

June, 2023

**MARK: MY WORDS**

It is not only a congregational event. On June 11, at the Sunday morning worship service, we will incorporate a rite that officially closes our school after 147 years of educational ministry and service to the community. Significantly, our Bishop William Gafkjen will be present to preach and preside over the closing rite. This is a powerful testimony for several reasons.

 When I came to St. Paul in 2009, we were one of three congregations in the Indiana-Kentucky Synod that had K-8 elementary schools as part of their mission. Over the next several years the two other schools closed due to the inability to financially support their operations. That made us the only congregation in the Synod—and to my knowledge one of the few in the entire ELCA—to maintain that ministry.

 So, the closing of our school marks the end of an era in our Synod. Bishop Gafkjen’s presence with us recognizes and honors the historical nature of this event. There are many hundreds—perhaps even thousands of preschools in ELCA congregations around the country but it is unlikely that there will be many, if any elementary schools established because of the financial challenges such a ministry presents.

 But perhaps most importantly, Bishop Gafkjen *wanted* to be with us on that Day. Some time ago, Pastor Pamela Thiede was at an event with him and informed him of the closing service. She asked if he would be interested in being with us, and he immediately said yes. Even more impressively, our service takes place on the day after this year’s Synod Assembly over which he will preside.

 Although the Assembly will not be held in person this year, but rather online and will only last part of the day on Saturday instead of the three days over which it takes place when in person, it is still a great deal of stressful work for him. His normal practice is to try and stay at home as often as possible so instead of driving up here from Indianapolis on Saturday after the assembly is done he will get up extra early on Sunday and make the three-plus hour drive to be with us by our time of 9:00 a.m.

 He certainly could have begged off making the trip citing the assembly the day before. But he wanted to be with us, not only personally, but as a representative of the larger Church to give thanks with us for this ministry and ask God’s blessing upon us as we move forward. That is a great gift that he offers and brings; and we will be indeed blessed by his words, his compassion in our sadness, and his proclamation.

 One of his favorite Scripture passages that he quotes whenever he is preaching or leading assemblies is from Isaiah 43:19-21: “I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. The wild animals will honor Me, the jackals and the ostriches; for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to My chosen people, the people whom I formed for Myself so that they might declare My praise.”

 May God give us the trust and hope to hold to this promise of the “new thing” He will work among us, in us, and through us.



**JUNE 11 SERVICE**

 As mentioned above, our service on June 11 will be given over to thanksgiving for the school’s history and ministry. There will be a special choir made up of our current members as well as any former students/graduates who can be with us. I will be presiding over the rest of the liturgy, and there will be a special reception following the service in the school gym. Tours of the school will be available to those who have not been in it for a time or for those who want to relive good memories.

 As always, we will be live-streaming the service on Facebook and it will be posted to our YouTube channel; but we would really love to see as many people in person at the service as possible, so please make every effort to join us on this historic occasion for our congregation.



**SYNOD ASSEMBLY**

 Also as mentioned above, this year’s Synod assembly will take place on Saturday, June 10, via live broadcast. Pastor Reshan, Bob Kiser, and Judy Hunt will be representing our congregation by their virtual attendance. There are no major items before the assembly this year. and that is part of the reason it is not in person. Our three delegates will make a report to the Church Council at the June meeting.

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**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.

**MUSICIANS**

 We are deeply grateful to Maggie Martin and John Carington for filling in for us as we seek a permanent replacement for Vernon Carey. As of this writing, we are working out scheduling through the end of June. I plan to have a discussion with them within the next few weeks about how long they are willing and able to substitute for us.

 We are also in the very preliminary stages of discussion with someone who might be interested in the permanent organist/choir director position. Because of some special circumstances, there are a lot of moving pieces that need to be addressed to see if this would be a viable arrangement. We will keep the congregation notified as discussions progress.



**CELL PHONES**

 I have noticed recently an increase in the number of notifications of emails, texts, etc. on cell phones both before and during the worship service. I confess to that interruption being a pet peeve of mine. I would prefer not to have to make an announcement before every service asking people to make sure that their phones are either silenced or off. So *please* take a moment before entering the nave to check that your phone is quieted so the proper worshipful atmosphere can be maintained.



We would like to start monthly missions here at St. Paul.  Similar to our “Fill the Shopping Cart” campaign for May, we’d like to highlight a different mission each month.  We are looking for suggestions!  If you volunteer somewhere or have a mission that is close to your heart,
please let Paul or Lora Brooks know so we can set up a month to support that cause!



**APRIL, 2023, SUMMARY OF ACTIONS**

* 8th Grade graduation will take place on Saturday, May 27, 2023, at the 4:00 p.m. worship service.
* Donna Knoll proposed a cooling center in the St. Paul Room.  She will research this idea.
* A job search is going on for a new organist.
* Letter received from an attorney representing NICTD asking for use of our parking lot.  Council decided not to address this request at this time.
* Property Evaluation Team reported that the survey has been completed.
* A motion was made to allow Arise and Shine mobile pantry to use our parking lot for the distribution of food.
* Pastor Mark Kloess will begin cleaning out and recycle items from the attic and first floor of the Luther House.

