

**St. Paul's Lutheran Family**

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**NOTICE OF SPECIAL  
CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

**November 13, 2016: After the 9:00 a.m. Communion service, a special congregational meeting will be held to consider and vote on whether to issue a formal call to the Rev. Chad Adamik to become the next pastor of St. Paul's. A two-thirds vote of the quorum present will be required to approve the call. If the call is approved, then the voters will also consider a compensation package for the pastor. The Rev. Carlton Monroe from the Sierra Pacific Synod will represent Bishop Mark Holmerud at the meeting. Voting members of the congregation will be eligible to participate in the election.**



# Congregational Meeting



From Pastor Mary Lou

As I thought about what to write for my November article, I thought about what normally happens in November. November is stewardship month. Should I write about stewardship? November is Thanksgiving month. Should I write about giving thanks?

Then an article that jumped out at me from my computer called, "The Church Isn't Meeting My Needs!" I am thankful for all those people who do give to the church (money, time and talents) so generously without thinking about what they will get back, those who give out of thankfulness for their love of God, love of others and love of Christ's church.

Over the years I've watched many people come into the church excited only to be MIA within a few short years. It's one of the saddest parts of being a pastor. Nothing breaks my heart more than to see people slip away from the body of Christ and drift back into a lifestyle of complacency and apathy.

It has been often stated that the number one reason people leave the church is due to a feeling that the church failed to meet their needs. In other words, there was some expectation they had for the church that was not met.

As St. Paul's moves into a new stage of its life with a new pastor, it's a time that offers so much opportunity, and this church has all it needs to make that new stage a vital and exciting time.

Unfortunately, our modern society equates big with successful, and I really like that some at St. Paul's want to grow and sometimes look at St. Paul's with discouragement, because we are not "packing people in." But few mainline churches in the 21<sup>st</sup> century are "packing people in."

If you have been a long-time member of St. Paul's, ask some of the members why they have joined St. Paul's. You might just be pleasantly surprised. St. Paul's does have a lot to celebrate and preserve. With that introduction, I like to share what I learned from the article, "The Church Isn't Meeting My Needs."

First of all, the church is about God and not about ourselves. I have found that many come as a result of misplaced expectations. In other words, they expected something from the church that the church never promised, and God is not even part of their expectation. This article listed five unrealistic expectations people have of the church and what the church can and cannot provide.

**A church is a place to gather weekly for worship, but it's up to you as to whether you will experience the presence of God.** (John 4:24)

Preferences surrounding music is a frequent source of discontent for unhappy members. Perhaps one of the biggest misconceptions people have is to mistake music for worship. Music is not worship. Organs, pianos, keyboards, drums, choirs, guitars, orchestras, lights, speakers, hymnals, screens, projectors, and sound boards are not instruments of worship. They are accessories for music. Worship is not singing. Worship is surrendering. If you attend a large group gathering of Christians committed to honoring Jesus and walk away without having worshiped, the fault is yours, not theirs. Don't blame the music, blame the mirror.

**Church is a family you can belong to, but it's up to you to develop friendships.** (Proverbs 18:24)

There are so many people who join churches but never invest in relationships. They simply attend services. They treat the church like an IN-N-OUT burger joint - get my food and get out quickly. But sooner or later life happens, and when their world starts coming apart they have no relational safety net. They suddenly expect "the pastor" to "be there for them," like the pastor's a spiritual Aladdin. Just rub the lamp and \*poof\*, there she is! But that's not even the biblical calling of pastors. According to Ephesians 4:12, pastors are called to equip the members to be the hands and feet of Jesus. God designed the church to be a community of connected Christians, not a collection of customers waiting to be served. If you join this church, but never develop any friendships here, we promise we will let you down. Disconnected people disconnect.

Pastor MaryLou, cont.

**A church is place where gifted teachers will explain the Bible and how you can apply it to your life, but it's up to you to align your life with God's truth. (James 1:22)**

"I'm not being fed." How many Bible classes have been offered you didn't bother to attend? So just how many people have you shared your faith with in the last 3 months? 6 months? year? We've created a church for the unchurched. So, how many unchurched people have you invited to church recently? Can you name at least one person, who is far from God, that has come to church because of your invitation within the last year. "So let me get this straight. You say you're not being fed. You need some deeper preaching, but you don't even do the stuff that my 'shallow preaching' addresses. Hmm, I'm not sure it's my preaching that needs changing."

