



St. Paul Lutheran Church Messenger

609 South 5th Street
Stillwater, MN 55082

Our Mission Statement:

“To Grow in God’s Word and Share
God’s Love”

Our Core Values:

1. Building community inside and outside of our church building.
2. Nurturing and developing faith lives for all ages
3. Serving Others (in our neighborhoods, community, state and beyond)
4. Caring for our members and church building.
5. Investing in children, youth and their families.

In this Issue:

President's Corner

On behalf of the congregation and church council, I want to thank Pastor Jakel for serving as Interim Pastor for the last 17 months. We wish him many blessings and we will pray for him as he moves on to his next interim call.

We want to welcome Pastor Fred Hanson as our newly called lead pastor. We are looking forward to getting to know him and his family and working together to serve God's mission at St. Paul Lutheran Church of Stillwater. Please continue to pray for Pastor Hanson as he partners with us.

At the last Council meeting, the council unanimously voted to rescind the Pella window replacement bid from the last meeting and the bids for new Andersen Windows is expected shortly. As I notified the members at the service, an anonymous donor has made a contribution towards the windows which will allow us to purchase Andersen Windows.

We continue to move forward with revitalizing the office and many of our operations due to the change to volunteer assistance. We will be reviewing this system with Pastor Hanson when he starts on May 16 and I envision appropriate changes or modifications in our processes will be made. Please have patience with and if necessary, exercise some grace as we move through these processes. In the long run, decreasing our expenditures should allow us to have more financial viability. A number of the committees will be taking on tasks in order to make sure that the work load on whoever volunteers, will be manageable. We expect the office to focus on properly accounting for our funds, getting the bulletin put together and answering the phones.

A number of tasks will be done by volunteers so that time spent either in the office or away will actually be spent on helping with church tasks. As I have indicated, if you have time and can

donate a block of time each week, we would be grateful for your assistance.

I also want to take the time to thank Linnea Lynch for her assistance with the Messenger. She has advised us that she is no longer able to assist with the Messenger. We were blessed to have had her assistance for the last two years. As a result, we will be trying out a couple of new formats for the Messenger in the next couple of months which we hope will be more user friendly and organized in a manner that will be easier to follow and understand. Again, please provide constructive comments and have patience and grace with this process as well.

The Youth Drop In Center will have new hours, 2pm to 5pm on Mondays and Thursdays. This will allow services to be offered twice a week and to shorten the number of days between so we can provide better assistance to those in need.

The 150th celebration will be coming up next year and Debbie Bristol is looking for members to be on the committee. A number of suggestions were discussed with the Council at its April meeting and there is plenty of opportunity for anyone to join that group.

A number of years ago we adopted covenants for the members and the council through the Healthy Congregations process. I have attached

May Food Shelf Featured Item: All kinds of Cereals!

Treats this Month Provided by the Fellowship Committee.

Free Community Meal: On the 4th Monday of every month, River Valley Christian Church sponsors a free community meal in the community room at Charter Oaks Townhomes, 1110 Curve Crest Blvd, Stillwater. For more information and updates, visit on Facebook @CommunityMealMN or contact 651-430-9950.

President's Corner Cont...

covenants in the newsletter as a reminder that we need to treat each other respectfully and follow the proper processes to ensure that we work together in a positive manner. We will not all agree on everything that we do. However, if we utilize those guidelines, we will be able to continue to work on God's mission and grow with each other. I intend to meet and discuss with each committee ways to improve our communication with one another and to educate members about each committee.

Last month I met with the Memorial and Grants Committee who is responsible for the HCM Fund, Ernst Fund Scholarships and the HCM Scholarships given to two high school students; one male and one female each receiving \$2,500. A number of decisions which are made in particular by the Memorials and Grants committee are discretionary decisions which are made based upon a number of factors. In order to be eligible to receive certain grants or scholarship, certain criteria had been established by the donors of the funds and/or the committee with the approval of the council. For instance, not every person who makes a request to the HCM fund will receive a grant; as the committee needs to consider its budget, its goals, support that has been previously provided and they try to maximize the benefit of the donations. The committee has the discretion in making or selecting the recipients of the grants. Their decision is not appealable to the council. However, the committee is one of the committees that is under the direction of the council. The council must approve the guidelines adopted by the committee and may intervene if the donors wishes or the approved guidelines are not followed. We have changed some reporting procedures and we will be working on forms in order to notify those who did not receive a grant. Mary Viers is the chair of this committee and the current members are Leon and Diane Siverhus, Leonard Schrade, Scott Strandemo, Denny Dey and Lynn Lommen.

