

June, 2022

**MARK: MY WORDS**

June begins this year for us with a bang, or more accurately, “the rush of a violent wind” (Acts 2:2). The first Saturday and Sunday of the month are celebrated as The Vigil of Pentecost and the Day of Pentecost, respectively. They begin the longest season of the church year that will stretch all the way into November, when the year ends with the festival of Christ the King.

 It has always seemed ironic that we enter into the time that focuses on the mission of the church when such work shuts down for the summer in many congregations. Most programs and ministries go on hiatus until the beginning of school in the fall. Especially after the busyness of Lent, Holy Week, and Easter, there is a much more relaxed atmosphere within the community.

 There is Biblical precedent for that. In Acts, the Spirit explodes upon the followers of Jesus in chapter 2. Peter preaches to the crowds gathered for the religious festival in Jerusalem, and the first converts from Judaism join them. For the next several chapters the apostles stay in Jerusalem, building the community and facing persecution from the religious authorities.

 It is only with the martyrdom of the deacon Stephen in chapter 7 and the rampaging threats of Saul (later to be known as Paul after his conversion) that the apostles begin to scatter and the mission work of the church begins in earnest. So, sometimes the faithful need to be nudged and pushed by the Spirit to leave what is familiar and comfortable and venture out into the unknown.

 At the risk of sounding like a broken record, we as a congregation continue to need to seek out our mission in this neighborhood and community. We cannot be content simply to keep the lights on and the doors open. That will take some intentional and specific discussion, prayer, research, and discernment on our part.

 So, I would propose that this summer the Council take the lead in thinking about how best to prepare us to engage in that work. Then, in the fall once school begins and choir resumes and we enter a new church year, we can start in earnest to determine to what God is calling us in the months and years to come.

 It will not be easy. We face many challenges. But just as the apostles were equipped by the Spirit to fulfill Jesus’ commission to be His “witnesses beginning in Jerusalem and Judea and to the ends of the earth” (Acts 1:8), so will the Spirit so enlighten and empower us to be the presence of the living Christ here in this place.

 Most likely there will be neither a “bang” nor “the rush of a violent wind” to signal whatever ministry in which God wishes us to undertake. Most often the work of the Church is small and unobtrusive, quietly bringing the love of Christ to those who, too, slip into the cracks of life.

 But throughout our praying and planning and seeking will be the cry of the Church ever since that first Pentecost, “Come, Holy Spirit!”



 On May 22, following the worship service, 72 voters gathered in the St. Paul Room for our spring congregational meeting. There were three items on the agenda. We heard from Chip Claussen about the results and recommendations of the Audit Committee and their investigation of our church finances for the previous fiscal year. The committee consisted of Chip, Melinda Nagle, and Karen Kiser. Thank you to them for their hard work and many hours of poring over financial statements and records.

 Next, Treasurer Karen Fleming presented the proposed congregational budget. She carefully went over the anticipated expenses and income, noting that contributions have lagged behind giving each month since April of 2021 with the exception of December and April of this year due to larger giving for Christmas and Easter, respectively. There were no questions or comments, and the budget was passed unanimously.

 The final item on the agenda was the consideration of the proposed school budget. At the time it was prepared, there was concern on the Finance Team and the Church Council whether enrollment for the coming year would be sufficient to provide the necessary funds to keep the school open. The “bare-bones” budget required a minimum of 85 students to meet expenses.

 In the meantime, a number of new students committed to coming in the fall that brought the total to 84 students as of now. The challenge going forward will be to keep at least 85 enrolled because over the past three years the school has lost over 30 students over the course of the school year. Because of those concerns, neither the Finance Team nor the Church Council voted to recommend approval of the school budget to the congregation, deciding instead to allow them to choose whether to keep the school open for the fall. If there was a shortfall of funds, the congregation would have to subsidize those costs; and given the state of its finances, that did not seem to be an option.

