

News & Notes



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The Rev. Matt Conrad, Pastor**

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From the Pastor's Desk

Looking Ahead – Repairing The School Roof

^{ESV} Hebrews 10:24 And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, ²⁵ 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.

Wow – summer went fast, didn't it? September 7th is our last 9am "summer" worship schedule. We'll hopefully gather outdoors for our service and enjoy a good old fashioned church picnic and potluck afterwards (Reminder: bring a dish to share!) On September 14th, we'll transition back to our "regular" 8am and 10:30 am worship times, with a 9:15 Christian Education hour in-between. Starting in September we resume many activities that took a break the past few months: Bible Study, Sunday School, Confirmation, Small Groups. Many of these educational opportunities meet at various times and places in our school building. Our small group room has been getting a lot of use – both from our small groups and board/council meetings, but also from a local AA group and some community meetings from the public schools.

Since worship attendance always drops a little during the summer, some of you might have missed some of the important work that has been taking place at St Paul Lutheran Church. For one, we have had some very dedicated volunteers transforming one of our classrooms into a welcoming environment to host a community clothing closet. I don't know if any of you had been in our old extended care room – it was not a pretty sight. The walls hadn't been painted (or washed!) in years and the space was a bit of a catch-all for just about anything. But now, after hours of elbow grease, a few coats of paint, and some new (and repurposed) shelving – we have a place ready for ministry! A gigantic "thank you" goes out to the many St Paul volunteers who have worked so hard to make this happen, and to our ministry partners from Molloy School and their many volunteer hours. We

especially thank Joanie McKinney for coordinating so much of the work that was done in this room. Many people came together to make this happen – and it's going to be a tremendous blessing to our community.

Furthermore, this month we welcome the British Infant School that is meeting in one of our classrooms. Sister Hilary Halpin has hosted a tremendous program for many years that has touched many in our community. She has asked if we would be willing to host her program for a few years. We look forward to this opportunity, and we are encouraged in how their school families will bless our current ministries. So if you come into the office during the week – don't be surprised when you see little children in our facilities!

In addition to these new endeavors, the community also continues to use our school building: an intramural volleyball group uses our gym space, a few cub and girl scout groups meet individually and as large groups, our Korean friends are still dancing and drumming parts of the building. The late night AA group still meets in our space regularly. Lately, it seems as if there is something happening somewhere in the building – and that's exciting.

All of these opportunities made our August 17th voter's assembly that much more important. On August 17th, the congregation approved drawing on the line of credit to fix our academy building's roof. The roof has been in need of repair for years now – but we have come to a point where it is no longer an option to wait. We have some major leaks on one side of the building – and the longer it takes for the congregation to address this issue, the more damage to the building structure itself. Thankfully, the assembly realized the importance of being good stewards of our buildings and approved taking the steps necessary to keep this building in working condition.

What has happened to our roof is that the material covering the roof has been shrinking, pulling back the gutter system that should drain the water off of the roof. This not only has exposed the edges of the building to the elements and animals, but also keeps water pooled up on the roof with nowhere to go – well, nowhere but inside the school building. The old school library is where you see the most damage – over 18 bins are spread

throughout the room to catch the water. During a hard rain we expect about 75 gallons to come through the roof and into the library. These bins must be emptied every few hours; if they aren't, then the water overflows into the music room below. The trustees have been working to secure different bids for a new roof – and are now working to make them comparable to one another. With voter approval to draw from the line of credit, this means that work on the roof can start very soon.

HOWEVER – we the people of St Paul are not off the hook. We need to continue to be good stewards of our Lord's resources and be diligent in paying back this loan. While any congregation will have an emergency appeal for funds, we do not want this loan to be something that simply sits on the backburner and is never addressed. So while the congregation approved spending the money – and drawing from the line of credit because we need to start immediately – every single one of us needs to come together to help pay this roof off in 3 years.

To help start our project, the St Paul Foundation Fund has given \$15,000. But that's just a start. We need to come together and make commitments in *our* giving to help care of this roof. We need to think outside the box in how we can fund the repayment – so that our giving is something we do in joy. We are looking for people to help head-up the campaign, but also ideas in creative fundraising. If you are interested, please speak with our congregational president and vice-president, Jill Mueller and Cheryl Croll.

We have many ministries and community groups that are using our building – and we are not using this building to its full potential. This is only the beginning, and more opportunities are to come. But while we have been entrusted with this space, it's our responsibility to care for it. Let's come together and accomplish this great task – repairing our building and paying off the loan – and see what opportunities are presented to us. Ask anyone who has been helping prepare our spaces for ministries, it's a great thing to be God's people in a specific place, walking alongside one another to do His work.

