



St Paul's of German Lake

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September 2022

Pastor Karl's Ponderings

Some random thoughts . . .

"Their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world."

Psalm 19:4

I was making a communion visit to one of our members. When I arrived, she was watching one of the all-day news channels and throughout our visit I could hear the T.V. in the background.

After visiting for a while, we shared communion. During the whole communion liturgy, the newscaster rambled on in the background, analyzing the election campaign, ranting about the violence between the police and Afro-Americans, and second-guessing all the plays of the latest Twins games...and on and on. What struck me was that in the midst of the cacophony on the television, the words we heard were "this is my body...this is my blood...given and shed for you".

It occurred to me that this incident was a metaphor for the world we live in. In the midst of all the clamoring voices competing for our attention, babbling inconsequentially, there is one voice that comes through all the nattering and chattering...the voice of the Lord saying, "I love you. You are mine".

It is my prayer that in the midst of the multitude of voices begging for your attention, criticizing you for your faults and shortcomings, yammering away at you, you may be able to hear the voice of God calling out to you, "I love you. You are mine. Come, follow me".

Blessings,

Pastor Karl



Faith reflection: Sharing a cup of grace

by Jeanette Bidne

When we share the love and grace of God with one another, we have an opportunity to represent Christ—to be God’s hands and feet.

How do you share grace with others?

[Faith reflections: Sharing a cup of grace - Bold Café \(boldcafe.org\)](http://boldcafe.org)



As a member of St Paul’s Lutheran Church of German Lake, you are a member of the Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America.

We offer a variety of activities at various times throughout the year. Here are a few – Missions (helping those in need as requests come up, giving of handmade quilts) Quilting, Altar Guild (setting up paraments for the service), Hospitality (making and/or serving food after the service), Spring Event, Thank Offering Service.

For more information on how you can be a part of these and/or other activities contact Virginia McCarthy @ gin5434@yahoo.com / 507-234-5434 or Joyce Bohlen @ cbohlen@frontiernet.net / 507-595-3557.

Be still,
and know that
I am God.

-Psalm 46:10



Music to Our Ears

Each month we plan to include a little article about a favorite hymn. If you have a favorite hymn, you would like featured in this space, please send your suggestions to stpaulsofgermanlake@gmail.com. If you would like, you could include a little story explaining why this is your favorite hymn.

This month's hymn is familiar to us all because we sing it at the close of our worship every week, **Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow.**

Thomas Ken, the writer of this hymn, was born in 1637 in Little Berkhamstead on the fringes of greater London. When his parents died, he was raised by his half-sister and her husband who enrolled him in Winchester College, an historic boy's school. He was later ordained to the ministry and returned to Westchester as a chaplain.

To encourage the devotional habits of the boys, Thomas wrote three hymns in 1674. This was revolutionary because English hymns had not yet appeared. Only the Psalms were sung in public worship. Ken suggested that the boys use the hymns privately in their rooms. One hymn was to be sung when they woke up, another at bedtime, and another at midnight if they couldn't sleep.

His evening hymn has also become a favorite and includes this verse:

*All praise to thee, my God, this night, for all the blessings of the light!
Keep me, O keep me, King of kings, beneath Thine own almighty wings.*

All three hymns ended with the same stanza, which has since become the most widely sung verse in the world. We know it as the Doxology.

In 1680, Thomas was appointed chaplain to England's King Charles II. It was a tough job as Charles kept a variety of mistresses. Once the king asked Ken if one of his mistresses could stay in the chaplain's residence! Of course, he refused.

During the reign of the next king, James II, Thomas, who was now a bishop, was imprisoned in the Tower of London for his Protestant convictions. After his release, he moved to the home of a wealthy friend where he died on March 11, 1711. The Doxology was sung at his funeral.

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ." (Ephesians 1:3)

(Excerpted from **Then Sings My Soul**, Robert J. Morgan, p.111)





If you been thinking about becoming a member of St. Paul's but aren't sure what you need to do to make that happen, we have the perfect opportunity for you. Following our worship **Sunday, September 11th**, Pastor Karl will be having a prospective member meeting. It's a time for us to learn about you and an opportunity for you to meet our council president, hear about our ministries, ask any questions you may have about St. Paul's, and receive an informational packet with all you might need to know to become a member. Please join us following our worship on **September 11th**

One of the promises we, as a congregation, make to our children at their baptism is that we will to teach them the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, the Ten Commandments, and the stories of the Bible so that they would learn to trust God and know of God's love and forgiveness. The way we fulfill those promises is through Sunday school and Confirmation.



September, and the start of the school year, will soon be upon us. We would love to have your child/children join us for this year's Sunday school and confirmation classes which begin on **Sunday, September 11th**. Please register by responding to St. Paul's e-mail (stpaulsofgermanlake@gmail.com) or Brianna Hoffman at bri@waletich.com. Please include your child's name, grade in school, your name and telephone number. Thank you.



On **Sunday, September 18th**, we are going to experiment with an outdoor worship. Bring your lawn chairs and join us by the lake to sing praises to God in the beauty of His creation! Following worship, there will be ice cream, popcorn, and coffee for everyone. If people seem to enjoy it, we will consider having more services outdoors next year. Who knows, maybe we'll attract a few fisherpeople from the lake!

If you don't have a lawn chair...or simply forget to bring one...we will have chairs available. So, come and join us! You don't even have to dress up!



One of the central activities of God's people is prayer. Martin Luther once said that we are to pray ceaselessly. One focus of our prayers is those who are sick, struggling, or in need. We ask that you would offer your prayers for Nancy Berndt, Wanda Arndt, and Barb Haslip.

Please include Loretta Jones as she makes her move to The Waters of Oakdale. We will miss her smiling face. If you would like to keep in touch, you can send letters and cards to -

The Waters of Oakdale
7088 11th Street N - Apt. 320
Oakdale, MN 55128

WITH DEEPEST
sympathy

Our sympathies go out to the family and friends of Roger Hohnstadt, who passed away on Friday, August 26, at his home in Faribault. If you would like to send a card to Florence, her address is 1051 Westwood Dr Faribault, MN 55021. Please keep Florence, Cora, and their family in your thoughts and prayers.

Blessed be the life, both earthly and eternal, of Roger Hohnstadt as he takes his place among God's saints in his heavenly home."





No organization survives without its volunteers. At St. Paul's we are thankful for all those who work behind the scenes to make everything work as seamlessly as it does. That includes our weekly lesson readers; the altar guild who make sure everything is set up for worship...especially on Sundays we celebrate Holy Communion and Holy Baptism; the ushers who pass out bulletins and collect the offering and

make sure the lights are on (and off) and that the church is locked up after everyone has gone home; the money counters; our custodian who keeps the building clean and looking nice, and so many others who give of their time and talents to make possible the ministry we do in Christ's name.



We thank our quilters who have donated 25 quilts to the Le Sueur County Sheriff's Department. The deputies carry those quilts in their cars and use them to bring comfort and warmth children and others at accident scenes, fires and in other situations where they are needed.

Thank you to all those who filled out a time and talent sheet. We have collated them and are ready to use the information we've gleaned from them. Thank you for your willingness to share your time and talents to further our ministry. Be ready! You may be contacted soon!

Thank you for the folks who prepare the "goodies" for coffee after church every Sunday. They are always sooo yummy!



SEPTEMBER

HEAD USHER – Steve Tolzman

Ushers –

4th – Curt & Joyce Bohlen

11th – Arnie & Linda Kolander

18th – Clark Fell & Mike Pohlman

25th – TBD

Readers –

Anders Rydholm

Julie Winters

Kathy Langdon

TBD