

REVELATIONS

Join the conversation. You're invited!

Let your speech always be with grace, as though seasoned with salt, so that you will know how you should respond to each person.

Colossians 4:6

FROM YOUR CHURCH COUNCIL PRESIDENT

The St. Paul Congregational Council met on June 12. Here are the highlights that were shared with the people who attended church on June 19.

Each council meeting starts with a theme verse and a devotional. This month, we opened with devotions and prayer based on Romans 12:2:

"Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will."

Meeting Highlights:

- Church Council President
 - Birthdays and Anniversaries
 - Stewardship
 - Community Garden
 - Confirmation Antietam Battlefield Trip
 - Frolic!
 - Worship & Music
 - Fall Fun Fest Update
 - Coming Up
- Appointed Fred Chopin to serve as Treasurer and Sean Barron to serve as Vice-President.
 - Accepted the resignation of Evelyn Vollmer. Recommendations were made for an appointment to replace her on the council, and Renee Trendell has accepted the nomination to finish the term of Evelyn.
 - Shared Project Grow ended the month with a balance of \$22,346.
 - Music and Worship did a remarkable job of modeling open communication and decision making in regards to the summer worship schedule - a number of folks are attending Sunday school classes.
 - Sparkhouse: Activate Faith on-line curriculum has been renewed - Frolic, new curriculum for infants through age 3, will be available this fall with resources for parents to use at home.
 - Youth will be taking a field trip to Antietam.
 - Stewardship hosted a workshop about using talents and gifts to serve in the church, additional packets are available at both entrances to the sanctuary.
 - Reflected on the Visioning Retreat.
- Administrative policies and procedures will be reviewed with the staff and then shared with the congregation.
 - Received information about tree maintenance behind the parish house and parts for the air conditioner.
 - Accepted the recommendation by the Finance Team to revise the Faith Spending Plan by reducing the income from current expense envelopes by 15%.
 - Approved the dates for the NSS concerts on Sept. 24th and May 14th.
 - Pastor Katrina shared that she has been deeply affected by the death of former bishop Jerry Knoche, who had been like a father to her; and the death of Maisie, a faithful, canine companion - she reflected on her experience as being one of the nominees in the bishop's election at the Synod Assembly.
 - Spirit Giving for July has been designated for Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services.

The congregational council will not have a regularly scheduled meeting in July in order to give people a break and to enjoy the summer. The council will meet again in August.

If you have any questions about the council or the work being done on your behalf, please see Bill Floria or any member of the congregational council.

May God's blessings wash over each of you!

Bill Floria, Council President

CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS, 2016-2017

President—Bill Floria
Vice – President – Sean Barron
Secretary – Claudia Harrington
Assistant Secretary – Brenda Sparks
Treasurer—Fred Chopin
Assistant Treasurer – Sandra Dusing

Rhonda Souers
Robert Torres
Jim Brasefield
Renee Trendell

Appointed by Council for Officer Positions:

Karen Jeffery, Bookkeeper
Karen Summers, Financial Secretary

CELEBRATE!

Anniversaries

Mykel Hitselberger & Claudia Harrington	7/3
Eric & Mandy Schmidt	7/16
John & Karen Jeffery	7/19
Marty & Kathy Iverson	7/21
Luther & Rhonda Souers	7/26
Scott & Terri Stockman	7/31
Gene & Carole Foltz	8/8
Floyd & Kathleen Schroyer	8/9
Jim Summers & Elly Williams	8/13
Randy & Karen Dernelsbeck	8/20
Fred & Connie Chopin	8/20
Sean & Amanda Jeffery	8/29

Birthdays

Sandy Allen	7/12
Linda Connelly	7/12
Kerry Page	7/13
Seth Miller	7/16
Barbara West	7/16
Kimberlee Zimmerman	7/17
Sandra Dusing	7/20
Tori Chopin	7/25
Braden Tarleton	7/26
Karen Summers	7/29
Diane Floria	7/30
Nicole Wachter	7/30
Kenny Floria	8/2
Sharon MacCracken	8/2

