



# SAINT PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

# MESSENGER

FALL, 2022

## PASTOR'S PEN

With the release of the latest COVID boosters, we have more ways than ever to ensure our safety. I encourage every member to get the booster if you are medically able to do so. This is important because it is time for us to fully return to the business of being the church. Although we will continue to apply lessons learned from the height of the pandemic, and will abide by guidance that comes from the ELCA and public health officials, we will no longer invoke the pandemic as justification to not conduct an event or take on a challenge.

That said, remember the following:

- ◆ Anyone is welcome to wear a mask if they feel they need to. Not just for COVID protection but also cold and flu protection.
- ◆ Err on the side of spacing out if there is room to do so.
- ◆ Do not go to any event (church or otherwise) if you are not feeling well.
- ◆ Keep test kits handy so you can know your probable status. A positive result is reliably positive; a negative result is a bit questionable, especially if you have symptoms.
- ◆ If you test positive, be sure to follow CDC quarantine guidelines.
- ◆ Wash your hands; this is good practice at any time.

We will not neglect to care for each other, but we will return more fully to the life, opportunities, and obligations of being followers of Jesus. Look for opportunities to gather and invite friends, old members, and new members to church. The pandemic is not over, but the mission of the church remains urgent, and we can both protect ourselves and carry out our mission.

*-Pr. Eric*

## IN OUR PRAYERS

- |                      |                      |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| Judy Babcock         | Jim Lewis            |
| Lindsey Backus       | Michelle Mackey      |
| Carolyn Baker        | Bob & Betty Minemier |
| Jan Blum             | Barb Mitchell        |
| Ginger Buck          | Jim Rex              |
| Rodney Button        | Dick Sahrle          |
| June Collier         | Mary Sahrle          |
| Don & Madge          | Bill Shaver          |
| The Greene Family    | David Smith          |
| Barbara Gregory      | The Swartz Family    |
| Michael              | Jim Thompson         |
| Kay Howe             | Jim Wagner           |
| Dick & Marilyn Lemen | Christine Whiteman   |
|                      | Bill Caton           |

## 2022 ELCA Churchwide Assembly Summary of Actions

8/19/2022

Chicago —The 2022 ELCA Churchwide Assembly met Aug. 8-12 at the Greater Columbus Convention Center in Columbus, Ohio. Gathering under the theme "Embody the Word," the assembly worshiped together in services of eucharist and lament, experienced a liturgy rooted in Indigenous traditions, and heard a public apology in a non-legislative session to Iglesia Luterana Santa María Peregrina for harm experienced from actions taken by the Sierra Pacific Synod and this church. The following key actions were taken by the assembly:

- ◆ Elected Imran Siddiqui of the Southeastern Synod as vice president of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).
- ◆ Directed the ELCA Church Council to establish a Commission for a Renewed Lutheran Church to reconsider the statements of purpose for each expression of this church, the principles of organizational structure and our shared commitment to dismantle racism, with findings to be reported to the 2025 Churchwide Assembly in preparation for a possible reconstituting convention. Directed an external audit of the governing documents of the ELCA to consider diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility, with findings resulting in recommended changes to the governing documents.
- ◆ Authorized revisions to the social statement *Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust*; approved exploration of reconsideration of the four stated positions of "bound conscience."
- ◆ Encouraged members, congregations and synods of this church to educate themselves about Indigenous peoples, calling on the churchwide organization to work with synods and Indigenous partners to identify sources of funding for ministries for Indigenous peoples, and encouraging restorative justice that could include the return of land to the appropriate Native nations.
- ◆ Referred a proposed study of pay gaps for rostered ministers to the Church Council.
- ◆ Mandated a review process of the roster manual and policies related to specialized ministries, on leave from call status, and protocols for removal from the rosters; encouraged bishops and synod councils to use sparingly the process of removal from the roster for non-disciplinary reasons.

- ◆ Approved the budget proposal for the triennium, including a spending authorization of \$68,814,000 for 2023 for the current fund, along with a spending authorization of \$22,869,000 for ELCA World Hunger.
- ◆ Affirmed limits on the use of nondisclosure agreements by the churchwide organization; urged synods, congregations and other ministries to apply the same limits.
- ◆ Reaffirmed the commitment of this church to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, directing the churchwide organization to set a goal of a 50% reduction of net greenhouse gas pollution by 2030, with a long-range goal of achieving net-zero emissions by 2050.
- ◆ Called for a review of the nomination and elections processes used by synods and the churchwide organization.
- ◆ Responded to memorials on diversity; nuclear weapons; voting rights and Washington, D.C. statehood; strategies for fortifying urban ministries; a Black migrant strategy; the right to boycott; gun violence; LGBTQIA+ welcome; substance abuse; *Roe v. Wade*; remembrance of Armenian, Assyrian and Greek genocide; parental and medical family leave; a process for pre-identification of nominees for the Office of the Presiding Bishop; revisions to the mission development process; consideration of communion practices related to remote worship; affirmation of the task force created by the Church Council to review the discipline process; and a social message on child abuse and protection.
- ◆ Approved or ratified amendments to the Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the ELCA, most of which were related to general clarifications and updates; inclusive language; synod-authorized ministry; designation of advisory members by the Church Council; boards of the separately incorporated ministries; and election procedures for officers and the Churchwide Assembly.
- ◆ Elected members of the Church Council, Committee on Appeals, Committee on Discipline, Nominating Committee and boards of the separately incorporated ministries.

