

June 2019

St. Paul's Epistle

Church Council Minutes—May 2, 2019

Those present: Pastor Quast, Leanna Hasbargen, Richard Christie, Steve Rutkowsky, George Aitchison and Sally Batdorf

Chairman Richard Christie called the meeting to order. The opening devotion was by Pastor Quast on the topic: "You are the Light". The Minutes and Treasurer's reports were read and approved.

Briefs: 1) An update was given by George Aitchison on the options for the commercial insurance policy. 2) A spring clean up date will be determined. 3) Pastor Quast gave a brief review of the recent conference, "Everyone's a Witness" held in Baudette, MN. 4) An update was given on where our former Vicar's will be serving. 5) Discussion was held on fundraising ideas for the roof replacement that will take place next summer. 6) Graduate Sunday is May 19th. 7) There will be no church council meetings in June, July and August unless a special meeting is called.

There were no membership changes. The meeting closed with prayer.

Submitted by ~ Sally Batdorf, Secretary

Please Note:

Worship time changes for the
Summer on Sunday, June 2 to
8:45 a.m.

Sunday School resumes in September.

Vicar Installation

Our summer vicar, Anthony Mandile, will be installed on June 2 at 8:45 a.m. at St. Paul Lutheran, and at the 10:30 a.m. service at The Church of the Lutheran Hour in Fort Frances. A potluck luncheon will take place at noon in Fort Frances, members of St. Paul Lutheran are asked to bring desserts.



Those Serving Our Church—June, July & August 2019

June ~ Elder: Steve Rutkowski Altar: Kristen Wold and Catherine Crawford Greeters: June 2: Brent & Lisa Bacon
9th: Sue Frank and Phyllis Kennedy 16th: Bruce & Shirley Schmidt 23: Dianne Schoewe 30: Dave and Rebecca
Wright

July ~ Elder: Richard Christie Altar: Susan Lucek and Michelle Hopkins Greeters: July 7th: Steve Rutkowski 14th:
Gary & Judy Germain 21st: Ralph and Sue Johnson 28th: RaNae Whitbeck and Cindy Story

August ~ Elder: Steve Rutkowski Altar: RaNae Whitbeck Greeters: August 4: Lori Boquist and Heidi Swenson
11th: Richard and Roberta Christie 18th: Rita Anderson and Doris Schattschneider 25th: Kristen and Holly Wold



Happy Father's Day!

A Christian Father Will Strive To:

- ◆ Put the kingdom of God first in his life and teach the same to his family. (Matthew 6:33)
- ◆ Teach his sons and daughters to love, respect, and obey their parents.
- ◆ Be a loving & considerate father and husband.
- ◆ Be honest in all his dealings with others.
- ◆ Set aside the first day of the week for his family to worship God. (Hebrews 10:25)
- ◆ Never speak or act in a manner that is unbecoming to a Christian father.

~ *Kenneth McClain*



June Birthdays

A very happy birthday is wished to these members celebrating this month!

June 1—June Alleman and Jordan Swenson 22nd: Brenda Long
3rd: Sara Bacon and Sue Johnson 28th: Jacob Larson
5th: Janice Leerssen
7th: Destry Whitbeck
11th: Rollie Larson
17th: Rebecca Wright
19th: Shawn Toth & Lindsay Bauer



Pentecost Sunday

The church celebrates Pentecost and remembers the event that has been regarded as the birthday of the church—the giving of the Spirit to followers that enabled them to “go into all the world”. The roots of Pentecost are in the Jewish festival of Shavout—the 50th day— of which the Greek word “Pentecost” is the equivalent. Shavout is the 50th day after the beginning of the Passover; the Christian Pentecost is the 50th day after Easter. Red is the traditional color for the day, symbolizing tongues of fire, the enthusiasm and excitement of the disciples and the sacrifices of Christian martyrs. Pentecost is being celebrated June 9, 2019.

Baptismal gifts

“We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life” (Rom. 6:4).

Baptism is a tremendous stewardship concept. Lutherans often don't tend to talk about it much, but our stewardship is driven by our baptismal identity. What makes this even more remarkable is that it takes us back to a point in time when our first parents were NOT faithful stewards.

