

May, 2021

**MARK: MY WORDS**

“When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples met were locked …” John 20:19. That opening verse to the Gospel text for the Second Sunday of Easter sounds all too familiar. The “doors” of *our* “house” of worship remain “locked” out of precaution due to the continuing threat of the pandemic.

And just when it seemed as though we were moving toward the “un”-locking of those “doors” and returning to in-person worship, we locally have been hit with another surge. As of this writing, LaPorte County has been moved from the “blue” or “yellow” level to the more dangerous “orange.” ICU beds in both local hospitals are full of COVID patients. Some health care personnel believe that we are inching back toward the “red” level of transmission.

There have been positive developments over the past months. Many of us have had at least one vaccine shot, and a good number have had both and are fully vaccinated. Because of that, some are feeling more comfortable being out in public as long as the precautions of masking, distancing, and sanitizing remain in practice.

There are still challenges to moving forward. Even with the vaccine shots, there are those who are yet reluctant to be out in public more than necessary. The more contagious British variant of the virus continues to spread in many parts of the country and poses a threat everywhere. If we gather in-person, questions remain about speaking and singing the liturgy. We still struggle to involve enough volunteers for various duties like ushering, temperature taking, contact tracing, Altar Guild, and cleaning and disinfecting after worship.

Because of these recent developments, at their April 22 meeting, the Church Council voted to delay setting a date for when we would return to in-person worship. The decision was made to meet again in two weeks on May 5 to see where the statistics lie and whether we feel comfortable pointing toward a target date for our gathering.

This recent setback is frustrating and discouraging. It seemed as though things were leveling off, and we were moving in a good and positive direction. In light of these developments, I simply want to urge us to continue to be patient and understanding with one another as we work through these questions and concerns. I know from conversations in homes and in person how desperately so many of us want to be back together for fellowship and worship and receiving the Bread of Life.

But we do not want to be careless or reckless in moving toward that goal. Not now. We have worked too hard at staying with our worshiping and praying and contributing and encouraging one another to let that go to waste. Soon—by God’s favor and blessing—our “doors” will be “un-locked” once again and on “the first day of the week”—the Lord’s Day—we shall again meet to offer thanks and praise and finally our very selves to the One Who meets us in our fears and worries and extends those scarred hands and says, “Peace be with you.”

Like those first disciples, we, too, will “rejoice when we see the Lord” in water and Word and bread and wine and each other.

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**A PERSONAL NOTE**

Once again, let me offer my deep thanks and gratitude for all who called, texted, emailed, and sent cards before and after my heart procedure to get it back into normal rhythm. Thus far it has worked. My heartrate and blood pressure are where they should be, and I feel better than in the previous months when I was in A-fib.

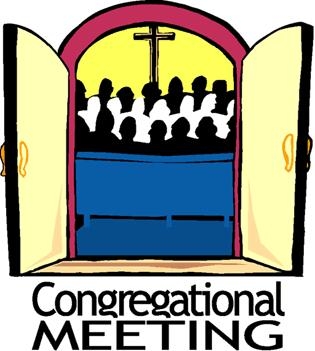
I followed up with the cardiologist’s nurse practitioner a week after the procedure, and I will see him in mid-May and my regular doctor at the end of the month. I am confident in all of their care and hope that, eventually, I can be weaned off of some of the medication and increase the amount of exercise I am allowed. In the meantime, I am working hard to follow what they prescribe and adapt to some lifestyle changes that, hopefully, will ensure continued good health and well-being.

If there are any significant changes or developments down the road, I will keep the congregation informed. Thank you again for your caring ministry to me.



**INDIANA-KENTUCKY SYNOD ASSEMBLY**

This year’s assembly will be held virtually via Zoom on June 11-12. Our Council President Paul Brooks, Vice-President Jan Bakken, and Pastor have been registered and will participate remotely. Any major decisions or proposals will be reported to the congregation later in the month



It is budget time again; and our spring congregational meeting is when we review, discuss, and vote whether to approve the church and school proposals. Last year we did not meet in person because of the pandemic. This year we would like to return to an in-person vote.

At the April Council meeting, a motion was approved to schedule the meeting sometime in June. Right now we cannot be more specific. When a date is decided, we will publicize that well. It was felt that we should gather for two reasons.

