

News & Notes



**St. Paul Lutheran Church
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The Rev. Matt Conrad, Pastor**

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From the Pastor's Desk

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

With many people travelling over the summer, I have tried to get the word “out” in as many forms as possible. But if you have not heard already, I have prayerfully decided to return the call to Messiah Lutheran Church in Holt, Michigan. While Messiah shared many opportunities for outreach, and the people at the church were incredibly welcoming, I have decided that there's still much to be done here at St Paul.

I wanted to thank those of you that shared your thoughts and concerns. I had an opportunity to have some open and honest talks with a few of you – beyond the “please don't go” – and you brought some clarity to my deliberation. We were able to talk about St Paul's past, and her future, and do so in a very constructive way.

However, the reason I'm writing this article is that I wanted to share with everyone one of the most important conversations I had during this process. It wasn't from a family member or a member of St Paul, it was with a member of the community. This person shared that they know I have to consider my family, and I have to consider the church, but they said that if they could speak on behalf of the community of Skokie, “Please don't go.” They shared that the community needs St Paul and the energy we bring.

Dear friends in Christ, this is amazing. A long time ago, when we were working through reFocus, we had groups draw pictures of what our missional impact could be on the community of Skokie. Every picture somehow had St Paul involved in the center of the community. We knew that it would take some time to change Skokie's picture of St Paul and assumptions of who we are – but that did not stop us from trying to be a blessing to those around us.

Jesus said, "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven." (Matthew 5:14-16)

Brothers and sisters, the change we set out to do – *we're doing it!* The community has taken note of St Paul and knows that we try to be a blessing to those around us. St Paul has been working hard to be that shining light in the community, so that others might be blessed. All of the good that we do, or allowing the community to use our facilities, or giving coats to those who need it the most – we do this to bring glory to God. As we work to be a blessing to those around us, our hope and prayer is that others might give praise to our Father in heaven because of us. I returned the call to Holt, Michigan because there's still much work for us to do. The Lord's not finished with St Paul yet. It's not work that I can do alone, it's not the job of a single committee or just a handful of people – it's the job of us all. Every member of St Paul Lutheran Church can be, *must be*, involved in the work of the Church in some way or another. (And one of the easiest ways to do that is to pray for your church and her pastor – EVERYBODY can do that).

When I first made the announcement that I was staying, I again challenged everyone to think what St Paul might be doing should every member give 1 hour of time above and beyond attending services on Sunday. Let me repeat that for you – what would our church look like if everyone gave a single hour of their time? What impact would St Paul be making? What would *you* be doing? Dear friends in Christ, I need you, St Paul needs you, the community *needs* you. People are depending on us – let's walk together, be a shining light in our communities, and do those good deeds God has already prepared for us to do.

In His Hands,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rev Matt Conrad". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid and personal.

Pastor Conrad

July Birthdays

7/01 Robert Eischen
7/01 Stefan Schalk
7/02 Anastasia Botten
7/03 Jeffrey Hacker
7/03 Jennifer McAleer
7/03 Jill Mueller
7/03 Monika Taraschewsky
7/04 Barbara Jarvis
7/05 Carol Endres
7/05 Doris Speidel
7/07 Charlotte Billisits
7/07 Glenn Hacker
7/07 Jacqueline Rosen-Sakas
7/10 Deborah Landi
7/10 Ryan Muench
7/10 Claudette Roberts
7/10 Dolores Stahlecker
7/11 David Sellke
7/13 Charles Gillham
7/13 Dale Luksha
7/14 Graham Witherbee
7/15 Karen Kasten
7/16 David Johnson
7/16 Laurie Koniarski
7/17 Kennedy Buehner
7/17 Hortense Nelson
7/18 Morgan Schalk
7/20 Samuel Cobine
7/21 Linda Kowalczyk
7/22 Martha Stubenrauch
7/23 Steven Gucwa
7/24 Sharon Kolodzik
7/24 Adriele Soballe
7/27 Patricia Moore
7/27 Robert Sietmann
7/28 Shannon Buehner
7/28 Kendra Wilson
7/31 Sandra Kolodzik



July Anniversaries

- 7/01 Gerald & Penny Luytgaarden
- 7/05 Pastor & Danelle Conrad
- 7/12 Michael and Kristin Johnson
- 7/14 Michael and Jennifer McAleer
- 7/16 Rick and Christy Krier
- 7/19 Stan and Joanie McKinney
- 7/28 John and Edna Witte
- 7/30 William and Dale Luksha



CHURCH NEWS

Contribution Statements: If you would like a half-year contribution statement (January 1st through June 30th), please contact the office and one will be sent to you.



Thank You to those who participated in the blood drive on June 15th. The goal for the drive was to collect 17 donations, and they were able to collect 15. Heartland provides area hospitals with a safe and adequate supply of blood and blood products. Many patients will benefit from your generosity, including adults and children with cancer and leukemia, as well as victims of accidents and those requiring surgery.

OFFICIAL ACTS

Baptism: 6/15 Justin Juan Barragan

Subtraction: 6/20 Amber Lechman, Nathan - by transfer

Memorial Service: 6/29 Ann Kavanaugh

ATTENDANCE

<u>9:00 am</u>		<u>7:00 pm</u>	
June 1	87	June 5	20
June 8	68	June 12	22
June 15	101	June 19	23
June 22	60	June 26	22
June 29	68		



THE FOLLOWING MEMORIALS WERE RECEIVED IN THE CHURCH OFFICE:

In memory of Dolores Meinke

Stan & Joanie McKinney Robert & Susan Keith
Claudette Roberts Sue & Bob Carey

In honor of Evie Grosse's birthday

Kim Patchett

THE ST. PAUL FOUNDATION FUND HONOR ROLL OF DONORS:

In memory of Dolores Meinke

Ruth Kemnitz
Marie Kamps



ST. PAUL GIVING & DEBT

Fiscal Year – June 1, 2013 to May 31, 2014
Month Ending – May 31, 2014

Member Contributions + Loose Offerings

Needed total per 2013/2014 budget	\$ 253,070
Needed giving each month	21,089
Giving received this month	12,068 (down \$13,003
Giving needed so far this year	253,070 from April)
Actual giving so far this year	217,715
Variance to need – surplus/(deficit)	(35,335) fiscal year total

<u>Remaining Debts & Pay Down Progress</u>		<u>Pay Down This Month</u> **
Mortgage (parsonage) @ 5.75%	\$ 73,269	\$ (116)
Line of bank credit (LOC) @ 5%	36,826	\$ ()
Bonds 50K @ 6%, 15K @ 6-1/2%	65,000	
Loan from Foundation Fund @ 0% *	25,000	
Loan from Schaefer Bequest @ 0% *	<u>25,000</u>	
Totals	\$ 225,095	\$ (116)

* Pay back promised when borrowed

** Members: To help pay down our debts, please use the Building Fund envelopes in your packet, or use plain envelopes. When using either envelope type, please mark it Debt Reduction Only.