

Saint Paul Messenger

A Member of the North American Lutheran Church

June 2017

St Paul Lutheran Church
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We are entering upon the second half of the church year, - the season after Pentecost. This season will run for the next six month. The first half of the church year which we have just completed contained several seasons which reflected the life of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Those were the seasons of Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, and Easter. We have just completed that series of seasons based on the life of Christ.

Now we embark upon the second half of the church year which comprises only one season, the season after Pentecost, and it is a long one, and its color of green will be the liturgical color of the chancel paraments for all of the summer and fall. Green symbolizes growth, and what we need to focus on is our spiritual growth as Christians in response to all that Christ has done for us.

There is not a single thing that we can do to earn God's favor, - Salvation is a done deal for all who believe in Jesus and His redemption for us. Yet there remains for us the joy of trying daily to mold our lives to the pattern of Christ's example. This striving for a Christian lifestyle is what the season after Pentecost is all about.

Pastor Turanski

The President's Pen



To St Paul members and friends,

Greetings and love to you all.

We at St. Paul have received so many blessings and I feel that is why I'm writing to you about the power of prayer. Our prayer list continues to grow as we bring our requests to the Lord. Pastor Turanski is spending time visiting members for a "Little Time of Prayer". Each week we hear about one of our members or their loved ones who has received God's healing. We experience His love continually and know that he will always be there to lift us up. Mark 11:24 says, "Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours". I see the faith of our members and am amazed. Having faith makes all things possible! Let us all be prayer warriors and truly love one another. Ask God to fill your needs!

Notes of importance:

- The NALC Michigan Mission District meeting on July 11th. If you are able, please attend.
- Reformation Program is planned for July 22nd. We will need help with planning a luncheon meal and organization. If you are interested in helping out, please contact Jim Whitten.

- An upcoming new bible study is being considered. Pastor will let everyone know when plans have been finalized.

And finally on June 4th, the Stewardship Committee will be presenting its findings to the congregation following the church service.

Keep St. Paul in your daily prayers!

Your president,
Deb Elliott

Deb



Council Corner



St. Paul Lutheran Council Meeting Minutes May 21, 2017

Present: Deb Elliott, Jim Whitten, Don Waker, Peg Booher, Jim Reider,, Peg Walters, Dave Schlaack
Absent: Steve Mishler, Pastor Turanski
Guests: Terese Whitten
Call to order by: President Deb Elliott at 11:30 am in the fellowship hall.
Opening Prayer: Deb Elliott
Congregational Comment: none

Secretary's Report: Peg Walters motion to accept April minutes, Don Waker 2nd, carried.

Treasurer's Report: Motion by Don Waker to accept Treasurer's Report, Peg Walters 2nd - carried. April receipts include Easter and Midweek Lent service giving. No benevolence was sent in April.

April Income: \$6,928.01, Expenses \$3,939.84, Budget \$6,214.00 YTD Income \$19,432.08, YTD Expenses \$13,609.46
4/30/17 Ckg Bal: \$27,541.97 (1 yr. ago \$31,725.97), 4/30/17 Spec. Acct Bal. \$7,986.39 (1 yr. ago \$8291.94)

Reports

1. Pastor & Elders - Written report on bulletin board. 8 households visited by Pastor for "Little Time of Prayer", NALC Michigan Mission District meeting in Owosso on July 11, Reformation program is planned for July 22, a new Bible class, possibly on a weekday evening, is being considered.

2. Worship and Music – No report. We are using the liturgy plan from Year A in 2014.

3. Verbal Report by Dave Schlaack – We are considering changing the light bulbs in the sanctuary to LED bulbs. Don Waker is finding out more about them.

4. Community Dinner – Written report on Council Bulletin board. 108 dinners served in April, 30 dinners to go. Expenses \$182.00. Donations received \$566.90. Funds on hand \$3,341.35.

