

September, 2022

**MARK: MY WORDS**

September is one of the most optimistic months of the calendar year. After a long summer of vacations, days off, and (hopefully) less hectic schedules, there is a return to the routine that structures the rest of the year. That is mostly due to the beginning of the new school year. Although many schools (including ours) now begin classes in mid-August instead of after Labor Day, as many of us experienced growing up, the effect is the same. Days are structured by classes, homework, sports, and other extracurricular activities. Each year brings a new chapter to the lives of students, families, friends, neighbors, and others involved in the children’s lives.

Congregations are also caught up in these beginnings. Normally some form of “Rally Day” is observed to mark the beginning of Sunday School, youth group activities, and ministries of music and education that have been on hiatus over the summer. Some of those ministries will start up again for us, others not.

But we will have the opportunity to discuss what the next chapter in our life and ministry will be at a special event in those weeks. As announced after the July Council meeting our next congregational potluck meal will be on **Saturday, September 10 at 5:00 p.m.** following the afternoon worship service. The Council will provide grilled hot dogs, buns, condiments, and refreshments; and those attending will be asked to bring appetizers, side dishes, and desserts.

Also at the last Council meeting, a discussion took place about what programs offered by the Synod we might investigate to plot out a strategic plan for the next few years. It was suggested that rather than the Council making those kinds of decisions for the congregation, our members ought to have significant input as to what they believe we should be doing for our mission in this neighborhood and community.

The potluck would be a logical and wonderful place to begin that conversation. We want to offer everyone the chance to give their input. Those who worship on Saturday afternoon have at times felt as though they have been overlooked or left out with regard to major decisions about congregation affairs. This gathering is a natural time for a relaxed and lively dialogue about our next steps.

Obviously, there would be the need to gain the wisdom of those who attend on Sunday morning. Notes about the Saturday conversation could be shared with those on Sunday at perhaps a special coffee hour not long after the potluck. Further meetings to develop ideas would certainly be in order as well.

In order for any plans to succeed and bear fruit, it is critical that the entire congregation “own” our decisions. People are also more likely to offer their time and commitment to ideas they have developed rather than those that are foreign to their interests and gifts.

So, in addition to great food and fellowship, we will have the chance to listen for the Spirit’s guidance as to how we carry out God’s work in this place in the months and years to come. Whether you normally attend on Saturday or on Sunday morning, we hope that you will make attending a priority. We need your voice. Our neighborhood and community need our action.



Our faithful organist, John Remmel, has decided that after thirty years (!) it is time for him to step down. The discussion began about a month ago, and we have recently addressed it in more detail. No specific date has been set; that will be determined largely by when a replacement is able to start.

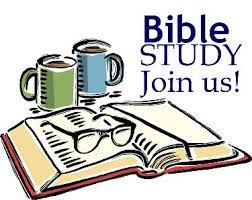
The biggest challenge will be to find qualified candidates. The number of organ students at colleges, universities, and schools of music has declined dramatically over the last decades. Even Lutheran schools with a long and rich history of training church musicians may now only have a few in their program.

There will be a process to our search. We are working on a job description that can be shared with schools and interested individuals. We will need to select a small search committee to interview candidates. Discussions with the finance team will help us set salary guidelines. We have already starting publicizing the position with local organists and chapters of The American Guild of Organists. Information will also be sent to the American Lutheran Church Musicians group.

As part of the interview process, each candidate will be playing for our worship services. Through all of that, it is our hope that we will find someone as qualified, gifted, and passionate about our music ministry as John has been all these years. We will also, of course, mark his retirement with a special celebration.

Given that we are just starting with our search, it may take a number of months to find someone. We will keep the congregation informed as to our progress. When the search committee is formed, we will list them and ask for your prayers as they do their important work.

Martin Luther saw music in the Church as second only to the Word in its power and importance. We have been richly blessed by John’s ministry all these years, and we look forward to finding someone to carry on the powerful musical heritage of St. Paul.



Our Wednesday morning Bible study of the text for the coming week will resume on **Wednesday, September 7, at 9:45 a.m.** in the Luther House. Join us for an in-depth review of the week’s lessons that will enhance the liturgy and sermon and your growth in the Word.



Pastor Dale Zylstra has begun a “Meetup/Discussion Group” at his congregation in Hammond based upon a program called, “Estuary.” It was developed by a man named Paul Vander Klay and grew out of random conversations he had with people on his YouTube channel. The name and its goal are stated this way on the home page of the program:

The technical definition of estuary is the place where fresh water from a river meets up with the salt water of the sea or ocean, resulting in an ecosystem with brackish water, constantly changing land formations, and unique plant and animal life, that is vulnerable to the wild currents of the river, and crashing waves of the sea, not to mention all sorts of dangerous creatures of the sea who periodically make their appearance.

We use the term metaphorically, to represent a space where different belief systems and world-and-life views come together for conversation, a sometimes wild and crazy place, where nevertheless a new ecosystem may emerge, a new community of listening, or learning, of love and mutual respect.

