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July, 2025

**MARK: MY WORDS**

They are gone. North Shore Medical Group, like Elvis, has left the building. As you remember, last June we sold the school to developer Allan Krieger who in turn leased it to North Shore. We were very pleased about that arrangement because North Shore has a history of finding neighborhoods and communities that are underserved with medical care and moving into that area to fill the gap.

They also particularly seek to serve lower-income and Medicaid patients. That emphasis on helping the needy aligned well with our history of serving the hungry through the soup kitchen and the homeless with our men’s and women’s shelters.

They had big plans to renovate the building. We were told that they were going to invest perhaps as much as $6-$7 million. They were going to install an elevator on the outside of the building to make it ADA compliant. They would provide their own heating and air conditioning equipment, and new generators and electrical upgrades to accommodate the X-ray machines and other devices. At the time of the closing, we were told that much of the equipment was back-ordered 8-10 months; so we did not expect to see much construction begin until late summer or early fall.

But as time went on, we noticed that nothing was happening. Other than tearing out the old school office and making some partitions in the gym, no other work was being done. The sign remained over the entrance doors in the parking lot. The playground was not removed as planned for further parking. The classrooms were untouched. There was usually only one car in the parking lot from their employees, and rarely were any patients seen going into the building.

This spring we expected to see some evidence of remodeling and construction begin, but there was nothing. About a month ago, we noticed that their dumpster had been taken away. A week later. a large box truck pulled up to each entrance door. We assumed they were finally unloading some equipment and supplies. Instead, they were packing up whatever had been in the building; and then they were gone.

On the one hand, this doesn’t directly affect us because we received the money from the sale last June. As you recall, we gave half of it away to various charities, ministries, and organizations. We invested the other half twice now in short-term CDs and have made good money on the interest. When we closed, we signed a two-year agreement that 75% of our utility bills would be paid by Mr. Krieger and so we have another year on that contract to go.

On the other hand, we are sad for the people in this neighborhood who would have been well-served by the medical staff. Now there is no place in our immediate community for those folks to receive good, competent care. Our dealings with North Shore had been positive, and they would have been good neighbors.

We don’t know the reason they decided to pull out of the building and their practice here. Now we can hope and pray that to whomever Mr. Krieger leases the facility will be a good fit with our presence and ministry and that perhaps we might even be able to partner in some way to serve those around us.



**METHODIST SPACE-SHARING UPDATE**

Also gone (for the most part) are the good folks from First United Methodist who had been using some of our office space and facilities and the St. Paul Room for activities and meetings. After many months of cleaning and sanitizing the building after the leak from the vacuum pump of their elevator, they have been allowed back into some areas, including offices and their worship space. They have asked to continue to use our Fellowship Hall for the AA meetings that they sponsor and for their “Messy Church” on Friday evenings.

We don’t yet know when their entire building will be cleared for resumed occupancy, but we have agreed to let them use our space until that occurs. We have been happy and grateful to be able to offer them space that we were not using during this long, frustrating, and difficult time of clean-up and restoration.

As some of you know, Pastor Nancy Nichols has completed her ministry with them. It is typical in Methodist churches for pastors (and often bishops) to be moved every six years or so to a new call. Pastor Nichols had been at First United for longer than that, and late last fall she received word that she would be assigned to a new congregation in Evansville. She begins her ministry there on July 1. A new pastor has been appointed for First United, also a woman, but to our knowledge she has not yet been to Michigan City; so, we have not had the chance to meet and welcome her.

We worked well with Pastor Nichols and the congregation over these last years, and we hope that that same collegiality and cooperation will be possible with the new pastor. Please keep her and the congregation in your prayers as they make this important transition and begin their mission together.



**ORGANIST-CHOIR DIRECTOR UPDATE**

One of the places we have advertised for an organist/choir director is the website for the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians, a national organization made up of pastors, organists, cantors, and choir directors. We had only one response to the ad well over a year ago, and for a number of reasons we did not even attempt to interview the candidate.