Response from community is good. Little left-over food. Excess dinner donations are going to support St. Paul & United Methodist mission projects. Deb Elliott asked that the names of the organizations be given to her so they can be posted on our bulletin board. Peg Walter will provide the information. Also, the annual Kitchen License renewal cost was paid from the Shepherds Table account with funds collected at the Dinners.

Council Corner **cont.**



5. Call Committee: No Report. Terese Whitten suggested we remove our vacancy listing from the NALC. Search for a Pastor has been terminated. Deb Elliott asked that we take no action at this time, pending the work being done by the Stewardship Committee.

Motion to accept reports by Don Waker, Peg Walters 2nd , carried.

Old Business:

Gutter Replacement – New eave troughs have been installed. No other significant projects are in progress.

Stewardship Steering Committee: Ideas from the committee were read to the Council for their input. Suggestions include giving a monthly status report on attendance and income & expenses vs. budget in a graphic chart. A presentation to the congregation is being planned for first Sunday in June. Discussion about whether people don't understand our financial situation or if they just don't care about it. Peg Booher will see if her computer will allow her a pie-chart to show the categories where we actually spend each month. This problem came to light because our efforts to call a new Pastor had to be put on hold due to lack of sufficient funds to pay his/her salary. It's important to understand that this is not an effort to remove Pastor Turanski, but a way of finding his eventual successor so he can finally retire. It's important to ask for additional giving from the congregation – not as a way of saying people aren't giving what they should - but as a way of realizing our part in God's provision for our survival. Question was raised about reducing asking for monthly special offerings as a way of allowing people to focus their giving through regular offerings without totally abandoning our giving to local ministries. Also, to encourage people to make up offerings that are missed when they aren't able to attend a service. We acknowledge that the best way to increase giving is

to increase attendance and to add new members. Several ideas were mentioned for activities that could be held for the neighborhoods near the church to invite them to get to know us and consider us as their own church. An Ice Cream Social or a Coat Closet Clothing give-away before school starts. Discussions will continue.

Martin Luther Workshop by Institute of Lutheran Theology – We need to begin planning to publicize and promote this July 22 event. Deb Elliott & Don Waker offered to help. We need to get an estimate of how many will attend so lunch, coffee & donuts can be provided.

New Business:

Life Resources Walk in Cadillac & Big Rapids in June. We will post their information to solicit walkers & sponsors.

Change Meeting Day? Discussion about wisdom of meeting on Monday night instead of Sunday. Decided to leave as is.

Outside Urns Rick Machleit suggested switching to a different style urn for outdoor plants. Peg Walters to tell him to give us a proposal.

Calendar – Peg Walters asked how to schedule a personal event in the Fellowship Hall. The building use procedure was explained to her.

Correspondence:

Thank You letter from WISE for our donation. Institute of Lutheran Theology announces their 500th Anniversary of Reformation event in Alexandria, MN on June 3. Several solicitation letters were referred to Benevolence Committee.

Suggestion Box:

Carol Roberts – suggestion to move announcements to beginning of service. Discussion held. Reason for announcements at end was because people who arrived late for church would not hear them. It was decided that, if necessary, an

Council Corner cont.



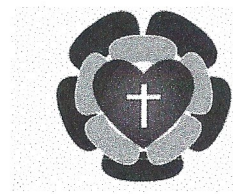
announcement could be made during the time for Praise Reports before service but no decision to change the announcement time was made.

Terese Whitten – suggestion to provide more information to the congregation about the Evert Fire Dept. Explorer program on our monthly special offering list. Peg Booher advised that this is a training/equipment for Junior Firefighters. Discussion held about getting better idea of who other groups are. Peg B. advised that information/guest speakers in the past did not seem to have any impact on the amounts given for special offerings. Should we make an effort to verify that groups selected are still doing what they are believed to be doing? Peg Booher & Deb Elliott said we would do that.

Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer at 12:35 pm
Next scheduled meeting: June 18.

