



# THE PROCLAIMER

August 2022

*The mission of St. Paul Lutheran Church is to hear, share, and proclaim the Word of God.*

## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

***"I can do all things through him  
who strengthens me." Philippians 4:13***

Dear friends in Christ,

Let's persistently pray for rain! As this current serious drought continues, we may find ourselves becoming dismayed, irritable, and restless. The drought makes life much more difficult than it would be if we were having regular rains. We wonder if we can endure it. Other issues add extra stressors as well – wildfires, lack of peace in the world, economic problems and uncertainties, and political chaos and instability in many places. Some folks are quick to jump to the conclusion that we are in the end of times – yet still we are called to live, love, and serve in this present world on this earth until our Lord calls us from this earthly kingdom to the next. We will do well to cling to St. Paul's words above, as he wrote from prison to the church at Philippi, encouraging them, in the midst of his own challenging situation, to believe and trust that they would be strengthened in all endeavors through Christ!

As we continue our celebration of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our St. Paul congregation on Sunday, August 21, let us be inspired by the faith of the pioneers of this congregation, as expressed touchingly in this paragraph from our congregation's centennial history book, *The Story of a Century: 1872-1972*:

*As the journey of these immigrants began, material possessions were few. They brought with them their Bibles, hymnals, and personal messages written in German script by their relatives and friends. Most were not to meet again until they reached their heavenly home. They left the place of their birth with devout faith in the providential care of their Creator. In a region unknown and often misrepresented to the early settlers, it is not difficult to understand that faith might wane without a spiritual shepherd.*

The first pioneer mission pastor of St. Paul was Pastor Philipp Friedrich Zizelmann, of Wuerttemberg, Germany. He was sent out by Zion Lutheran Church of Fredericksburg in 1853. He

spent several months exploring the sparsely settled Fort Mason area and started holding services for a few pioneer German families. He faced several adventures along the way, and here is one he had with the Native Americans for whom he had a deep concern, even when he was unsure of his own safety:

*I turned from the road, selected my campsite, dismounted, staked my donkey for grazing, and began to gather wood for a fire against the cool, oncoming night, when --- I stood in deathly fear --- a troop of hard-riding Comanches passed me at top speed. They acted as though they hardly noticed me, and yet I almost felt the piercing glances of their squinting eyes. My appetite was gone; also all thoughts of sleep. But I made my fire, laid down at a safe distance --- all wrapped up in my woolen blanket --- lest in the night thereof I prove to be a good target, and waited for the events of the night. I was not so much afraid for my safety, but rather for my donkey which meant so much to me. I spent a sleepless night. The chilling cold was enough to make it uncomfortable; the hunting cries of the Indians, heard at times in the distance and again so near at hand, made it even more so."*

In mid 1853, Pastor John Conrad Roehm continued the exploratory mission work of Pastor Zizelmann, holding services in the Castell and Mason areas through 1871. In early 1872, Pastor Ernst Huber began work in Mason. The congregation was formally organized (chartered) under him with 13 members on February 15, 1872.

We already celebrated the charter anniversary on Sunday, February 13, 2022, with our Southwestern Texas Synod Bishop Sue Briner preaching, followed by a formal meal in our Fellowship Hall. On August 21, we will celebrate again with a contemporary service, a musical number by ordained pastoral sons of the congregation, and an informal fish fry. Let's come and rejoice in God's gifts inspired by our ancestors of faith, who never gave up and clung to their Lord Jesus Christ, who sustained them and gave them strength through all they endured. He will do the same for us today!

*Grace & Peace in Christ,*

*Pastor Fred Krebs*

## A SUMMER TO REMEMBER

As I sit writing the July story of children and youth at St. Paul, the days of blistering heat and very little rainfall continue. Some might say, "Where is there good news to report or what good can come out of this?" But it is not my personality to be immersed in negativity. I choose to always find good in tough times and that is what we are in. My article will refer to 3 aspects of July: Summer Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, and our Youth Gathering on July 24<sup>th</sup>. Our wonderful Heather had to text me and say, "Are you going to submit an article for the August Proclaimer?" In these gruesome days of July, with daily trips to the ranch to feed and check water, the tough times of conservation of electricity and water, and the important jobs I have at St. Paul, I was sitting in Air Conditioning working of the Blessing of Teachers and Students, never thinking of a Proclaimer Article but here is what I want you to know about the great summer events we are having:

1. Although our numbers are not as good as we wish, St. Paul kids from 3 through 6<sup>th</sup> grade are having a great summer studying one of the most profound Old Testament Stories. Moses, must have felt as we do now, saying to himself, "When will this ever end? When will things get better?" And yet ultimately, he was able to witness from afar, God's people entering the Promised Land from the past days of slavery and wandering. So far, our adventures have taken us through the pages of Exodus' Great Escape with lessons on ***God Protects Baby Moses, Moses and the Burning Bush, Moses and Pharaoh (with the words "Let My People Go" ringing in our ears), Moses and the Plagues, The Passover, and Crossing the Red Sea.*** At the present time, we are ready to sing and celebrate. Farmers, ranchers, and Mason citizens look forward to these times! St. Paul will gather for a "Jam Sunday" inside our cool Sanctuary where we will do just that this Sunday! We experienced a craft Sunday where we made Red Sea shakers and are also making tambourines that we will use for our lesson on Miriam's Song as we sing and celebrate the Moses story. One of our special Sunday School blessings is our teaching staff: Kathy Krebs, Kathy and Javier Criado, myself, as well as Mary Lou and Dreu showing up for piano playing and keeping the youngest children, round out a loving, loyal, and enthusiastic staff. ***Praise God from whom these blessings flow!***
2. Last week, we experienced the joy of gathering back with our friends from the Methodist Church to serve together to go on a Quest for God's Great Light. Last week in worship, Pastor showed the children a lantern with the VBS Pathfinder words: love, trust, faith, and hope that we studied in Vacation Bible School. I was over the Storytelling/Drama group and I could not have asked for any better helpers than Elizabeth McFarland, Hannah McFarland, Rylan Todd, Camille Schmidt, John Preston Parrish, Noah Sparks, and Jack Gillespie. Not

only were their acting and singing skills amazing, but they came in from Strength and Conditioning Workouts to tell the great Bible stories. I cannot mention all names, but I am truly blessed by all our people who stepped up to help, guide, and teach. Not only did these young people provide drama, but Bridget Langdale opened her art studio as a place where creativity and Youth Fellowship were on full display, as the kids created their own costumes for the Creation Story on Day 1.

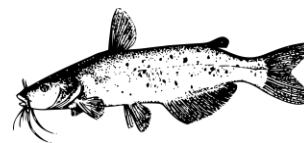
3. On Thursday night, St. Paul hosted a movie night for the VBS students and their families! LeEster Burch, not only fed us the most creative VBS snacks that went with the daily stories, but was the leader in movie night. I was blessed to help her. The following Sunday night, Merlina Gamel was in charge of a "Swim and Eat" event. Merlina rented the City Pool, Parish Life and Parish Ed made sandwiches and sweet treats, Hunter Wenzel provided drinks, the Gamel's provided watermelon, the Mahnken's paper goods and chips, and Moms and friends from St. Paul gathered with 20 + youth for 2 hours of fun, fellowship, and cooling off!

I told you that in each Proclaimer Article I would tell you of the next month's youth events. We plan on hosting a "Swim and Eat" for the younger kids of St. Paul and invite all to be present for the "Blessing of Teachers and Students" that I assume will be Sunday, August 14<sup>th</sup>.

In closing, times are hard for us just as they were for Moses. Our theme song for our Moses study is taken from the Book of Wisdom, Proverbs: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart; don't lean on your own understanding. In all your ways, acknowledge Him and He will direct our paths. Alleluia, Alleluia, and He will direct our path." Let's sing this as God's people and ***Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow***, as we lift our voices, like Miriam in song and celebration.

In Christ's Love,  
Ann Mahnken

## 150<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY SERVICE & FISH FRY:



On August 21, we will be celebrating our 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary once again.

We will enjoy a catfish meal with all the trimmings after Worship in the sanctuary. The 150<sup>th</sup> Committee has worked very hard for a few years to plan details and many others have contributed ideas. Their work is very much appreciated. In past anniversary celebrations, there have been plays and programs presented. This year, we will enjoy fish, fellowship and friendship among our church family and friends. We will do this in the Fellowship Hall, instead of at the Community Center at the Mason Park. Feel free to invite your friends and family members to join us! Call LeEster Burch if you have any questions: 512-751-4497.

**CAKES, CAKES, COOKIES NEEDED**

Calling all of the wonderful baking resources within our church to provide cakes and cookies for our combination Anniversary Celebration and Annual Fish Fry on Sunday, August 21. We are in need of a minimum of 10 cakes as we are anticipating serving 200 people. We also need several dozen cookies so the younger folks can enjoy those if they would prefer. There will be a sign-up sheet in the narthex beginning the first Sunday in August for you to indicate what you could contribute.