Please pray for the committee and its members as they make decisions on our behalf to further God's work in our community and the world.

We will now be going into the summer and there will be a number of opportunities to continue our ministry together. Volunteers are always needed and this year the council will be responsible for the Courthouse Event that kicks off Lumberjack days. We will start looking for volunteers earlier this year as we intend to make changes to that event.

If you have thoughts on any of these topics, I welcome your input. In fact, as noted we will be discussing some of these topics in upcoming adult forums, and I encourage you to not only attend, but to actively participate in those discussions.

In Christ,
Kevin K. Shoeberg
President

Thank you!!

Andy Peterson, our main organist/pianist and director of the bell choir and the chancel choir, wanted to make sure to say a number of "thank yous" to many, many people. First, a thank you to Karen Hillmann for her willingness to play and collaborate in the worship/music area and for her exceptional skills and flexible nature. Thanks, also, to the chancel choir and bell choir members for their hard work – great job!! Thanks for those who attended our Wednesday mid-day and evening Lenten services as well as the Maundy Thursday services and Good Friday worship experience and thanks to the musicians, singers, and readers who led those services. Thanks for those who attended the "Songs of Mercy, Songs of Grace" special event, leading into Holy Week - and thanks for the musicians, singers, and readers who participated in that evening. Finally, thanks for those who attended our two Easter Worship services and thanks to the musicians and singers who led those services, as well. It was a very meaningful Lenten season, a powerful Holy Week experience, and a joyous Easter celebration!!

Behavior Covenants

In order for the congregation and the church council to deal effectively with issues in the congregation, the following guidelines are to be followed:

1. All members affirm their right to express their opinions about the life and ministry of the congregation.
2. The congregation operates with a direct democracy form of government that allows members to share their opinions directly with the pastor, church council and at congregational meetings.
3. When members of the congregation express information/an opinion to a member of the council, the council member person should ask: "What would you like for me to do with this information/opinion?" Don't assume what they want/need.
4. If the member desires to have the information/opinion shared with the council, the member should be invited to bring the information/opinion to the next council meeting (it is the council member's responsibility to let the executive board know, so it can be added to the agenda). Remind them of the next council meeting.
5. If the member does not wish to appear in person, the council member should ask for the information/opinion to be given in written format.
6. If the member does not wish to give written format, you can ask the member for permission to write something for them including their name in the reporting. If permission is not given, the council member should say, "I'm sorry, but I will not be able to report this to the council since we do not accept anonymous letters or comments."
7. At the council member's discretion, they may ask that the member refer this issue to the council president and use the member's name.

8. Each issue will be placed on the agenda and written in the minutes along with the action taken by the council. Action may include: "received as information," "pastor and/or president to visit with member and report at next meeting," etc.

Overall, lead with the mission of the church in mind – "Grow in God's Word and Show God's Love." If someone complains, listen to them with respect and love, honor them by considering their complaint or concern, explain things if necessary, but then do not allow the complaint/concern to shape the decision or action, so that mission can proceed for the sake of Jesus Christ.



WORSHIP HELPERS:

The sign-up sheets for worship helpers (ushers, readers, communion helpers and PowerPoint clickers) are located in the Gathering Area in the green binder on the table near the elevator. If you are interested / able to help as a lesson reader, a communion server, a PowerPoint clicker, or, if you are interested in joining an usher team, please sign up or call the church office to have your name added to the schedule. If you have never done any of these things before, but would be interested in giving any of them a try, talk with Patrick Raleigh or the church office and someone can give you more information and train you in.

Pastor's Pen

Dear Friends in Christ,

For my final words to you - since I've said "goodbye" in multiple ways - I offer this summary of the current and future work of mutual ministry in your congregation.

The following five people will be serving on the Mutual Ministry Team (referred to as M.M.T. henceforth) for the clergy (Pr. Fred Hanson and Pr. Carole Lundell - and any future intern pastors): Nancy Schlagel, Renee Swanson, Al Lewis, Josh Mack, and Christine Shivers. They will work as a team, with the pastors, to remind the clergy and the congregation of the ministry that is shared "mutually" by all the baptized people of God.

The M.M.T. will NOT have oversight responsibilities, nor be in charge of supervising the clergy. The Church Council, acting through the personnel team, supervises the clergy in this formal way. The conversations held at the Mutual Ministry meetings will simply be an honest supportive dialogue between these five members and the clergy.