 After much discussion a ballot vote was taken with two choices: to not approve the school budget and close it after this school year; or to approve it and seek funding to insure it could meet its expenses. The vote was 54-18 to keep the school open. Special effort by the Principal and Office Coordinator to recruit new students will be made in the coming months.

 Following the meeting, a wonderful potluck meal was served and people enjoyed good food and fellowship. Thank you to all who participated.

Editor’s Note: At this meeting, the congregation also ratified the new constitution for the second time. Next, we send the constitution to the Synod Council for approval. Since we ran this by a member of the Synod Constitution Task Force before our first vote last fall, we feel confident that it will be approved as is. A copy of the new constitution will be attached to the e-mail (or in the snail mail) with this newsletter.



**MUSICAL SETTING OF THE LITURGY**

 For some years now, we have turned to Marty Haugen’s “Now the Feast and Celebration” musical setting of the liturgy during the summer. It is a more relaxed accompaniment than those from our red hymnal and has grown to be a great favorite of the congregation. Beginning with our celebration of Pentecost, we will return to that setting and use it throughout the summer.

**NEW SONG PRAISE BAND**

 As we have announced, the band will be off for a time as Jary Tannehill recovers from her second eye surgery. This procedure involved the transplant of a new cornea. Her vision will be blurry for some time, making it difficult for her to see well enough to play the keyboard. Every person heals differently and at their own pace, so there is no specific timetable for her and their return. We will keep the congregation informed as to how she is progressing with her healing and look forward to their leadership during worship once again.

**CHOIR NEWS**

 We are waiting to learn of our Director of Music, Lori Zylstra’s, plans for the fall. Dale’s congregation, Christ Lutheran in Hammond, is looking for an organist and choir director. They have asked her if she would consider taking that position. Their choir sings once a month, as does ours, so it may be possible for Lori to take both positions and arrange schedules for both of us that enable her to continue her work here and, also, to lead Christ’s choir and be a supportive presence to Dale and his ministry there.

 As plans develop, we will keep you updated.



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The Church Council met at their regular meeting Thursday, May 26, 2022. The Council members decided that highlights of the meetings would be included in the Good News each month.

Janet Bakken and Pastor Reshan will represent St. Paul at the Synod Assembly to be held in Muncie June 9 to 11, 2022.

A committee has been formed to address issues related to the school. The members are Janet Bakken, Wayne Dolson, Judy Hunt, Bob Kiser, Donna Knoll, and Larry Litchford. Their fact-finding reports will be made monthly to the Council and congregation.

 It was decided to purchase Pastor’s vehicle at the end of the lease in the fall, as well as purchase the photocopier in the church office for $1. Both the vehicle and photocopier are in excellent condition; and by purchasing them, we will save the church considerable money in the long run.

A discussion was held regarding the outstanding work that the Archive Committee has done. The congregation is encouraged to visit the archives and take a look.

Once again, the Antique Car Club will be using our parking lot on First Fridays. Stop by and check out the cars when attending First Fridays.

 **Volunteers Needed:** It was suggested that we sell water/popcorn during the July 4 parade on Saturday, July 2. We are looking for someone interested in organizing this event. Contact a Council member if you are able to help.

 A suggestion was made to bring back our **Coffee Hours** after the 9:00 a.m. service on Sundays. Everyone always enjoyed the fellowship, coffee, and donuts. Once again, volunteers are needed to get this off the ground. Please consider this and contact a Council member or feel free to call Judy Mutchler at 219-873-0634 if you can help out.



