

**“St. Paul Courier”** *The monthly newsletter of*

**St. Paul Lutheran Church**

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**July 2021**

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**The Pastoral Perspective: Through A Lutheran Lens**

*How the Word is Passed: What is Writ and What is Said*

The first half of my title for this month is actually stolen from a book I’m reading which, in the wake of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Tulsa Massacre, is a reminder of the actual roots of the history of slavery that pervade so much of the historical places and events of our country that have been forgotten. From pretty obvious gloss-overs like the recognition that Thomas Jefferson’s Monticello was a plantation with enslaved people in abundance to the original purpose of France’s gift of the Statue of Liberty—to celebrate the end of slavery and the original intended image in Lady Liberty’s left hand of broken shackles rather than a tablet (those shackles became pieces of broken chains, at her feet and under her robes). And much like Tulsa, the written word tends to whitewash the past while it is the oral tradition of the witnesses that carries the truth forward. Though, to be honest, having degrees in English literature as well as Biblical studies, I always take into account the perspectives of those doing the telling, those doing the listening, and the time and context of the telling to try to suss out the truth.

On top of that, I was recently talking to a retired pastor and the topic came up of what one does with a whole career of books gathered, of sermons written, and papers collected. Sadly, I reflected that upon trying to give part of my library away to a seminarian, I was told he didn’t really use “books”—everything is on a tablet. And my half a dozen or so boxes of 30 years worth of sermons and services and such (July 20<sup>th</sup> will mark the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of my ordination after all) will probably end up as a bonfire or hauled into a dumpster by my son and daughter after I’m gone.

However, the combination of such ruminations as these and the conversations we’ve had in the “Chats with the Pastor” got me thinking about a couple of inspirational phrases that I’ve said to myself through the years to try to keep perspective. In college, I came up with “To strive for the eternal with out forsaking the ephemeral” and had it clearly posted on my door. High thoughts kind of inspired by Rudyard Kipling’s poem “If” and the dialectics within. But more pointedly, for many years, I’ve had a little plaque that I made to simply remind me: “Speak to the Masses But Write for Posterity!” (That’s why a newsletter article can stand the weight of words like “ephemeral” and “dialectic”—you’d have plenty of leisure to check ‘em out if you didn’t already know them—which I’m sure you did!)

The importance of that notation to me was always to recognize the utter importance of words once they are written and potentially dug out of mothballs somewhere down the road, while at the same time recognizing the utter disposable nature of what is spoken under most circumstances. And perhaps everyone has caught themselves by putting in writing something that was neither timeless nor memorable, almost immediately followed by someone trying to quote something profound or witty you said only to turn to you with a queried look while you search your fading data banks without a clue what they are talking about. This works on both sides of that equation as I have had the conversation where someone says they really liked last week’s sermon to which I ask them which parts. They stare blankly in the air with no memory of content but just some vague recollection of thinking it was good (I of course am no help because I probably have about the same recollection and am on to the next week’s message).

The spoken word is like a conversation: it is of the moment—topical and contextual to the particularities of time, place, peoples, and culture (much as any Biblical scholar will warn, is the original meaning of your

Sunday scripture reading). But what one puts in writing should be profound enough to stand the test of time (by the way how is the year 3015?—glad this bit of wisdom made it!) with great profundity that the ages cannot diminish (much as any Biblical scholar will point out, is how the Holy Spirit makes those same Sunday readings anew each time you read it).

The book I'm reading has a quote at the head of the first chapter title that says, "There is a difference between history and nostalgia." I've actually talked about this difference using different language in those chats with the congregation and have had many people express this dichotomy between the facts of the story versus that feeling one experiences when one remembers. The same history can elicit feelings of warm remembrance for some while bringing forth feelings of dread and terror for others.

In the calling of speaking to and for the Church, the hope is that whether it is written or spoken, the feelings elicited are the same across the boards. The hope is that it is one truth for all. The hope is that it is affirmation of everyone as child of God. The hope is that it is forgiveness for failings, encouragement for gifts, and acceptance for everyone.

If you're reading this and thinking, hasn't he said all that stuff before? Yeah! And all those retired pastors with dumpster loads of sermons to be hauled away have said it for 2000 years as well. But maybe people just thought those words were disposable and that's why we have to say it week after week. So finally, here I've put it in writing, once and for all. Don't you wish someone would have thought to do that for posterity to begin with all those years ago? Don't you wish someone could have just spelled it all out about God's grace in Jesus 2000 years ago? Don't you wish someone would have just put it in a bulletin, an email, a newsletter? Or maybe, don't you just wish someone could have just put it in something as simple as a letter, people of . . . St. Paul?