Submitted by
Jim Whitten, Secretary

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!



St. Paul will be hosting an event this summer to commemorate the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther's work to reform the church.

On October 31st 1517 a small-town monk nailed 95 Theses to the church door in Wittenberg Germany. This was not an unusual act as the church was the meetinghouse for the community and when there was a topic for discussion one simply put up notice on the church door. Martin Luther, the seemingly insignificant monk, had unintentionally put into motion the Protestant Reformation. This reform movement would return the focus of Christian theology to pointing to Christ alone for salvation. And in the process change the world forever.

Our fellowship hall will be the site for a seminar called, "The Life and Theology of Martin Luther" put on by the Institute of Lutheran Theology.

- Saturday, July 22 at 9 AM - 4 PM
- St. Paul Lutheran Church, Evert, Michigan
- \$10/person which includes the workshop, Morning Coffee/Doughnuts and Lunch
Youth Groups, Church Councils, and Call Committees Encouraged

"IN *Happy*
MOMENTS,
PRAISE GOD.
IN DIFFICULT *MOMENTS,*
SEEK *God.*
IN QUIET
MOMENTS,
trust GOD.
IN EVERY MOMENT,
THANK *God.*"

St. Thomas Lutheran of Trufant, MI has already indicated that 10-15 of their members will join us at this workshop. But it is open to everyone. We will be promoting this event to churches all over central Michigan. It is a remarkable opportunity for us to reach out to a wide community and within our own congregation to build closer bonds with each other in our Christian walk together. Look for more information to come.

Hallmarks of Lutheran Identity pt.4

As we look forward to the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther's posting of his 95 Theses, it is perhaps helpful to remind ourselves of the beliefs that make Lutherans different from other Christians. The following is the fourth in a series based on a book by Alvin Schmidt.

Sola Scriptura – (By Scripture Alone)

In 1229, five hundred years before Luther heralded the concept of *sola Scriptura*, the Synod of Toulouse (France) outlawed Bible translations in the common languages and lay people were only permitted to own and read the Psalms and a few prayers. Seventy years later Pope Boniface VIII decreed there was no need for Christians to read the Bible because the pope had all biblical laws in his heart.

The Reformation helped change all that and made the Holy Scriptures accessible to the common person. By 1580, in the preface to the Formula of Concord, Lutheran theologians declared, "We believe, teach, and confess that the only rule and norm according to which all teachings, together with all teachers, should be evaluated and judged are the prophetic and apostolic scriptures of the Old and New Testament alone..." What a radical change of ideas!

Luther knew and believed that the Holy Scriptures were the inspired words of God because they were written by the apostles or someone supervised by an apostle. Luther took Christ at his word when, in His High Priestly Prayer, He said to His Father: "For I have given them the words that you gave me, and they have received them and have come to know in truth that I came from you" (*John 17:8*) hence, Scripture alone was the authority in matters of faith and life.

Lutherans read scripture using the principle that the Bible interprets itself. Difficult or less-clear passages must be interpreted in light of the Bible's clear passages. Also, Lutherans read the Old Testament and interpret it in light of the New Testament. An old saying states, "The New is in the Old concealed, and the Old is in the New revealed"

Martin Luther may have been the one to popularize the idea of *sola Scriptura*, but it can be argued that the words came from Christ himself who told the Jews (and us too), "Search the Scriptures, for in them ye think ye have eternal life; and they are they which testify of Me" *John 5:36*. The word for search in this passage has most often been translated as an imperative, meaning that this statement is a necessary thing. If Christ spoke this passage in the imperative sense, it is another argument in support of *sola Scriptura*. In addition, this passage accents the importance of *sola Christus* – Christ alone. Jesus is reminding them (and us) that the words of Holy Scripture only make sense if they are viewed through Him.

The Holy Scriptures, God's unchanging Word, made available to all, as a rule and norm is another Hallmark of the Lutheran Identity.

