

Christ's Calling Card



St. Paul's Lutheran Church ELCA
401 Mill Street Wilton, WI 54670



July August 2021
Bi-Monthly Newsletter

Message from Pastor Cathy Morris

"Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord, and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good."

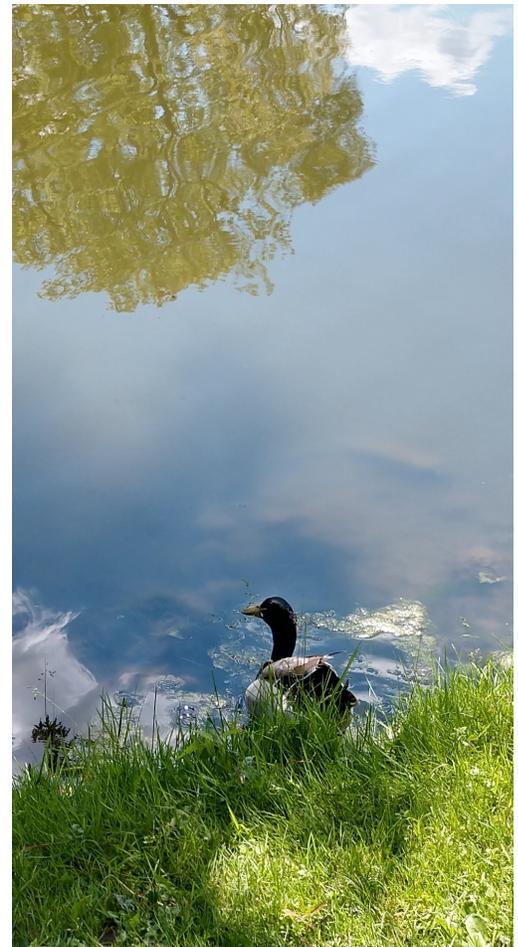
(1 Corinthians 12:4-7, NRSV)

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Recently, I took the photo that you see of a lake in Lanesboro, Minnesota. A duck appears to be preparing to enter the water, as it most likely does every day. But the photo includes elements that encourage us to think beyond this every day scene. In the upper left corner is the reflection of a tree. Next to it is a reflection of a cloud. If we look closely, we realize that there are many reflections of the sky on the water. In this way, the photo draws us away from the every day scene to envision something different.

The photo made me think of the church, and our roles as members of the body of Christ. Sometimes we are comfortable doing things and thinking about things in the same way (as the duck seems to be doing in this photo). But at other times, we want to look beyond what is, and envision something new. We want to envision possibilities; possibilities that become evident when we look beyond what is in front of us to the tree tops, clouds and sky. Possibilities that allow us to move beyond where we have been and where we are now, to thoughts of a bright, hopeful and promising future.

A few weeks ago, the Deke Slayton Airfest took place at the La Crosse Regional Airport. On both days, the United States Navy Blue Angels precision air group performed. *While I was not at the airport for the actual show, I nevertheless was able to see the Blue Angels' planes flying in formation overhead! (See photo.) Seeing them brought to mind 4 qualities that help individuals envision new possibilities in their lives and in the life of the church. The qualities are faith, initiative, leadership, and teamwork. Con't*



Pastor Cathy Con't



Faith: As I thought about the Blue Angels' jets, I was reminded that up until about 120 years ago, airplanes with motors didn't exist (at least not ones that actually worked). Most people had no idea that an airplane could be invented that would actually fly! But in 1903, the Wright Brothers created an airplane that worked! Their accomplishment began with faith. They believed that creating an airplane was possible, even though many other persons said it was impossible.

We can all name other things that we use every day that people once thought were impossible (e.g. the telephone/cellphone, television, internet, computers, medical devices, other forms of technology, cars, etc...) yet we know that with God, all things are possible! The items that we live with and use every day began with faith and a vision! For as Presiding Bishop Eaton told us in a recent message, "Science and religion come from the same source and we believe that source is God" (Presiding Bishop Eaton, "The Source of Science and Faith," YouTube video, transcribed, April 30, 2021). God is the source of religion, science, wisdom, and knowledge.

