

August, 2023

**MARK: MY WORDS**

Not much has changed. In last year’s August newsletter, I wrote of how we seemed stuck in a kind of malaise in which there was no interest or impetus to investigate and create new ministries to the community to replace our former missions of the soup kitchen and the homeless men and women’s shelter. At that time, we still had the school; but now, of course, that is gone as well. And so, once again, the question is, “What now?”

And as was the case last year at this time there has been little to no progress in answering that question. In fact, very few are even *asking* it any longer. More than ever people seem content to come for worship and leave things at that. Even those numbers are not impressive. We generally average under 100 in attendance for the weekend. Mike Bockover informed me last week that we have been trending near 150 who are watching the live stream/broadcast on Facebook and our YouTube channel. That means we have more people staying away than participating in person. That is not an encouraging sign.

We need something around which we can rally. Efforts to become involved with the community through the PACE program for seniors at the old St. Anthony Hospital went nowhere—not because of a lack of effort on our part but through the disinterest of those running the program to engage us in a meaningful way. They kept promising that they were interested in working with us but never followed through.

In the most recent synod e-newsletter, there was an article about a stewardship program in which congregations have been involved entitled “Building a Culture of Generosity.” The course is designed to help congregations view their life and ministry through the lenses of the *abundance* of God’s gifts and blessings for it rather than from an attitude of the scarcity of them.

We have not run a formal stewardship program for many years. There are several reasons for that. First, as with all our efforts, finding volunteers willing to help was a major challenge. In addition, no matter what approach was tried, there was little to no increase in giving or participation on the part of members. We have many people who are on fixed incomes and cannot contribute more or who, because of health issues, cannot help or volunteer. So, the Stewardship team gave up.

Perhaps it is time to revisit such an effort. Not only to invite people to increase their financial and service stewardship but also to provide a focus for *how* a growth in a “culture of generosity” might enable us to find new ways to serve the community.

So, at the July Council meeting I will raise the possibility of entering into such a program and see where, if anywhere, that might lead. I ended last year’s article with these words, which still seem appropriate for us now:

Our only hope is that in this long season of Pentecost we hear again and again of God’s Spirit pushing and driving reluctant messengers into new and often surprising areas of mission and ministry. I shall hope and pray that the Spirit is not yet done with us.

Come, Holy Spirit!

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On Sunday, August 6 we will joyfully celebrate the Baptism of Adalynn Rose Wavelene Barton, born to Hannah Payne and Cameron Barton. We look forward to welcoming her into the Body of Christ. We will have some pictures for the September newsletter.



**TIME AWAY**

You may remember that in the budget there was money set aside for supply pastors so that I might take the full six weekends off allowed by the synod guidelines based upon my years of service. I had intended to begin some of that vacation this summer but between the many funerals we have had and the beginning of Pastor Tom Fischer’s music ministry among us, I did not want to be away.

I will hope to do some during August after the Baptism of Adalynn Rose. By then, Tom will be more settled; and hopefully, we won’t have as many funerals. I will be gone later in the month for a couple of days to move our son Dan back to his dorm at Case-Western Reserve University in Cleveland.



As you know, we will be celebrating the 150th anniversary of the congregation in 2026. This is obviously a major milestone; and a committee consisting of Paul and Lora Brooks, Virginia Murray, Sue Koziel, and I have been meeting for several years now to work on plans for that celebration. Thus far is what has been discussed/planned:

* At the May Council meeting, I shared our progress and plans and thought that it would be helpful and interesting to inform the congregation as well.
* The theme for the year will be “Serving You Whom We Proclaim.”
* I found a hymn written by a contemporary hymn writer composed for the celebration of the anniversary of a congregation entitled “God, We Gather to Remember,” sung to the tune of “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee.” It will be sung at all major events of the year. The theme is taken from the last line of the hymn.
* We are inviting the bishop to preach and preside at the service on March 15, 2026, which is the closest Sunday to the date on which the congregation first gathered for worship. There will be **no** Saturday service that weekend in order to encourage as many people to attend on Sunday as possible.
* Following the service, there will be a catered dinner. Originally the plan was to hold it in the school gym; but since the building will no longer be ours at that time, we will need to find another venue.
* We are hoping to schedule a hymn sing in late April that would feature our choir, instrumentalists, and hymns from Easter, Ascension, and Pentecost. We would invite members of other congregations to attend and participate in the choir.
* On Reformation, we want to invite any former pastors and interns who are able to attend and participate followed by a potluck meal in the St. Paul Room.
* We also want to reserve the Senior Center for a Sunday service sometime during the summer followed by a potluck as we did for the 140th anniversary.
* We would like to publish a booklet as has been done at previous significant anniversaries that would include information about pastors who have served in the last 50 years, choir, WELCA, Quilters, Sunday School, Youth group/Luther League, the school, fish fry, spaghetti dinners, joining the ELCA, the development of the contemporary service, Sunrise Singers, the narthex windows, altar guild, and the evolution of our broadcast/live streaming of the service.

Not all of these plans may come to fruition. For example, there are not many records of the activities of some of the above-mentioned groups; so finding information to include in the booklet may be difficult. We will do the best that we can to put something together that will both reflect and give thanks for the many ways St. Paul has served our neighborhood and community for the last half-century.



**CELL PHONES**

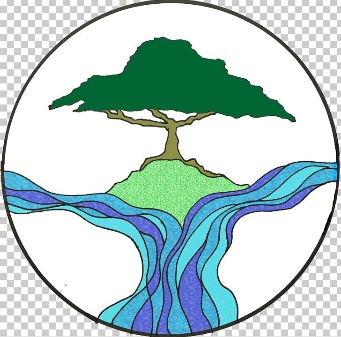
A reminder: ***please***make sure your cell phones are either turned off or silenced during worship. I still hear them going off on a regular basis. It is distracting and disruptive. Let’s make sure that we allow both for silence when needed and joyful praise during our time together.



**JUNE, 2023, SUMMARY OF ACTIONS**

* A motion to offer a contract to organist, Pastor Tom Fischer, was made, seconded, and carried.
* Life Line Screening requested to use our facilities in November.  Motion made to allow this event.
* All student files have been downloaded and turned into paper copies for schools to obtain when requested.
* The Indiana Department of Education has been notified that the school is officially closed.
* An offer was presented to the council and was accepted on the school building.
* Membership rolls are being reviewed.

Please note that copies of Council meetings are placed in the Narthex after approval at the monthly meetings.



**MICHIGAN CITY ESTUARY**

The next meeting of the Michigan City Estuary will be Tuesday, August 15, at 7 p.m. in the Luther House Conference Room. Donuts and bottled water will be provided.

But, you ask, “What in the world is Michigan City Estuary?”

An estuary is a unique conversational “ecosystem.” It is a non-judgmental, safe environment in which you can share what’s on your mind. It is a place where you can share what’s happening in your life. It is a community of diverse opinions that are heard in the spirit of mutual respect. It is a place where listening to the other person is as important as speaking. It is a place of learning about others and about yourself.

Come and experience it for yourself. I hope to see you there.

Pastor Dale Zylstra



The progress of removing items and cleaning the inside of the school over the last few weeks has gone quickly yet smoothly. This process started with offering items via a notice in the weekly church bulletin to our parishioners, which resulted in a warm response and also returning memorials items to those families who desired those items to be returned. We reached out to local private and public schools in the hopes of enriching their teaching journey. One school in particular was struggling to find the money for teaching material that is required by the state of Indiana; we were able to be a huge blessing to them. The Boys and Girls Clubs as well as other local libraries were also contacted. Items that were unwanted were disposed of either by recycling, metal scraping or call and haul.

We have planned a St. Paul School give away on July 29 in the school from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. These items are mostly children library books that are like new or gently used; however there will still be some teachers’ educational items as well. This will be published on Facebook as well as the St Paul Church website. As of this week, the school is approximately 90% cleared. The goal is to have the school completely cleaned out by the first week of August. As far as the building is concerned, there is an accepted offer from a developer; and that process is ongoing.