Re-read Genesis 3. Bible scholars call this chapter the fall into sin. Really, it is more like the first stewardship crisis. Adam and Eve were made for the purpose of stewarding the creation that God had spoken into existence. They didn't own it. They were to serve God by serving as caretakers of creation. But in a beguiling blink of an eye, it all changed. They reached out and took—not just the fruit from the forbidden tree, but they attempted to steal God's place. With this rebellion comes death.

Driven out of the garden, Adam and Eve were never relieved of their duties of stewardship. The work of stewardship would bring only death. That is, until Christ came to do the work that we could never do. He was the PERFECT steward of God's Word and will. His death on the cross and tomb-robbing resurrection changed everything!

Baptism restores our place. Death no longer can hold us. We have new life. This new life is manifest in our stewardship of all things! Our new baptismal life in Christ is a restoration in our stewardship! Baptized into Christ, we live like no one else. As baptized stewards, we then can give of ourselves freely because our ultimate fear, death, has been done away with!

As you remember your Baptism today, remember its call and promise that you have been restored for His purposes as stewards of all things! This is both freeing and purposeful all at the same time!

Prayer : Lord Jesus Christ, as a perfect steward of God's Word and will, You have opened the door to a restoration of our relationship with the Father. This relationship of stewardship is the one for which we have been created. Grant us Your grace in Holy Baptism to live like redeemed stewards, free from fear and full of generous life for the sake of the Gospel. Amen.

From ~ Simple Gifts: A series of devotions on stewardship



REMINDER:



Baby Bottles from Northern Options for Women are due back at the church by Sunday, June 16th.

Thank you to everyone who took a bottle for their spare change, every penny counts!

Vacation Bible School is tentatively set for Monday, July 22.

If you would like to help with VBS, please talk to Pastor Quast. Watch your bulletins and the July newsletter which will have the date and time.





Beloved in Christ, June is upon us. And with us, of course, the summer season. What joy the long days, warm temperatures, and vacation time bring to us in the midst of our busy lives. As your pastor, I certainly want to encourage you to take some time to relax and recharge over these months. We live in a beautiful place that has much to offer—gorgeous lakes, world class fishing, and so much more. Whether you are out in your garden, or taking a refreshing dip in the lake, take a moment to pause and give thanks to God our Father for His wonderful creation that He has given to us. Remember, that He is the Author of all these things—and it is our response as His children to offer up prayer, praise, and thanksgiving for these gifts. Indeed, Psalm 104 speaks of the creation of the Lord, and offers up such praise (v.24), "O LORD, how manifold are your works! In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures."

Of course, as with any good gift of God, we in our sin can readily turn it into idolatry. One such way is to take time away from church—to take a break from worship—and cease coming to the Lord's house to receive His gifts of forgiveness and grace in Christ. As the letter to the Hebrews exhorts us (10:24-25), "And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, **not neglecting to meet together**, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near." Being out in nature is not the same as being in church. As sinners redeemed by Christ's blood, we need to continually be in the Lord's house in order to hear His saving Word proclaimed into our ears, and to be fed with the richness of the body and blood of Jesus for the forgiveness of our sins. What a privilege and joy it is to receive such gifts from the hand of our bountiful Savior. If you are planning on being away for a time over these summer months, please let me know so that I can help you find a church to worship at in which you may gladly receive the Lord's gifts and have your faith strengthened and encouraged.

In connection with this, I am planning on beginning a regular Wednesday evening service for those who would like to partake. This service will normally be a simple Vespers evening service, but I am hoping to include a communion service once or twice a month. Be sure to stay tuned for more information regarding this in the Sunday bulletins.

We are also excited to welcome our summer vicar, Anthony Mandile IV. I am certain that you will all be blessed by his service among us this summer, and I pray you consider how best to be a blessing to him during his brief stay with us here. He will be learning a lot from us all, even as I am sure that we will learn from him. Thank you for your continued support of this mission opportunity for our congregation to help form future servants for the Lord's church—something that is desperately needed. Truly, as Jesus says (Matthew 9:37), "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few." We live in a society hell bent on its own destruction—forsaking God and His Word and natural law. We need good pastors to serve God's people in this difficult time, and it is a joy and privilege for us to be able to help the greater church in this awesome responsibility.

As always, if you have any questions, or if you would like to schedule a visit, please don't hesitate to contact me. God's peace and blessings with you all.

Yours In Christ,
Pastor Quast