

# Saint Paul Messenger

A Member of the North American Lutheran Church

St Paul Lutheran Church  
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September 2017

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## Thursday School starts September 7<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm.

Some of you may remember attending Sunday School in the days of your youth, when you received a Bible lesson leaflet, worked through it in class, and then took the leaflet home.

What we are about to start is similar and different. It is similar in that all who attend will receive a Bible lesson leaflet each week. We will work through it together in class, and then we can take our material home with us. Included will be ideas for sharing something of the lesson with others during the week that follows. What will be different is that our materials are ADULT Bible study lessons, and we will meet on Thursday evenings. So it's kind of like Adult Sunday School that will meet on Thursday evenings.

The curriculum is the Adult Sunday School material from Concordia Publishing House. This quarter's material covers God's people in Egypt and in the Exodus. The first 4 lessons cover Joseph. That will be followed by Moses, and finally such topics as the Ten

*Commandments, Worship in the Tabernacle, and the Bronze Serpent.*

*I plan to run Thursday School each Thursday evening, except when Lynette and I are out of town, as we will be on September 21 when we will be checking out waterfalls in the Upper Peninsula. Thus, September classes will be held on September 7, 14, and 28. Please plan to attend our new "Sunday School" on Thursday nights.*

*Pastor Turanski*

*Grow  
in Christ*

## Council Corner



The August meeting was postponed please look for the minutes in a future newsletter.

### St. Paul Lutheran Council July 30, 2017

(Our meeting planned for 7/16 was postponed for lack of quorum.)

Present: Deb Elliott, Jim Whitten, Don Waker, Peg Booher, Peg Walters, Dave Schlaack

Absent: Steve Mishler, Jim Reider, Pastor Turanski

Guests: Terese Whitten

Call to order by: President Deb Elliott at 11:20 am in the basement.

Opening Prayer: Deb Elliott

Congregational Comment: none

Agenda Additions: Flag placement & Service in Park added to new business

Secretary's Report: Don Waker motion to accept June minutes, Dave Schlaack 2nd, carried.

Treasurer's Report: Written report presented. Motion by Don Waker to accept Treasurer's Report - carried.

Discussion about donations to the Evert Giving Tree.

A donation was sent to NALC in July  
Thrivent Special Fund monies are spent at the direction of Council since no other committee exists.

Motion by Jim Whitten, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Don Waker to purchase 2 - \$25 gas cards for Pastor/Elders to give to those seeking gas money, etc. Charge to Social Ministry.

June Income: \$3,584.00, Expenses \$3,368.85, Budget \$4,971.00

YTD Income \$26,527.08, YTD Expenses \$21,692.11

6/30/17 Ckg Bal: \$26,554.32

6/30/17 Spec. Acct Bal. \$8,438.15

### Reports

1. Pastor & Elders - Written report on bulletin board. Report on NALC Michigan Mission District meeting in Owosso on July 11, Reformation program of July 22.
2. Worship and Music – Verbal report by Jim Whitten. We are using the liturgy plan from Year A in 2014. In light of Jimmie Reider's health, other ushers are coming forward to help on Sundays.
3. Verbal Report by Don Waker & Dave Schlaack – Further gutter work & shrub removal needed at parsonage. Plumbing problems in church basement are being evaluated.
4. Community Dinner – Written report on Council Bulletin board. Deb Elliott suggested it is time to consider distribution of excess donations between Evert UMC & St. Paul ministries.
5. Call Committee: Written report. Phone interview with potential candidate. No further action at this time.
6. Stewardship – Monthly updates are posted on bulletin board in narthex. Jim & Terese Whitten will investigate resources offered by NALC.

Motion to accept reports by Don Waker, Dave Schlaack 2<sup>nd</sup>, carried.



## Council Corner cont.



### Old Business:

Martin Luther Workshop by Institute of Lutheran Theology was held 7/22. Attended by 26 people. Lunch provided by Women's

group. St. Thomas Lutheran of Trufant also provided donuts.

### New Business:

Call Committee report on meeting with Rev. Jim Freisner. (see written report)

Community Ice Cream Social/Warm Coat Closet event proposed for 8/19. Peg Walters to propose a later, alternate date in September.

Flags. Motion by Peg Walters, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Don Waker, to return the US & Christian flags to the sanctuary from the fellowship hall. Flags to be placed in front corners of sanctuary, beneath the speakers. Motion carried.

Service in the Park. After discussion, consensus is to wait until next summer for this.

### Correspondence:

Solicitation letters from ELCA Hunger Program & Samaritan's Purse were referred to Benevolence Committee.

Suggestion Box: No suggestions

Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer at 12:25 pm

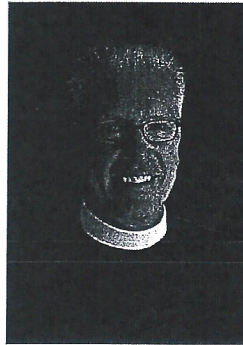
Next scheduled meeting: August 20, 2017.

Submitted by

Jim Whitten, Secretary

## *From the Bishop*

Bishop John Bradosky



Dear Disciples of Christ  
Jesus,

Grace, mercy and peace to  
you from God our  
Father and our Lord and  
Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

What follows are excerpts from my oral report at our Convocation in Nashville. I realize many could not be there and some have asked for a written copy of what I said. Honoring their requests — and my promise — I am providing it as a part of our newsletter.