**A church is a place where you can use your gifts, passion, skills, personality and life experiences to serve, but it's up to you to become a servant. (Matthew 20:28)**

It's been my experience that some of the most vocal critics in the church are often the least engaged. They have a lot of suggestions, but no skin in the game. It's a lot easier to criticize from the bleachers than it is from the ball field. People who aren't serving in the church are often one change away from becoming disgruntled. I believe that the metric for maturity is ministry. I am never impressed by someone's Bible knowledge, but I am always impressed by unselfish service. Serving in a ministry that delivers hope and healing to hearts and homes immunizes us from lethargy and keeps us tapped into the mission. There are two kinds of church members. Those that are serving and those that believe they are deserving. Only one of those will make you like Jesus.

**A church is a place where you have the chance to change the world by fulfilling the Great Commission, but it's up to you to actually become a person of impact. (Romans 10:14)**

Finally, perhaps the greatest misconception of all is when we think that the church's primary mission is to impact me. Churches exist for the purpose of their non-members. They do not exist to serve the whims of their members. They exist to bring hope and healing to a broken and hurting world.

There is no perfect church because there are no perfect people. There are only imperfect churches filled with imperfect people striving to make an impact on this world. Whenever we forget the critical nature of that mission and begin to focus on pettiness, we grieve the heart of God and we fail the mission.

As a pastor, I've heard plenty of those who have let me know how the church has let them down, but I've rarely heard from those who have realized how they've let the church down. The needs of a lost world are too critical for us to waste time. As St. Paul's goes into its new stage of life, we need people willing to get busy being the hands and feet of Jesus.

Pastor Mary Lou



## President's Comments (November 2016)

We are approaching a very busy time of the year—especially this year. We are looking forward to Thanksgiving Day (11/24) and the start of the New Church Year—the first Sunday in Advent is November 27.

Prior to that, this year we will be deciding on the recommendation of the Call Committee, that the Rev. Chad Adamik, become the new pastor at St. Paul's Lutheran Family. Two weekends will be devoted to this process. On the weekend of November 5 & 6, Pastor Chad and his husband the Rev. Thomas Blake will be in Carson City. At noon on Saturday, the 5<sup>th</sup>, they will meet with the council; at 5:00 p.m. the youth group will host and meet with them. On Sunday, the 6<sup>th</sup> after the 9:00 a.m. All Saints Communion Service the Call Committee will hold a "Meet and Greet" with the congregation for Pastor Chad and Father Tom.

On Sunday, November 13<sup>th</sup>, after the 9:00 a.m. Communion Service a Special Congregational Meeting will be held to vote on the recommendation to issue a formal call to the Rev. Chad Adamik. Attending the meeting will be the Rev. Carlton Monroe of the Sierra Pacific Synod, representing Bishop Mark Holmerud. To approve the Call Committee's recommendation and issue a formal call to Pastor Adamik, a two-thirds vote of the quorum attending the meeting will be required. Voting members of the congregation will be eligible to participate in the election.

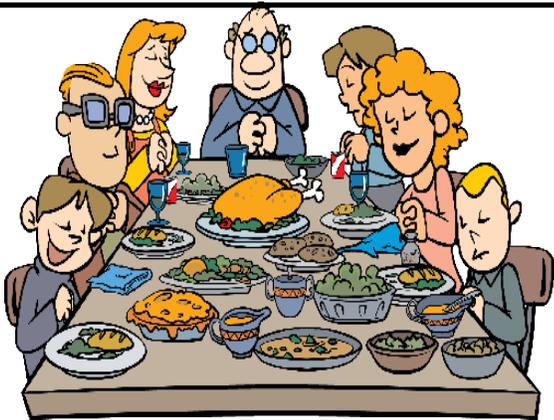
If the call committee recommendation is accepted by the required two-thirds vote, then a compensation package will be presented for congregation approval.

Please note that the church council meeting in November will be on Tuesday, the 15<sup>th</sup>, rather than the usual 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday, the 8<sup>th</sup>.

While we will be looking forward to the future of St. Paul's Lutheran Family, we all need to focus as well on how each of us can participate in the in the life and support of the congregation. In addition to all of the above, November is also traditionally **Stewardship Month**. We ask how we can participate in the all-important work of proclaiming, living, and spreading the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. This also includes an evaluation of our monetary support of the congregation. As noted elsewhere in this newsletter, we are currently spending significant more than we are receiving in offerings—after the first three months, we are running about a 43% shortfall.

May we all be moved to embrace our faith and love for our Lord and for one another as we continue in our Christ centered journey.

