

President's Note for September 2018

"My favorite poem is the one that starts 'Thirty days hath September' because it actually tells you something."

Groucho Marx

Summer is on the wane. The days are growing shorter. So, at least for this edition, I'll attempt to stay focused, relay what's happened and happening here at St. Paul's and in the spirit of Groucho will attempt to "actually tell you something." For those of you who are fans of the Marx brothers and who are familiar with my writing you may feel I'll never pass the "sanity clause." Some say there "ain't no Sanity Clause", but I don't believe them. To paraphrase a contemporary of Groucho's, W.C. Fields: ah, yes, I can hear the groaning now.

It has been a summer of both trial and blessings. Our hearts and prayers go out to the many of our California neighbors who have been afflicted by another season of devastating fire. Thanks to first responders and others who have stepped in, often at great personal risk, to assist. Thanks also to those who have given to charities, like Lutheran Disaster Relief, to lend a hand.

While I had to work that day, I understand we made the news on television with Good Day Sacramento. St. Paul's campus was this year's venue for our friends from Lutheran Church of the Cross annual pancake breakfast and car show. I know at least a few of our members attended, had a good time and pray the event was a success for our brothers and sisters in Christ from H Street. The year has been a tough one for them as they recently lost their long time pastor, Rev. Mike Walton. May God watch over them as they move forward through a period of transition and attempt to discern where our Lord would have them be. We have been blessed with steady ministry and a stalwart rotation of pastors, but we too must remain open to the Holy Spirit and where God would have us be. I pray and ask all of you to pray for both congregations and the church as a whole. We may find new opportunities for sharing common ministry, particularly with other small ELCA congregations like Lutheran Church of the Cross.

Looking ahead, we have a couple events on the horizon. St. Paul's will offer our corner lawn and campus as Tahoe Park hosts a neighborhood Craft Faire on Saturday September 22nd from eight until noon. Neighbors can set up a table on our lawn to

showcase their wares and St. Paul's may have a table of our own as well. Thank Sandy Wolpert for spearheading this event. Then on October 13th at six pm we will have our famous Oktoberfest celebration. As customary, there will be good German food, libations, music and some very nice raffle prizes. We inevitably have a great time with this event. The ticket cost for entry and food is a very reasonable fifteen dollars. While our friend Tom Keim is struggling a bit health wise, with his direction and some able assistants I'm confident this year's incarnation will be a great success. Thanks to all along with prayers and blessings for Tom.

September has five Sundays this year and I am very pleased to relay that Pastor Raymond Olsen will be with us and presenting the sermon on that day. Some of you may know that Pastor Olsen has retired after serving many years at Advent Lutheran Church in Citrus Heights. We look forward to him being with us.

Finally, I know I say it almost every month but please keep our friends and fellow believers in your prayers. Many, too many, are struggling with a host of ailments, concerns and afflictions. Our friends, fellow believers and Christians throughout the world face adversity every day. Recently a friend told me he thought of me as a pacifist and I suppose in a number of ways I am, though there are instances where God, country and decency call for a firmer response and I pray for the resolve to rise to the occasion in those situations. Christ tells us to love one another and Martin Luther encourages us to see what each of us say and do in the best possible light. As I write this column Arizona Senator John McCain has just passed away. So, I'll close with a statement from Senator McCain that speaks to shared values, a statement that I believe transcends politics and challenges us to see the best in one another, a sort of modern variation or interpretation of Christ's and Luther's instruction.

"Our shared values define us more than our differences. And acknowledging those shared values can see us through our challenges today if we have the wisdom to trust in them again."
Senator John McCain

Chuck Prewett

Your friend in Christ and Council President

Afterword: I regret that this newsletter article made it to press with at least one glaring omission. I would like to thank the Dias family for hosting their now annual St. Paul's barbeque, social gathering and potluck. As always the food, setting and fellowship were first rate. It is a pleasure to meet with friends and brothers and sisters in Christ in an informal social setting away from church and I was remiss to leave that message out of the print edition of our September church newsletter. Thanks so much Rick and Punky for being such gracious and welcoming hosts!