Initiative: The Blue Angels work together with different members in the lead position. Any member, at any given time, might be in the lead position. But any member will also, at any given time, be working in the back or on the side. Members alternate between taking the lead role and taking supporting roles. But all members are needed for the team's collective work to be successful. All are needed and encouraged to take the initiative as they are able.

Leadership: The photo of the Blue Angels shows them flying in formation. To the far right is the leader. He or she goes out in front to point the way for the others! The leader has a vision, or helps to create a vision. The leader sets a direction, and provides a plan that considers other members' suggestions and ideas. Members join with the leader to help make the shared vision a reality!

Teamwork: To achieve the precision that we see in the photo, all members of the Blue Angels' squadron must work as a team. In the church, we are encouraged to work together. We are all part of the body of Christ, and members, thereof. In 1 Corinthians 12:12 (NRSV), we read—"For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ." Furthermore, within the body of Christ, each of us brings our own unique spiritual gifts, as found in our scripture passage (above) from 1 Corinthians 12:4-7 (NRSV). Each of us has a special gift that we can contribute to the shared vision.

As we look to the future of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, there are many opportunities for each of us to contribute to the well-being of the church of God. Through faith, initiative, leadership and teamwork we can accomplish so much as the body of Christ. May this letter encourage us in the way that we should go. May we take time this summer to envision new possibilities for St. Paul's Lutheran Church in the future. May we also envision ways in which each of us can participate as we use our spiritual gifts for the glory of God. Thanks be to God!

Peace,

Pastor Cathy

Church Council Highlights June



* The recent "All Member Visit" identified a need for more Bible study opportunities at St. Paul's. With this in mind, in September, we will begin a Bible study entitled, "Manna and Mercy," by Daniel Erlander. The study will be open to high school students and adults. We will meet monthly, after church, for discussion. St. Paul's will purchase copies of "Manna and Mercy," that may be borrowed for this Bible study, or whenever parishioners may wish to use them. The copies will be purchased with the memorial gift monies given for Susan Ristow Zewiske. Participants may purchase their own copy of the book, if they wish.

SYNOD ASSEMBLY REPORT

John reported the election of new Bishop Felix Malpica. There was a resolution passed that the Synod raise \$200,000 a year for the next 3 years (2022, 23 and 24) for World Hunger.

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Education Committee: Angie Gruen
Financial Committee: Jerry Von Haden
(Lori Brueggen, Kirsten Arndt)
Property Committee: Steve Brandau
Social Ministry Committee: April Arndt
Worship Committee: Joel Arndt

Organ Repair: There is progress. Six pipes have been repaired and replaced with three additional soon to be installed.

St. Paul's will not be offering sundaes at Wilton Fest, but will donate unused supplies to the Brookwood PTO, who will be offering an ice cream concession. There will likely be an Ecumenical Service in the Park on August 1 but will not be led by St. Paul's.

Stairs: Steve and Joel are still investigating possibilities and will try to get estimates.

Inside services: There was no further decision but returning to use of hymnals was suggested.

Church

Council

Justin Arndt
President

John Ornes
President Elect

Arlis Ballwahn
Secretary

Lori Brueggen
Treasurer

Steve Brandau

Joel Arndt

April Arndt

Angie Gruen

Jerry Von Haden

WORSHIP NOTES

The following are the Scripture readings we will be sharing in worship during the months of July and August, 2021

July 4 – 6th Sunday after Pentecost
Ezekiel 2:1-5; Psalm 123
2 Corinthians 12:2-10; Mark 6:1-13

July 11- 7th Sunday after Pentecost
Amos 7:7-15; Psalm 85:8-13;
Ephesians 1:3-14; Mark 6:14-29

July 18- 8th Sunday after Pentecost
Jeremiah 23:1-6; Psalm 23;
Ephesians 2:11-22; Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

July 25- 9th Sunday after Pentecost
2 Kings 4:42-44; Psalm 145:10-18;
Ephesians 3:14-21; John 6:1-21

August 1- 10th Sunday after Pentecost
Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15; Psalm 78:23-29;
Ephesians 4:1-16; John 6:24-35

