

# St. Paul's Epistle ~ May 2024



## Church Council Minutes ~ April 4, 2024

Those in attendance: Pastor Quast, Tim Anderson, Richard Christie, Leonard Morrison, Dave Wright, John Hopkins and RaNae Whitbeck

Chairman Tim Anderson called the meeting to order. Opening devotions were from the book, "Celebration of Saints". The topic was artists during the Reformation.

There were no changes to the agenda. The Minutes and Treasurer's reports were reviewed and approved.

Briefs: 1) The Elders are studying Part 4, baptism in the large catechism. 2) Thank you to everyone who helped with the Easter Breakfast. There was a great turn out for the breakfast. 3) The results on the votes on the Call were 33 voting to Call a seminary candidate, and 3 to call a candidate from the field. Documents were completed for the Candidate request. 4) Our quarterly meeting is scheduled for April 14. 5) A farewell dinner for the Quasts' is scheduled for April 28th, members from the Church of the Lutheran Hour will be joining us. 6) There was discussion on repairing the stucco on the exterior of the church. Work will be starting on the roof project when the weather allows.

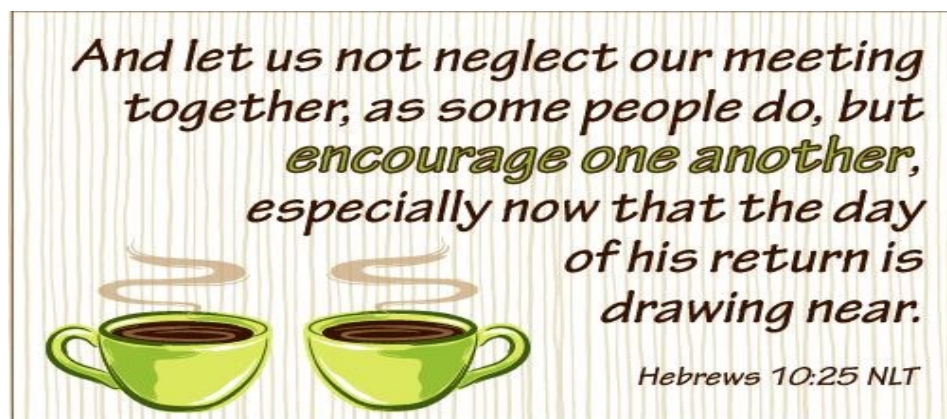
Membership changes were printed.

The meeting ended with the Lord's Prayer.

Submitted by ~ RaNae Whitbeck, Acting Secretary

## **NOTICE:**

**Keep up to date on worship times, special meetings and going-ons at our church by visiting our website: [www.stpaulifalls.com](http://www.stpaulifalls.com), on our Facebook page, or calling the church at 283-8642. Every effort will be made to notify members of changes to worship times due to our Pastoral vacancy.**



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## Quarterly Voters Meeting—April 14, 2024

Chairman Tim Anderson called the meeting to order. Pastor Quast opened the meeting with Psalm 23 followed by prayer.

Minutes, Treasurers Report and Financial Secretary's Report were reviewed and approved.

Briefs: 1) The Trustee's have replaced most of the burned out lights in the basement fellowship hall. 2) Ideas are being looked at to fix the water seepage into the church basement (Interior vs. Exterior excavation). 3) Pastor Quast thanked everyone for all the support he's been given as he leaves for his new job. 4) Roof prep work will begin soon for new fascia. New gutters will be installed by DK Frank. 5) Church leadership attended a meeting at Bethlehem Lutheran in Baudette concerning pastor shortages. 6) 30 Hygiene kits were packed for Lutheran World Relief. Thanks to everyone for your donations and the crew that packed them. 7) Last day for Sunday School till fall is May 12. 8) We are waiting to hear if we will be getting a Seminary Candidate from Canada. The next step to follow if we don't is to get a list of Pastor's names from the field and hold a voters meeting.

Membership changes: 1) Removed by Death: Annette Vollrath on 1/28/24. 2) Member by Profession of Faith: John Ettestad on 3/17/24.

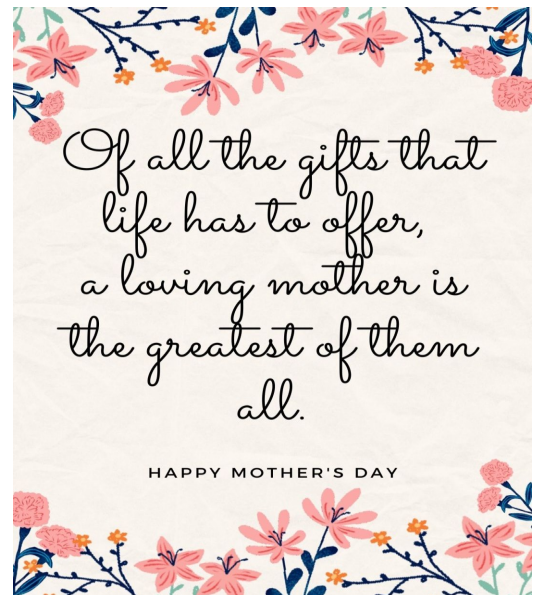
The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Submitted by Sally Batdorf, Secretary



### Sunday School

Our last day of Sunday School for the summer is Sunday, May 12 at 10 a.m. We'll be having an end of the year party that day. Thank you to all the parents/grandparents for bringing the kids each Sunday. We have had a wonderful year with them and look forward to seeing them in the fall!