**August Birthdays August Anniversaries**

2 Terri Bartels 3 John & Amy VanGemeren

3 Robin Cross 5 Virgil & Patricia Miller

4 James Galinowski

David Haring

Hannah Payne

Sandra Robbins

5 William Schafer

Richard Thielman

6 Michael Bockover **More August Birthdays**

Robert Ziesmer

8 Thomas Ottersen 30 Martha Setser

Jason Schacht Lauren Slisher

Lynn Wilson Michael Maesch

9 Carol Hanft 31 Sandra Galinowski

Brooklyn Howard

10 Stacy Richardson

11 Susan Dolson

Karen Peters

Deborah Reagor

James Waltz

12 Anna Kreighbaum

Becky Greenlaw

14 James Tomsheck

15 Diane Dirks

Diane Egilske

Venia Wendt

Frankie Thomas III

16 Jaimee Przybylinski

Reilly Wilson

19 Shirley McCarty

20 Nancy Squires

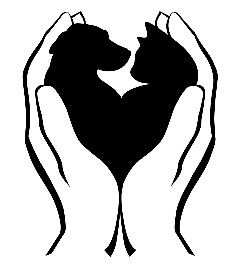
21 Barbara Djuvik

22 Betty Yourist

23 Brenda Biggs

Robert Cross

28 Reese Robbins

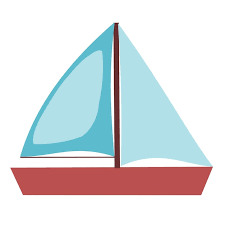


**AUGUST MONTHLY MISSION**

We are in the dog days of summer, so what a perfect time to support the Michiana Humane Society as our August monthly mission!  A basket will be placed in the Narthex for items to be donated to the shelter.  The shelter’s wish list includes:

* Toys – washable squeaky, Kongs, BullyMake, Nylabone, cat nip
* Treats - Rawhides of all sizes and chewy/soft treats
* Food – Kitten chow, rabbit food, canned wet food (Pedigree dog food, any kind of cat food), 1st Born Pup formula or kitten formula, gerbil/hamster food, guinea pig food
* Animal care - small bottles/nipples for kittens, clay litter, pine shavings, shredded paper (long cut only)
* New or gently used items - Slip lead leashes and collars, cages, blankets, linens, towels, wash cloths
* Cleaning supplies – bleach, laundry detergent, paper towels, tall kitchen trash bags, Dawn dish soap, Windex, liquid hand soap/sanitizer, gloves
* Office supplies – stamps, copy paper, file folders, permanent markers (blue and black, fat tip), dry erase markers, post-it notes, tissues

We are also planning on donating the proceeds from our concession sales at the boat parade to the humane society.  If you want to donate but can’t do your own shopping, Paul or Lora Brooks would be happy to shop for you!



**BOAT PARADE CONCESSION SALES – VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY!**

We are planning on selling cookies, drinks, and popcorn at the boat parade on Saturday, August 5. The proceeds will benefit our August mission, the Michiana Humane Society.  We need volunteers to help that evening from 3 p.m. to shortly after the boat parade, which starts at 6 p.m.  If you are able to help, please let Paul or Lora Brooks or Karen Fleming know.  Even if you can only help for 30-60 minutes, we would appreciate having you!

Thanks!

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**LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF KITS**

We will be purchasing supplies to assemble two kinds of Lutheran World Relief kits as a congregation this fall. Lutheran World Relief kits are sent to people around the world who are experiencing poverty, disaster, conflict, or more. To make it easier, we are offering everyone an opportunity to sponsor kits. Please indicate how many of each kit you would like to sponsor and return this form with payment to the church office (or in the offering plate). We will take care of purchasing all the supplies. We will hold an assembly day after Sunday worship this fall where we will assemble all the kits together. (No purchase necessary to help us assemble. We will assemble as a team; you will not be responsible for assembling all the kits you purchase yourself.)

Please make checks payable to St. Paul Lutheran Church. Orders are due Sunday, August 13, 2023.

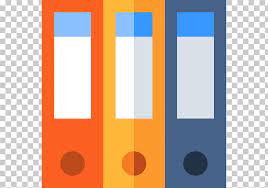
**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_# of health kits at $10 each**

(Health kits contain a towel, bar soap, toothbrush, comb, and nail clippers.)

