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August, 2024

**MARK: MY WORDS**

It will take some fancy liturgical maneuvering, but August gives us the opportunity to commemorate and give thanks for another great heroine of the faith: Mary, Mother of Our Lord. Last month we observed the day of Mary Magdalene, the “Apostle to the Apostles.” Now we will remember “The Queen of Heaven” and “The Mother of God.”

The maneuvering comes about because of where this commemoration falls on the church calendar. Her day is August 15, which this year is a Thursday. Normally when celebrating a festival day we would simply move the commemoration to the following Saturday/Sunday. But this year I will not be here on the weekend of the 17th and 18th; I will be returning to Washington state to help my son Jacob wrap up his summer internship and return home to prepare for his fall semester.

I have arranged for our good friend, the Rev. Dr. Fred Niedner, retired professor of New Testament at Valparaiso University, to fill in on those days. I do not want to ask him to work outside of the appointed texts for the Day, so we will have our celebration of Mary on August 10/11.

Some may wonder why go through all of this for a day that is seldom observed in our tradition. Lutherans have a strange relationship with Mary. Because many of us were taught growing up that since Roman Catholics “prayed to Mary,” we should avoid any similar idolatry. This has unfortunately limited even our mention of her to our observance of Christmas.

But Martin Luther revered Mary deeply, and some of his most personal and beautiful devotional writings are found in his commentary on The Magnificat (Luke 1:46-55). It is possible to remember and give thanks for her life without misguided devotion. And, as pointed out in last month’s newsletter, it is important to hold up female models of the faith amid all the male examples in our commemorations and festivals.

So, through our hymns and prayers, Word and Meal, we will give thanks to God for Mary’s life and her role in bearing “the Word become flesh” among us. May God grant us her faithfulness and willingness to be God’s servant in whatever way He needs and sees fit.

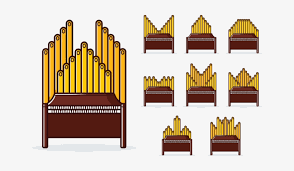


**WASHINGTON AND CLEVELAND TRIPS**

As mentioned above, I will be flying out to Washington State sometime mid-week during the week of August 11 to help my son Jacob wrap up his summer internship, (hopefully) sell the car we had to purchase for him, and come back to prepare for his move back to Terre Haute to begin the fall quarter of his junior year.

I will also be traveling to Cleveland sometime early the following week of August 18 to move my son Dan into his apartment and get him ready for his fall semester. I am unsure of the exact dates at this point, but it would seem to make sense to be out of the office from Wednesday, August 14 through the following Wednesday the 21st or perhaps Thursday the 22nd. I will plan to be back to lead worship on Saturday the 24th and Sunday the 25th.

As when I was in Washington at the end of May and beginning of June, if there is a pastoral emergency you may call the church office or my cell phone (630-450-1894); and if immediate attention is needed, I will try to arrange for a pastor to be of assistance.



**MUSICIAN UPDATE**

Unfortunately, once again there is no news concerning the finding of a permanent organist/choir director. As promised to the Worship Team, I did contact Notre Dame University’s Graduate Program in Organ Performance. I had been in touch with them several years ago. Part of the requirement for doctoral students is to work in a congregational setting since that is where many of them will eventually find employment.

The program benefits both the students and the congregations to which they are assigned. They get hands-on experience with leading worship, directing choir, and planning liturgies; and the congregation gets some tremendously talented musicians. In addition, the program pays the stipend for the student, so it does not cost the congregation anything.

The director wrote back to say that all of the current students are assigned to congregations. She did promise to post our job description since the students are allowed to do a little moonlighting outside of their assignment, so it might be possible to find someone just to play for both services.

In the meantime, we continue our search and pray for guidance as we seek someone to fill our positions.



**“THE CHOSEN”**

Many of you may be aware of a television series begun about four years ago about the life and ministry of Jesus entitled “The Chosen.” Filmed primarily on huge soundstages in Texas and Utah, it chronicles Jesus calling His disciples, traveling throughout Judea and Samaria, preaching and teaching in various locations, and performing signs and miracles.

It has gained great popularity over the years, and a great number of “viewing groups” have been formed where people either gather to watch an episode together or they watch at home and then meet to discuss what they have seen.

The series is available on YouTube as well as the show’s app and some common streaming services. Several people in the congregation have asked me if I have watched any of the episodes. I have not seen any one in its entirety, but I have seen numerous longer clips of individual shows. The scripts are reviewed by a Messianic rabbi, a Roman Catholic priest, a professor of New Testament, and an Orthodox Jewish theologian.

I am writing this to gauge whether there is any interest in forming a “viewing group” here. If so, we could decide whether to try and watch an episode together or watch at home and then gather to discuss what we have seen. Please let me or the church office know if you would like to participate; and if there is enough support, we can discuss when to begin our gathering together.



**August Monthly Mission – Fried’s Cat Shelter**

Fried's cat shelter, a no-kill shelter, was founded by the Frieds in 1977. They did not believe in euthanization, but rather that spaying and neutering was the best way to control the overpopulation of cats. They became known for saying "To save a life is more in conformity with God's law than to kill." We will be collecting monetary donations along with the following supplies: cat food, cat litter, cleaning supplies, paper towel, paper plates, dish soap, and laundry detergent. Thank you for your support!

Thank you to everyone who donated to our mission for the Washington Park Zoo! We were able to donate a tub full of items as well as a little over $200!



**Council Highlights**

There was no Church Council meeting in July. However, copies of the June Council meeting are available in the Narthex. They were approved via e-mail.



**IN MEMORY OF CHARLES THOMAS, SR.**

**General Fund** from Norman & Honor McGaw

**IN MEMORY OF ANNA SCHWARZ**

**Capital Improvement Fund** from Wayne & Suzann Dolson

**IN MEMORY OF PASTOR AL LORENTZEN**

**General Fund** from James & Janet Fogelsong

**TO THE COX MUSIC FUND**

from Dan & Sarah McNabb



**August Birthdays August Anniversaries**

2 Terri Bartels 3 Amy & John VanGemeren

3 Robin Cross 5 Virgil & Patricia Miller

4 Sandra Robbins 9 Richard & Karen Fleming, Jr.

James Galinowski 10 Amy & David Haring

Hannah Payne

5 Richard Thielman

6 Robert Ziesmer

Michael Bockover

8 Lynn Wilson

Thomas Ottersen

Jason Schacht

9 Carol Hanft

Brooklyn Howard

10 Stacy Richardson

11 Karen Peters

Susan Dolson

Deborah Reagor

12 Anna Kreighbaum

Becky Greenlaw

14 James Tomsheck

15 Diane Egilske

Venia Wendt

Diane Dirks

Frankie Thomas III

16 Jaimee Przybylinski

Reilly Wilson

19 Shirley McCarty

20 Nancy Squires

21 Barbara Djuvik

23 Brenda Biggs

28 Reese Robbins

30 Michael Maesch

31 Sandra Galinowski

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**Long-Term Prayer List**

Laura Dovey Marla Furness Jess Kalvaitis

Marsha Kenney Christine Kiser Bethany Manning

Christian Martinez Shirley McCarty Shane Nevels

Jan Paholski Kay Peglow Joan Siefert

Jary Tannehill Mark Tannehill Kathy Thielman

Jana Thomas Venia Wendt Brian Wiseman



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

Accompanists Jary Tannehill, Mark Tannehill, Jacob Tannehill

Custodian Mark Kloess

Thank$ for $haring

Thanks to all who participated in the June give back at Holly’s. The church received $218 from that evening. We also raised $133 from the July fundraiser at Five Guys.

This month, we will see you at Raising Cane’s on Wednesday, August 21! Here are two coupons: one for you and one for a friend.

A poster for a fast food restaurant

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Our sunset cruise along the lakeshore aboard Emita II was cancelled earlier this summer. It has been rescheduled for Wednesday, September 4. The cost is $35, with $10 being returned to the church. You can reserve your seat at <https://shorturl.at/oP9S0>. This is a public sailing, so reserve your seat as soon as possible. Come join us, and arrive early for the 6 p.m. sailing. If you have any questions, contact Paul Brooks.