Rev Matt Conrad

CHURCH NEWS



Church Picnic: Sunday, September 7th, is the date of our church picnic. The picnic will take place on the church grounds beginning with our worship service at 9 am, followed by food, fun and fellowship. Those with the last names **A-L**, please bring a **side dish**, and last names **M-Z**, please bring a **dessert**. Mark your calendar and plan on attending!

Sunday School starts on September 14th, 9:15 am in the cafeteria. Children, ages 3 (potty trained) through 6th grade are invited to attend.



Choir: The St. Paul Choir and Handbell Choir begin rehearsals Saturday, September 20th. Returning and new members are welcome. Music reading skills or auditions are not required; only a love of music in the service of worship and community, and a time commitment, are needed. Handbells rehearse each Saturday 9:30 - 10:30 am. Choir rehearses each Saturday 10:30 am - noon. For more information, contact Mark Lee, Director, at (312)596-4022.

COLLEGE STUDENTS

Our congregation would like to send *News & Notes* and other emails to our students away from home. If you have an email address to give the office, please do so.



Keep in Touch! One of our young church members, T.J. Casem, is off to college in Nevada as a freshman. He is looking for a church to attend while he is there, but hearing from church members from home would be wonderful. If you would like to send him a card or a few words of encouragement, it would mean the world to him. His address is: T.J. Casem, Box 312, 4765 Gym Road, Las Vegas, NV 89119.

CLOTHING CLOSET UPDATE



Wow! Another HUGE thank you to all of you for your amazing efforts! Last week there were 17 volunteers from Molloy Education Center and St. Paul. (Very special thanks to Teri Queen from Molloy who has shown a commitment beyond description!) Because of all of your time and commitment for these six Tuesday evenings, we now have a clothing closet for the community! We still have decorating and small touches left, but the clothing is on the shelves!

If you would still be interested in hanging coats on racks by size or sorting through new bags of clothing, that would be terrific. We will soon be picking an evening for volunteers to do this, but if you would just like to sort for an hour on your own time, that will work just as well! Daytime school hours are also fine, as Vicky is in the office to open the door. (She is gone between noon to 1:00 p.m.) Or, if you would prefer to sort in the evening on your own time, I can easily meet you there. Empty bins are now lined up in the room across the hall from the clothing closet, which is the room we will now use for sorting. Ideally, we would like to keep up with the sorting of new clothes as they come in.

Our clients that will be shopping with us will be coming by referral only from our local social workers. We plan to begin seeing them by appointment only. We haven't ironed out the specifics yet about scheduling volunteers for these appointments, but will most likely use an online calendar of some sort. If you would like to help distribute the clothing to the needy families, your time would be so appreciated! It's a terrific experience. One favorite story from last year: one of our volunteers helped two little boys find coats, snow pants, mittens, etc., and several hours later saw the boys sledding down a hill wearing their new gear! We also had moms taking a bus in the dark last year with their children (in below zero weather) to get winter coats and boots. Also helped were two ladies who borrowed a car and drove to us from a shelter for battered women. The needs in our community are so great, and this is just a humble beginning of trying to meet those needs. Would love for you to be part of this!

Again, sincerest thanks to all for your tireless efforts and sweat! This was truly a labor of love and I want to tell you how honored I have been to work alongside such compassionate and caring people! Plus, it was a lot of fun and laughs! And lastly, a very special note of gratitude to Pastor Conrad, who began this humble journey by hosting a simple meeting last year of community leaders. From that one morning meeting, a clothing closet has been born! Amazing!

Take care,

Joanie McKinney

PASTOR CONRAD IS THE NEW SKOKIE POLICE CHAPLAIN

In addition to being the chaplain for the Skokie Fire Department, I have been asked to be the Police Department's chaplain as well. The reasoning behind both organizations using the same chaplains is that in the case of a major emergency, both the police and fire departments are called to the same site. Rather than have separate chaplains for each, it would be good to have the same chaplains for both.

