

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

In my midweek letter of June 10, I shared with you a story about my late friend, Susan Ristow Zewiske. The story was a mystery regarding the connection she had with St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Wilton.

I received two helpful messages from church members, Marty Arndt and Arlis Ballwahn, regarding my question. They told me that the connection was through Sue's (Susie's) mom, Julaine Summerfield Ristow, and other family members. Marty and Julaine (I believe she goes by Jill, although I always called her Mrs. Ristow) went through 11 or 12 grades in school in Wilton. They also were in the same confirmation class at St. Paul's! Julaine's brother, Evan, was a farmer in the local area. He passed away last year, but a few of his children still live nearby.

In addition to being my friend Sue's mother, I remember Mrs. Ristow (Julaine), because she was one of my Girl Scout leaders. We had meetings at her house every week during the school year, when I was in fourth or fifth grade. To my knowledge, she and Mr. Ristow (Gerald or Jerry) still live in Waukesha.

Arlis said that Julaine was baptized, and possibly married, at St. Paul's. Julaine and Evan's parents, Earl and Blondena, were lifelong members of St. Paul's Lutheran Church. Julaine and her family visited St. Paul's whenever they were in Wilton. Thank you Marty and Arlis for your assistance. The mystery has been solved!

On another note, I received a message that Sugar Creek Bible Camp will be holding a golf fundraiser, and they are looking for players. The event will be held at Viroqua Hills Golf Course on Monday, August 17.

Do any of you play golf? (I like to play golf, but I don't play enough to be very good. Typically, I get out once or twice a year.) If you are interested in participating, it would be fun to put together a foursome from St. Paul's. It is a best ball tournament, meaning that all four players hit a ball from the best location achieved by any one player in their foursome. Social distancing and other safety precautions will be in place.

A couple of years ago, I played in a golf fundraiser for Bethel Homes. When we got to the 16th tee, one of the people coordinating the event asked our non-pastor player how we were doing. She replied, "I'm playing with 3 pastors!" (Apparently, pastors aren't known for being good golfers, although I have met a few over the years.) In any case, if you are interested in playing, please look at the Sugar Creek Bible Camp website for more information, and send me a text or email.

As we continue to adjust to life during the Coronavirus Pandemic, may we find joy in everyday things. May we remember good friends who enrich(ed) our lives. May we remember to spend time outside in God's creation. May we continue to look for ways to support one another.

As the familiar hymn goes, "Blessed be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love."

Peace,

Pastor Cathy