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



**ARCHIVE NEWS**

Thank you for all the archive donations we’ve received these past couple of months. Please continue to donate old records to the Archive Room. They will be kept in safe storage. So many of our church and school records and minutes since the year 2000 are not being stored in the room as they should. Especially important are copies of minutes from groups more than ten years old. There is a locked cabinet in a different room where they can be kept if you desire.

In the past couple of months there have been donations from Virginia and Sue Murray and others. We have received some buttons for the “100 Club.” It is thought that the button was something you wore to show you donated $100.00 to a fundraiser going on at the time.

We now have a donated photo of the Confirmand class of 2015. This is certainly needed as there are very few from the year 2000 on. Another donation was a photo with Leona Bruhn’s name written on the back. It is a black and white photo showing the altar decorated for the Confirmands in 1920. It is on display on the box of the Confirmand pictures themselves and is very neat to look at!

Thanks to Virginia and Sue, there are now quite a few file folders with information from the Music and Worship committee and Vision 2000. How interesting to find out the Music and Worship committee was formed in 1966 to help out Pastor and others with their workload. These files from 1999 to 2013 will be incorporated with the Music and Worship committee records already on file.

Vision 2000 was a plan for Phase I and Phase II of additions to our church. After a lot of planning and fundraising, Phase I created the updated school in that year. Phase II would have connected the school and the church proper, but it was never completed.

Our records tell a story, the story of a church that has been around almost 150 years. By donating, you would be doing a great service for future generations to read about our current century and what is happening at St. Paul.

One of the things on hand are different years of our constitution. One only needs to read the first page of each to see how much our church has changed! One of the first things our constitution made clear was that the first four items would never be changed, but they have been.

A copy of the constitution translated from German at the very beginning states that our name *always* shall be “The German Evangelic Lutheran St. Paul Congregation Unaltered Augsburg Confession at Michigan City, Indiana.” By 1945, our name was officially “St. Paul German Evangelical Lutheran Congregation U.A.C. of Michigan City, Indiana.” In the 1954 constitution, it was “St. Paul Church of Michigan City, Indiana.” Lastly, in 1987, it remained the same as previous “St. Paul Lutheran Church of Michigan City, IN.”

Last but not least, 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. Thank you!

Enjoy this spring!



 **June Birthdays June Anniversaries**

 2 Bethany Manning 6 Charles & Eloise Ponder, Sr.

 5 Ed Gustum Mike & Marge Bockover

 7 Donna Bostater 8 Daniel & Brittany Struebing

 Vivian Zellers 9 Ron & Melinda Nagle

 8 Richard Cains 12 David & Donna Sutor

 9 Lynne Nevels 13 Tom & Amy Petri

 11 Larry Litchford 15 James & Judith Gleason

 12 Leigh Coburn Douglas & Pamela Kienitz

 14 Janet Bakken 23 William & 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

 Lou Ann Shebel

 25 Muriel Jacobi

 26 Helen Hill-Weaver

 Daniel Reshan

 Jacob Reshan

 27 Helena Albertson

 Jacob Payne

 Cynthia Scheuchner

![C:\Users\volunteer\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\INetCache\IE\JUAK50WD\thank-you[1].jpg]()

**IN HONOR OF JIM & BERNADETTE KRUEGER’S 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY AND BERNADETTE’S MANY YEARS OF SERVICE TO ST. PAUL CHURCH**

**Altar Guild Fund** from Pamela & Bill Hackett

**IN MEMORY OF ROGER MILZAREK**

**General Fund** from Norma Milzarek

**IN MEMORY OF MOTHER, PEARL LATHAM**

**General Fund** from Donna Ottersen

**IN MEMORY OF IRENE BOHNSTADT**

**General Fund** from Virginia Murray, Maxine Powell, Ruth Andersen, Donna Ottersen,

Sarah & Dan McNabb, Lori Zylstra, Janet Bakken, Mike & Marge Bockover, Joan Seifert



**Property Evaluation Team Report**

One week has passed since the congregation voted to sell or lease our school building.   It has been posted on several commercial properties websites, and we have received several inquiries.  All of the inquiries so far have been from investment firms.



**Long-Term Prayer List**

Audrey Beyer Irene Bohnstadt Donna Bostater

Laura Dovey Marla Furness Ed Gustum

Dolores Hackett Jess Kalvaitis Christine Kiser

Pastor Al Lorentzen Bethany Manning Christian Martinez

Michael Mellen Shane Nevels Jan Paholski

Kay Peglow Erik Tannehill 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 Mark Reshan

 Organists Maggie Martin, John Carington

 Accompanists Jary Tannehill, Mark Tannehill, Jacob Tannehill

 Custodian Mark Kloess

 School Principal Tracey McCay

 School Office Coordinator Christina Woodard

 School Custodian Tara Soto-Garcia