A joyous Thanksgiving to all! Doug Thunder



Happy Thanksgiving to everyone! Please remember to thank God for all our Blessings and do something nice for someone else today!



Serving God By Serving Others

### St. Paul's Annual Craftique Open House

Date- Friday, November 4, 2016

Time-10 am to 4 pm

Date-Saturday, November 5, 2016

Time-9 am to 4 pm

We have many unique hand-crafted items or all seasons. Created by local artisans including the remaining items from Marilyn Hall's porcelain collection.



### Finance Team

The end of September completes the first quarter (July, August and September) of Fiscal year 2016-2017. The Finance team members Bill Sandell and Jean Opperman (council representatives), Dale Randle and Jay Olshen (congregation representatives), Holly McPhail (Financial Secretary), President (Doug Thunder), Pastor MaryLou Petitjean and Gloria Randle (chairperson). Meetings are always open to members of the congregation. Our next meeting is scheduled for Sunday, January 8th following the 8:00 am service.

Currently we are working on ways to reduce expenses, a proposed policy regarding restricted funds and memorials and budget planning, which will begin in January. Council has approved a proposed benevolence of \$12,000.

A concern is the shortness in income to meet our monthly expenses. The income is \$15,561 short to expenses of \$57,897 for the first quarter. The income and expense graph is posted on the bulletin board located in the entrance hall. In an effort to keep you apprised, we will post a monthly graph beginning end of October.



WELCA  
WOMEN OF THE ELCA  
St. Paul's Lutheran  
Family

Programming for WELCA is still in the planning stages, but some tentative times are set for the following:

**Sunday December 6<sup>th</sup> – Caroling** for all interested members of St. Paul's to visit our shut-ins and some care facilities. Then a return to the church for hot cocoa and cookies and some games.

**Saturday, January 14<sup>th</sup> – Brunch/Bible Study.** This is a morning brunch followed by a Bible Study. The women of St. Peter's will be our guests.

**Saturday, February 11<sup>th</sup> – Chili Cook-Off.** Linda Wilson has agreed to champion this event again!

**Saturday – April 22<sup>nd</sup> – St. Paul's Annual Rummage Sale** (the sale is tentative, depending on available help. See other article in newsletter.)

**Saturday, May 13<sup>th</sup> – Mother's Day Brunch.** Traci and the Youth Group will again host this event for the mother's and daughters of St. Paul.

WELCA has served lunches for several memorial services over the past few months. We would like to thank all of those who have contributed food and help for those events. We are very honored to be able to offer these times of fellowship for the families and friends of those who have gone to be with our Lord.

WELCA made a donation to a plaque for the Wall of Memory at Mills Park in memory of Jennifer Lyn Bailey, a member of St. Paul's who lost her battle with cancer recently. A ceremony was held at Mills Park on October 18 and several members of St. Paul's attended.

*(Please watch the December Newsletter for additional events and possible changes of dates for the above.)*

## ST PAUL'S ANNUAL RUMMAGE SALE



The annual St. Paul's Rummage Sale would typically be held on the Saturday following Easter---which in 2017 is April 22<sup>nd</sup>.

However, when the wrap-up discussion was held after the 2016 rummage sale, there was concern that maybe we can't continue to hold a rummage sale when we have so much trouble finding workers. So, I was "instructed" to create a note to all of you to see how much help we could count on. In the coming weeks, depending on your responses, we'll be able to make a decision on if we can go ahead (which we truly hope we will be able to do).

We offer opportunities for coming to help for just a few hours and we have times available from Monday through Friday before the sale to come to help with unpacking, sorting, measuring fabric, bundling towels and bedding, etc. We have jobs that require being on your feet---but we also have things that can be accomplished while sitting.

*We love that people donate furniture and heavier items, but we need some younger, stronger backs to help with that. If you can donate some time in an evening to help us with that, it would be super.*

So, this is a call to the people of St. Paul's to give the rummage sale some thought and prayer. We have been bringing in about \$4,000 which has supported items at St. Paul's as well as provided donations for many charitable groups in the area and beyond---which is good public relations for our church in addition to helping those in need.

Please pray about this. Next month I'll be asking for commitments to things you might help with.

