



Monthly Newsletter of Mt Pleasant Lutheran Church Racine, Wisconsin

Online Worship—on facebook live!

@spaceshipchurch

Sundays at 8:30 a.m. (until further notice)

Wednesday Evening Devotions—on Facebook
live @spaceshipchurch

Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.—watch it live, or watch it later

Limited MPLC Office Hours

Tuesdays and Thursdays only, from 9 a.m.—3 p.m.

Details on page 12.

For other times, staff members are available by email and phone—voicemail is checked regularly. Our phone number is 262-634-6704.

Our Website

spaceshipchurch.org

On facebook

facebook.com/spaceshipchurch



Virtual Offering Plate

Thank you for continuing to support the ministries of MPLC in this challenging time. The most helpful way to give your offering these days is online ([click here for a link](#)), but we're also grateful for offerings mailed to the church: 1700 South Green Bay Road, Racine, WI 53406.





From Pastor Beth Ann L. Stone

“I miss Communion!” I hear you! Me, too! While I haven’t heard this expressed by a LOT of our church members (more often I hear, “I miss worship!”), I suspect that many of you feel the same.

Pastor Krista and I have had a lot of conversations about how and when to try to meet this need for members of our congregation during a pandemic. Around the country, churches of all denominations largely stopped all in-person worship services for weeks or months, including celebrations of communion. Some are innovating ways to provide communion elements to people outside of an in-person service; some have since resumed some in-person services but not communion; some are cautiously trying to do both; some continue to “fast” from communion. It’s a challenge with no “right” answers. (Trust me...if there were, they’d be common knowledge!)

One of the foundational documents for Lutheran theology, the “Augsburg Confession”, says that the sacraments are “signs and testimonies of God’s will toward us for the purpose of awakening and strengthening our faith” (Article XIII). Communion is a tangible, “visible word” that communicates God’s grace, love, and forgiveness to us. It’s a gift of God to the church, a means of conveying God’s relationship to us in a way that we can experience, remember, and know grace as a certainty. But communion is not the only means we have of “awakening and strengthening our faith”. Throughout the history of the church there have been varied practices and seasons for the frequency of communion. When it’s not available to us, we have the gifts of scripture, of proclamation (sermons and teaching), of prayer, of connecting/speaking with other Christians, of confession and absolution...all of which are available even when we’re physically distanced. We’re missing a spiritual practice we value, but God has not left us alone.

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I've been thinking about what it is—specifically—that I miss about communion. You might imagine that living in a household with two pastors like my family does, with bread and wine and a congregation of four at the ready, we have surely shared communion in our home sometime since March. That's not the case. Maybe that's surprising to you, too, as people who have relished receiving communion weekly for most of our lives. But we haven't done it.

What I miss is being together, worshiping in community. I miss looking people in the eyes and saying, "The body of Christ, given for you." I miss hearing those words for myself, receiving this precious gift, and offering my own "Amen". Some of the communion alternatives others are offering right now just wouldn't feed my hunger for what I'm missing.

The virus makes communion a complicated, potentially risky practice. Setting aside all the other concerns about being in physical proximity with people outside our households, there are questions of how to prepare the elements safely, how to put them in people's hands with the least risk to servers and recipients, how to ensure worshippers hands can be clean as they receive and consume (touching/removing their masks to do so), how to clean up afterward, reverently and carefully, etc. We're still learning and considering best practices for these matters. Theologically, we're considering options that before-coronavirus seemed unpalatable or even wrong: drive-through communion distribution; all-in-one, pre-sealed plastic cups of juice with a wafer sealed on top; providing an order for communion you can conduct on your own at home, using your own bread and wine, etc. While some churches are offering a variation on "virtual communion"—people watching an online service at home where their own bread and wine is blessed remotely—this is not a practice that's supported or encouraged by most ELCA teachers, theologians, and bishops, and not one that Pastor Krista or I would favor. In fact, none of these options are perfect; all of them leave out somebody, for various reasons. And all require careful theological and practical consideration.

The bottom line is this: we're working on it! We know this is one more thing to miss among so many in our lives right now. I hope this helps to demonstrate some of the complexity around communion, and the breadth of matters to consider.