Birthdays

Juanita Stoutamyer	8/4
Allie Page	8/6
Steve Welch	8/6
Jimmy Rosebrock	8/8
Mandy Schmidt	8/8
Robyn Chopin	8/12
Connie Linton	8/17
James Goodson	8/20
Samantha Piccerillo	8/21
John Prinkey	8/22
Ed White	8/22
Savannah Welch	8/24
Kristie Allen	8/25
Josh Galicic	8/28
Brian Wachter	8/28
Gabriel Barron	8/30

STEWARDSHIP

The stewardship team has been meeting over the past few months. Most people think stewardship is all about getting money for the church, but our focus has been on how to change that perception. What stewardship is really about is the care of the church through giving back. Before we can give we have to receive, and we received all of our time, talents, and treasures because of God. God gave us life. God made us unique individuals, and filled our lives with friends and family to help us develop our own individual skills. We use what He gave us to make the money we need to support ourselves. Everything we have is therefore a result of what God gave us. Our own personal giving should be modeled after his generosity. If we give back our time, talents, and treasures in ways that praise and glorify God we say that His mission is more important than our desires. By living generously we are humbled, and when we are humble we can find the joy that comes from doing God's work through our hands.

Jim Brasefield, Chairperson

COMMUNITY GARDEN

Well...the update is, we currently have no garden. Several attempts to get someone with a small tractor to turn over the soil on the Parish House front lawn, have been fruitless. And, frankly, it's getting a bit late in the growing season for planting a summer garden.

The primary purpose of the community garden is to supplement the Food Bank with fresh vegetables for those least able to afford them.

Calling all you backyard vegetable gardeners...this summer, please share God's abundance with others by bringing your excess produce to church or directly to the Food Bank on the first and third Saturdays of the month! Your generosity is much appreciated!

We are praying for the resources to begin planting a fall garden a bit later. The soil still needs to be prepared for this to become a reality. This is a great challenge for a single rototiller to tackle. Do you, or someone you know, have a garden tractor that can do the job? If so, please let Pastor Katrina know so we can begin planning our fall garden in ministry to our neighbors in the community.

We are blessed to be a blessing to the world!

Karen Summers

CONFIRMATION TRIP TO ANTIETAM BATTLEFIELD

On Sunday, June 26, the Confirmation class took a trip to Antietam Battlefield with Bill Floria (Confirmation leader), parents, Pastor Katrina, and received a special guided tour by our own Jim Rosebrock. Jim Rosebrock oversees the operations of the Certified Battlefield Guide program at Antietam National Battlefield. He also serves on the Board of Directors of the Western Maryland Interpretive Association (WMIA). The Association is a cooperating partner for the Antietam and Monocacy National Battlefields. WMIA operates the bookstores at both parks and supports the battlefields with financial and in-kind support.



FROLIC RESOURCES HELP CHILDREN TAKE THEIR FIRST STEPS OF FAITH

Sparkhouse has released a new curriculum resource for early childhood, from infants through age 3. Frolic, the new curriculum, enables congregations to connect with and support young families as their children take their first steps of faith. There are leader guides for parent-child classes focused on child development. There is also an e-newsletter that can be customized and sent to a busy parent's phone or tablet that provides monthly information on child development, early faith formation and parental support. Frolic also offers a series of books for the home, where parents and children can begin to explore spiritual concepts and faith-forming stories. The Frolic First Bible contains 20 Bible stories, from the creation to the resurrection, retold with simple and direct language accompanied by artwork. Through these age-appropriate and biblically accurate retellings of the key stories, children will begin to understand faith concepts that will aid them throughout their life. There are also picture books that feature a story world inhabited by animal characters. Each book introduces spiritual concepts that explain how our faith is formed in the little moments of our lives. St. Paul will offer this program to parents with young children this fall.