First, it is always valuable to have direct input from members so that questions or concerns can be addressed and clarified. That way, everyone feels comfortable with the final budget package; and we can move forward with our ministries with confidence and purpose.

Second, after the enormous amount of work done to renovate and remodel the St. Paul Room and kitchen area (see below), we want people to be able to see the results for themselves and enjoy our beautiful new fellowship space. Therefore, we will choose a date depending on how the COVID figures are looking and plan a time for the meeting.

We would hope to be worshiping together at that point so that the meeting could take place after the service as usual; but even if we are not yet at that point, we will still make arrangements for the meeting since the budget needs to be approved before the end of our fiscal year on June 30. The Council will prepare the space for seating so that proper distancing can be maintained. We may even be able to have some coffee and refreshments as part of our work and celebration.

We need a quorum of 51 official voting members to conduct our business, so watch for the announcement and plan to be with us in June for our budget meeting. Our time together once more will be as important as the proposal on which we vote.



**PROPERTY TEAM THANK YOUS**

As mentioned above, the remodeling work in the St. Paul Room, kitchen, and sacristy is now complete. The Property team would like to thank the following persons for their outstanding efforts in that project: **Rich Fleming; Chuck Payne; Dave Squires; Brad Neulieb; Larry Litchford; Bob Kiser; and Pastor Mark Kloess.** Particularly after you see the results, please make sure that you seek them out to thank them personally for all the time and energy they contributed toward its completion. Thank you all!!



**HOLY WEEK AND EASTER THANK YOUS**

Although we were not able once again to gather in person for worship during Holy Week and on Easter the amount of work preparing for all of those services was no less than usual. Without the faithful efforts of these dedicated volunteers the many liturgies that so powerfully drew us again into our Lord’s passion, death, and resurrection could not have happened.

Here are those who sacrificed their time and energy to make our worship so meaningful:

Organists John Remmel, Dan McNabb

Videographers Paul Brooks, Mike Bockover

Deacons Bob and Karen Kiser, Tim Crozier

Altar Guild Virginia Murray, Sue Koziel, Karen Steinborn

Decorators Darlene Baker, Larry Litchford; Bob Kiser

Flower drivers/pick-up Rich and Karen Fleming

Lector Trish Sprague

Tre Ore preachers/worship leaders Pastor Mark Kloess

Pastor Nancy Nichols

Pastor Ericka Parkinson-Kilbourne

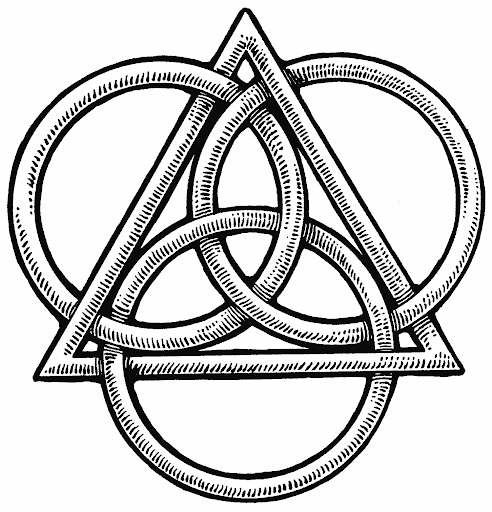
Pastor Pamela Thiede

Please make sure that you thank them in some way for their service to us and to all who participated in those worship services in the various media.



**THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD**

As always, the feast of The Ascension falls on a Thursday (this year, May 13); and as in the past, we will move our celebration to the following Sunday (May 16; or also to Saturday, May 15, if we are back worshiping together) to make sure we have yet another opportunity to explore the mystery of this triumphant event in Jesus’ life.

 **MAJOR FESTIVALS** 

Because Easter was earlier this year, May also brings us two of the six major feast days of the church year. (Can you name the others? *Christmas, The Epiphany, Easter, and The Ascension*). The Day of Pentecost falls on May 23, and The Holy Trinity is on May 30.

Pentecost begins the longest season of the church year, the so-called “time of the mission of the church.” The liturgical color is green, symbolizing growth, as our readings chronicle the spread of the Gospel from Jerusalem outward to “Judea, Samaria, and the whole world” (Acts 1:9). Sundays after Pentecost run through the fall until the end of the church year with the festival of Christ the King and we enter the Advent season of a new church year in November.

On the Day of the Holy Trinity we identity *which* God we worship, as opposed to all the other “gods” of our world that promise us fulfillment, satisfaction, purpose, and meaning. This feast day is the only one on the church calendar that celebrates a *doctrine* as opposed to an event in the life of Jesus or the witness and legacy of one of the great heroines or heroes of the faith. The Holy Trinity not only clarifies and reminds us of who our *God* is, but in the process also renews our understanding of who *we* are as His beloved children who bear His image, presence, and blessing in and for the world for whom Jesus lived, died, and rose again.



**SCHOOL GRADUATION**

For the past several years we have been privileged to hold our school 8th grade graduation during a Saturday evening worship service, usually toward the end of May. Last year we received permission from the Church Council to hold a brief service in church for families and students. Masks were required and distancing was practiced.

This year we will follow the same format. Normally the service would be held on the Saturday before the last day of school in the first week of June, but this year that falls on Memorial Day weekend. So, the School Board decided we will celebrate our graduates on Saturday, June 5, at 10:00 a.m. Once again, the service will simply consist of a hymn or two, prayers, Scripture readings, an address by the teacher of the graduates’ choosing, the presentation of diplomas, and dismissal.

We will provide a list of graduates for the June newsletter so that you might remember them in prayers of thanksgiving and encouragement as they move into their high school years and the next milestones of their educational journey.



**IN MEMORY OF RICHARD DETTMAN**

**General Fund** by Susan Bagby

**IN MEMORY OF BOB SHEBEL**

**General Fund** by Rick & Rhonda Deutscher

and by First Congregational Church/Matching Funds

**IN MEMORY OF RICHARD FISCHER**

**General Fund** by Susan Bagby

**IN MEMORY OF CONRAD LUBS**

**General Fund** by Pastor Bert & Carol Pauluhn, Nancy Reiter

**IN MEMORY OF MARY LOSINIECKI**

**Altar Guild** by Sharon Hutchcraft & Sheryl Lubke



**Dr. Donald A. Zalac Scholarship**

Dr. Donald A. Zalac was a graduate of and class president at Butler University. At age 21, he was the youngest ever graduate of Indiana University School of Medicine. He joined Dr. C. Robert Plank in 1952 in the Michigan City practice of Radiology and made his home in Michigan City. He served as radiologist at the Michigan City Hospitals then helped develop a new Radiology Department at St. Anthony Hospital. During his medical career, he treated thousands of cancer patients. In the 1970s, nearly all cancer chemotherapy in the Michigan City region was under his care.

Dr. Zalac was a member of the American Medical Association, a Fellow of the American College of Radiology, a counselor of the Indiana Chapter of the Radiology Society of North America, a Diplomat of the American College of Nuclear Medicine, and a charter member of the Chicago Nuclear Society.

His hobbies were related to the outdoors, and his greatest non-medical interests were conservation practices and wildlife. He was a 62-year member of St. Paul Lutheran Church.

Dr. Zalac wanted to inspire and support students from the Michigan City Schools, so he set up the Donald A. Zalac, M.D., Endowed Scholarship Fund II Fund. This fund is held, administered, and distributed for the benefits of students attending or admitted to **Butler University.** The following criteria shall be followed in the awarding of Scholarships:

1. Academic achievement shall equal or exceed 3.0 points on a 4.0 scale.
2. A demonstrated financial need by the applicant.
3. Preference shall be given to Michigan City, Indiana residents, or those who have attended Michigan City High School for the last two years preceding the award of the scholarship.
4. If there are no persons meeting the criteria in paragraph c above, preference shall be given to residents of La Porte County, Indiana.

The scholarships shall be awarded annually based on the net income of the trust, and may be renewed upon application by the recipient student. The scholarship may be in addition to other scholarship assistance, except when contrary to state or federal law. In no event shall the scholarship when added to other financial aid exceed tuition for the academic year of the scholarship.

To apply please submit transcripts, FAFSA form, and information including the amount of other scholarship assistance on or before May 31, 2021 to:

Horizon Trust & Investment Management

Attn: D Zalac Irr Trust fbo Butler U

PO Box 1125

Michigan City IN 46361-9903



**SCRIP CARD SALE**

As we previously announced, the Church Council voted to discontinue the sales of SCRIP cards.

On Monday, May 10th from 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM (or until the cards are gone) in the St. Paul room all of the cards that are in stock will be sold at a discounted price. Please do not call the church office. There will be no presales and no holds. The cards have been checked for validity. Sale prices are as follows:

$10 now $6

$12 now $7

$15 now $9

$25 now $15

$35 now $20

$50 now $30

$100 now $60



**Do You Shop on Amazon?**

**St. Paul Lutheran Church is now on Amazon Smile.** 0.5% of all eligible purchases will be returned to St. Paul. Help us spread the word! Link your Amazon account through the following link—https://smile.amazon.com/ch/52-1239301. When prompted, sign into your account to make sure you are choosing St. Paul for Amazon Smile. There’s no extra charge to your purchases.



**May Birthdays May Anniversaries**

2 Isabella Robbins 1 Leigh & Beverly Coburn

4 Tim Mellen 2 Charles & Carol Thomas II

Kimberly Payne 5 James & Bernadette Krueger

William Seedorf 6 Christian & Cynthia Scheuchner

5 Rachel Sutor 19 Fred & Judy LaBorn

Linda Utley 26 Steve & Darlene Baker

6 Charles Payne 29 Clay & Kimberly Payne

Brittany Strelesky

7 Marcy Petri

8 Abby Haring

11 Audrey Henderson

16 Patricia Miller

17 Melinda Nagle

18 Judy Reshan

20 Donna Collins

21 Hallee Petri

24 Bonnie Ziesmer

25 Marvin Dirks

Chandler Fisher

Pamela Kienitz

Charles Thomas, Sr.

26 Emma Robbins

27 Krysten Fratgillo

30 Charles Ponder, Sr

Sally Timm

31 Audrey Claussen

Pamela Hackett



Dear St. Paul Church,

     On behalf of the First Presbyterian Church, we would like to thank you for your donation of $335.11 on April 12, 2021, to our Emergency Soup Kitchen.

     This special tribute will allow us to continue God's work and service to others. We appreciate your thoughtfulness.

May God Bless you,

Diane C. Yettaw

Administrative Assistant

\* \* \*

Thank you to our friends at St. Paul Lutheran Church for your recent donation of food items to our pantry.

     As we continue to serve about 500 families every month, we appreciate your ongoing support during these difficult times. On behalf of our clients - we thank you!

Blessings,

Majors Dale & Becky Simmons

The Salvation Army



**PRAYER CHAIN**

The members of the Prayer Chain at St. Paul have made a commitment to pray for any and all who request their prayers. Let us pray for you! To activate the Prayer Chain, contact one of the members on the list below and tell her of your need. You may give as much informtion as you wish. Your request will be kept in strict confidence.

Prayer request forms are also available in the pew racks during worship. These forms include prayer categories such as Healing, Comfort, Guidance, etc. Simply fill out the form (please include the date of your request) and place it in the offering plate or hand it to a deacon. The form will be forwarded to a Prayer Chain member. When using the e-mail addresses, please note “Prayer Chain Request” on the subject line. If the subject line is not filled in, the e-mail will not be opened

**Vivian Zellers** 872-8780 [vteach2006@sbcglobal.net](mailto:vteach2006@sbcglobal.net)

**Carrie Ziesmer** 872-6541 [carrie124@comcast.net](mailto:carrie124@comcast.net)



**Long-Term Prayer List**

Robert Atwood Sherry Brotsky Laura Eilers-Straight

Jim Gleason Andy Hipskind Terry Hygema

Jess Kalvaitis Ryan Krueger Tom & Larry Leuth

Duane Ormsby Bert Pauluhn Jean Thomas

Linda Utley Chris Weninger

**OFFICE HOURS**

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

Office Secretary Libby Pollock

Custodian Mark Kloess

School Principal Christy Smith

School Office Secretary Tracey McCay

Thank$ for $haring

The Hacienda Give-Back in March raised $311. We thank all who enjoyed the evening and look forward to going back to Hacienda this summer. The Holly’s Give-Back in April raised $94. Thank you for participating in either or both of these events.

This month,we will see you at Galveston! Remember to cut out this coupon, because it is required for the Give-Back bucks. Remember: at Galveston, it is dine in only; no carry outs.

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