*Andrea Knudson, Rummage Sale Chairperson*

## WELLNESS OUTREACH COMMITTEE

*The McKinney Vento Students in Transition program is holding a coat drive. They are looking for new jackets and new hoodies with the following sizes:*

*Elementary Students prefer jackets:  
Girls sizes: 6/6X, 7/8, 10/12, 14/16  
Boys sizes: 6, 7/8 10/12, 14/16*

*7/8 and 10/12 are the most popular sizes*

*Most of the Middle school and High School students prefer hoodies.*

*Women's sizes: S, M, L  
Men's sizes S, M, L*

*If you wish to help with this very worthwhile coat drive please bring your donations to the baskets here at church or call Betty Razor. Thanks!!!!*

## **PROPERTY - HELP NEEDED!!**

Since our Property committee has retired we are in need of volunteers. If you are interested please contact a member of council or the church secretary.



## **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

Tentatively, the Annual Sunday School program for Christmas will be held on Sunday, December 18, 2016. There will be a Teacher's meeting this week to decide the theme and other details. So please watch for more announcements etc, as we get started on this busy time of the year.

Please remember if you have children in your neighborhood or your grandchildren that might need a great Sunday School program to remind them to come to our Sunday School Sunday at 9 am. We would love to have them as students.

Renee Woslum

Sunday School  
Superintendent



*Have an Idea on a project or an improvement within our church and/or property??????*

*Following the few simple instructions below and you will be well on your way.*

- 1. Contact the appropriate church committee to discuss and formulate your idea to include approximate costs of your project.*
- 2. Once your plan is formulated you should meet with the Treasurer to assure the proper account is chosen to fund your project.*
- 3. Finally, after all information is in place then your project request is ready to be submitted to the council for action. As an additional note, whoever is bringing the request to council should be someone who is able to answer questions regarding the project.*



## WORSHIP LEADERS

### COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

NOV. 6-1 SERVICE @ 9 am Youth  
Sunday

NOV. 13-1 SERVICE @ 9 am-  
Linda Wilson-Cong. Meeting

Nov. 20-8 am-Hannelore Hanke  
Nov. 20-10:30 am-Andrea Rud

Nov. 27-8 am-Joan Schultz  
Nov. 27 10:30 am-Holly McPhail

### GREETERS (10:30 a.m.)

*November 6-Judy McPhail*

*November 13-Betty Thoreson*

*November 20-Shelly Stevens*

*November 27-Betty Razor*

### READERS – 8:00 a.m

*November 6-Youth Sunday-1 service  
@ 9:00 am*

*November 13-Cong Meeting—1  
service @ 9:00 am –Don Kovisto*

*November 20-Gloria Randle*

*November 27-Louise Griffith*

### READERS – 10:30 a.m.

*November 6-Youth Sunday-1 service*

*November 13-Cong meeting-1 service*

*November 20-Judy McPhail*

*November 27-Nakita Jones*



### **SERVING IN THE ARMED FORCES:**

Jerry, Brandon (Luterick), Ike (Moellendorf), Heather Joyner (Johnson), Samuel (Weirton and Osterhold), Peter (Elverum), Tim (Gridley), Sarah (McGee), Olivia (Lesperance), Jason (Coleman), Tom, Michael, Justin, Carlos Armando (Cortes)

### **FIREFIGHTERS/PEACE OFFICERS:**

Andy (Steyn), Brian (Hillenbrand), Tina (Sherman), Mark (Dickens), John (Gould)

**CONTINUING PRAYERS FOR:** Our Call Committee, Louise, Jean O., Sandy D., Traci, Glenn, Carol A., & Judy M. also for Jennifer, John, Roy T., Michael, Julie, Eileen, James, Helen, George, Harold, Jane, Betty Ray, Diane L., Betty, Frank, Sandy T., Peggy S., Nellie, Debbie.

### **THOSE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS:**

Debbie; Earl (Bev Gutzman's brother recovering from serious stroke); Stan Bernette (Joan Yeskie's brother-in-law, with leukemia); Angelo DeFelice; Oscar & Susie Anderson's daughter Kathlina (prayers for recovery); Carr S. (additional medical testing); Russ Bowton (recovering from a stroke); Doris Howell (recovering from medical treatments); Ann Kauf (medical problems, prayers for her recovery); Linda Wilson's son, David (major back injury, prayers for recovery); Joan Yeskie's (Premie granddaughter, Olivia (born 10/14.16) is struggling with lung problems.

## **From the Call Committee:**

*Life-giving God,*

***Keep us mindful of your presence among us as we seek to discern your will for us. We pray that you will help us see beyond our own needs to the needs of your Church. We pray that you will open our eyes to new possibilities and opportunities of being your people. Guide us and lead us, O Lord.***

***Amen***

It is with much excitement, joy and a profound belief that the Call Committee has been led by the Holy Spirit to Pastor Chad Adamik and recommends him to the congregation as a candidate to be our next pastor.

