

October, 2023

**MARK: MY WORDS**

The reality disproves the perception. In last month’s newsletter, it was stated that we would install our musicians on September 17 as a way of recognizing and thanking them for their time and sacrifice to lead our worship. We had to postpone the installation because a number of choir members and the band were going to be out of town. It looks now like we will reschedule for early this month.

With the help of some Council members, we began to list other groups/individuals who volunteer their time and gifts for the various ministries of the congregation. It seems to be a common assumption that we have few people who assist in that work, but the facts show otherwise.

Here are the groups and individuals who regularly help in many capacities: Church Council; Altar Guild; assisting ministers; counters; deacons; video/streaming; funeral luncheons; choir/New Song praise band; office staff volunteers; Meals on Wheels; newsletter; monthly missions; rental facilities; soda machine in St. Paul Room. The number of people involved in these various ministries totals around 88-90.

Now, of course, not all of them are active at the same time on the same day. There is a constant flow of activity that keeps all the ways in which we worship and serve one another and the community running smoothly, faithfully, and fruitfully. Some of the ministries are more visible than others. Some function mostly behind the scenes.

Together they make it possible for us to maintain our presence in this neighborhood as a place where hope, compassion, and mercy are found. As we continue to age and we lose people to ill health, loss of mobility, and death, the challenge will be to replenish these vital ministries so that those who are involved do not burn out.

So, for those who are part of one of these teams: **thank you**. Well done, good and faithful servants. For those who are not currently participating, look over the groups listed above. There likely is an area of interest or ability that could use your help. If you are unsure as to how to start or who to contact, call me or the church office. We would be thrilled to point you to those who coordinate our missions.

Earlier in this year of St. Matthew, we heard Jesus tell the disciples, “The harvest is plentiful but the laborers are few. Therefore, ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into the harvest.” (Matthew 9:35-38). His words are as true today as 2,000 years ago. Thank you, faithful harvest-workers of St. Paul. May God use you to inspire others to join us in our life-giving work.



**INSTALLATION OF MUSICIANS**

As of this writing, a new date has not been chosen on which to install our musicians; but a good candidate would be on October 28, when we celebrate Reformation Day. Luther, who was a musician and composer himself, had a number of famous quotes about the importance of music in the life of the Christian and the Church:

* “Next to the Word of God, music deserves the highest praise.”
* “Music is the art of the prophets and the gift of God.”
* “Music is the best consolation for a despaired man.”
* “Beautiful music is the art of the prophets that can calm the agitations of the soul.”
* “A person who...does not regard music as a marvelous creation of God, must be a clodhopper indeed.”

(I think my favorite is the last one. It’s not too often that one encounters the word, “clodhopper” these days ☺). So, depending on the availability of our musicians, we will tentatively schedule the installation for that Sunday both as a way to remember Luther’s own passion for music (and the Word of God we celebrate that Day) and to honor our gifted choir, band, and staff members who provide such marvelous music for us each week.



**OCTOBER MONTHLY MISSION**

October's monthly mission is Arise and Shine Food and Outreach. This organization provides weekly free hot breakfast, a clothing closet, and food pantry give aways, which take place in our parking lot, to those in need in our community. They can use both food and monetary donations. A bin has been placed in the Narthex for food donations. If you would like to give money, please place it in the offering plates marked for Arise and Shine or October monthly mission. Checks can be made payable to St. Paul. Thank you for your support!



**WEDDING**

If you see me sprinting out of church on Sunday, October 1, following the service, here is the reason. Several months ago, I received an email from Dr. Richard Krueger, Jr., a noted neonatologist practicing in the Twin Cities. He and his fiancé, Nicole Dykstra, a nurse, were moving to Lafayette, where he had accepted a new position.

They will be married at the Journeymen’s Distillery in Three Oaks. His father was a retired ELCA bishop (I think he said from the Rocky Mountain Synod), and he was looking for an ELCA pastor near Three Oaks to preside at the service. I thought it might be fun, so I agreed; and after they moved to Lafayette, he and Nicole visited family in Three Oaks several weeks ago and worshiped with us on a Sunday morning.

We met for a time after the service at coffee hour and had a wonderful conversation. I look forward to being with them and celebrating their marriage on the 1st. The service is set for noon Eastern Time (11:00 a.m. our time), so I will need to hurry to arrive and see the space in which the service will take place and get things set up. Please join me in praying for them as they begin their new life together as husband and wife in Christ.