The program intends to provide a safe place where people may engage in meaningful conversation about topics and issues that are important to them. If you would be interested in participating, please contact Pastor Dale directly at 708-704-3265. He can provide information about the days and times the meetings will take place. Depending on the schedule, we believe it will be possible to meet here either in the Luther House or in the St. Paul Room.

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**INSTALLATION OF MUSICIANS**

With the return of the Choir under the direction of Lori Zylstra this summer, we will again look forward to formally installing them and the members of the New Song Praise Band on **September 18.** This is always a wonderful opportunity to recognize the rich ways our musicians lead our worship and praise and to thank them for their many hours of practice and sacrifice in order to do so.

Diagram

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The church office will be closed on Monday, September 5, in honor of Labor Day. It will re-open on Tuesday, the 6th at 9:00 a.m.



**Rally Days – September 10 and 11**

Rally means to assemble, reassemble, and revive. Plan on joining together to RALLY on Saturday, September 10, after the Saturday worship service (about 5:00pm) for a Pot Luck dinner. The Council will provide grilled hot dogs, buns and condiments. Please bring an appetizer, side dish, or dessert. All are welcome to assemble, reassemble if you have been vacationing, and revive our Christian Lutheran journey.

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**ARCHIVE ROOM NEWS**

Please come and visit the refreshed archive room!

One of the items found during  the recent sorting is a book of minutes for the School Board Committee. The “Protokall Buch” (protocol book) dates from 1909 and goes up to the 1920s. Many interesting tidbits are in it. Although it starts out in German, about halfway through the minutes are in English.

An interesting article from the city newspaper is taped into it. Dated November 10, 1921, the article goes on to explain how very underweight the Michigan City school children are. (We would not see that now!) Over 3,600 children were weighed and measured, and St. Paul School had the largest percentage of underweight children at 72%! Meetings were set up in the city schools so each parent could understand the habits of children, perhaps then curtailing the undernourishment. Later in the minutes, it states money was allocated at St. Paul  to help feed the children.

To your left as you enter the Archive Room, the bottom row has a display of school books the children used. Some are in German, and some are in English. There is also a brown file drawer labeled “School” on bright green paper. Inside that drawer, you will find so many interesting tidbits from our day school that was started in 1876! Feel free to sit at the provided table and chairs and browse through these manila envelopes full of interesting items.

The Archive Room is located under the entrance stairs, and the door is always unlocked.  (Since the church is generally locked, you may want to come and visit the Archive Room and sit a while before or after church service or before, after, or during committee meetings as well.) Please sign the Guest Book on the table so we know how many folks have visited.  Feel free to bring a friend or two. A table, chairs, pencils, and paper have been added to the room for your comfort, so you can come, sit down, and browse through all the items.  Take your time, and please sign the provided guest book.



The school has had a good start for the new school year with 90 students enrolled. We look forward to your continued support with this Port-a-Pit Fundraiser.



**IN MEMORY OF JOHN STIBBE, on his August 22 birthday**

**General Fund** from his daughters: Kay Peglow, Pat Jones, Pam Sullivan, and Linda Strohacker

**IN HONOR OF CHARLIE & JANA THOMAS**

**on their 60th wedding anniversary**

**General Fund** from Tom & Stephanie and Rhiggs & Lia Thomas

**IN HONOR OF CHURCH VOLUNTEERS**

**General Fund** from Diane Egilske



**September Birthdays**

1 Benjamin Crozier 22 Sue Pfeiffer

Brian Ruminski Helen Wiese

2 Jan Paholski 23 Martin Tannehill

Judy Litchford Brenda Biggs

Larry Miller 25 Cole Ponder

Lori Zylstra 26 Frederick Weiss

5 Sarah Payne 27 Katherine Crozier

Brett Schacht 28 Philip Koss

6 Ryan Ruminski 30 Denitta Newenhouse

Ryley Ruminski

7 Verne Lee

8 Joan Siefert

9 Chloe Cloutier **September Anniversaries**

Mary Knaup

Jayme Osowski 6 Paul & Lora Brooks

10 Nan Larson 14 Allen & Kimberly Sydow

11 Trish Sprague 15 Richard & Pamela Henderson

13 Karen Morlan 19 Donald & Elizabeth Thompson

Kalen Sprague 30 Robert & Carrie Ziesmer

14 Robert Pheanis

15 Richard Collins

James Krueger

16 Clay Payne

17 Matthew Keith

Hannah Tannehill

19 Julie Edinger

Kay Peglow

20 Samantha Hendricks

Laurie O’Hara

Daniel Ottersen

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**Long-Term Prayer List**

Robert Atwood Audrey Beyer Irene Bohnstadt

Donna Bostater Shari 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 Shane Nevels Duane Ormsby

George Ottersen Jan Paholski Kay Peglow

Cameron Rackard Wally & Betty Ratliff Annette Scroggin

Knox Shepherd Ryan Sirk Erik Tannehill

Jary Tannehill 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



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Thank$ for $haring

Thanks to all who have participated in our recent give-back nights. The July give-back at Galvaston raised $330; the August give-back at Holly’s raised $224.

This month,we will see you at Hacienda! 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.

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