



# THE PROCLAIMER

## July, Aug., & Sept. 2023

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

### **FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK:**

***"For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven."  
Ecclesiastes 3: 1 (NRSV)***

Dear friends in Christ,

There is a hymn we have sung only occasionally at St. Paul and probably should sing more often. A wise and lifelong member of our congregation recently recalled this hymn to me: **Hymn of Promise**. Its words are truly rich and deep:

*In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree; in cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!*

*In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be, unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.*

*There's a song in every silence, seeking word and melody; there's a dawn in every darkness, bringing hope to you and me.*

*From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery, unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.*

*In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity; in our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity.*

*In our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory, unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see. (by Natalie Sleeth)*

As we live, love, and serve each day to the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ, we trust that whatever good seeds we sow, whatever bulbs or trees we plant, will sprout and grow to fruition by the power of God's lifegiving Holy Spirit. We may not always see what God is doing at the time. We may or may not live to see the fruits of our labors. Yet we place our hope in God's eternal cross and resurrection hope!

It has not been easy for me to decide to retire from full-time ministry. Even though I am respectably past the customary retirement age, I have felt truly blest to have served Christ's church for my entire adult life.

Each day in ministry has been filled with adventures and challenges, and always with many blessings. I have had the opportunity to serve in small town and large city ministries. Specialized ministries in global mission and part-time teaching in a church university have also come my way. Through all, Kathy has always stood by me, along with our children during their growing up years.

Gratitude fills my heart. In a special way I feel blest for the opportunity to have lived and served here at St. Paul and in the Mason community for 7 years. So many of you are close to my heart and to Kathy's heart as well. We prefer not to say "goodbye" but rather "shalom" – a Hebrew word which was used by Jesus and the Jewish people and which is still used today to express many thoughts and emotions: "hello, farewell, peace, wholeness, may we meet again, let us keep each other in our hearts and minds always." The list of meanings for this word "shalom" is limitless because it always points toward the blessings we share among and between each other from God! We will continually pray for God's grace, guidance, and the power of God's Holy Spirit as you continue on into the future with the good news of Christ!

The St. Paul Congregation Council and many members already know our timetable, but for those who do not know or are unclear, here are our plans. Sunday, July 30, will be my last time to preside at worship (although yes, there will hopefully be times, God willing, to return for special services and/or celebrations). Kathy and I will use August as my vacation and unused continuing education time to sort, throw, sell, or donate a few items and then to pack up and move into a smaller living space at Covered Bridge Condominiums in southwest Austin. Any members who wish to visit us are welcome --- just let us know ahead of time so that we can be prepared and can give you instructions for entering. Yes, parking is sufficient and easy.

*Shalom in Christ,  
Pastor Fred Krebs*

## **MIENTRAS TANTO**

*(Synod Assembly Report)*

Pastor Krebs, Cindy Bowden and I spent April 22 and May 6 participating in the 2023 Southwest Synod Assembly. However, unlike last year's meeting, this was conducted via Zoom. The theme was "Mientras Tanto", which translates to "Meanwhile" or "In the Meantime" in English. We dwelled on the story of the conversion of Saul (Acts 9:1-19). As the theme reinforces, we live in the reality that many stories are occurring at the same time. God's presence is in many places and as the Spirit is working within many peoples and communities. We heard speakers, participated in prayer practices, watched videos and had a few votes (mostly regarding filling positions). The 2024 Southwest Synod Assembly will be May 3-5 at the Omni Hotel in Corpus Christi, Texas.

-LeEster Burch

## **ANNUAL FISH FRY - THANK YOU TO PASTOR FRED & KATHY**

In celebration of Pastor Fred and Kathy's years of service, we will have a fish fry after church on July 30. Fried catfish, hushpuppies, drinks and dessert will be provided. We are asking the congregation to provide a variety of sides. Please bring enough to share with our guests. This will be the last Sunday for Pastor Fred to preach so come and share our thanks to him and Kathy for all the ways they have supported the St. Paul family!

## **THE SUMMER SEASON-A SPECIAL PIECE OF OUR LIVES OF FAITH**

When I wrote rhymes for each of the four seasons, summer went like this: Round and round, the seasons go; summer comes hot and slow.

As we deal with a week of sweltering heat after a cool and rainy May, the word HOT rings true. But what about SLOW? Our Lord wants us to take time to slow down and rest, but it seems as if the summer season is filling up with many activities. As most of you know, we do not take a vacation from downstairs Sunday School during the summer months. We are continuing Youth Group for older students, but Children's Church and Jr. Lutherans will resume in the fall. This is due to the fact that St. Paul is hosting Vacation Bible School July 17, 18, and 19 and this undertaking requires many hours of planning and work.