**MASON MINISTERIAL ALLIANCE  
CYCLE OF PRAYER**

The Mason Ministerial Alliance is asking congregations and faith-based organizations to pray for each other during the year, on a rotating basis monthly. For August 2022, we are all asked to pray focused prayers for the First United Methodist Church.

**INVITATION TO THE CROSS TRAILS  
MINISTRY FALL FESTIVAL**

Cross Trail Ministry Fall Festival will be held in Fredericksburg on September 17th from 9am – 3pm! Come to picturesque Fredericksburg to... Admire and bid on quilts at our Quilt Auction, or contribute one! Enjoy Music as you visit the food booths and trucks! Visit the Craft Booths and choose your favorite items! Spin the wheel at the Gift Card Pull for your chance to win! Eat something tasty from one of our Food Trucks! Enjoy Kids Carnival Games for the whole family! And sign up for our second annual Cornhole Tournament that is great for any age! Or Participate Virtually by... Running or walking in the Fall Festival 5K! Bidding on quilts through our Online Quilt Auction! Hosting your very own Fundraiser in your congregation and collecting an offering to give to camp!

Know that you are supporting a great cause! Cross Trails Ministry holds a few fundraising events each year. The Fall Festival funds help keep camp affordable by being used toward capital improvements, such as the new dam at Chrysalis and the new entrance road at Ebert Ranch.

It is even more fun if you are involved! We would love for you to have your members attend the event; however it is even more fun if you are involved. Get your men’s, women’s, youth, family or congregational groups together and sign up! Groups have a great time bonding as they serve. Here are some ways you can be involved:

Encourage members to participate in the 5K for all ages! Donate a chain store gift card valued at a minimum of \$10 or more to the “Gift Card Pull”. Participate in our Cornhole Tournament or sponsor a team to play. Donate a quilt to the Quilt Show and Auction. Volunteer at our Day Event in Fredericksburg--Help with set up and take down and enjoy the day in between. Be a sponsor of this year’s event. For more information, visit <https://crosstrails.org/ways-to-give/fall-festival/> .

**FINANCIAL REPORT FOR JUNE**

Congregational Giving: \$15,207.77  
Expenditures: \$17,226.79

**COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS**

- Discussed set-up/clean-up for the Jam Service Luncheon and 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary/Fish Fry Luncheon. Council asks for any available help with clean-up following the luncheon on August 21<sup>st</sup>.
- History books will be printed and available for purchase for \$15.
- Helen Habecker is retiring from overseeing the Thrift Store and new volunteers will be needed. Everyone is thankful for her generous and faithful service in this wonderful ministry.

**ST. PAUL CELEBRATES AUGUST BIRTHDAYS**

- 1 Jay Marek  
Janet Willmann  
Shirley Keller
- 4 Austin Habecker  
Coleman Swafford
- 6 T. Martin Parrish
- 9 Charles Geistweidt
- 10 Nelda Rasco
- 11 Penny Ruthven
- 13 Sheri Jordan
- 14 Kirsten Allen
- 16 Helen Habecker
- 18 Larry Wright
- 20 Sharon Swafford
- 21 Del Roy Reichenau
- 22 Velma Gierisch  
Kate Gillespie
- 23 Mike Smith
- 24 Staci Habecker  
Billy Todd  
Mike Goff
- 28 Carlton Schmidt
- 29 Noah Sparks
- 31 Pastor Fred Krebs

**STEWARDSHIP DIRECTORY**  
**FOR AUGUST**

**Lay Reader:** Janette Tomlinson  
**Communion Assistants:** Jeff Owen & Mark Lehmborg  
**Council Rep. on Duty:** Jeff Owen  
**Bell Ringers:** Mark Lehmborg & Mike Goff  
**Speaker System:** Bob Vacek & Mark Lehmborg  
**Ushers:** Hunter Wenzel, Harold Albers, Jerry Bearden, and Mike Goff  
**Property Person on Duty:** Mike Goff  
**Altar Guild:**  
Flower Chairman: Paulette Keller  
Parament Chairman: Kassi Reichenau  
Communion Chairman: Helen Habecker  
**Memorials:** Church Office 347-5582

**CHURCH DIRECTORY**

Rev. Fred Krebs Pastor  
Mrs. Heather McFarland Church Administrator  
Mrs. Ann Mahnken Youth Coordinator

**Church Office Hours:**  
Mon.-Thurs. 8:30 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.  
(325)347-5582 (Office) (325)347-8420 (Fax)  
Email: [stpaulmason@gmail.com](mailto:stpaulmason@gmail.com)  
Website: [www.stpaulmason.com](http://www.stpaulmason.com)