

# St. Paul's Epistle ~

May 2022



## Church Council Minutes—April 7, 2022

Those present: Richard Christie, Leonard Morrison, Leanna Hasbargen, John Hopkins, Pastor Quast and RaNae Whitbeck

Pastor Quast led the devotion titled “Communicating God’s Way”.

The Minutes and Treasurer’s reports were approved as read.

Briefs: 1) The Trustee’s have completed some initial work with Jed Swenson regarding the roof project. 2) The MN North District Convention is being held in Brainerd May 9-11. Pastor Quast and Tim Anderson will be attending. 3) The speacil collection for the roof continues on the first Sunday of each month. 4) Hygiene kits will be assembled on April 13. 5) Adult Confirmation will take place on Easter Sunday during worship. 6) LWML Spring Rally is being held in Lake George on April 28th. 7) It was approved to send \$200.00 to Immanuel Lutheran Church for a Pro-Life Booth at the Beltrami County Fair.

Membership changes were printed. The meeting ended with prayer.

Submitted by ~ RaNae Whitbeck, Acting Secretary

## Quarterly Meeting Minutes—April 10, 2022

Chairman Tim Anderson called the meeting to order.

The Treasurer’s and Financial Secretary’s reports were approved as read.

Briefs: 1) The shingles for the roof project have been purchased and a down payment has been made on the trusses. 2) Thank you to Thrivent members for designating your Choice Dollars to St. Paul Lutheran. 3) Garage Sale will be held on May 20 & 21st. Parsonage garage will be open for donations on Sunday mornings starting April 24th. 4) Graduate Sunday will be held on May 22. 5) A collection for Orphan Grain Train of socks and underwear will be taking place through May 8th. They will be taken to the MN North District Convention. 6) The last Sunday of Sunday School will be May 15th. 7) Youth Catechism classes are wrapping up for the year on April 13th.

Membership changes were printed. The meeting ended with the Lord’s Prayer.

Submitted by ~ RaNae Whitbeck , Acting Secretary



*A very warm welcome is extended to John Sirotiak and Neil and Lorraine Manninen as they became members of our church family through Adult Confirmation on April 17, 2022. We pray that the Lord continues to strengthen your faith through Word and Sacrament!*

## Church Garage Sale May 20 and 21st, 2022

Our garage sale weekend is fast approaching! The parsonage garage will be open Sunday mornings before worship for items to be dropped off. It will also be open the entire week before the sale. This is a great opportunity for you to donate used items you don't need anymore, and to help raise funds for our roof project!

Many hands are needed to make this sale a success. If you can find a few hours to help sort and price items before the sale, be present at the sale and/or help clean up, it would be VERY appreciated! A sheet is available on the bulletin board to indicate you'd like to help, we always have a good time!

If you need someone to pick up items for the sale, please call the church office at 283-8642. Remember, no clothes or shoes.



Hard to believe that our Sunday School is almost over! May 15th is the last Sunday of class until fall. THANK YOU to all the parents/guardians for your dedication to bringing your little ones to hear God's Word each Sunday. They are a joy! We are always looking for eager people to help teach, if you are interested in helping next September, just mention it to Pastor.



### Congratulations Graduates!

*Our graduate recognition Sunday is May 22nd during our worship service. We have one high school graduate, Gavin Bacon. Congratulations to Gavin and all other graduates from college or trade school this past year. God's blessings to you as you pursue your future plans!*

*A mother laughs our laughter,  
Sheds our tears,  
Fears our fears.  
Shares our joys,  
Cares our cares and  
All our hopes and dreams she shares.  
HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!*



### May Birthdays!

1st: Mae Arveson & Rowen Quast

2nd: Heidi Swenson

3rd: Luke Wright

4th: Bryant Koenig

5th: Tony Lucek

12th: Adam Lucek

15th: Richard Vance

22nd: Jon Hasser & Jeremy Toth

24th: Joe Christie

25th: Doris Schattschneider

29th: Luke Leerssen



## Roof Repair Update

1. We made down payment on rafters. Final payment will be upon approval of rafter design. Target date is May 9th.
2. Purchased 5/8" OSB board for roof.
3. Shingles were purchased for new roof and the existing peaked roof.

We will be using the parsonage garage for roof supplies after the garage sale is over.

Thank you for your generous donations, all the supplies purchased so far have been made from our ongoing donations to roof fund!

Updates on the roof project will be given in future newsletters.

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### **Dear Friends in Christ, HE IS RISEN! He is risen indeed! ALLELUIA.**

I love preaching that Easter Sermon and singing Easter hymns. As we celebrate Easter this year, I think about the people of Ukraine and how they will celebrate Easter this year. Families that have lost loved ones over the past year have a sense of that incompleteness at the Easter table this year. Families that have become estranged through the years because of distance, conflict, or some other reason.

During my last year at the seminary, I ran across a story that I used as a sermon illustration. It was about a family in the early 1920's in rural America. Diphtheria had swept through their community and infected several households. This family consisted of a husband and wife with 5 children. Diphtheria impacted their home and within a few short weeks – 3 of their children died from this disease. When they were finally able to go to church – you could see the emptiness in faces of people who gathered there. Several homes had been affected and lost loved ones. Going through the Service – it was difficult to say those words that they had spoken so many times before. In the Creed, they spoke about believing in the resurrection of the dead and the life everlasting. But the words were difficult to speak.