Several months ago, I received a call from a gentleman in Yuma, Arizona, about the position. He and his family were going to move to Berrien Springs, Michigan, in late May; and he was very interested in interviewing. On paper, he was highly qualified: he had a Master’s Degree in Piano Performance from the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston and a Doctorate of Musical Arts in Composition from the College Conservatory of the University of Cincinnati. Both are top-flight schools.

We agreed that once they moved, we would set up an interview; and on June 2, a Search Committee consisting of Worship Team chair Doug Kienitz; Stacie Crozier; Susan Bagby; Judy Mutchler; Virginia Murray, and I met with him. He had about 45 minutes to familiarize himself with the organ and practice; and then we asked him to play a Prelude, Postlude, and an accompaniment of a hymn of his choosing. Afterwards, we talked for about an hour about the position. answered his questions, and offered some of our own.

After much discussion, we decided not to offer him the position. There were a number of factors in our decision. Berrien Springs is a 45-minute drive from church on a good day. They often get much more snow than we do, and we were concerned that a heavy snowfall or storm might prevent him from getting to worship.

The main reason we passed on him was his playing. Granted, he did not have much time to learn the many stops on the organ; but the Prelude he played was a very simple arrangement of “Rock of Ages” that I felt a first-or-second-year organ student could have played. The Postlude was also just playing through another hymn from the hymnal and was nothing special. The hymn that he chose to accompany us on while we sang again was very mechanically played.

As I said to the committee and later to the choir and Maggie, there was no passion in his playing. By that, I did not mean speed or volume. When Maggie plays her whole body is into the music, and she pours herself into every note. There was none of that in his playing. The committee felt it was not worth it for us to hire someone just to hear the organ if we were not going to be happy with their playing.

Therefore, we (happily) offered Maggie another six-month contract with provisions for both her and us to opt out if necessary following a 30-day notice. Just to show how dedicated she is to us, Maggie even offered to take some organ lessons from her aunt, who was a long-time organist at the church in which Maggie grew up. Even if that does not work out, we continue to be so thankful for her presence and for sharing her immense gifts with us. We are truly blessed by her playing and directing. If you get the chance, please tell her that.



**NEW CHOIR MEMBERS**

Our St Paul Choir has welcomed three new members, David Jocelyn, Judy Gleason, and Carolyn Clooney. They join choir members Virginia Murray, Susan Bagby, Sue Koziel, Mary Knaup, Stacie Crozier, Joan Seifert, Ivye Benson, and Doug Kienitz. Welcome! We look forward to listening to them when the choir resumes in the fall.



**WEDDING**

On Saturday, July 26, I will preside over a very small, family-only wedding for Stacie Summers and Randon Trinklein. Stacie is the daughter of Jim and Kim Summers and the granddaughter of Sandy Robbins. There will be a later ceremony in Mexico for family and friends, but it would not be recognized as legal here in the U.S.; so, we are going to do a very simple service for them here.

The Church has always said that marriage is a sign of the relationship between Christ and the faithful and so it is a great joy to celebrate that expression of His undying love for us. Please remember Randon and Stacie in your prayers as they begin their new life together as husband and wife in Christ.



**FOOD PANTRY BOX**

For some months now, we have been stocking the pantry box in front of the church to help feed the hungry in our neighborhood. Mike and Donna Knoll particularly have been very faithful in making sure there was food on an almost daily basis. Our hope was that people would only take what they needed and leave the rest for others who were in need.

Unfortunately, that has not been the case. There have been numerous times when one person has emptied the box all for themselves. We have had problems with the door being damaged. It is no longer serving the purpose for which we installed it. Therefore, once our current supply of food is gone, we will no longer replenish it. Our good intentions are being abused; so, it is with great sadness that we have decided to discontinue that ministry. We hope that people will continue to donate non-perishable items that we will take to the Salvation Army for their distribution to the hungry.