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If you'd like to learn more about the theology of Lutheran sacraments and the common practices among ELCA congregations, [The Use of the Means of Grace](#) is a wonderfully accessible document. Or check out the [recording of the hour-long class](#) I led on June 23 for our members about Holy Communion (password required: 3O^#O?03).

I miss you, and I'm grateful for you. Longing for the day when we'll gather around the Lord's Supper again!

Peace in Christ, *Pastor Beth Ann*



A Message from Council President, David Santalucia

As you know, the Congregational Council has been discussing the topic of a return to in-person worship. After reviewing the congregation's response to the survey sent out in May, we convened a task force who will further discuss details and develop plans for consideration by the council. The task force members are Stephanie Buchanan, Erin Donaldson, Denny Martin, and David Santalucia. They will consider topics related to worship service logistics and safety, as well as the COVID-19 information we should monitor for an indication of timing of a return.

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Grow your Faith at Home

What Is Holy Communion?

On June 23, Pastor Beth Ann led an online discussion/class about the Lord's Supper...how does this sacrament really work? What's it for? This class is not just for those who are new to faith, but for longtime Christians, too, who want to explore what makes for a holy sacrament in our Lutheran understanding. The class was recorded, and the video posted. Check it out here: [recording of the hour-long class](#) (password required: 30^#0?03).

Worship-at-Home Materials

Since March MPLC staff have been mailing printed Worship-at-Home materials regularly to about 80 member households. These are households for which the church does not have an active email address. The same materials are also posted on our church website here: <https://spaceshipchurch.org/worship/online-church-links/> If you are unable to access the Worship-at-Home materials online and would like to receive them through U.S. Mail, please contact Becky Litwin at the church office (262-634-6704).

Weekly Home Bible Study Materials

Many people indicated in last month's worship service that they would make use of printed Bible Study materials at home, if available. Now they are! We've begun sharing a link in each week's "Together in Spirit" email. Find the Bible Study for Sunday, June 28 here: <https://spaceshipchurch.org/bible-study-for-6-28-20/> Use these studies to dive deeper into God's Word each week!

The Word In Season Devotional Booklets

If you enjoy *The Word In Season* daily devotional booklets purchased for our members, you are welcome to pick up a free copy of the next quarterly issue any time from the plastic bin next to the front doors at the church building. If you would like to subscribe personally to this publication, you may call Augsburg Fortress publishers at (800) 328-4648. A private subscription costs \$8.50 for one year.



Do Justice Ministry Team News From Holly Hess

In early 2020, Pastor Beth Ann and I began working to develop a “Do Justice Ministry Team” at MPLC. This team would come together to learn more about the justice issues Jesus models for us in the Bible and would be challenged with moving us from a “charity to justice” mindset. The Synod was offering an in-depth anti-racism training program for early spring and we decided that racial justice would be an important starting point for the ministry team and the congregation. The initial team was formed and registered for the training. Then, as with nearly everything else, Covid-19 led to the cancellation of the Synod training. However, our Do Justice ministry team has not been idle during this time. Our members, including: Erin Donaldson, Yolanda Lewis, Julie Hansen, Mark Trinklein, Tom Waldoch, Deb Jankowski, Stephanie Buchanan, Neil Buchanan, Carla Wilks, Pastor Nancy Eggert, Ben Brussat, Pastor Beth Ann Stone, and Pastor Krista Zimmerman, are meeting via Zoom and are currently discussing a series of videos on race issues. Additionally, family resources for talking to children about racism are being gathered and will be available to the congregation. As our work and learning continues, we plan to expand our discussions to include a broader segment of the congregation in the near future. We hope these discussions, while difficult, are something you will participate in. The time to “Do Justice” has always been now. We are hopeful this team will be a positive force in moving our efforts in understanding, acceptance, education and action forward, as we strive to truly carry out the work of Jesus, our most important and vocal teacher in the work for justice. If you’d like to learn more, please reach out!