August 8- 11th Sunday after Pentecost
1 Kings 19:4-8; Psalm 34:1-8;
Ephesians 4:25--5:2; John 6:35, 41-51

August 15- 12th Sunday after Pentecost
Proverbs 9:1-6; Psalm 34:9-14;
Ephesians 5:15-20; John 6:51-58

August 22- 13th Sunday after Pentecost
Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18; Psalm 34:15-22;
Ephesians 6:10-20; John 6:56-69

August 29- 14th Sunday after Pentecost
Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9; Psalm 15;
James 1:17-27; Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

July

Sun., 4th Worship, 9:00 am
Sun., 11th Worship, 9:00 am
Sun., 18th Worship, 9:00 am
Sun., 25th Worship, 9:00 am

August

Sun., 1st Worship, 9:00 am
Sat., 7th Blood Drive,
7:00 – 11:30 am

Sun., 8th Worship, 9:00 am
Sun., 15th Worship, 9:00 am
Sun., 22nd Worship, 9:00 am
Sun., 29th Worship, 9:00 am

Birthdays and Anniversaries

July

1st George Dougherty
2nd Douglas Wildes
3rd Buddy Speicher
4th Bev Graunke,
6th Collin Birkholz
8th Travis Anderson, Doug Birkholz,
Derek Erdman, Matt & Tiffany Bever
11th Katie Garske, Barb Savall
13th Gracie Brandau
17th Cory Dutton, Mathew Dutton
18th Brian Buchholz
19th Haley Jewell, Travis & Ann Anderson,
Bob & Louise Buchholz
21st Doreen Bayer
24th Karl Radke, Mark & Sarah Gruen
25th Bob Gruen
26th Arlis Ballwahn
27th Adam Brueggen
29th Sophia Erdman
31st Gordon O'Rourke, Leonard & Dixie Arndt

August

1st Natalie Stanek
2nd Gene Dougherty
3rd Avery Arndt, Larry & Lorrie Bever
6th Ron Drews
8th Kristi Tormoen
12th Erica Steinke
13th Ginger Arndt
14th Greg Bever, Andy Brueggen
16th Bud Osteboe
18th Jaimie Zimmerman
21st August Arndt, Marty Arndt,
Jerry & Pat Von Haden
23rd Carolyn Dougherty
24th Kirstin Arndt, Larry & Arlis Ballwahn
25th Lois O'Rourke
27th Amber Brueggen, Ken Thorson, Jr.
31st Barb Ornes

I am the guy... Author Unknown

I am the guy who asked to join your congregation.

I am the guy who made his financial donations.

I am the guy who stood with you and promised to be faithful and loyal.

I am the guy who came to your services and no one paid any attention to.

I tried several times to be friends but they all had their friends to talk to and sit next to.

I sat down several times alone but no one paid any attention to me.

I hoped very much that someone would have asked me to take part in a fund raising project, activity, or something. No one saw my efforts when I volunteered.

I missed a few services after joining because I was sick and could not be there.

No one asked me at the next service where I had been.

I felt it did not matter very much to others whether I was there or not.

The next service I decided to stay home and watch TV.

The following service I attended but no one asked me where I was at the last service.

You might say I am a good guy, a good family man, who holds a good job, loves

his community and his country.

You know who else I am? I am the guy who never came back.

It amuses me how the leadership and members discuss why the congregation is losing members.

It amuses me to think that they spend so much time looking for new members.

When I was there all the time. All they needed to do was make me feel needed, wanted, and welcome.

THOSE SERVING IN JULY

Readers: 4th Karen Arzt; 11th Lori Arndt; 18th Barb Bever; 25th Larry Ballwahn

Communion Server: Jerry Von Haden

THOSE SERVING IN AUGUST

Readers: 1st Barb Ornes, 8th Arlis Ballwahn, 15th Thadyn Conner; 22nd Ayawyn Conner; 30th Carolyn Dougherty

Communion Server: Karen Arzt

W-ELCA High School Seniors



The following St. Paul students graduated in 2021: August Arndt Brookwood High School; Kaden Brandau Brookwood High School; Deacon Erdman Brookwood High School; Lailah Eckes Brookwood High School; Krista Cook New Lisbon High School; Emma Gruen Royall High School.