**TIME AWAY**

I do not have any plans for long-term vacation this summer; I will take days here and there as needed. I will be gone on Sunday, July 20. There is a celebration in Wisconsin for my only remaining aunt’s 99th birthday and for her daughter and son-in-law’s 50th wedding anniversary. I have not seen either of them since my mother’s funeral 15 years ago, and my brother and his wife will also be there along with some other cousins; so I would like to go. Given my aunt’s age, this is likely the last time that I will be able to see her.

I am deciding when I will go, so it may end up that I would also be gone on Saturday July 19; but I will let the Council know when my plans are finalized.

**A fence around a building

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**NEW FENCE**

As we mentioned last month, huge thanks to our building crew who erected a new fence around our chiller located on Ninth Street right around the corner of the alley as it flows into Ninth. **Bob Kiser** organized the work day; and as always, our guys responded faithfully and did a beautiful job of replacing the old fence that was worn and aging. We are so blessed to have these and so many others who respond to the call to help keep our facilities repaired and looking great. Those who helped were **Dave Squires, Chuck Payne, Tim Crozier, Mark Kloess, and Rich Fleming.**

Thank you, crew, for your great work!

A group of men standing in front of a building

AI-generated content may be incorrect. A group of men standing in front of a fence

AI-generated content may be incorrect.



**MONTHLY MISSION: LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF KITS**

We will be purchasing supplies to assemble two kinds of Lutheran World Relief kits together as a congregation this fall. Lutheran World Relief kits are sent to people around the world who are experiencing poverty, disaster, conflict, or more. To make it easier, we are offering everyone an opportunity to sponsor kits. Please indicate how many of each kit you would like to sponsor and return this form with payment to the church office or in the offering plate. We will take care of purchasing all the supplies. We will hold an assembly day after Sunday worship this fall when we will assemble all the kits. You are invited to help us assemble the kits even if you don’t “purchase” a kit. We will assemble as a team; you will not be responsible for assembling all the kits you purchase yourself.

**Orders are due Sunday, July 27th, 2025**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_# of health kits at $10 each**

(Health kits contain a towel, bar soap, toothbrush, comb, and nail clippers.)

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_# of school kits at $10 each**

(School kits contain a drawstring backpack, notebooks, rulers, pencils and pens, pencil sharpener, scissors, crayons, and an eraser.)

**Total $\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** (Please make checks payable to St. Paul Lutheran Church.)



**IN MEMORY OF PASTOR DAVID SEIFERT**

**AND IN HONOR OF JOAN SEIFERT**

**June Mission Fund** from Mike & Donna Knoll



**JUNE COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS**

The June Council meeting will be held June 26. As always, copies of the minutes will be available in the narthex a week or two after the meeting, once they have been approved by the Council.

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**Long-Term Prayer List**

Laura Dovey Jess Kalvaitis Christine Kiser

Larry Litchford Bethany Manning Debbie Martin

Shirley McCarty Sarah McNabb Jan Paholski

Carol Radke Grace Romine Danielle Schnell

Martha Schroeder Jeanie Boatman Shepple Joyce Stark

Kathy Stein Mark Tannehill Kathy Thielman

David Weiss 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



**July Birthdays July Anniversaries**

3 Christian Scheuchner 1 Wayne & Milenda Simerlein

4 Amy Petri Chip & Audrey Claussen

6 David Suires 3 Jeffrey & Helena Albertson

Donna Sutor David & Nancy Squires

8 Albert Green 9 Dan & Sarah McNabb

Diane Waltz 17 Allen & JoAnne Sydow

10 Elizabeth Thompson 18 Michael & Amy Maesch

11 Warren Schacht

12 Norma Milzarek

13 Warren Glanz

14 Craig Hunt

15 Kyle Neulieb

20 Beverly Johnson

Nicholas Neulieb

24 Zachary Petri

25 Bernadette Krueger

28 Grace Romine

29 Charles Thomas II

**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

Last month we raised $282 at the Holly’s Give Back. Thanks to all who participated.

This month, we will see you at Chili’s on Thursday, July 10.  Here are two coupons—one for you and one for a friend.

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