



St Paul's of German Lake

Website: www.stpaulsgl.org

email: stpaulsofgermanlake@gmail.com

July 2022

Pastor Karl's Ponderings

Some Random Pastoral Ponderings...

According to the church calendar, we are in the season of Pentecost. Pentecost is known as the "time of the church". It's that time after Christ's ascension when we, as the church, guided and accompanied by the Holy Spirit, are to go out into the world to spread the message of the Gospel to all people. It's a time for us to grow in our faith and our relationship with God. It's also a time of the church year when our lessons on Sunday morning challenge us to reflect upon what it is to be the church in the world, to reflect on our identity in light of the Great Commission to "go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey all I have commanded you" (Matthew 28:16).

This strikes me as being particularly important to us at St. Paul's. During my interview prior to receiving the call to serve here, I discovered that you had not engaged in the self-study process that usually is a part of the call process. It also hadn't been done when Pastor Jorgensen was called. I have encouraged the council to lead the congregation through this process in the coming year. It is a wonderful opportunity for St. Paul's to ponder what it is to be God's church of German Lake. What is unique about us and our ministry? What is St. Paul's known for in the community or in the synod? In what ways do we want to reach out with God's love and care to people in our community? In what ways is the Spirit calling us?

Perhaps in your summer travels...as you visit and worship in other churches you will hear of interesting ways others are ministering to the needs of people...ways that you feel would fit into the mission and ministry of St. Paul's. The St. Paul's council would love to hear them.



These are challenging times to be the church. They are also exciting times! The opportunities for ministry are endless. As we engage in this self-study, I invite you to ponder how we at St. Paul's can be the church here of German Lake, carrying out the Great Commission that has been entrusted to us.

Blessings,
Pastor Karl



Two of St. Paul's members have crossed the threshold from life in this world to become part of the church triumphant in June. As they take their place at the banquet feast that has no end in God's eternal kingdom, we give thanks for the lives of Gary Nickels and Re Lou Schwichtenberg and the blessing they have been to us.

A Celebration of Life was held for Gary on July 1, at St. Paul's. If you were unable to attend and would like to view the service, it has been recorded and is available for viewing on the Northview – North Mankato Mortuary website (www.mankatomortuary.com). Please keep Nancy, Jay, Jeff, and their families in your thoughts and prayers in the coming days and weeks.

ReLou died at the Pillars of Mankato on Friday, June 17, 2022. A private family burial will take place at Fort Snelling on Thursday, July 21. Please keep her daughter, Darla and her family in your thoughts and prayers.



“I thank God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the Gospel from the first day until now.” Philippians 1:3-5

You’ve heard the saying that “it takes a village to raise a child”. In a similar way, it takes a congregation to be a church. In the past few weeks, I have watched you be a church in the finest sense of the word. Thank you...

Thank you to all the folks who stayed after the annual meeting to help with some of the landscaping work around the church that Gary and Nancy Nickels would normally do. It’s amazing how much a group of people can accomplish in a relatively short time. It was a wonderful tribute to Gary, and I know he would want to say “thank you” to each and every one of you.

Thank you to Diane Siebert and Brenda Krause for all their work to update the new WELCA Handbook. It was a Herculean task to gather all the new phone numbers and e-mails, type them out, print, collate, and fold all those booklets. One of the beauties of such an undertaking is that people who have been away from church for some time were contacted and made to feel that they are still an important part of our church community. Nice job!! This booklet is an invaluable resource to me as I try to contact and get to know folks I have yet to meet.

Thank you for the myriad of ways you care for one another. As I have visited with those who are sick and the homebound from our congregation, many of those folks have told me how grateful they are for all the prayers, calls, cards, e-mails, goodies, and other support they regularly receive from our members. I may bear the title of “minister” ...but each of you are ministering in your own unique ways. Thank you for your kind spirits and loving hearts. You make my work easy.

Thank you to Jill Steffen and Lynn Pohlman for their work getting the annual report together and leading the annual meeting. It was no small task given all the transitions St. Paul’s has experienced this past year. I was pleased with the suggestions and discussions that took place and look forward to seeing how some of the items we talked about will be implemented as we move forward.

There are so many more people I could thank...the quilters, the altar guild, the funeral committee, our ushers...Kathy, our pianist, our custodian, and many others who go about their service and ministry quietly and behind the scenes. We may not always know who is responsible for things that happen, but we notice that they have been done and we are grateful. I am truly blessed to have the opportunity to serve in such a special place.



“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,”

I Corinthians 12:4-7

All those thank you's are only possible because you share your time and talents in order to make them happen. The church council would like to create a list of the talents you would like to share as a part of the ministry of St. Paul's.

Our hope in pursuing this project is threefold. First, we want everybody to have a chance to get involved in our congregation in a way that is meaningful...to help you feel a part of the congregation in an active way. Secondly, when a need arises, we want to be able to know who we can contact to meet that need...who can fix a little plumbing, who can do a little carpentry work, who likes to bake or cook, who likes to teach Sunday school or lead a Bible study or prayer group, who likes to visit with homebound folks. Finally, as we look over the various talents that you share with us, they may spark ideas for new projects, events, and ministries we've never thought of before, but feel we can pursue because of your special gifts.

What's your special gift? What's your hidden talent? Would you please share it with us to enhance our ministry at St. Paul's?



You will find the Time and Talent sheet attached in this email. Please take time to fill this out and return to us. You can send it back to the church's email, mail it back or drop it off when you are in church.



JULY

HEAD USHER – Lynn Pohlman

Ushers –

3rd – Mike & Lynn Pohlman
10th – Curt & Raleen Tolzmann
17th – Virginia McCarthy
Clark Fell
24th – TBD
31st – TBD

Readers –

Anders Rydholm
Sue Gress
Virginia McCarthy

TBD

TBD

Every day, God has something to say
to you. Even when He seems to be
quiet, God is still saying something.

T. B. Joshua

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