There are clear guidelines that will direct the M.M.T. to work in deliberate ways to do life-giving, Spirit-work to the glory of God and to the betterment and health of St. Paul's. Among their guidelines is for the team to be comprised of people who are committed to supporting the clergy and the congregation's ministry in a mutual way. The team members will be thoughtful, peace-loving, non-anxious members, committed to doing personal self-reflection. Also, there will be absolute confidentiality among the members of the M.M.T. when it comes to what is shared in the mutual ministry meetings as well as in private conversations between the clergy and any individual members of the M.M.T.

The M.M.T. will provide valuable feedback and support to the clergy. This will offer a great "touch-point" for the clergy and for the congregation to help enhance the ministry that the clergy and the congregation share mutually. The M.M.T. will be careful listeners for the clergy and to the clergy. The role of this team is to be proactive and working on behalf of the clergy. In this regard, the clergy and the members of the M.M.T. will have important caring conversations with each other about how things are going in regard to the work and functioning of the clergy in the context of the congregation. These discussions will address, in a direct and

expedient way, small and beginning "issues" that will likely surface, so as to not hamper the ministry of the clergy in the long run. This is what is thought of as "not making a mountain out of a molehill" - to make sure that an irritation does not become damaging. Along these lines, in order to avoid the M.M.T. from becoming the "complaint committee", great care will be taken as to the focus of the conversations. There will be a fair balance of affirmation for the clergy along with constructive feedback. When it comes to other people who have feedback for the clergy but are not willing to share their names along with their feedback, this feedback will not even be discussed. Getting feedback from the congregation members is essential. However, since the opinions of many different people can even be contradictory to each other, "preference matters" will not dominate the discussion of the Mutual Ministry meetings.

Prayer will be essential to what the M.M.T. and the clergy will do together in their meetings. Times of silence and rituals of forgiveness and affirmation will be essential to providing the tone of a humble, patient, relaxed setting that will provide the context for this work.

Finally, in valuing the "systems" point of view of a congregation - being a living organism that has to learn how to deal with anxiety and to look at the whole and not just the parts - the M.M.T. will work to keep lifting up "system's language" for the congregation. Examples of this would include addressing triangulation and calling for direct communication along with transparency. The M.M.T. will be advocates for and educators in terms of reminding and teaching the congregation and the clergy to be as healthy as possible. Each person in the congregation - including the clergy and the members of the M.M.T. - will need to monitor their own anxiety first! Acting in reactive and "quick fix" mentality will only cause damage to the relationships that are part of this mutual congregational ministry. Calmness and comprehensiveness will be the keys.

Thanks for the privilege of serving as your interim! In Christ, Rev. Scott Jakel



Seniors & Friends Day!

Wednesday, MAY 15 @ 11am

Worship – Lunch – Entertainment



Join us for a time of worship, good food, and friendship.

Enjoy the music of Stillwater musician and recording artist, Peter Mayer, live, in our Fellowship Hall.

Updates and Upcoming Events:

Youth Connections Update:

Beginning this May, Youth Connections Drop-In Center is open on Monday and Thursday from 2-5pm. Having the Drop-In Center open two days per week will better serve youth that are homeless with their basic needs. This hour change comes from the high school getting out of school at 2:10pm; giving a youth an opportunity to take a school bus to the nearest stop by the church. The additional day is because we weren't seeing the youth drop in during the noon-3pm spot, so felt having two afternoons from 2-5pm would allow more services to the youth. The church council has approved these changes.

To date, 24 youth have been served and there have been over 80 visits to YCDC.

Youth coming to the Drop-In Center in April have been enjoying the pizzas that Papa John's donates to the Center on a regular basis. Please visit this new family-owned business in Stillwater and thank them for their generosity.

An updated list of needed donations has been posted on the bin outside the sanctuary. Most needed items are \$10 gas cards, \$10 Aldi cards and \$5 McDonald's cards. Youth coming to YCDC have been so grateful when we have been able to help them with these cards! A recent youth coming to the Drop-In Center was able to find shelter with a friend by being able to offer him a gas card and some groceries.

Hope for Our Youth Garden Tea fundraiser for the Youth Connections Program is May 18th at 1pm. Tickets can be purchased after services on Sundays or during the week by stopping by the church or FRC offices. If you would like to donate an item for the silent auction, please contact Marguerite DeFore at 651-276-1065. New silent Auction donation items could include art work, jewelry, garden related items such as perennial or annual flowers, garden tools, and bird houses.

Volunteer training will be held 6-8pm on Monday, June 3rd. Please consider joining our wonderful team of volunteers!

Pastor Scott's last day will be Sunday, May 12th.

Following the 9am service, there will be cupcakes to celebrate his time with us here at St. Paul's. We want to thank him for all the progress he has helped our congregation make. Please stick around as we celebrate and wish the best of luck to Pastor Jakel and his next chapter.