We are doing things a little differently this year. Our Title is *Pets Unleashed* and although it will be one day shorter, the curriculum is powerful and kid-friendly! We are very much in need of more adult and high school helpers as we are trying multi-age groups for the first time. This is very successful in building new relationships when children are not with their same group of friends that they see during the school year. We say, at *Pets Unleashed* VBS, that *Jesus Cares "fur" YOU*, and the theme of caring will be powerful! For two (Purr-fect Days), Monday and Tuesday, everyone will be learning one key truth

from 1 Peter 5-7 to reinforce the truth that JESUS CARES FOR US. The animal theme allows the kids to broaden their understanding of what it is to care about others and what a blessing it is to be cared for!

On Monday, we will study the Beatitudes from Matthew 5-7. We will visit 3 groups on Monday and Tuesday: Bible Adventures-to experience the story; Projects-With-a-Purpose-to create a project that helps others know that Jesus cares for them; and Pet Playground Games to also reinforce the theme of caring. In Monday's Bible Adventure, kids will learn how Jesus wants us to live by visiting the following 4 centers: Salt and Light, The Golden Rule, Don't Worry! and The Lord's Prayer. After learning on Monday that Jesus Sheds Light on How to Live from Matthew 5-7, we return on Tuesday to experience, in a powerful way, What Jesus Did for Us. (Luke 23). All present will watch a shadow play of Jesus on the cross, and celebrate when the Light of the World comes back to life!

LeEster Burch is going to have us moving with powerful music as we learn the Bible Point and Bible Verse, meet pet enthusiast Goldie Retriever, and worship with upbeat songs. We begin and end our day in the Fellowship Hall. Wednesday will be very different than in previous years but it will be a NOT TO BE MISSED event.

### Things to Know

Register your kids: Consider being a Helper

Dates: July 17, 18, & 19

Time: 9:00 to 11:30

We will daily send messages of things you need to know.

It may be hot, but it will not be SLOW!!!

Round and round the seasons go;  
Come to Pet's Unleashed and your faith will grow!

In Christ's Love, Ann Mahnken

## **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 July 2023, we are all asked to pray focused prayers for First Baptist Church. For August 2023, we are all asked to pray focused prayers for First United Methodist Church. For September 2023, we are all asked to pray focused prayers for Hilda United Methodist Church.

## **FOOD PANTRY MINISTRY UPDATE**

September and February are the months for St. Paul Lutheran volunteers to serve at the food pantry. For September, distribution will be on Monday afternoon, September 11 from 4PM to 5:30PM and on Monday afternoon, September 25 from 4PM to 5:30PM.

We are in need of volunteers from St. Paul to assist in food distribution on one or both Mondays. If you feel called to serve in this manner contact Mark Lehmborg at 347-2400 for further information and details. A sign-up sheet will be available in the church narthex and rear entrance.

**INVITATION TO THE CROSS TRAILS**

**MINISTRY FALL FESTIVAL**

*Saturday, September 16<sup>th</sup>, Fredericksburg Marktplatz*

**Come to picturesque Fredericksburg to...**

- Admire and bid on quilts at our Quilt Auction, or contribute one!
- Enjoy music as you visit the food booth 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!
- Participate in the NEW Fall Festival Fun Run!

**Know that you are supporting a great cause!** Cross Trails 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.

**This year we are continuing to raise funds for the Ebert Ranch Pond!**

For more information, visit <https://crosstrails.org/ways-to-give/fall-festival/>.

**MONTHLY CALENDAR**

The monthly calendar is available upon request by print or email. You may also view our calendar on our website or church app. Please notify the office for more information, [stpaulmason@gmail.com](mailto:stpaulmason@gmail.com) or 347-5582.

**ST. PAUL CELEBRATES JULY BIRTHDAYS**

- 3 Amber Hengst
- 6 Carl Martin  
Katherine Groves
- 7 Barbara Wright  
Rance Vierus
- 8 Madison Carter
- 9 Jaden Mun
- 10 Jeff Owen
- 15 Ann Mahnken
- 17 Clara Schmidt
- 20 Donna Langehennig
- 21 Grant Stockbridge
- 22 Julian Gammill
- 23 Brandy Todd
- 24 Chad Eckert
- 27 Merlina Gamel
- 28 Joyce Ewert
- 29 Michelle Mun
- 31 Kensley Reese Nebgen

**ST. PAUL CELEBRATES AUGUST BIRTHDAYS**

- 1 Jay Marek  
Shirley Keller
- 3 Chris Habecker
- 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

**ST. PAUL CELEBRATES SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

- 1 Debbie Nebgen  
Danny Gierisch
- 2 Lori Allen  
Diane Pence
- 5 Scott Zesch
- 6 Harold Albers  
Beverly Marek
- 7 Minnie Schmidt
- 9 Gene Geistweidt  
Chad Schmidt
- 17 Holly Eckert
- 21 Walton Grote  
Bob Vacek  
Richard Reed
- 27 Caeleb Carter
- 29 Jerry Bearden

If your birthday or a family member's birthday is not listed or is listed incorrectly, please let Deb Probst know @ 325-597-2832 or [dcprobst@hotmail.com](mailto:dcprobst@hotmail.com). Thank you for helping us with this project.

**COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS**

- Designated proceeds from the annual Fish Fry in July to the St. Paul General Fund.
- Date Change: Fish Fry Trailer Reserved for July 30<sup>th</sup> for the annual fish fry fundraiser.
- Total Synod Assembly Offering: \$500.
- Additional CPR training was discussed.
- Emergency Management Team was established.
- Transfers were made from Zesch Interest Fund to the General Fund towards Ministry Plan expenses (\$6,000 1/1/23-6/30/23).

**PROCLAIMER PUBLICATION**

The Proclaimer will be published 4 times each year in January, April, July and October.

**OFFICE HOURS**

St Paul Lutheran Office hours are Monday - Wednesday with the times remaining the same, 8:30 - 4:00 and lunch hour from 12:00-1:00. For emergencies please contact Jeff Owen at 347-7535.

**FINANCIAL REPORT FOR MARCH**

Congregational Giving: \$20,131.30  
Expenditures: \$19,786.34

**FINANCIAL REPORT FOR APRIL**

Congregational Giving: \$17,472.41  
Expenditures: \$21,530.16

**FINANCIAL REPORT FOR MAY**

Congregational Giving: \$16,819.60  
Expenditures: \$20,188.25

**FIRST QUARTER MINISTRY PLAN**

**CONTRIBUTION GOAL:** \$132,564.00

**FIRST QUARTER MINISTRY PLAN ACTUAL**

**CONTRIBUTIONS:** \$101,451.47

**STEWARDSHIP DIRECTORY**  
**FOR JULY**

**Lay Reader:** Charles Eckert

**Communion Assistants:** Del Roy Reichenau & Helen Habecker

**Council Rep. on Duty:** Joe Keller

**Bell Ringers:** Mark Lehmborg & Mike Goff

**Speaker System:** Bob Vacek and Mark Lehmborg

**Ushers:** Matt Schmidt, Joe Keller,

Cynthia Bauer, and Janette Tomlinson

**Property Person on Duty:** Jerry Bearden

**Acolytes**

(7/2)

(7/9)

(7/16)

(7/23)

(7/30)

**Altar Guild:**

Flower Chairman: Nancy Brown

Parament Chairman: Debbie Nebgen

Communion Chairman: Sherry Schmidt

**Women's Bible Study:**

**Evening Bible Study** (5 PM – Third Tues. of Month)

**Location:** Fellowship Hall

**Memorials:** Church Office 347-5582 or

Linda Geistweidt 347-6236

*We wish to thank those who have so graciously contributed their time and talents toward the ministry of St. Paul Lutheran Church.*

**CHURCH DIRECTORY**

Rev. Fred Krebs

Pastor

Mrs. Heather McFarland

Church Administrator

Mrs. Ann Mahnken

Youth Coordinator

**Church Office Hours:**

Mon.-Wed. 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)

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

**Lay Reader:** Joe Keller

**Communion Assistants:** Jeff Owen & Mark Lehmborg

**Council Rep. on Duty:** Cindy Bowden

**Bell Ringers:** Mark Lehmborg & Mike Goff

**Speaker System:** Bob Vacek and Mark Lehmborg

**Ushers:** Hunter Wenzel, Harold Albers, Jerry Bearden, and Mike Goff

**Property Person on Duty:** Mike Goff

**Acolytes**

(8/6)

(8/13)

(8/20)

(8/27)

**Altar Guild:**

Flower Chairman: Paulette Keller

Parament Chairman: Kassi Reichenau

Communion Chairman: Helen Habecker

**Women's Bible Study:**

**Evening Bible Study** (5 PM – Third Tues. of Month)

**Location:** Fellowship Hall

**Memorials:** Church Office 347-5582 or

Linda Geistweidt 347-6236

**STEWARDSHIP DIRECTORY**  
**FOR SEPTEMBER**

**Lay Reader:** Merlina Gamel

**Communion Assistants:** Hunter Wenzel & Lynn Reichenau

**Council Rep. on Duty:** Walt Reichenau

**Bell Ringers:** Mark Lehmborg & Mike Goff

**Speaker System:** Bob Vacek and Mark Lehmborg

**Ushers:** John Gillespie, Chad Schmidt, Cynthia Bauer, and Nancy Brown

**Property Person on Duty:** Mark Lehmborg

**Acolytes**

(9/3)

(9/10)

(9/17)

(9/24)

**Altar Guild:**

Flower Chairman: Sherie Clarkson

Parament Chairman: Connie Smith

Communion Chairman: Bonnie Schmidt

**Women's Bible Study:**

**Morning Bible Study** (First Wed. of Month at 10am)

**Bible Study Leader:** TBA

**Hostess:** TBA

**Location:** TBA

**Evening Bible Study** (5 PM – Third Tues. of Month)

**Location:** Fellowship Hall

**Memorials:** Church Office 347-5582 or

Linda Geistweidt 347-6236