Pastor Chad introduces himself:

Reverend Chad Adamik is a native of Somerset, Ohio, in rural southeast Ohio. He graduated from Capital University in Columbus Ohio with a degree in secondary education. After three years as a social studies teacher, he enrolled at Trinity Lutheran Seminary, also in Columbus, Ohio, where he graduated in 2004.

Ordained to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament in 2005, Pastor Chad served as pastor / redeveloper at Christ Lutheran Church in Madisonville, KY. He later served as interim pastor in Milton, KY, Sunman, IN, and with Lutheran Campus Ministry at Colorado State University in Fort Collins, CO. Since January 2016, Pastor Chad has worked as a substitute teacher at Muncie Community Schools, Muncie, Indiana and has filled pulpit supply for congregations in the Indiana-Kentucky Synod. He is married to the Reverend Thomas Blake, an Episcopal priest currently serving a parish in Muncie.

Pastor Chad is a trained 'Intentional Interim Pastor' who has served at the synod level in the areas of mission development and disaster response. Pastor Chad is an avid hiker, and enjoys camping, fishing, craft beer, good food, good books, and good conversation.

Note: Pastor Chad's recorded sermons can be found at:

**<https://soundcloud.com/pastor-chad-adamik>**

In the Call Committees deliberations, we concentrated on the needs of the congregation as we were guided by our Ministry Site Profile (MSP). In the MSP, the top five Ministry Tasks were identified as Ministry to Seniors, Pastoral Care and Visitation, Youth and Family Ministry, Christian Education, and Preaching and Worship.

In Pastor Chad's profile, during a Skype interview and when we met him in person, we found strong connections to our profile. He has experience and training in mission planning. He believes that sound theology is not found in thick books but by exploring ways to express itself in our everyday lives and stories, confession of our own "messed-up-ness" and trust in the grace of God. His leadership style is based on communication to stop misunderstandings and build consensus. From our personal experience through listening to his sermons on his website and in person, Pastor Chad's preaching style is down to earth, meditative, easy to follow, and, most importantly, the love of God proclaimed. Throughout Pastor Chad's profile, he expresses his genuine care for the people in the congregation in the ministries where he has served. He has a warm spirit and a loving heart and would help lead this congregation in discovering the ministry that God wants us to do in Carson City.

It is now time for discernment of the congregation. Are we ready to expand and move forward in ministry guided by a new Pastoral leader? Can we celebrate our history and draw strength from it as we travel into a future that will create a new vision of ministry for current members and new members we have yet to find? It is our prayer that the Holy Spirit will make it so.

Call Committee (cont)

What is happening next?

On November 5-6<sup>th</sup>, we have asked Pastor Chad and Father Tom to visit again and meet with the Council, youth group, and staff members. There will be a 9:00 am Sunday service followed by a fellowship time hosted by the Call Committee for members of the congregation to meet Pastor Chad and Father Tom.

On November 13<sup>th</sup>, a congregation meeting has been called. Once again, there will be a 9:00 am Sunday service followed by the meeting to consider a Pastoral Call to Reverend Chad Adamik and approval of his compensation and benefit package. The vote requires a two-thirds approval by a quorum of the congregation membership to extend the Pastoral Call. We will be joined by Pastor Carlton Monroe, as a representative from Bishop Mark Holmerud, Sierra Pacific Synod.

The Call Committee continues in our prayers for this next step in our call process.

May God be with you,  
Louise, Glenn, Traci, Carol, Sandy, Jean, Judy

## **LEE GROUP** **November 3<sup>rd</sup>**

THE LEE GROUP's next meeting will be Thursday, November 3, 11:30 a.m. in St. Paul's Fellowship Hall.

"LEE" is the nickname for "**Life Enrichment for Everyone**," or more commonly, "**Lutheran Eager Eaters**." All retired and/or grandparents' generation people are invited.

This luncheon will be the first THANKSGIVING dinner of the year.

The menu will feature roasted turkey, with dressing and gravy prepared by the Thunders. Please bring a complementary passing dish of your own choosing: mashed potatoes, vegetables, salads, breads, desserts, etc. Hosting the luncheon will be Dick & Judy Lowther, Peggy Truttman, & Linda Wilson.

Please come and enjoy the friendship and fellowship.

If you have questions, please call Bev Steinert (883-6096) or Doug Thunder (883-1548).

