



St. Paul's Epistle

June 2021

Church Council Minutes—May 6, 2021

Those in attendance - Pastor Quast, Richard Christie, Leonard Morrison, Tony Lucek, Leanna Hasbargen, Kyle Morrison, Ken Leerssen and Sally Batdorf

Chairman Richard Christie called the meeting to order. Opening devotions were given by Pastor Quast on the topic: "Suicide—When There Doesn't Seem to be any Other Way Out."

The Minutes and the Treasurer's Reports were read and approved.

Briefs: 1) The next scheduled voters meeting will take place in July 2) There was discussion concerning the lifting of MN's capacity restrictions by May 28th. 3) Pastor Quast would like to bring both churches together for a joint memorial service and meal when the border restrictions are lifted. 4) Home visits by Pastor will resume when covid restrictions are lifted. 5) Lutheran World Relief hygiene and fabric kits were put together on May 3rd. Thanks to everyone for the donations and help packing. 6) LWML National Convention ingathering items will be collected through June 6th. 7) Graduate Sunday will be celebrated on June 6th. We have 2 graduates. 8) New lawn care schedule began on May 16th. 9) Garage Sale will be held on May 14 & 15. 10) There will be no Church Council meeting in June unless needed.

Membership Changes: Removed by death—Rose Leerssen, passed away on March 29, 2021. Bob Houska passed away on March 22, 2021.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Submitted by ~ Sally Batdorf, Secretary



Starting June 6, 2021, our in person Sunday morning worship services will begin at 9 a.m.

A **HUGE** thank you goes out to everyone who helped with our Garage Sale on May 14 and 15th! \$1999.76 was raised toward our roof fund.

From everyone who donated items, to those putting up canopies, to everyone who baked, who helped customers load items, who cleaned up after the sale and those who were in the garage and lawn during the garage sale hours, it was all VERY appreciated! It was wonderful to see everyone working together toward a worthy cause!



June 6th, 2021 during our worship service we will be recognizing our high school graduates, Ben Bacon and Bryant Koenig.



As you make a new beginning in your life, graduate, be aware of important things you didn't learn in school:

As you pursue your dreams, remember to take time to help and serve others even if doing so slows you down a little.

As you explore and develop your unique talents, remain humble, realizing your special abilities are a gift from God.

As life hands you challenges, welcome them as ways to become smarter and stronger.

As you acquire material things, know that your most important possessions are honesty, integrity, and the desire to make a difference.

Congratulations Graduates, our church family is proud of you!

A Note from Former Vicar Martin Hill:

Dear St. Paul's:

Greetings to you all in the name of our Risen Lord, Jesus Christ!

As some of you may have heard, I have received my Call to Trinity Lutheran Church in Martinsburg, Nebraska and even as I draw near to the end of my time here at seminary, I look forward to serving the saints at Trinity.

Many thanks to you all for all your support from my time in the Falls as a summer vicar, throughout all my years here at Seminary. Thank you for your prayers and gifts.

Both my summer vicarage with you all and my years here at seminary have been formational and formative as I now enter into the Holy Ministry.

Thanks for everything and God's blessings to you all!

In Christ, Martin Hill

Northern Options for Women Update

Can you spare some change? Baby Bottle Ministry is happening from Mother's Day to Father's Day. You can pick up the bottles at church and return them by Sunday, June 20th.



Tree House Adventure Group begins Thursday, June 10th. Sharing, Games, Crafts, Food, Fun, Adventures. Every Thursday 1—2 p.m. Kids 10 and under with Mom. There will be a new adventure each week!

Ministry Opportunities:

- Board members are needed who are passionate for life.
- Maintenance help and lawn care.

Please call Julie at 218-240-4944 if interested.

June Birthdays!

A very happy birthday is wished to these members who are celebrating in June.

June 1: June Alleman and Jordan Swenson

June 17th: Rebecca Wright

June 3: Sara Bacon and Sue Johnson

June 4: Jordan Walls

June 5: Janice Leerssen

June 7: Destry Whitbeck



A Letter from Pastor Quast

Greetings, People Loved by God, in the name of our Saviour, Jesus!

Beloved, what joy and peace we have through our faith in the Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Spring has sprung—summer is rapidly approaching—and while COVID is still ongoing—yet there seems to be some light at the end of the tunnel, as it were. Our spirits are automatically uplifted by the increased sunshine, beautiful flowers, and fresh air (not to mention freshly caught walleye from the lake!). We can easily look around us and see the hand of God at work in the beautiful wonders of creation all around us. I would encourage each of you to take some time during these days and contemplate the wondrous mercy of God who has given us such a planet filled with life and beauty. Furthermore, take some time to thank and praise Him in prayer.

It is tempting for sinful humanity to neglect to recognize and give thanks to the Creator for all that He has given us. Yet we as Christians know that this world would not exist without power and will and Word of God. Indeed, the Festival of Pentecost (which we celebrate this year at the end of May) focuses on the blessing and joy of the Holy Spirit whom Jesus promised to send after His Ascension into glory. We see the Holy Spirit at work with both the Father and the Son at the very Creation itself. "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. And God said, 'Let there be light,' and there was light" (Genesis 1:1-3).