The hymn that was sung was an Easter hymn – **The Strife Is O'er, the Battle Done**

1 The strife is o'er, the battle done; Now is the victor's triumph won; Now be the song of praise begun. Alleluia Alleluia – means – God be praised. At that time – it just didn't seem like there was a reason to praise God. Not after all that loss. It certainly didn't feel like they had any sort of victory. Then Verse 2: 2 The pow'rs of death have done their worst, But Christ their legions hath dispersed. Let shouts of holy joy outburst. The powers of death have done their worst. 3 of their 5 children laid in the ground. The pain was still real. It certainly felt like no triumph with shouts of holy joy. Then in verse 5: 5 Lord, by the stripes which wounded Thee, From death's dread sting Thy servants free That we may live and sing to Thee. Alleluia From 1 Corinthians 15: "Death is swallowed up in victory. 'O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?' The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

Our Easter Alleluias result from the gracious action of our God who has overcome the grave. The bodies of those children lost in that epidemic lay in the ground and yet, by grace, through faith, they are with Jesus. This was not the end. By the grace of God, through the death and the resurrection of Jesus Christ – WE have LIFE. We are Alive in Christ. The Victory over the grave has been won. The sting of death has been satisfied in Christ. Even though we experience the sorrow of loss, the devastations of war, the division of households – we have the promise of Easter, that we may live and sing Alleluia to our King who is raised from the dead and promises all who believe in Him a resurrection victory over sin, death and hell.

**HE IS RISEN! He Is risen indeed!!! Alleluia! To God be the glory. Amen.**

Easter Blessings, Pastor Jeffrey Lee, MN North District Office

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

Alleluia! Christ the Lord is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia! This is the joyful refrain of Christians during the blessed season of Easter. We rejoice in our Saviour's resurrection from the dead by which He has proven His victory over sin, death, and the devil. Now we, His holy church, respond in shouts of praise and thanksgiving over this chief miracle of miracles. For as Jesus is risen from the dead, so too shall we rise again on the Last Day!

Make no mistake, beloved, the resurrection of Jesus is the foundation and cornerstone of our faith. As St. Paul clearly states in 1 Corinthians 15:14, 20-22, "And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain... But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive." So the whole of our faith and life—the whole of the forgiveness of our sins and eternal salvation—rests upon this one fact—Christ Jesus has been raised from the dead! He who once was slain has risen in glorious triumph! Alleluia!

And because Jesus lives, so too shall all who believe in Him. This then is the central message of the church's proclamation of the Gospel: Jesus was crucified and died for our sins, but is now risen from the dead. We rejoice in this good news that means our greatest enemies of sin and death have been vanquished by the death and resurrection of Jesus. Therefore, the hymns of the faith for the Easter season are some of the most joyful and comforting hymns in all of Christendom.

Take, for example, the well-known (and beloved) hymn "Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds" (LSB#465):

Now all the vault of heav'n resounds In praise of love that still abounds:

"Christ has triumphed! He is living!" Sing, choirs of angels, loud and clear!

Repeat their song of glory here: "Christ has triumphed! Christ has triumphed!" Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

In this first stanza we recognize that all the heavenly host breaks forth into praise and thanksgiving, singing of the salvation of the world that has been accomplished by and through the living Christ. This is the echoing refrain throughout time—Christ has triumphed! He is living! Alleluia!

Let us rejoice in this Good News. For the resurrection of Jesus means that we and all believers will likewise be raised from the dead to live in eternal joy and splendor with the Lord. As stanza 2 puts it:

Eternal is the gift He brings, Therefore our heart with rapture sings:

"Christ has triumphed! He is living!" Now still he comes to give us life

And by His presence stills all strife. Christ has triumphed! He is living!

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

So then we can bear up under all strife and difficult circumstances in the world, in our communities, and in our personal lives. For we know that in the end, Christ has triumphed! He is living! And so too shall we!

This Good News of the resurrection further motivates us, then, to lives of love and service to our neighbor, whomever they may be. For we have been filled with the love of God in Christ. We have been set free from our sins, and now we are able to fully love as we have first been loved by God. Stanza 3 sings:

O fill us, Lord, with dauntless love; Set heart and will on things above

That we conquer through Your triumph; Grant grace sufficient for life's day

That by our lives we truly say: "Christ has triumphed! He is living!"

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Indeed, we Christians now joyfully take every opportunity to exhibit Christ's love to our neighbor. We do this not for our own sake, but rather so that as Jesus says in Matthew 5:16, "... they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."

Finally, then, the church responds in a doxology of praise to the Triune God who has worked our salvation for us. Stanza 4 closes:

Adoring praises now we bring And with the heav'nly blessed sing:

"Christ has triumphed! Alleluia!" Be to the Father and our Lord,

To Spirit blest, most holy God, All the glory, never ending!

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Truly, our Triune God has worked our salvation and given us His saving name. We have been baptized into this triune name of God, by which we have entered into the death and resurrection of Christ. As St. Paul writes in Romans 6:3-4, "Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? 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."

So, beloved, you are baptized Christians. You have died with Christ. You have been raised with Christ. Death no longer has any hold over you who live and believe on His name. May this grant you comfort and peace all the days of your life as you serve the Lord in His kingdom. For Alleluia! Christ the Lord is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia! Thanks be to God. Amen.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me (cell – 218.324.1948). I pray for you all, daily. May God's grace be upon you, now and always.

Yours In Christ,

Rev. J. Quast

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

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