Each year St. Paul's W-ELCA group makes quilts for the graduating high school seniors. As part of the blessing, parents are invited to wrap their senior in their quilt. The picture was taken on May 16 showing August, Lailah and Emma in their quilts. Krista Cook received her quilt and blessing the next week.

Scholarship recipients were Emma Gruen and Krista Cook. College and technical education students who have not received a scholarship are eligible to apply any time during their post secondary education.

Financial Report

We are currently in arrears in the amount of \$6,589.14 for the first six months of 2021. This amount will be reduced, slightly, with the offerings from our service on June 27. I am writing this article on Friday, June 25.

Are we to become the church of chicken dinners? Or are we going to right the ship and support St. Paul's, come rain or shine, pandemic closure, drive-thru service, etc., etc., etc. We do offer electronic giving and, for those with internet, will provide the link so you can set your offering to be withdrawn as you wish, weekly, monthly, bi-monthly, etc. If you don't have internet, we will provide you with the form to either return to the church office or mail directly to Vanco.

We humans withhold offerings for a variety of reasons to send a message. What message are we sending God? Nalani

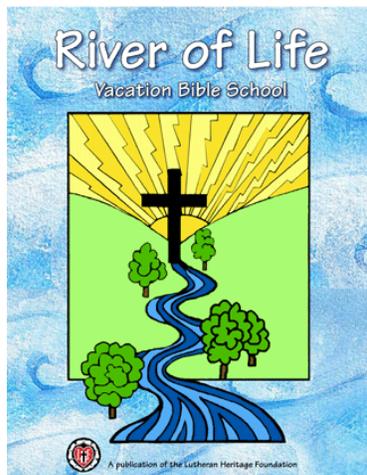


“River of Life”
July 25 – July 28
5:30 PM – 8:00 PM

This year, we are journeying down the river to learn about God’s gracious gift of water. From the waters of baptism to the waters that sustain farms and gardens, water is life. As a church, we are committed to accompanying communities that lack access to clean water and proper sanitation, both in the United States and internationally, through ministries supported by ELCA World Hunger. The simple reason for this is that all of creation relies on water to live. But water is much more than a resource. For people of faith, water is a powerful symbol, with significance as deep as the natural stores that cover the globe. In “River of Life,” participants will learn about the importance of water and visit important “ports” during the week to hear Bible stories about water. They will also hear about communities working to restore watersheds, to protect rights to water and to ensure safe water for everyone. And they’ll have some fun!

We will start each session off with a meal and are currently exploring the possibility of having a joint worship service with Peace Lutheran of Tomah, on Sunday morning (July 25) at the Wilton park. We would then share in a potluck meal and proceed with Day One’s lesson. Stay tuned for further details with regard to the July 25 session. The remaining sessions will be held at St. Paul’s in the late afternoon/evening.

We’ll be looking for volunteers to assist with the meal preparation on St. Paul’s designated evenings, teachers, aides, and craft folks. Greg will be reaching out to our high school age students, and those who have helped in the past. Beat him to the punch! Call and volunteer!!



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Congregation pictures: Contributed - Facebook

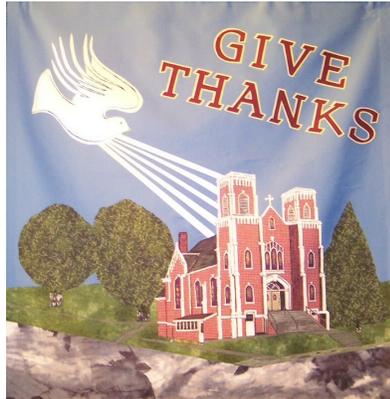
****The Website & Facebook pages were developed & are administered by April Arndt**

April also developed the front page of the Newsletter

Newsletters, past and present, are on the Church Website in Color.

Inviting people to journey with Christ's family in spreading God's love and mercy.

Christ's Calling Card
St. Paul's Lutheran
Church



St. Paul's Lutheran Church

"A Welcoming Place for over 125 years"

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