

President's Note for October 2018

"Somewhere we know that without silence words lose their meaning, that without listening speaking no longer heals, that without distance closeness cannot cure." Henri Nouwen

Pastor Unmacht spoke of Dutch priest, psychologist, philosopher Henri Nouwen this past Sunday so I thought I would open with a reflection from Nouwen. We've all heard the expressions silence is golden and think before you speak. Politicians often ramble on too long. On occasion pastors have been known to try to pack too much into one homily. And even council presidents writing newsletter articles have been known to ramble on interminably....feel free to skip ahead if you're feeling that way already. Conversely when someone really listens, reflects and then speaks wisely on a personal level, tempering what they say with compassion, then words can heal, bring closeness and spiritual renewal. While we may live in a world filled with sound bites, memes, texts and tweets; silence, reflection, prayer and grace have their place and can help draw us closer to our maker and each other. History tells us Father Nouwen had that ability to heal with words; with thoughtful prayer and God's help we can aspire to do the same.

So, on to the news from Lake Woebegone and St. Paul's. I was remiss last month in not mentioning what a good time was had by all at the Dias' family annual barbeque and potluck gathering. The setting, food and fellowship were all first rate. And thanks to Sandy Wolpert and family St. Paul's just hosted a Saturday morning craft faire. Good to see activity on our church lawn. I hear we even enticed a few folks dining at Bacon and Butter to saunter over to peruse. We're going to try to have more outdoor activities and work on having more visible, eye-catching signage. Sandy has also created some great pamphlets to distribute and is working on other versions. Check out and pass along the current version on the rack in the narthex of the church. Other ideas are in the works too and if you'd like to provide input feel free to speak with me or Sandy, any of our council members or pop in to one of our meetings which take place after church on the second Sunday of each month in the Reformation Room.

Speaking of meetings. I understand the women of St. Paul's are looking to start having regular WELCA meetings again. For those unfamiliar with WELCA it is an acronym for Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America. From what I hear the meetings will take place on the third Sunday of the month after worship service at approximately eleven thirty. Glad to hear it!

Later this month we'll be having our annual Oktoberfest. So, mark your calendar for Saturday October thirteenth at six pm. There'll be great food including sausages, sauerkraut, German potato salad and such as well as great raffle prizes and music. Rumor has it that this year may bring the return of our tuba playing, lederhosen attired friend Daniel Funner. Should be a great time. Tickets are fifteen dollars each and should be purchased in advance so our hard working volunteers know how much food to buy and prepare. If you'd like to help speak with Dede. She's also always thankful for any assistance she can receive with the coffee hour.

Finally, thanks as always to all who do so much to serve our Lord and keep St. Paul's moving forward in worship, fellowship, prayer and outreach. Keep our friends, community and those in need in your prayers and as we say each week as our worship service concludes....

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!

Your friend in Christ and council president,

Chuck Prewett