,*

*Sam Adams Staff*

*THANK YOU AUDREY FENWICK*

*Audrey Fenwick has been our piano accompanist in worship since December 2018, after four and a half years of faithful ministry, Audrey is moving to Adrian, MI to complete her clinical studies before graduating as a Physical Therapist this August from Andrews University.*

*Audrey's dedication, commitment, reliability, and musical talent have been a blessing for all of us. We offer gratitude and prayer for Audrey's continued ministry and service wherever God leads her.*

## Pack-A-Backpack Program

Thank you Barb Strlekar for your commitment to overseeing the Pack-A-Backpack program providing much needed assistance to students from Sam Adams Elementary, and to Barb Mesko for your help in delivering these food items. Your compassion and dedication to the local community is greatly appreciated! Also, thank you to everyone who volunteered to pack the food items Sundays following worship services.



It is with great appreciation that the SPPRC and CUMC say Good luck and Goodbye to our Pianist, Audrey, for her faithfulness and talent these last 4 years.

May God continue to bless you.

Love, SPPRC

We would like to welcome the new custodian **Tracy** and pianist **Jonathan!**



## Helping Hands

Recently, I had the privilege of attending the Helping Hands Annual Dinner as a representative from CUMC. It was quite an eye-opening experience for me! It was such a blessing to see how this Christ centered organization is answering the call to be “the hands and feet of Jesus” for local families in need.

It was so wonderful to learn about the many client services they provide. Each month, I will highlight one of these programs in our newsletter. This month I am focusing on the food services. The food pantry served 1,199 people during 2022, that’s an increase from 797 the prior year. The Senior Commodities program distributed 597 boxes to seniors in need. They provided 97 inmates with snack bags for Christmas at the Cass County Jail. As many are aware, they also participate in the Sam Adams Backpack program. In fact, several people attending the event had expressed their sincere gratitude for the use of our church space for this very program and that they couldn’t do it without CUMC.

### Kitchen Trash Removal

Please remember when providing refreshments for fellowship, you must **remove the trash bag from the kitchen and take it out to the green cart. Also, be sure to bring the cart to edge of the road before leaving** so that it will be picked-up on Monday morning. Thank you so much for your assistance in keeping our church maintained. Your cooperation and understanding are much appreciated!



# MAY



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
	1	2	3 <i>Patti Panse</i> <i>Melissa Tobakos</i>	4 <i>Alek Dahlgren</i>	5	6	
7 Worship 10AM  Holy Communion	8	9	10 <i>Bill &amp; Sue Loux</i> 	11	12	13	
14 Worship 10 AM 	15	16 <i>Lauren Woodhouse</i>  Sewing Sewers 10 AM	17	18 <i>Bill &amp; Erin Westrate</i> 	19	20 <i>St Paul Lutheran Food Pantry 11:30 - 1 PM</i>	
21 Worship 10 AM	22	23	24	25	26	27	
28 Worship 10 AM <i>Tom &amp; Kaye Weller</i> 	29  <i>Char Hiemstra</i>	30	31				

If your special date does not appear on this calendar, please let the office now.