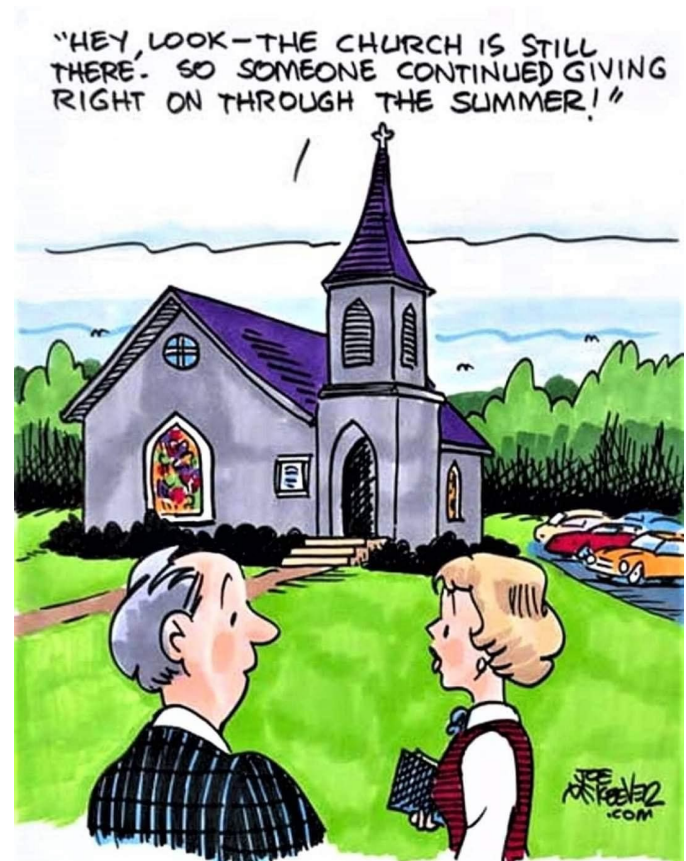
## St. Paul's Summer News Roundup

- ◆ The sanctuary roof leak around the bell tower was repaired this past month. It had been temporarily repaired in early winter, preventing more leaks from coming in. The roofer came back this month and made permanent repairs at an unbudgeted cost of \$2,357.50.
- ◆ Many thanks to Ann Myers, Marchia Santangelo, and Pastor Eric for representing St. Paul's at the Upstate New York Synod Assembly in early June. Their report is in the green notebook on top of the mailboxes in the hall. Your \$976 in contributions to the Synod Assembly's World Hunger campaign to buy a cow (cost of one cow - \$500) was hand delivered by Ann and Marchia. The \$24 shortfall from our goal of \$1,000 was anonymously donated on behalf of St. Paul's, making our total donation \$1,000 toward the purchase of 2 cows. How "udderly" wonderful!!
- ◆ We received a thank you letter from Lutheran World Relief for the donation of the \$61 earned at the 50-50 Raffle table at the May Craft Fair. We had collected it for LWR – Eastern European Crisis. The thank you letter stated that " your gift is being put to use immediately to deliver emergency food, shelter, Personal Care Kits, Baby Care Kits, medicines and other critically needed items for children and their families who are trying to survive the horrifying fighting ... or are being forced to flee their homeland with a few meager belongs": If you participated in our raffle, thank you.
- ◆ If you are receiving the Living Lutheran magazine, the year's subscription for church members who order through St. Paul's will end on September 30. If you want to renew your subscription through the church, please submit a check for \$8.95, made payable to St. Paul's with Living Lutheran in the memo line ASAP! For those members who do not receive this informative magazine, the Church receives 2 extra copies that are placed on top of the mailboxes in the hall. Take one home – you might want to subscribe.
- ◆ Many thanks to Marilyn and Henry Robin for the donation of a "garden shed" to store the lawn mowers, gasoline to run them and other

supplies necessary for the weekly upkeep of our lawn. Perhaps you were not aware that a public building such as a church cannot store gasoline powered equipment within its building.

- ◆ Summer is a busy time in our lives and church attendance usually "falls off" during the summer months. But our bills do not. As the fall schedule ramps up, please don't forget about your church.

- Submitted by Gerri Long, Treasurer







Family Laundromat  
20 Franklin St.

Saturday, 9/10 8:30—11:30 am  
 Monday, 9/12 3:30—6:30 pm  
 Saturday, 9/24 8:30—11:30 am  
 Monday, 9/26 3:30—6:30 pm

6pm; 1st & 3rd  
Wednesdays of  
the Month;  
Battle Street  
Brewery

6pm; 2nd & 4th Wed. of the  
Month

COFFEE  
TALK

**IN THE MILITARY**  
 Andrew M. Mountzouros  
*United States Navy*  
  
 Jordan C. Camacho  
*United States Navy*

**September Birthdays:** Ellie Mountzouros 9/12  
 Joan Brydges 9/15  
**October Birthdays:** Christine Whiteman 10/19  
 Diane Mountzouros 10/26

*May God bless and keep you  
as you begin another year!*