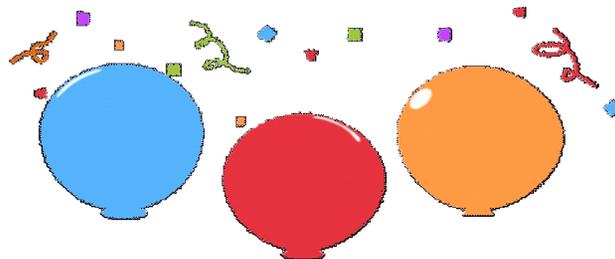


My current duties for the Fire Department include: visiting with the fire personnel as I am able and being available to them, being present on site for those families affected by working fires (as I am able to take the call), and to assist in other duties such as leading prayer before major events.

My responsibilities with the police department would be very similar – being a support for the police as needed, assisting with death notifications in the community, and doing the occasional ride-along during a patrol to get to know those serving. As part of my responsibilities, starting September 2nd I will be attending a “Citizen’s Police Academy” to learn more about the Skokie Police Department. These sessions are held every Tuesday, from 7pm-10pm for the next three months. **To accommodate these classes, church council meetings will take place on the second Wednesday of each month.** Thank you for your understanding and flexibility.

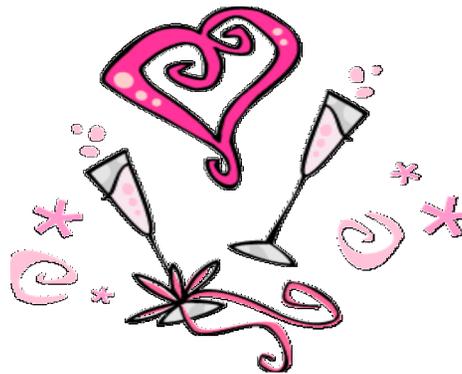
September Birthdays

9/02 Kathleen Fern
9/04 George Schmidt
9/05 William Roiniotis
9/06 Ruth Hellestrae
9/07 Tristan Flugum
9/09 John Gillham
9/09 Kimberly Malcman
9/10 Joshua Muench
9/12 Karyl Hacker
9/12 Paul Kolodzik
9/12 Ryan Rossi
9/13 Ronald Novotny
9/14 Randy Hanebutt
9/14 Carl Rath
9/14 Sal Sammartino
9/15 P.J. Egebrect
9/16 Richard Schiewe
9/20 Caroline Helfrich
9/21 Haley Helfrich
9/21 Kelsey Hanebutt
9/21 Katie McKinney
9/23 Larry Muench
9/24 William Fern, Jr.
9/24 Matthew Meccia
9/24 Norma Witherbee
9/26 Grace Johnson
9/28 Susan Carmenaty
9/29 Robert Trettin



September Anniversaries

- 9/03 Edward & Debra Gustafson
- 9/04 Donald & Janice Young
- 9/06 Derek & Tara Hilliard
- 9/11 Vergilio & Lori Guiang
- 9/11 Walter & June Pautsch
- 9/12 George & Ann Schmidt
- 9/18 Michael & Kristen Bryant
- 9/25 Glenn & Karyl Hacker
- 9/25 Richard & Vicky Schiewe
- 9/29 Cesar & Beth Piña



OFFICIAL ACTS

Wedding: 8/23 Rebecca Cowin & Christopher Neihengen

ATTENDANCE

9:00 am

7:00 pm

August 3	77	August 7	20
August 10	80	August 14	16
August 17	73	August 21	16
August 24	96	August 28	18
August 31	75		



WHEAT RIDGE GRANTS



Did you know that much of the work for our community clothing closet has been possible due to a Joshua Grant that we received from Wheat Ridge Ministries over a year ago? Wheat Ridge is a nonprofit organization that helps health and human care initiatives get off the ground by providing the initial funding and support we need to thrive. Many of the changes we have done to that old extended-care classroom – painting, shelving, storage – was only possible because of Wheat Ridge's partnership with us.

Wheat Ridge has helped a number of ministries get off the ground. Go to www.wheatridge.org to see how they walk alongside ministries like St Paul's to help make an impact in the community. We are tremendously grateful for their work with us.

ST. PAUL GIVING & DEBT

Fiscal Year – June 1, 2014 to May 31, 2015
Month Ending – July, 2014

Member Contributions + Loose Offerings

Needed total per 2013/2014 budget	\$ 237,000
Needed giving each month	19,750
Giving received this month	16,958
Giving needed so far this year	39,500
Actual giving so far this year	38,927
Variance to need – surplus/(deficit)	(573)

<u>Remaining Debts & Pay Down Progress</u>		<u>Pay Down This Month **</u>
Mortgage (parsonage) @ 5.75%	\$73,047	\$ (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	\$ 224,873	\$ (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**.

We thank God for:

