



Saint Paul Messenger

A Member of the North American Lutheran Church

September 2016

St Paul Lutheran Church
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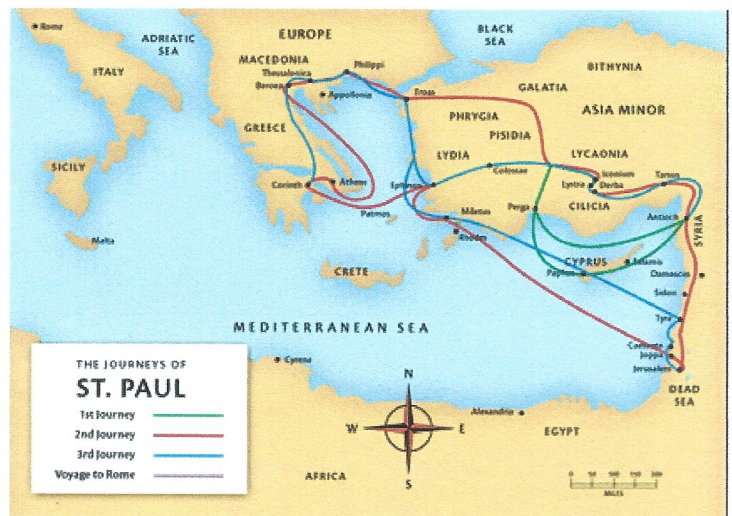
New Evening Bible Class

The Odyssey of St. Paul is the series that I will be presenting this fall for an evening Bible study. This will begin on Tuesday, September 20 at 6 p.m. and will be held on alternate Tuesdays. The following are the scheduled dates for the program: Sept. 20, Oct. 4, Oct. 18, Nov. 1, Nov 15 and Nov. 22. The video portion of each lesson will run about 30 minutes. The remaining half hour would include material that I present and a time for everyone to participate in the discussion.

I am very excited about this series of lessons because I think that it will help everyone who participates to understand the New Testament a bit better. Our series will be like a biography of St. Paul. There are references to St. Paul in the book of Acts, especially his conversion and his missionary journeys, and there are biographical references in the letters of St. Paul. Our series will try to put the biblical references in chronological order from the beginning and see how it all develops. Please plan to join us for this biblical study, and pass the word to anyone else you think might be interested.

Another very important thing at our church is our choir that has normally met on Thursday evenings. Our choir director, Jim Whitten still needs a few more voices before he schedules choir practice. Please consider adding your voice to the choir members that we already have. Speak to Jim Whitten (or phone him at 734-6940) if you can add your voice to our choir. The music aspect of our church is so important, so please pray about this matter and help us out if you can.

Pastor Turanski





The

President's Pen

St. Paul Members and friends

A thank you to Terese and Jim Whitten for their attendance at the NALC Convocation this year in California. A summary of the happenings will be posted on the board in the Fellowship Hall for all to read. We are fortunate to be able to have representation from St. Paul.

Plan to attend the upcoming bible study that Pastor Turanski is in the process of finalizing. God wants us to be learning all the we can and being faithful in our study of His word.

It has been brought to the Council's attention that the monthly benevolences that we sponsor, which are mainly local organizations, may not be getting enough consideration with letting everyone know who they are in order to help give support. The August offering will be going to buy Christmas gifts for local children at the Evert Giving Tree. A minimum of \$100.00 dollars is given to each month to one of these and if the donations from our members do not reach \$100.00, then the remainder is taken from the church account. Please consider giving to these very worthwhile causes. Also, we will be letting our members know on a monthly basis the financial status of our income to expenses.

Lastly, I recently listened to a Webinar by the NALC about Living and Growing in the Kingdom; Renewing Church "According to the Scriptures". There were some very constructive and positive suggestions about ways that have been used to help with renewal and growth in churches. Some key ideas were to develop strong prayer and support groups. Utilizing the elders of your churches to focus on anyone who may need extra prayer either at church before the service, during the week, or in the home setting with small groups. We all know what the power of prayer can do. Mark 11:24 says, "Therefore I tell you,

whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours".

Remember always to pray for our church that we will continue to do God's work according to His will and with humility!

Deb Elliott

Please remember that Thank Offering Sunday is scheduled for Sunday, November 20th.



Offerings this year will go to WISE.

People don't forget our yard sale in September.

Call Carol (734-3133) anytime to arrange for dropping off items at the parsonage.





Council Corner

St. Paul Lutheran Council Meeting Minutes

August 28, 2016

Present: George White, Deb Elliott, Jim Reider, Jim Whitten, Peg Walters, Dave Schlaack, Peg Booher, Pastor Turanski

Absent: Steve Mishler

Call to order by President Deb Elliott at 11:30 am in church basement.

Opening Prayer: Pastor Turanski

Congregational Comment: None

Secretary's Report:

Motion by Dave Schlaack to appoint Treasurer Peg Booher as a voting member of Council to fill the current vacant seat. Carried.

Discussion led by Deb Elliott regarding sending Thank You notes to donors. She will look into recent memorials to follow up.

Peg Walters motion to accept July 10 minutes - carried.

Dave Schlaack motion to accept August 17 special meeting minutes. – carried.

Treasurer's Report:

July Income: \$4,965.00, Expenses \$6,966.97. Variance, -\$2001.97

July 31 Ckg Bal: \$29,343.29, Spec. Acct Bal. \$8,641.61

Peg Booher advised that July Special Offering received for Hersey House of Hope was \$25. Benevolence added additional \$75.

The Shepherd's Table special fund has reached a point where money should be dispersed. Deb Elliott asked Peg Walters to

bring a specific proposal from the committee for ways the funds should be used.

Motion to accept Treasurer's report by George White, carried.

Pastor & Elders –Submitted in writing.

Fall study will be "Odyssey of St. Paul". Will be held during Sept. thru November. Pastor to decide to schedule Tuesday or Thursday evenings and publish in September newsletter. NALC Michigan District meeting will be held at St. Paul on Oct. 18. All are invited to attend.

Property: Dave Schlaack will check on a report that stain glass windows may need caulking/sealing.

Worship and Music – Submitted in writing.

We are switching to the Folk Mass liturgy beginning in September. Contemporary songs will be used for Sending hymn every other week. Choir attendance has shrunk to 6 members. At least 9 singers are needed to continue a viable choir program. We should invite singers we know to join us. Terese Whitten has tendered her resignation to the Worship Committee. Committee will need to select a new chairman.

Community Dinner – Submitted verbally by Peg Walters.

The committee will meet on 9/4. 120 meals were served in August. September meal will honor veterans.

Call Committee: No report.

Pastor will touch base with Dean Loehrke at Oct. District meeting for an update on NALC Pastor search.

Peg Walters made a motion to accept Reports, carried.

Old Business:

Urns for memorial bench. - Urns for outside bench are expected in about 1 week per Peg Walters.



Council Corner cont.

Special Council meeting update. A special Council meeting was held on 8/17/16 to explore the role of Commissioned Lay Leaders at St. Paul as allowed by our Constitution. Because of a shortage available NALC supply clergy, Elders Ruth Mowat and Terese Whitten have stepped up to preach and lead worship when no Pastor is available, without being appointed officially by the Congregation. A list of potential duties for Commissioned Lay Leaders was developed by Council at the 8/17 special meeting and given to Pastor for his review and comment. Pastor advised that all points in the list were acceptable to him. Following extensive discussion, Motion by Dave Schlaack, 2nd by Jimmie Reider to present a resolution to appoint Terese Whitten and Ruth Mowat as Commissioned Lay Leaders at St. Paul, to be voted on by the congregation, at the next annual meeting. Motion carried.

The resolution would officially authorize duties that Terese and Ruth are already performing: Preaching from the pulpit; Leading worship at St. Paul, including the distribution of pre-consecrated elements; Other Pastoral duties if authorized by the Pastor; Making emergency Pastoral visits in the absence of the Pastor if requested. Compensation for these duties will be determined at a later time.

New Business: Presentation by Rick Machleit to update work on building foundation. Current grade lets water flow toward building. Additional concrete will be poured. Cost estimate is now \$1,200. All exterior walls have been power washed.

Siding next to chimney will need to be removed/repared in near future. We may not need gutters, but we should get an estimate and can decide later. Rick suggested that we not use Roundup on weeds in parking area but physically remove them.

Correspondence:

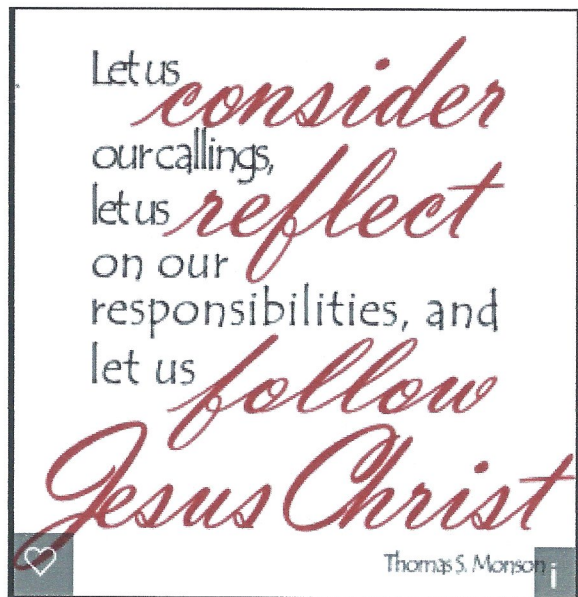
Letter received from Terese Whitten thanking the council for supporting her recent trip to California to serve as our delegate to the annual NALC convocation. A comprehensive report of the convocation was presented to Deb Elliott. She will review and forward pertinent information to council as warranted.

Suggestion Box: No suggestions.

Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Next meeting September 18.

Submitted by Jim Whitten, Secretary



BUDGET	INCOME	EXPENSES	TO BUDGET	INCOME TO EXPENSES
\$6,750.00	\$4,965.00	\$6,966.97	-\$2,354.00	-\$2,001.97



A big thank you to the people of St. Paul for allowing Jim and me to represent our congregation at the 2016 Convocation! It is always a

wonderful experience to be with over 400 believers in Christ and share His Word. A full report of the events is posted on the Council bulletin board so here I will just hit some of the highlights.

The theme of Holy God, Holy Lives was woven into every speakers' presentation. Bishop Bradosky opened the convocation with a sermon in which he stressed a life of discipleship with a strong faith. Quoting Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the Bishop reminded us, "Cheap grace is the preaching of forgiveness without requiring repentance, Baptism without church discipline, Communion without confession, or absolution without personal confession. Cheap grace is grace without discipleship."

Living a holy life – one of a disciple - can not be done alone, it happens in community. Every time we gather to hear and study God's Word and celebrate the Eucharist the Holy Spirit, through faith shapes us so that we can live lives that accomplish Christ's mission, to go make disciples.

Bishop Bradosky encouraged preachers and teachers to reinsert the words Holy Spirit and Holy Lives into their preaching and teaching. *Holy Spirit*, because it is fundamental to the churches existence and *Holy Lives* because it is essential to the mission and ministry of the church.

Rev. Dr. James Nestingen brought humor and scholarship to the convocation when he spoke on 1 Peter 1:12-25. His main point being that holiness is not a quality we possess but a relationship in which we live.

The Rev. Dr. Malcolm Guite, (who looks like a leprechaun) spoke of the friendships in the life of C.S. Lewis and how they shaped his faith, leading Lewis to become a major voice in Christian literature. If it worked for Lewis, think what it can do for you!

These and the other speakers all inspired their listeners to grow in faith and to go out in faith to live holy lives in faith.

Of course, there was also a business side to the convocation where elections were held for the Executive Council, the Court of Adjudication, NALS Board of Regents and members of the NALC-Canada Governing Board were elected. The 2017 NALC budget was also reviewed and passed.

Convocation is a great time to connect with NALC members from across the country and to be encouraged in faith and in mission. At such a gathering you can feel the Holy Spirit moving in God's people. I am grateful to you all for the opportunity to be a part of it.

Terese Whitten

Lutheran quiz

In Genesis 12, God called a man to go to a new land and promised that all nations would bless themselves by him, who was the man:

- A) Noah
- B) Jacob
- C) Moses
- D) Abraham

The Small Catechism teaches that water in baptism "can produce such great effects" because:

- A) Water is a symbol of life
- B) John baptized Jesus
- C) God's word is connected to the water
- D) God is all powerful

Answers: D and C