Living Under God's Grace and Peace!  
Pastor Zach

*Pastor Harris' contact information:*  
[pastorzachstpaul@gmail.com](mailto:pastorzachstpaul@gmail.com); 540-288-4337 (540-AT TIDES)

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### **WORDS OF APPRECIATION**

To my St. Paul family,  
I want to take a moment to thank everyone that has not only given to the scholarship fund, but has supported, encouraged and prayed for me since starting this journey. I graciously and genuinely appreciate it! The money will be used for tuition to complete my associates degree in Applied Science.  
Thank you again, Holly Henschel

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Members of St Paul,  
I am sincerely grateful to receive this scholarship. Thank you for your generosity and support as I prepare to attend NYU this fall.  
Thank you for your thoughtful and generous gifts! Cassidy

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### **The following will continue to be available on the back porch of the Annex:**

- *St Paul Courier* – monthly newsletter
- Prayer List: Please write names on this list. These names will be included on Prayer Warriors email each Monday. You can also email or call the annex office (465-3232) with prayer requests.
- Weekly Bulletins: Each Thursday afternoon the upcoming Sunday bulletin will be available and will stay there until the following Thursday. Also, the Children's bulletins.
- Devotionals: "Christ In Our Home"

## The 2021 Virginia Synod Assembly – SUMMARY TO THE CONGREGATION

Dear St Paul,

Pastor Harris and I attended the one-day six-plus hour virtual 2021 Synod Assembly meeting this past Saturday (the 12<sup>th</sup> Jun). The Assembly was well attended with over 300 participants. Considering the size, scope, and fact this was the first online attempt for this kind of event, things went well with few electronic glitches.

The theme for this year's conference was about being BOLD. The theme comes from Ephesians 3.12; *We have boldness and confident access to God by way of Christ's faithfulness*. There were several very heavy social justice messages as well that asked us to consider, reflect, and be cognizant of how we interact with others and to remember that GOD accepts us all and that we should strive to do the same.

The agenda included:

- A keynote presentation by Dr. Mary J. Streufert (Director, ELCA Women for Justice)
- Elections for Synod Council, a Committee on Discipline, and churchwide assembly voting members
- Adoption of the Ministry Spending Plan, an audit of the Synod expenses, and updating of compensation guidelines (adopted)
- Updates to the Synod Constitution (adopted)

Most of the business and administrative actives were routine. I believe the biggest change involved compensation. There is a new spreadsheet with formulas. This information will be passed on to our Finance Committee.

Additional information about the 2021 Assembly found here: <https://www.vasynod.org/synod-assembly-2021/>

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**Community Meals** (*catered*) – Every Wednesday – St Paul Parking Lot  
Drive thru/pick up meals – beginning at 5:00pm  
Free-Will donations received (if you are able).

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### WORSHIP LEADERS FOR JULY 2021 (*subject to change*)

	July 4	July 11	July 18	July 25	August 1
Assisting Ministers	Jalen Doman	Jalen Doman	Kitty Miller	Joan Farrell	Samantha Crisman
Ushers	Craig Morris Bill Frenz	Craig Morris Bill Frenz	Gloria Stickley Ralph Stickley	Gloria Stickley Ralph Stickley	Kevin Smith Susan Anderson
Altar Guild	Tammy Kibler (G)	Tammy Kibler (G)	Linda Williams (G)	Linda Williams (G)	Susan Anderson (G)
Acolytes	Youth who are trained can volunteer any Sunday they are at our Worship Service.				

If you see your name on this Schedule please mark your calendar accordingly.

If you are unable to be at church on the Sunday(s) you're scheduled please contact the coordinator:

Assisting Ministers: Carol (465-3232; [stpaulstrasburg@gmail.com](mailto:stpaulstrasburg@gmail.com))

Altar Guild: Judy (465-3379)

## **WAYS TO HELP IN YOUR COMMUNITY:**

1) **Strasburg Compassion Cupboard:** *No glass containers, please.* Canned Items requested during July: dish detergent and apple sauce. Monetary donation payable to “Strasburg Compassion Cupboard”.

- *Bring the items to church on Sundays and put them in the drop box available as you enter the building. You can also bring them to the Annex during office hours or leave them on the back porch of the annex. Monetary donations can be dropped through the Annex mail slot. If you have questions please contact Carol in the Annex office (465-3232). Thank you!*

2) **Community Meals:** Wednesdays at 5:00pm – drive-thru/pick-up meals in the St Paul parking lot. Drive into St Paul’s parking lot using the Washington Street entrance. A free-will offering (if you are able) is appreciated.

- *Donations toward the cost of the meals: Cash or check payable to “St Paul Lutheran Church”, earmarked ‘Community Meals’. (FYI: the average cost of these meals -prepared by Rutz Catering- is \$6/person plus a \$25 delivery fee.*

3) **Blessing Box** (in the yard beside the annex): Donations of non-perishable items are appreciated. (Please no pastas or canned or dried beans at this time.) Items such as canned meats, canned veggies and fruits, snacks and personal hygiene items are especially needed.

4) **Luke’s Backpack for the Summer:** If you’d like to donate food items (single service/snack size) for Luke’s Backpacks during the Summer months please bring items to church on Sundays or to the Narthex during office hours.

*\* A list of suggested items is available in the narthex of the church.*

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### ***The In-Person Task Force has met and made the following changes:***

- *The church's front doors will be open for entry into the building*
- *All pews will now be available*
- *Hymnals will be available in the pews*
- *Face coverings are optional*
- *Prayer list will be made available in the Narthex.*

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Face coverings and hand sanitizers are still available as you enter the building.  
Services will continue to be on Facebook.