Serving together,

Holly Hess

Director of Serving Ministries / Staff liaison to Serve and Do Justice Ministry Teams

(414) 550-9461

MPLC SCRIP...*make mission happen!*

SCRIP card sales have been furthering mission work of our youth for many years now! Though the church doors are not open for in-person sales on the weekends, you can still support MPLC through SCRIP Online!

SCRIP is a gift card program where non-profit organizations earn a rebate from retailers, for each gift card sold. You, the consumer, will get the full value of the card purchased, while church will receive a rebate from the retailer.

SCRIP customers—established or new, we encourage you to support SCRIP by ordering online!

ScripNow! And MyScripWallet/Presto Pay are easy ways to order. Find directions for setting up your account below.

Since March 15 of this year, SCRIP has raised \$147.97 in rebates for MPLC—even though church was closed. This was from just a handful of customers purchasing online. If just 5 customers could raise that much in three months—imagine what 20 online customers could raise!

Jerry and Judy Smith have been purchasing SCRIP online since before the pandemic. Jerry Smith says they find it very easy to use; especially the refilling option through the website. “You don’t have to worry about cash transactions going back and forth possibly transmitting viruses. Not to mention the money the church receives,” Jerry said.

Directions for setting up an online SCRIP Account

It only takes a few minutes to get started. Here’s how:

1. Go to ShopWithScrip.com and select Join a Program. Or on your phone, go to MyScripWallet.com and choose Create an Account.
2. You’ll be asked for an Enrollment Code. We are NOT publishing the code online. Email [Julie Rossman](mailto:Julie.Rossman) and ask for the SCRIP code, and she’ll send it to you.
3. Fill in the enrollment form to finish setting up your account.
4. Register your phone for two-step verification.

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5. Once your account is set up, you will have the option to link a bank account to easily pay using your checking or savings account. Or you can use a credit card by entering your card information at checkout.
6. Now you're ready to shop and help our youth mission earn online.
7. Questions? Please email [Julie Rossman](mailto:Julie.Rossman)

Watch our Website for a new SCRIP page—coming soon! There, you'll find resources, including lists of available e-cards and re-loadable cards available. The page will also keep you posted on what we've earned from our rebates.

If you're not a SCRIP customer yet, please give it a try!

MAKE MISSION HAPPEN!



Enjoy the MPLC Labyrinth and Gardens this Summer

During the May 20 Wednesday Evening Devotions on Facebook, Holly Hess spoke about Labyrinths and how walking through them can help to bring calm and peace, and to center us. If you haven't already, you're invited to watch the video to learn more. Our labyrinth is always open! All are welcome to enjoy it, and the surrounding beautiful gardens, at any time. Here's a link to the video: <https://www.facebook.com/spaceshipchurch/videos/718803672255069/>. For more information about our Labyrinth, visit [this page](#) on our website.



SOCIAL MINISTRY

OPEN TABLE UPDATE

We are sorry that we continue to be unable to offer our Open Table ministry to the community that has come to love it. There will be no meal in July. We will continue to evaluate the meal on a monthly basis. Thank you for your continuing support for this ministry.

Racine ELCA Cluster Community Meal at Living Faith Lutheran Church



These faithful MPLC volunteers, led by Vicar Chip Lutz, center, boxed up about 60 to-go meals for the June 14 community meal. Many thanks to those pictured above, and to all who donated food for the meals!

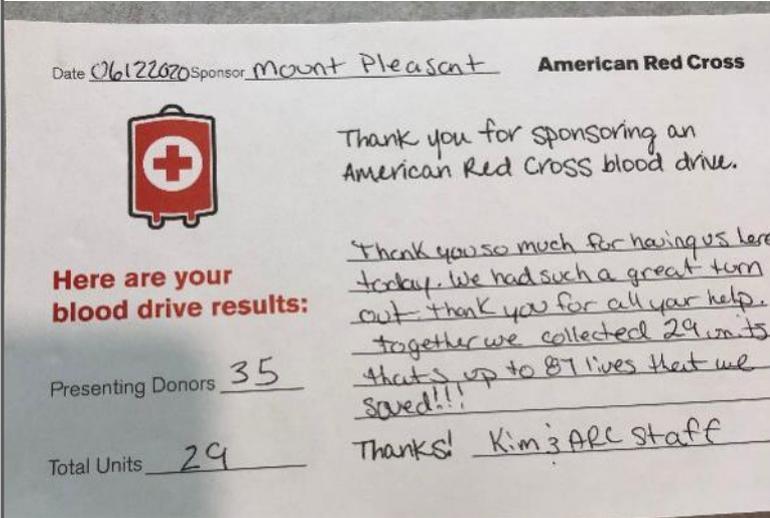
The remaining 2020 dates for MPLC are: August 16, October 11. Stay tuned to see how you can get involved!

