

## *President's Note for September 2021*

Change? You've undoubtedly heard the old joke about how many Lutherans it takes to change a light bulb, maybe from me, with the answer: Change? While God may remain the same yesterday, today and tomorrow, our world, particularly over this past year and a half, is filled with change, even for Lutherans. Luther himself was a force for change. While some change we may wish never took place, I prefer to look at life and change in a more positive light, like in a lyric from a Boz Scaggs song that relates, "Some change comes down for the better." Bob Dylan is purported to have said: "There is nothing so stable as change." Time marches on, we ourselves age, change and grow and the world around us evolves. We can take comfort in that whether things stay mostly the same for us or change dramatically, our Lord will always be with us and love us. Our assignment in this journey of life is to love our Lord and love another as He loves us. While we know we'll often fall short, we are still commanded to faithfully try to do our best and have trust and confidence that God, through the Holy Spirit, will provide us the needed strength to persevere.

So, what's changing and what's remaining the same here at St. Paul's? One change, brought about by the pandemic, is we'll be having our annual congregational meeting, that is traditionally held at the end of January, on Sunday September 12th following worship, around eleven am or so. A light brunch will be served and there will be a short financial presentation by Ashley Tangeraas of Thrivent. One other change in the offing is that Pastor Townsend has requested to step aside for the last quarter of 2021. He needs a little break to reflect, unwind and recharge his batteries. What will stay the same? We're set to continue with our Sunday rotation of clergy and our seminarian. Pastor Carlson will be with us on Sunday October 03rd. Pastor Dee Emmert is scheduled to return to preside and preach on second Sundays. Seminarian Brian Brozovic will lead and preach a service of the Word on third

Sundays. And Pastor Mark Vance will preside and preach on fourth Sundays. While we've had Bishop Mullen with us on first Sundays and look forward to his probable return in January he has other commitments for the fourth quarter. We're still looking to fill a few Sunday preaching slots. Stay tuned! Returning to our upcoming congregational meeting, we're still looking for volunteers to count and record church offerings and are looking to fill the position of Financial Secretary. Other officers will, barring unforeseen circumstances (change), remain in place into the new year.

You've undoubtedly noticed and admired the fresh paint in the Fireside Room and kitchen. New table cloths, picture frames and foyer entry doors are in the works, along with a couple of other possible upgrades. Every few decades a little TLC can be a good thing, whether rooms need it or not! Thank Kelly for the decorating and Erik for the doors. Plans for a variation on a theme of Oktoberfest are in the works. Save the date for Saturday October 23rd at five pm. Do I hear Daniel Funner warming up on the tuba?

You may have heard that our church secretary has been ill and away. A big thank you to our friends at Grace and to our Director of Music John for getting service bulletins and other documents, like this newsletter (thank Sandy Wolpert here too), put together. There are a handful of people who do a host of tasks here at St. Paul's. Many thanks! Please keep Barbara, her husband Pastor Bob, our own Lori Long and all on our prayer list, in need and in your hearts in your prayers. Help where you can.

With the pandemic, fire in the west and flooding in the east and on the gulf, coupled with many individuals struggling with their personal health and well being, now more than ever we must pull together, pray together, gather together and work together to hold one another up in these difficult times. We give thanks to our Lord for all we have, all we take for granted and for the hope of the world to come. We remain a community of faith. Invite friends to join us on our journey. Consider a donation to Lutheran Disaster Relief. And do your best to stay positive and live in the now as we look to the future.

**"If you change the way you look at things, the things you look at change."**  
**Wayne Dyer**

Peace, blessings, and positive change,

Chuck Prewett

Council President

Lutheran Disaster Relief

P.O. Box 1809

Merrifield, VA 22116-8009