*We hope to continue moving forward while being safe for all.*

## CALENDAR - July 2021

- **Sunday Worship Services: 9:30am** on Facebook – and In-person with Holy Communion
- An \* indicates more information on this item is found in this newsletter.
- The Church Secretary is not in the office on Wednesdays.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
June 27 *”Meet & Chat”	June 28	June 29	June 30 * 5pm Community Meal	July 1	July 2	July 3
4	5 Church office closed for July 4 holiday.	6	7 *5pm Community Meal	8	9 *Secretary Summer time day off	10
11 Hunger offering received.	12	13	14 *5pm Community Meal	15 Deadline to submit info for the next newsletter	16 *Secretary Summer time day off	17
18	19	20	21 *5pm Community Meal	22 5:30pm Finance meeting	23 *Secretary Summer time day off	24
25	26	27 7pm Council meeting	28 * 5pm Community Meal	29	30 *Secretary Summer time day off	31
August 1	August 2	August 3	August 4 * 5pm Community Meal	August 5	August 6 *Secretary Summer time day off	August 7

### Birthdays in July

Katie Painter - 2  
 Dennis Baker - 5  
 Kelly Bly - 5  
 Mary Redmon - 5  
 Sherry Artz - 6  
 Alisa Kline - 6  
 Wesley Larrick - 6  
 Riley Nugent - 6  
 Macy Smith - 6  
 Polly Wilson - 7  
 Elizabeth Newman - 8

Winston Brill - 11  
 Dorothy Jenkins - 11  
 Belinda Miller - 12  
 Rich Orndorff - 13  
 Adam Galton - 15  
 Leslie Doman - 16  
 James Ritenour Jr. - 16  
 Beth Flynn - 18  
 Stephen Nixon - 18  
 Lynda Ballowe - 19  
 Peggy Davison - 19

Meredith Breeden - 21  
 Zaydyn Jackson - 21  
 Austin Schlentner - 22  
 Richard Wilson - 22  
 Betty Miller - 23  
 Julia Wertz - 23  
 Donald Keller - 24  
 Allyson Skarupa - 27  
 Henry Brown - 28  
 Delaney Henschel - 28  
 Richard Abruzere - 29  
 Cassidy Anderson - 29  
 Randy Barker Sr - 29  
 Susan Anderson - 30

*If your name and birth date is not listed, please contact the church office.  
 (540-465-3232; stpaulstrasburg@gmail.com).*

**We are in need of Bibles for our Bible Box** (located in the side yard of the annex).

If you want to donate a new/like new/gently used Bible(s) it would be appreciated. We have given away *many* Bibles – of all types. 😊

You can bring the Bibles to church on Sundays (lay them on top of the coat rack as you enter) or drop off at the annex. If you drop them off when the office is closed please just leave them on the back port of the annex.

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### Enrich Program

The Strasburg United Methodist Church will host an Enrich Program for age 6-12 and will be held  
July 5 - 23.

For more information on how you can help contact the church office.

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The church secretary will have revised office hours during the Summer months of July and August.

From July 5 - August 27 the secretary's office hours will be  
Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, 9am – 3:30pm.

Regular office hours will resume August 30.

\*Contact info for the church secretary: 465-3232; stpaulstrasburg@gmail.com.

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### Central Valley Conference annual kit drive -- June 2021

St Paul members assembled 7 hygiene Kits  
and donated 17 homemade quilts (9 mission quilts, 8 lap quilts)  
These items were dedicated during our worship service on Sun, June 27.

The Central Valley Conference Pastors coordinates this annual event, and the pickup and delivery of these items to the Lutheran World Relief distribution center in Maryland.

We all express our appreciation to Steven Shaner for being our supply organist July 2020 – May 2021. Steven always brings a positive attitude and his love for praise God along with him! 😊

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*I want to thank Allyson Gillispie for being our guest musician for the month of June. We really appreciate her musical talents being shared with us and look forward to her visiting us again in the future.*

Effective July 1, 2021 St. Paul will have a new music director. We welcome Sue Correll to our church family and look forward to working with her and sharing her musical talents. Sue comes to St. Paul from Bethel Lutheran Church in Winchester. Her first Sunday with us will be July 4th, 2021. Please welcome Sue to St. Paul.

Randy Painter  
W&M Chairman

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*Below is a little information about Sue Correll:*

Sue and her late husband, Larry, moved to Winchester in 2001 to begin jobs as an elementary music specialist and middle school band director, respectively, with Loudoun County Public Schools.

Sue is a graduate of James Madison University with a Bachelor of Music Education degree. She holds a Master's Degree in Education from the University of Virginia and a Master's Degree in Church Music from Shenandoah University. She has served as a clinician for the Church Music Institute at Shenandoah University. Sue was the co-founder of SINGGG (Sing God's Glory), a Northern Shenandoah Valley, summer choir and fine arts camp, for children in grades 2-8. She sings with the Blue Ridge Singers (Front Royal) and serves on the board of directors. She is no stranger to Strasburg, having visited her aunt and uncle as a young child, Ruth and Jim Byers.