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**IN MEMORY OF ROGER MILZAREK**

**Altar Guild** from Sharon Hutchcraft & Sheryl Lubke, James & Sandra Galinowski

**General Fund** from Virginia Murray; Darlene Baker; Ben Bachman; Bob & Karen Kiser;

JoAnn Kring, Stephanie, Cindy, and Steve; Jim & Bernadette Krueger; Patricia Kennelly;

James & Sandra Galinowski; Richard & Diane Kriesel; Linda Milzarek; Lauren & Jim Arnold;

Bonnie Millard, Bill & Dusty Millard, Gaylen & Shelly Snyder, and Brad & Claudia Millard;

Bob & Val Eilers; Ed & Jeanne Denham; Karen Jarrell; Mike Abel; BJ & Karen Zoss

**IN HONOR OF LOIS WEST**

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

**IN MEMORY OF BILL GELESKE**

**General Fund** from Donna Ottersen

**IN MEMORY OF ALLEN KRING ON HIS JUNE 11 BIRTHDAY**

**General Fund** from Al & Sue Green, JoAnn Kring, Stephanie, Cindy, and Steve

**IN HONOR OF ALL WHO HELPED ARRANGE THE FLOWERS**

**AND DECORATED THE CHURCH FOR EASTER WEEK**

**Capital Improvement Fund** from Maxine Powell

**IN MEMORY OF BARBARA SCHILLKE**

**General Fund** from JoAnn Kring, Stephanie, Cindy, and Steve



 **May Birthdays May Anniversaries**

 2 Bethany Manning 6 Mike & Marjory Bockover

 5 Ed Gustum Charles & Eloise Ponder, Sr.

 7 Donna Bostater 10 Lyle & Mary Peters

 Nancy Johnson 12 David & Donna Sutor

 Vivian Zellers 13 Tom & Amy Petri

 8 Richard Cains 15 James & Judith Gleason

 9 Lynne Nevels Doug & Pam Kienitz

 11 Larry Litchford 21 Lee & Sally Timm

 12 Leigh Coburn 22 George & Donna Ottersen

 14 Janet Bakken 23 Bill & Pamela Hackett

 Ivye Benson 29 Ed & Judy Gustum

 15 Jacob Ziesmer Al & Clara Lorentzen

 16 Jacob Hazel

 19 Jeffrey Hazel

 20 Jim Schraidt

 Allen Sydow

 21 Beverly Coburn

 Clara Lorentzen

 23 Alex Scheuchner

 24 Dawn Fitzhugh

 Diane Gielow

 Lou Ann Shebel

 25 Muriel Jacobi

 26 Helen Hill-Weaver

 Daniel Reshan

 Jacob Reshan

 27 Helena Albertson

 Jacob Payne

 Cynthia Scheuchner



**Long-Term Prayer List**

Robert Atwood Audrey Beyer Irene Bohnstadt

Donna Bostaer Sherry Brotsky Laura Dovey

Laura Eilers-Straight Marta Furness Diane Gielow

Jim Gleason Ed Gustum Dolores Hackett

Heidi Happel Terry Hygema Jess Kalvaitis

Christine Kiser Ryan Krueger Tom & Larry Leuth

Pastor Al Lorentzen Bethany Manning Christian Martinez

Laura Moore Ken Mulder Shane Nevels

Duane Ormsby George Ottersen Jan Paholski

Kay Peglow Cameron Rackard Wally & Betty Ratliff Annette Scoggins Knox Shepherd Ryan Sirk

Erik Tannehill Jary Tannehll Kathy Thielman

Jean Thomas Lee Timm 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 Mark Reshan

 Organist John Remmel

 Accompanists Jary Tannehill, Mark Tannehill, Jacob Tannehill

 Choir Director Lori Zylstra

 Office Secretary Libby Pollock

 Custodian Mark Kloess

 School Principal Tracey McCay

 School Office Coordinator Lisa Heddens

 School Custodian Dennis Pugh



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Thank$ for $haring

Thanks to all who attended our recent restaurant give back nights. At Holly’s, we raised $143 in March and $186 in May. Our latest Galveston give back raised $300.

This month,we will see you at Chili’s! We’re giving you two coupons so you can invite a friend and give them their own coupon. Remember, the coupon is required for the Give-Back bucks.

  