## May Birthdays

### Happy birthday to these members celebrating this month!

May 1st: Mae Arveson & Rowen Quast

24th: Joe Christie

2nd: Heidi Swenson

25th: Doris Schattschneider

3rd: Luke Wright

29th: Luke Leerssen

4th: Bryant Koenig

5th: Tony Lucek

12th: Adam Lucek

22nd: Jon Hasser & Jeremy Toth



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## “What are you seeing on the ground?”

*“For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, for it is made holy by the word of God and prayer.” I Timothy 4:4-5*

An experienced pastor from my first call told me a story of his circuit visitor from the early 60's. For their monthly circuit meetings, they would gather after worship for Bible/Confessional studies. The circuit visitor would start by saying, “Gentlemen, what are you seeing on the ground?” After the brothers would share a few things, he would pray, and they would begin their study. This question was not the time of casuistry, where the group tried to help a brother through a difficult situation, as that occurred later in the day, but a reflection on the spiritual needs around the circuit that would need be addressed by Word and prayer (Acts 6:4; I Timothy 4:5).

What are you seeing on the ground? What are the spiritual care needs in your home, at work, your neighborhood, and your church? The needs might be obvious: upcoming surgery, a cancer diagnosis, family conflict, couple living together outside marriage, or financial struggles. Some might be more behind the scenes like a family with an autistic child, struggles with mental health, issues at work, parent who drops their child off for kindergarten on the first day, or in my case my oldest graduating high school. No matter the perceived scale of need, the Lord knows and bring His help & healing (I Peter 2:24).

As we walk together in doctrine and practice in the LCMS, we do so by addressing the spiritual needs in the communities He has placed us. I would like to know from you, “What are you seeing on the ground?” I invite everyone in the baptized (pastors, workers, laity) to send me an email, [brady.finnern@mnnlcms.org](mailto:brady.finnern@mnnlcms.org), with what you are seeing on the ground? This not only will help us discern how to best serve the 197 congregations, 19 preschools, and 8 schools in our district, but will provide an opportunity for us at the District office to bring everything to the feet of Christ in prayer.

*Keep fighting the good fight of the faith (I Timothy 6:12)*

In Christ (Luke 24:5-6)

Rev. Brady Finnern, District President

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### LWML Update

We will be hosting our annual “Friendship Night” on Thursday, May 9 at 5:30 p.m. We’ll be having a potluck meal. Please sign up on the bulletin board by Monday, May 6th.

Deb Larson and Leanna Hasbargen attended the LWML Spring Rally in Park Rapids on April 18th. The MN District Convention is being on June 3-5, 2024 at Cragun’s Resort in Brainerd. Please see Deb or Leanna if you are interested in attending.

Our annual Summer Luncheon will be held at the Thunderbird Lodge in July, please watch the bulletin for date and time.

The first Sunday of each month is Mite Sunday, thank you for your donations.

Our next meeting date will be September 8th. All ladies of the congregation are invited to join us!



# From the Pastor



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

Beloved, it is with a heavy heart that I sit down to write this final Newsletter Article. It has been my great privilege to serve as your pastor these past years. It has been an honor to be the steward of the mysteries of God among you—distributing the gifts of Christ in Word and Sacrament. Indeed, I can honestly say with St. Paul in his letter to the Philipians (1:3-5), “I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the Gospel from the first day until now.”

Indeed, we have walked together as pastor and people in partnership of the Gospel. Reaching out in love to those around us with His Good news of salvation that is for all people. Together, we have cried—laughed—loved—and, most importantly, been loved by God our Father through the Lord Jesus Christ. We have been blessed to immerse ourselves in the gifts of God each week—receiving with joy and thanksgiving the full remission of all our sins in Word and Sacrament. This has strengthened us in our own walk of faith in this world—encouraging us when times were dark—making us bold to share the love of God with others whenever opportunities presented themselves—and ever rejoicing in the fellowship we have with one another through our shared faith in Christ Jesus as Lord and Saviour. God be praised!

So I want to thank each and every one of you. You have prayed for me and my family. You have loved us through thick and thin. You have been a shining light of Christ to me these many years. You have been an encouragement to me at all times—THANK YOU!! I pray that in some small way I have been able to be a blessing and an encouragement to you as well. That in all our interactions we have come to rely on nothing else than Jesus Christ and Him crucified. For it is in the blood of Jesus outpoured on the cross that we are comforted with forgiveness for all of our sins and an assurance of everlasting life in glory with Christ and all those we love who have died in the faith. What joy!

Though I will no longer be blessed to be able to serve as your pastor, yet (Philippians 1:6-7), “I am sure of this, that He who began a good work in you will bring to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace...” Our loving God promises to continue to be with you—Jesus is your Good Shepherd! The good work of your sanctification continues to this day, and the Lord will bring much fruit to bear in this congregation and community on account of your steadfast faithfulness to Him and loving proclamation of His Gospel. Know that I do indeed hold you all in my heart, grateful to God that you also are recipients of God’s grace along with me. For He is our comfort and salvation.

Therefore, know beloved (Philippians 1:8-11), that “God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.” Indeed, I will yearn for you all. The deep bond we share will not grow old or diminish—for it is rooted in the Lord Jesus. And I know and trust that by His grace and Spirit you will continue to abound in love for one another—and for all those whom the Lord Jesus has put into your midst to love—just as you have done with me and my family.

Dear friends, you are filled with the fruit of the righteousness of Jesus, having been washed clean of all sin by His holy and precious blood. It is with great confidence in our loving God that I can take my leave from you—trusting in His mercy to ever be with you. And so may we all ever give glory and praise to God for His manifold gifts and blessings, which are new every morning. The Lord is with you and will keep you in His tender arms of love and peace. And He will provide you with yet another faithful undershepherd in His own good timing.

Thank you for the great honor of serving you in God’s blessed and holy name.

Yours In Christ,  
Rev. J. Quast