God's Work. Our Hands!

Rummage Sale Canceled

The 2020 MPLC Rummage Sale which was to be in July has been canceled. This was announced a few months ago, however there have been some questions about it lately, so we're just confirming the cancellation. We hope for a bigger and better sale next year!

Red Cross Blood Drive at MPLC



On June 12, as many as 87 lives were saved by 29 blood donors during the MPLC Blood Drive! Thank you to everyone who gave blood! Thank you to Pastor Krista and Michael Becker for being there all day to check people in! Michael even learned a new skill - temperature taking! Thanks to the American Red Cross for their important work! Bless those who will receive blood in their time of need, that it may put them on a path to healing and wholeness!



Food Pantry Parking Lot Collection Continues this Month: July 1 & 15

“Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.” (Gal 6:10 NIV)

God’s work continues this month with food drop offs on the first and third Wednesdays of the month, from 6—7 p.m. Just pull in to the MPLC parking lot on July 1 & 15 with your donations for the food pantry. Vicar Chip Lutz will be there with his truck to collect the donations, and will deliver them to the food pantry the next day.

Here are current needs of the food pantry:

Pancake mix, Bar soap, Canned spaghetti with meat, saltines, side dishes, snack foods, paper grocery bags or reusable cloth bags (no plastic bags).

For those who’d like to make a monetary donation to the food pantry, Vicar Chip will collect that as well. Cash or checks - checks must be made payable to “Food Bank Holy Communion.”

You may also bring donations directly to the Food Bank at Holy Communion Lutheran Church; 2000 W 6th St, Racine. **NEW HOURS:** Monday, Thursday and Friday from 9—11 a.m. Call Director Sharon to let her know you are there, as she may not hear the bell (262-909-7016).



“Thank you all for your continuing support during this pandemic”

Office Hours at MPLC

Our church office is staffed on **Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.** If you need to drop off your offering, or have other reasons you might need to come to church, please come **only** during these posted times. Please wear a mask if you need to enter the building, or a staff member will meet you at the door when you ring the bell.

Church Directory PDF Coming Next Week

Those members who have opted in to the online church directory, and submitted a photo, will receive a digital PDF directory, attached to an email next week. The email will come from Stephanie Buchanan. Please watch for it and save the directory somewhere on your computer so you can easily access it.

Thank you to all who have opted in! Questions? Please email Stephanie Buchanan: sbuchanan@mplc.us



<https://spaceshipchurch.org>

Why log on and check out our website?

We've made some changes to adapt to the current times. Here's some notable features:

- Now you can see live videos right from our homepage—including Sunday morning worship at 8:25 a.m. and Wednesday devotions at 6:30 p.m.
- The “Quick Links” page features links to past live videos as well as a schedule of upcoming online events and links to them.
- The Calendar tab on the homepage will take you right to a calendar view of events. By clicking on an event, you'll get a link to that event.
- New—Connect Card! Right on our homepage. Visitors can complete a simple online form to help them connect with us.
- Coming soon—a new Podcast feature. Stay tuned for details!

And don't forget to find us on Facebook!



facebook.com/spaceshipchurch

While you're there, please like and/or follow our page if you haven't already.

You'll find all our live events, along with some daily inspiration—like this!

MAY THE GOD OF
HOPE FILL YOU
WITH ALL
JOY AND PEACE AS
YOU TRUST IN HIM,
SO THAT YOU MAY
OVERFLOW WITH
HOPE BY THE
POWER OF THE
HOLY SPIRIT.

— ROMANS 15:13 (NIV)



Our sympathies and prayers go to Karen Anderson on the death of her husband, Danny, on June 20.