Claudia Harrington, Christian Education

MUSIC & WORSHIP

Happy Summer, all! I pray that all is well for you, your friends and family. As we approach the halfway mark in our summer worship season, we would like to communicate the feedback that Worship and Music ministry has received so far.

The concerns we have received:

- The environment: the air conditioner was not working in the sanctuary, but we are pleased to report it is fixed and working. Thank You to Pat Miglio and the property team for taking the lead to resolve the issues.
- There is still a lingering concern that St. Paul will not grow by having one Sunday worship service. We took this concern seriously. We researched and contacted professionals to find studies of evidence. We have found instead that there is no correlation between offering multiple worship services and increased giving and attendance. Likewise, we have not found that increased attendance will yield increased giving. There are multiple reasons why many churches have seen a decline in membership and giving—but it is clear from the studies we have found that engagement drives attendance, not the other way around. People have responded in these research studies that they sought to be engaged; to develop spiritually; to be a part of meaningful worship; and to feel welcomed and respected. Worship and Music team concludes this concern is a belief and attitude rather than fact.

The positive feedback we have received:

- The spirit of joy and high energy during worship.
- Opportunity for fellowship with one another.
- The feeling of togetherness as a family unit.

Please remain to give feedback as we enter the second half of the summer. Our team has had prayerful and serious discussions in regards to potential recommendations—and we absolutely cannot do it alone. We truly value feedback and concerns from others. It is absolutely respected and discussed in our meetings, so please continue to speak—we are listening.

Andrea Barron, Chairperson

FALL FUN FEST UPDATE

The next FFF meeting will be after church on Sunday, July 24th.

The team is also seeking volunteers to meet the Community from the St. Paul Booth at two upcoming events:

- Jefferson Carnival, August 1st - 6th Booth hours 6 - 9 pm
- Patty Pollatos Funomenon, August 27th, Booth hours 11 am to 2 pm

Please help set up, tear down, or staff the booth during prime hours. Sign-up sheets are available at the church or online:

<http://stpauljeff.org/news/69/69/Community-Outreach-Events-Sign-Ups.html>

Note: Volunteers for the Patty Pollatos event will receive free tickets to the Martina McBride Concert and access to free food at the Backstage area!

Questions? See Claudia Harrington or Brenda Sparks.

Fifth Annual Fall Fun Fest

Sunday September 11, 1pm-5pm

Free Admission - All are Welcome.

Live Music Provided by:

- The City Slicker Band with Debbie Williams
- Highroller with our own Marty Iverson
- St. Paul Youth Band

Food - Games - Crafts - Music - Moon Bounce

Free will donations accepted as well as canned goods for the Food Bank

COMING UP

Sunday Worship Schedule

July 3	<i>9:30am Traditional Worship</i>	August 14	<i>9:30am Traditional Worship</i>
July 10	<i>9:30am SPECIAL Worship</i>	August 21	<i>9:30am Contemporary Worship</i>
July 17	<i>9:30am Contemporary Worship</i>	August 28	<i>9:30am Traditional Worship</i>
July 24	<i>9:30am Traditional Worship</i>	September 4 (Labor Day Weekend)	<i>9:30am Contemporary Worship</i>
July 31	<i>9:30am SPECIAL Worship</i>	September 11 (Day of the Fall Fun Fest)	<i>9:30am Traditional Worship</i>
August 7	<i>9:30am Contemporary Worship</i>		

Special Events & Worships

Sunday September 11 *Fall Fun Fest, 1PM-5PM at Valley Elementary School*

Sunday September 25 *National String Symphonia Concert at St. Paul, 5PM*

Sunday October 2 *Come the Farm worship at Mr. Ed Smith's Farm, 9:30am*

Sunday October 30 *Reformation & Confirmation Sunday, Traditional Worship, 9:30am*

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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