We see from Scripture that the same Holy Spirit who was at work in the creation of the world, is also at work in the creation of faith in peoples' hearts—leading them to be "born again" or "born from above." As St. Paul writes in Titus 3:4-7, "But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Saviour appeared, He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to His own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, Whom He poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Saviour, so that being justified by His grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life." Paul connects the salvation of men through the death and resurrection of Jesus to the working of the Holy Spirit in the washing of regeneration in Holy Baptism. The Holy Spirit applies the saving work of Christ on the cross to the individual at the Baptismal font—washing us clean by water and the Word of Christ for the forgiveness of our sins—instilling in our hearts a living faith in Jesus Christ as our God and Lord—so that we might have the sure and certain hope of eternal life in Him.

Beloved, God be praised! What wondrous good news! Good news that is not only for you and me—but for everyone—our family, friends, neighbours, and strangers alike. This past year, the devil has worked mightily to try and rob hope, peace, and joy from peoples' hearts—Christian and non-Christian alike. We have suffered loneliness, despair, heartache, and sorrow. Yet through it all, the Lord has preserved your faith by the Holy Spirit working through Word and Sacrament to bestow forgiveness of sins in Jesus' name. This same God and Lord—this same Spirit of joy and peace—continues to be at work in the world through His church—through people like you and me.

Let us, therefore, take every opportunity we have to gather together as the saints of God around the Holy things of God, as we confess each week in the Creed, "I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the + life everlasting. Amen." We, the holy people of God (saints), are called by the Holy Spirit to gather together and commune around the holy things of God (Word and Sacraments). Particularly after this year has seen us forego such blessed worship, at times, let us then not forsake gathering together, but rather rejoice in each and every opportunity to come together in Christian faith with likeminded believers to receive the gifts of God poured out upon us through Christ our Saviour.

As the author to the Hebrews exhorts us (10:19-25), "Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that He opened for us through the curtain, that is, through His flesh, and since we have a great high priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. 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."

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Pastor's Letter continued

We who can boldly enter the holy places of God by the blood of Jesus—who have been sprinkled clean from an evil conscience—our bodies washed and cleansed in Holy Baptism—may now hold fast to the good confession of our faith. A confession filled with joy, peace, and hope in believing in Christ our Lord. So we come together to encourage each other in the faith—particularly since we know the Day of the Second Coming of our Lord Jesus is approaching. We have only so much time to serve and love our neighbor by joyfully proclaiming Christ Jesus to them for the forgiveness of sins. And to be strengthened in this holy calling, we must first be served ourselves, by the Lord God through His gifts in the church.

It is God who comes to us and changes us—transforms our dead and lifeless hearts of stone—hearts of unbelief—to living hearts of flesh—hearts filled with faith in the Lord Jesus who died and rose again to set us free from sin, death, and the power of the devil. It is the same Spirit of God who first created the world, and who descended upon the apostles in tongues of fire—who has created saving faith in your hearts by the power of the Word of God. So, beloved, lift up your voices in great joy and praise to God, singing the words of the beautiful Pentecost hymn (LSB #500—Creator Spirit, by Whose Aid), "Creator Spirit, by whose aid The world's foundations first were laid, Come, visit ev'ry humble mind; Come, pour Your joys on human kind; From sin and sorrow set us free; May we Your living temples be."

Indeed, by God's grace you are now temples to the Holy Spirit—filled with the love, joy, and peace of God that comes only through faith in Christ Jesus who died for you—to set you free from sin and sorrow. May we now work to spread this joy and peace and hope to all whom we meet—that they too may know the peace of God, which surpasses all human understanding. The Holy Spirit, who has so richly blessed you, will give you the strength and courage to do so. Thanks be to God in Christ Jesus. Amen.

Yours In Christ,

Rev. J. Quast

Pastor, St. Paul Lutheran Church, International Falls, Minnesota

Pastor, The Church of the Lutheran Hour, Fort Frances, Ontario



"Symbols" ` A Flag Day devotion from Lutheran Hour Ministries

But let all who take refuge in You rejoice; let them ever sing for joy, and spread Your protection over them, that those who love Your Name may exult in You. For You bless the righteous, O LORD; You cover him with favor as with a shield. Psalm 5:10-12

In the United States, June 14 is Flag Day. The symbol of our country, the flag is an emblem many people have died for in wartime... and an insignia most people forget in peacetime.

Of course, the flag is not the only symbol of the U.S. We have another - - the bald eagle. I remember how, several years ago, reports went out that thirteen of those majestic birds were found murdered - - the handiwork of some twisted minds and hearts. When I heard that news, I could only shake my head in sadness.

How tragic it is for a country when some of its citizens treat her symbols so poorly. The flag is spit upon and burned, National Parks are subject to the insults of vandals, and the eagle is poisoned and shot.

A good country, most certainly. . . but also a country of sin and sinners. Which is why we need a Savior. We need THE Savior, Jesus Christ. He and He alone can rescue us from ourselves and redeem us from sin, death, and Satan. That is what Jesus did during the days He lived among us. And now, today, He sends His Holy Spirit to call us to faith, forgiveness, and a future. Describing His work, and without making many changes, the words of another U.S. symbol, the Statue of Liberty, could be put in the mouth of the Savior. I can almost hear Him say, ""Give me your tired, your poor, Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, The wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed to me, I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"

The only change I might make is the last line. Jesus would say, "I am the Lamp of life for those who lived in darkness before."

THE PRAYER: Dear Lord, spread Your protection and blessings over our countries and their people. I pray that we may see Your Light and walk in that Light. Open our hearts so we may be appreciative of the countless blessings You have given us. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

In Christ I remain His servant and yours, Pastor Ken Klaus, Speaker emeritus of The Lutheran Hour