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_# of school kits at $12 each**

(School kits contain a drawstring backpack, notebooks, rulers, pencils and pens, pencil sharpener, scissors, crayons, and an eraser.)

**Total $\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

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**ARCHIVE NEWS**

Thank you, thank you to the person or persons that donated the big pile of St. Paul School yearbooks. There were so many copies missing from the Archive Room, and now the years 2000 to 2023 of the collection are just about complete. In fact, there are so many yearbooks from the two years 2021-22 and 2022-23 that if you would like one for yourself, they are available; and the extras are currently being stored in the basement of the church.

During the sorting that is always going on in the Archives, there have been several lists of pastors that have served our congregation. Those lists are never quite  complete, though. Finally, a list has been found that shows ALL the pastors, assistants, and interns that have led our congregation over the years.

Our very first pastor was Pastor Emil Hardrat. He came over from St. John Church in 1876. When the original 200 congregants left St. John to form St. Paul, Pastor Hardrat was among those that transferred over. He only served for three years.

Our longest serving pastor is Pastor Heinrich Wickemeyer at 23 years of service! In fact, if you start looking at photos and reading documents in the Archive Room, his name comes up quite a bit.

Very close behind him at 22 years of service is Pastor Emil Kemena. Some long-time members may remember him as their first pastor at St. Paul. In fact, he certainly baptized many that are currently attending St Paul Church.

Our current pastor, Pastor Mark Reshan, comes in near the top of years of service right behind Pastor Harold Knappe.

There is always something to be discovered in our archives.

  And just a note: If someone has borrowed the papers that were in the file cabinet, the far right column, third row down…please return them or make copies of the pages to place there so these papers can once again be in the Archive Room. They were a great resource that helped with the organizing of the archives.

Happy Sunny Days of Summer!



**IN MEMORY OF LUCILLE TRYON**

**General Fund** from Wayne & Suzann Dolson

**IN MEMORY OF ED GUSTUM**

**General Fund** from Bob & Karen Kiser, Wayne & Suzann Dolson, Virginia Murray,

Maxine Powell, Dale & Lori Zylstra, Joan Seifert, Mike & Marge Bockover, Janet Bakken

**IN MEMORY OF DONNA BOSTATER**

**General Fund** from Virginia Murray, Mike & Marge Bockover, Janet Bakken

**Soup Kitchen** from Donna’s cousins in Minnesota (Cheryl Surdez Schupbach,

Maureen Surdez, Mark Surdez, Paul Surdez)

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**Long-Term Prayer List**

Audrey Beyer Laura Dovey Marla Furness

Dolores Hackett Jess Kalvaitis Christine Kiser

Pastor Al Lorentzen Bethany Manning Christian Martinez

Michael Mellen Shane Nevels Jan Paholski

Kay Peglow Mark Tannehill Kathy Thielman

Margie Torres Venia Wendt



Monday 8:00 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Tuesday 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

Wednesday 8:00 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Thursday 9:00 a.m. – 12 noon

Friday 8:00 a.m. – 12 noon

**St. Paul Lutheran Church & School Staff**

Pastor Rev. Mark Reshan

Secretary Libby Pollock

Organist Rev. Tom Fischer

Accompanists Jary Tannehill, Mark Tannehill, Jacob Tannehill

Custodian Mark Kloess

Did you know ? ? ?

On August 13, the church commemorates Florence Nightingale,

a woman remembered for her nursing skills and compassionate care.

Each time you hear an ambulance siren,

say this prayer of thanks for nurses:

Thank you, God, for nurses.

Bless their caring hearts, healing hands, and comforting words.

Amen.



**Special Give-Back Opportunity**

2-hour sunset cruise along the Lake Michigan shoreline

Wednesday, September 6, departing at 6 p.m.

The cost is $35, with the church getting back $10.

To make reservations, go to

<https://app.bookingcentral.com/book/product/harborcountryadventures?location=5cb18b14-6f6a-46ba-a655-0d19a685fc47&product=152d5966-a46a-43a6-a7f9-c1378641aebf&referer=header&clearcart>

Thank$ for $haring

Thank you for participating in the Holly’s give back in July. We raised $212.

This month,we will see you at Carlson’s on Tuesday, August 15! Here are two coupons: one for you and one for a friend.

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