Please keep the following in your prayers:

Ross Larson, Ray Nellis, Ben Poulsen, Dick Jonas, Sharon Polak, Barb Mains, Trina Larsen, Julie Sego, Nancy Holtz, Linda Peterson, Diane Poulson, Helen Fiones, Dan Johnson, Bob Trendel, Nellie Zold.



Baby News!

Giving thanks to God for the safe birth of Arthur Jay Anderson on July 19 to new parents Scot and Sara Anderson!

Newsletter Deadline—JULY 19

If you have a submission for the **August** Mt Pleasant *SPIRIT* Newsletter, please mark your calendars for **Sunday, July 19.** **Please email your articles by the end of the day on the 19th,** to Julie Rossman (jrossman@mplc.us). Thanks!

The Central Racine County Health Department has assembled a suicide prevention work group in an effort to address suicide in our community. In studying a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report, they found a proven strategy for suicide prevention is to promote and disperse existing crisis hotlines. The MPLC Care Team is asking for your help

ARE YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW IN CRISIS?

by making sure this information gets to those who need it the most.

 **TEXT** "HOPELINE" to 741741

 **CALL** 262-638-6741
or 1-800-273-TALK (8255)

 **VISIT** suicidepreventionlifeline.org

MPLC BIRTHDAYS!

July 1

Ryan Christensen

July 2

Andy Steenrod

Tyson Watts

July 3

Jerry Smith

July 4

Rochelle Boerner

Sue Balian

July 6

Malama Baus

Pat Green

July 7

Scot Anderson

Linda Klepel

July 8

Kara Reske

Mark Wilson

July 9

Peyton Pulda

July 11

Sharon Mahoney

July 12

John Ujcich

July 13

Beverly Phillips

Ellys Armbruster

Raven Renje

July 14

Jeff Sell

Shelby Wilson

July 15

Mindy Ramig

July 16

Steve Stuebe

Cassie Scheller

July 17

Peggy Svoboda

Tom Applegarth

July 20

JoAnn Danielson

Erika Ford

Karin Niemuth

Dave Weber

July 21

Ryan Cairns

July 23

Denise Byers

Jim Frederiksen

Penny Lee Johnson

Marty Weishoff

July 24

Helen Flonex

Rosemary Petersen

Nellie Zold

Micah Anderson

Chip Lutz

July 25

Fred Hofer

Deb Madsen

Jen Rognsvoog

John Poulsen

July 26

Jerry Welch

Paul Berger

July 27

Betty Boetcher

Andy Cawley

Gail Kluessendorf

Gale Sorenson

Chris Ryshkus

July 28

John Friend

Michael Hansen

Karen Pedersen

Shirley Kerkman

July 29

Jayne Armbruster

John Berge

Chris Gulbrandson

Brian Schalk

Kelly Konesko

Laura Bernett

July 31

Ross Larson



Blessings
on your birthday!



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Racine WI 53406
Phone: 262.634.6704

spaceshipchurch.org

Staff

Beth Ann L. Stone (bastone@mplc.us)	Senior Pastor
Krista Zimmerman (kzimmerman@mplc.us)	Pastor
Chip Lutz (vicarchip@mplc.us)	Vicar
Eduardo García-Novelli (egarcianovelli@carthage.edu)	Sr. Choir Director
Michael Becker (michael@mplc.us)	Organist
Sue Cawley	Assistant Organist
Greg Schroeder (gschroeder89@gmail.com)	Bell Choir Director
Holly Hess (hollyhess@wi.rr.com)	Director of Faith & Life
Becky Litwin (blitwin@mplc.us)	Dir. Of Parish Services
Stephanie Buchanan (sbuchanan@mplc.us)	Business Manager
Julie Rossman (jrossman@mplc.us)	Director of Communications
Cindy Green	Meal Coordinator/Sexton
Rick Sill	Sexton
Jasmine Cherry	Nursery

Congregation Council

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Chris Ryshkus (chris.ryshkus@gmail.com)	Vice President / Welcome
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Tricia Randelzhofer (trandelzhofer@gmail.com)	Financial Secretary
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