Fiddle Masters Concert Trinity Lutheran Church, Stillwater Thursday, June 20 @ 7:00pm

Top musicians from around the country have come to teach at Brian Wicklund's Fiddle Pal Camp. Together they put together a show of enormous talent. This year features Brian Wicklund, fiddlers Shauncey Ali, Natalie Padilla, April Verch, guitarist Mike Cramer, mandolinist Ben Winship and bassist Keith Yanez. Special discount for SPL Members! \$10 if purchased at SPLC office.

\$18 online/\$20 door tickets
at www.eventbrite.com
search fiddle masters concert Stillwater.
Questions? Call Marty Button @ 612-805-6865.

Updates and Upcoming Events Cont...

Confirmation Sunday:

Sunday, May 5th is Confirmation Sunday. We have two students being confirmed this year. They are Billy Lomen and Abby Thibodeau. We look forward to this special day of them reaffirming their baptisms and claiming their faith for themselves. Join us in congratulating them and celebrating with them. Confirmation will take place during the usual 9:00am church service and will be followed by cake. Congratulations, Billy and Abby!



Confirmation Year End Wrap up Meeting and Dinner:

All Confirmation students, their parents and mentors should plan to attend a year end dinner and wrap up meeting on Wednesday, May 15th from 5:30pm-7pm. Note this is a date change from the previously scheduled night! Please plan to attend to reflect on the year and to celebrate everyone in their participation.

Important end of the year dates for CYF:

May 5th: Confirmation Sunday

May 12th: Last Day of Sunday School

May 15th: Last day of Homework and Hangout; Confirmation wrap up dinner and meeting for Confirmation students, their parents and mentors from 5:30pm-7pm.

May 18th: Day retreat for students and adult leaders attending the South Dakota Trip from 9pm-3pm.

Easter Breakfast:

A sincere thank you to all who helped with and/or attended the Easter breakfast! On behalf of the Education Committee and our youth, I want to thank you all for your support! All together, we served about 125 people (including the volunteers who helped) and raised just over \$1100 for our youth. The proceeds will help to cover the cost of this summer's mission trips. Thank you so much for helping to make these trips possible for our young people! I'd also like to personally thank Peter Hockin for all his hard work and time preparing for this event, as well as Kevin Urhammer and the rest of the Education Committee for their countless hours they've put in to support our youth. We are blessed to have all of you! Thank you!



-Amy Peterson

Saturday, May 4 @ 10am: Yarnsters May Meeting

Sunday, May 5th: Confirmation Sunday – confirmation service during the 9am worship service.

Sunday, May 12: Last day of Sunday School & Pastor Scott's last day. Cupcakes will be served after 9am church service.

Wednesday, May 15 @ 11am: Seniors and Friends Day worship/communion, service, lunch, entertainment.

Open to all seniors 55 and over. FREE @ 11am. & Last day of Homework and Hang-out and confirmation class. Confirmation wrap-up and parents' meeting @ 5:30pm

Saturday, May 18: Garden Tea Youth Connections fund raiser @1pm. & Day retreat for students and leaders attending SD trip @ 9am-3pm.

Sunday, May 26: Pastor Fred's first day preaching.

Monday, May 27: Memorial Day. Church Office closed.

FREE! All are welcome!

Dress for comfort & movement.

TAI CHI



TAI CHI EXERCISES

Tai Ji Quan/Movement for Better Balance

Mondays & Fridays at 10AM

Fellowship Hall

St. Paul Lutheran Church.