Incidentally, Richard is a composer and musician of some note. One reviewer even compared his songwriting skills to those of John Lennon and Paul McCartney. The television program “60 Minutes” did a piece on him which you can see at this link if so interested:

[The singing doctor - CBS News](https://www.cbsnews.com/video/the-singing-doctor/)

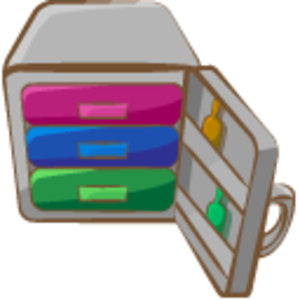


On September 17, a celebration was held during coffee hour honoring Pastor.Reshan as  
he celebrated 40 years of ordination in the ministry.  After two COVID delays, he was still surprised. The room was full and everyone enjoyed cake and coffee.

and to Pastor for the work he does at St. Paul.

A person holding a cake

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**ARCHIVE NEWS**

It is difficult to believe it is fall. Summer just flew by. Hope you had a pleasant one.

Items continue to come into the Archive Room after the closing of the school. How nice to be able to keep some of these items in the archives. Recently, some sports items were dropped off. At a later time, sports at the school might be a display out by the elevator.

For now, there are some Luther League items in the glass case as you exit the elevator on the lower level. Please stop and take a look. On display is a book with the record of meetings from the 1940s. Although many years ago the Luther League started out as a youth organization, the record book is certainly written with an adult’s handwriting. In the 1970s, the Luther League put together a list of birthdays for everyone in the church! This list was presented to the church like a gift with a note that there would possibly be more of these lists in the future. Lastly, there are brochures you can look at about the League itself.

There is a question that perhaps someone in the congregation can answer. In the most recently donated box of school items, there are many 8x10 photographs that are portraits of adults. There are no dates or names on any of them. A mystery?

Happy Autumn!



The committee for the celebration of our 150th anniversary continues to meet monthly. In the August newsletter, I reported on our plans to produce a commemorative booklet highlighting the work of the ministries, groups, choirs, and organizations of the church and school over the past 50 years. We identified persons that are/were involved in those ministries and asked if they would be willing to write a brief history and description of their work.

All but one who were contacted agreed to write up a brief history/description of these ministries and organizations, and a deadline of November 1 was set. Once we have received the articles, Stacie Crozier has graciously agreed to serve as editor to help us arrange them and any pictures that we might have into an attractive and commemorative keepsake of the last half-century of the work of St. Paul.

If you were involved in any of these groups (listed again from August) and have something to contribute, please contact me or the church office and we will put you in touch with the person writing the articles: Pastors/interns who have served in the last 50 years; choir; WELCA; Quilters; Sunday School; Youth group/Luther League; school sports; 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.



**AUGUST, 2023, SUMMARY OF ACTIONS**

·         A motion was made to close all of the accounts associated with the school.

·         Notre Dame Elementary will be given the scoreboard from the gymnasium.  The bell that was located in the lobby of the school will stay at the church.  The school is mostly empty.

·         The fall congregational meeting date has been set for November 12, followed by a pot luck.  A nominating committee has been formed.

·         Lora Brooks reported that the September mission will go to Lutheran Relief who is collecting monies for the people who were impacted by the fires in Hawaii.

·         Contact will be made with the Methodist Church to see if they are in need of volunteers to work at the soup kitchen.

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



**October Birthdays October Anniversaries**

1 Jacob Tannehill 4 James & Susan Tomsheck

2 Amy Vangemeren 9 James Sandra Galinowski

4 Natalie Kendricks 15 Randy & Karen Peters

5 Cynthia Payeur 20 Craig & Judy Hunt

Gary Larson 21 Warren & Karen Schacht

7 Dan McNabb 24 James & Kimberly Summers

Milenda Simerlein

8 Anthony Gebbink

9 Judy Gustum

Carol Thomas

11 Laura Childers

12 George Martin

18 Richard Fleming, Jr.

24 Judy Mutchler

26 Bob Kiser

28 Sandra Sobecki

29 Kristen Schacht

31 Kenneth Wilson

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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

Shane Nevels Jan Paholski Kay Peglow

Mark Tannehill Kathy Thielman Margie Torres

Venia Wendt



**IN MEMORY OF KEITH PONDER**

**General Fund** from Judy Gleason

**IN MEMORY OF MAXINE POWELL**

**Altar Guild** fromJames & Judith Bailey, Darlene Baker, Gina Tatro & Susan Marshall,

Rev. Ralph & Gayle Kuespert

**General Fund** from Jim & Judy Gleason

**IN MEMORY OF AUDREY BEYER**

**General Fund** from Dawn Fitzhugh, Janet & Rodney McCoy and Glenn & Karen Swanson,

Susan Parry, Rich & Kathy Thielman



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 Staff**

Pastor Rev. Mark Reshan

Secretary Libby Pollock

Music Director Rev. Tom Fischer

Accompanists Jary Tannehill, Mark Tannehill, Jacob Tannehill

Custodian Mark Kloess

Thank$ for $haring

This month,we will see you at Holly’s on Tuesday, October 10! Here are two coupons: one for you and one for a friend.

A paper with a price tag

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