Many of you have heard me say in other settings that discipleship in a Lutheran setting consists of a culture defined by:

**1. Catechesis** — Teaching the faith — so that those who begin to believe in Jesus are maturing in their faith and being fully equipped to share their faith by teaching others.

**2. Vocation** — Living the faith — understanding that in every facet of our lives we are called to follow Christ and serve him as we care for others.

Regardless of our station or career path in life, we are first and foremost disciples of Jesus Christ.

We must ask: "How am I following Christ in my relationship with my spouse? How am I serving Christ as a parent, a friend, a neighbor? How am I serving Christ in my career, at work? How is my identity centered in Christ?"

**3. Ecclesiology** — Engaging in Christian community where love includes expectations of mutual responsibility and accountability. This is the nature of the Body of Christ — complete



interdependence of all the parts intimately connected to the head, Jesus Christ.

Where do we find a structure that includes the accountability that discipleship demands? The truth is that you have to desire it and seek it. Martin Luther found this accountability to be essential in his own life and ministry. Luther relied on Johann von Staupitz, who had a direct influence upon Luther's spiritual and theological development. Luther later attributed much to his former monastic superior. It was Staupitz who heard Luther's confessions, served as his spiritual advisor during the spiritual struggles of his early career, and eventually directed him to channel his intellect into his teaching at Wittenberg.

It was also Staupitz who would impress upon Luther an Augustinian understanding of sin and grace. It was Staupitz who chose Luther to lecture in his place, encouraging him to earn his doctorate in theology and to become a professor. Staupitz made sure that Luther succeeded him as professor of Bible at Wittenberg.

Staupitz was at Luther's side when he faced Cardinal Cajetan over the issue of indulgences. Staupitz absolved him of his monastic vows, freeing him to pursue his theological reforms.

Luther believed his explanations of the 95 Theses were congruent with the teaching of his mentor Staupitz. Because of his relationship with Luther, the Roman Catholic Church was suspicious of Staupitz. Even 35 years after his death (1559) his books were banned because of his association with Luther.

Let me ask you: "Who is your Staupitz? Who is your confessor, your mentor? Who is encouraging you, pushing you, staying in touch with you? Who is there to support you in the difficult moments, to be by your side in the

midst of controversy? Who speaks both Law and Gospel into your life? Who is investing themselves in your life?"

This is the nature of living out an incarnational theology.

You may not like the terms "coach," "spiritual father," "confessor" or "mentor," but we all need this connection. "Who is your Staupitz?" is a first-level question of "What does this mean?"

If we go deeper, we must also ask, "To whom am I being a Staupitz or how can I be equipped to be a Staupitz for others?" This is what it means to pursue discipleship.

Frankly, I am weary of trying to describe it, explain it, and justify it. I simply want you to experience it.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer writes, "The only proper response to this word which Jesus brings with him from eternity is simply to do it." (Now you know where Nike got its motto!)

I prepared a form that you can use to engage another person in the process of discipleship. *(The form is available on the NALC website with other documents from the Convocation.)*

The first part of the process is getting to know the other person and deepening the relationship through sharing information that exposes more of your life while learning more about theirs.

The second part of the process is focused on hearing from Jesus, learning from Jesus, and being guided by Jesus through his holy Word. Before you begin, pray that the Holy Spirit will be your teacher. Listen for the voice of Jesus as you read and meditate on his Word. Let him do the talking and the teaching. Then read the selected passage of Scripture to each other.

The third part of the process is focused on reflecting or meditating on the meaning and power of the Word in your life. I suggest using the process Luther offered to his barber when he asked Luther how he should read the Scriptures. Others have summarized this method with the acrostic TRIP — Thanks, Repent, Intercess, Plan.

Take turns reading the Scripture to each other before you answer each prompt.

**T — Thanks** — Share one thing in this text for which you are thankful (write it down and share it).

**R — Repent** — Share one thing in this text for which you need to repent and seek forgiveness.

**I — Intercess** — Share one thing this text reminds you to pray for.

**P — Plan** — Share one thing that needs to change in your life as a result of meditating on this text.

The final part of this process is one of encouragement to engage in mutually accountable and responsible relationships, by asking helpful questions designed to encourage and support one another.

+ What is the first step you need to take to make this change?

+ When will you start?

+ How can I support you?

After having the conversation, pray for each other. Agree to contact the other person by phone and check on their progress. Decide on a time and who will initiate the call and add those details to your calendar.

Could you imagine a congregation in which every one is connected just this way — reading and reflecting on the Scriptures together, praying for one another, developing relationships that are mutually responsible and accountable? Do you think it would help you to grow spiritually and strengthen your sense of Christian community where you are? That is the nature of life to life discipleship! This is the mutual consolation of the brethren.

In the Smalcald Articles IV we read, “Let us return to the Gospel, which offers counsel and help against sin in more than one way ... finally *through the mutual conversation and consolation of the brethren. Matthew 18:20, “Where two or three are gathered together in my name there I am in the midst of them.”*”

So may it be among us!

It is good to be with you following Christ Jesus.