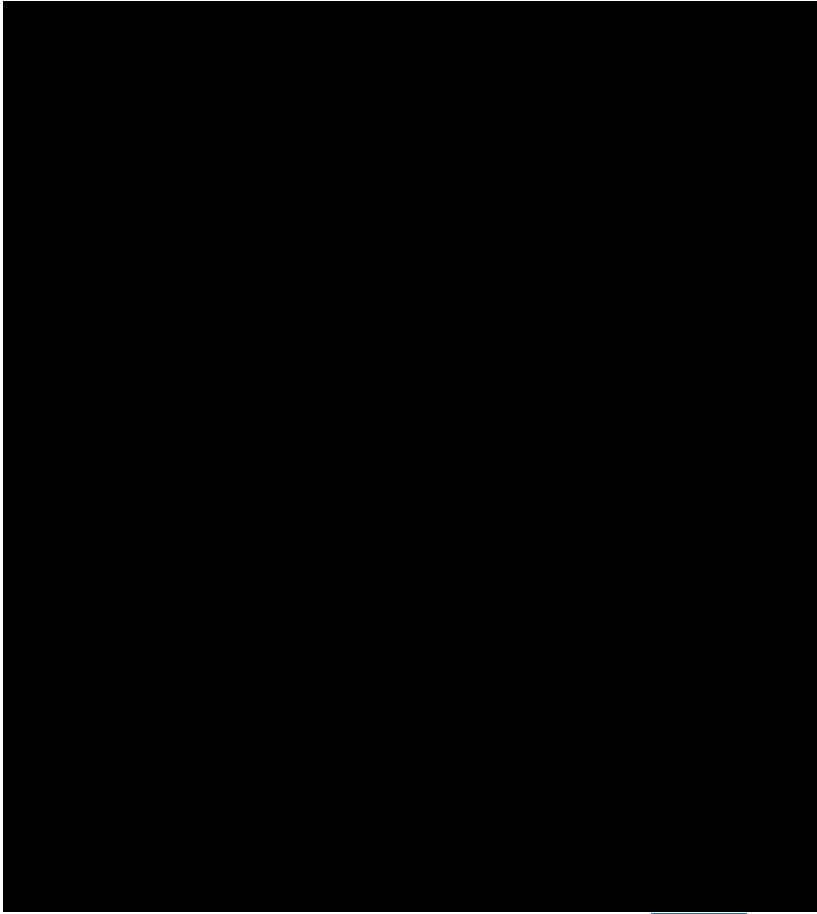
609 S. 5th St, Stillwater, MN

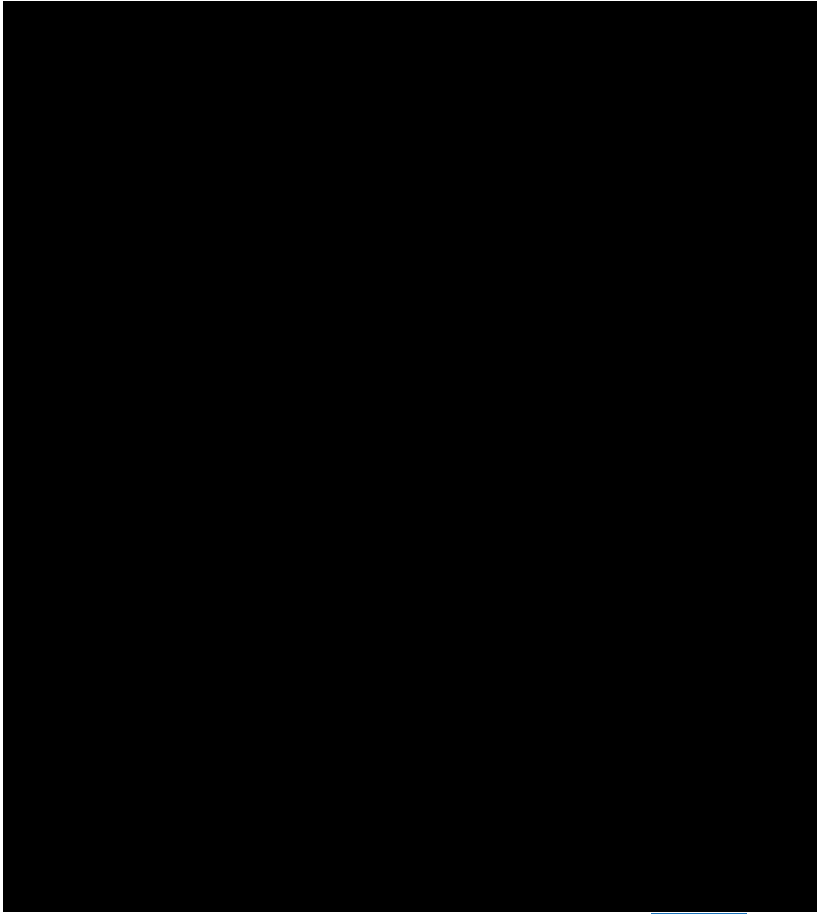
Certified Instructor, Paul Ryberg

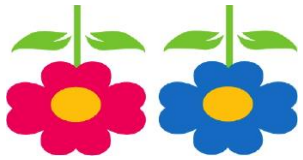
Sponsored by the SPLC Health & Wellness Committee.

For further info: St. Paul Lutheran Church 651-439-5970









St. Paul Lutheran Church
609 South 5TH Street
Stillwater, MN 55082

We invite you to come to
worship with on Sundays.

Worship time: 9:00am.

Children's Sunday School:
10:15am.

Adult Forum: 10:15am.

