

St. Paul Partners

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Sponsored by Marie Scronce in honor of the Women of the ELCA (WELCA)

ADVANCED PLANNING = ADVANCED CARING

Dear St. Paul Family,

“We know all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.” - Romans 8:28

Years ago when I worked part-time as an adjunct chaplain at a hospital I was called in to assist a family who wanted to get health care power of attorney papers signed. Upon meeting with the family I learned their loved one was dying and already in a semi-conscious state. I then had to pastorally explain that according to the laws of North Carolina the person themselves has to be the one to agree to it, make the decision as to who will do it and then sign the paperwork. For this family it was already too late. They were left to put their heads together and try to make the best decisions possible for their dying loved one. In my years as a pastor I have done more funerals than weddings or baptisms. As I have been with many families mourning the loss of a loved one, it becomes clear there are always a lot of decisions to make when a death occurs. Within that the questions come. What am I going to do now? When and where will the funeral service be? Will it be traditional burial or cremation? What scriptures? What hymns? Where is the will? Where is the insurance policy? Is there enough money to pay for the burial? Will I be able to access the bank account to pay bills before the estate is probated? Where is the key to the lockbox? Where should memorials be directed?

Added to this is the chaos and drama that can ensue when there is severe dysfunction in a family. Even under the best of

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circumstances emotions in families are running high when a loved one is dying and then ultimately the death occurs. Of course I have been on both ends of this as I have dealt with the illness and death of both my parents and other loved ones. One thing I know and that I think we can all agree on is that end of life care and end of life decisions are much easier when power of attorney, health care power of attorney, last will and testaments and funeral plans are already made and survivors know where to go to find the paperwork and information.

Often times we fail to plan or to make end of life decisions. Sometimes it is due to ignorance – not knowing what the laws are, what options are available or that one can pre-plan end of life and funeral care. Sometimes we humans have a superstition that if we do advanced planning we are somehow giving God the green light to go ahead and take us now and I think sometimes we just procrastinate telling ourselves we will “take care of that later.” Well, here at St. Paul we have gone ahead and scheduled that “later time” to help nudge you along. Carolina Caring (formerly called Hospice) here in Newton offers a program called Advanced Planning. Mark your calendars for Tuesday June 8th and Tuesday June 22nd at the Mission Property, 5PM-6PM. Each program lasts approximately one hour depending on questions and discussions. The Rev. Sandi Hood, Carolina Caring Chaplain travels to different places to offer this service which is provided free of charge. All materials are provided by Carolina Caring which includes forms for a living will, and health

care power of attorney. The first session involves having forms available and information given. You then take it home to ponder and fill out. The second session two weeks later is when you bring the forms back where a notary will be available to make it official. Witnesses are also required which can be fellow church members. I will also be available with forms that can be filled out regarding your funeral planning, the scriptures, hymns you would like, graveside or church service, etc. This form will be kept on file at the church office for easy reference when needed. I will also be available with Pastor Hood for spiritual guidance and discussion.

Anyone 18 years of age or older can fill out these forms and make these decisions for their own advanced planning. Mary and I plan to take full advantage of this opportunity as it is something we have been meaning to do, have talked about doing but “just haven’t gotten around to it yet.”

As we are slowly moving toward the other side of this pandemic and as more are vaccinated and feel comfortable coming out, it is felt this is a good ministry opportunity the church can offer not only for our membership but any friends, family and neighbors you would like to invite. While I know some of you have already taken care of this kind of planning, you are to be commended for that but I also know there are many like myself who have not. I see advanced planning as a way of being good stewards of our life God has given to us and if you think about it, it really is a grand gesture of caring. We are making things easier on our

families when the time comes to make certain decisions and is a way the Lord can work in our personal lives and the lives of our loved ones to “work together for good for those who love God.”

Elsewhere in this newsletter is an article entitled “Got Directions?” which offers further insight into the importance of advanced life planning. You may come and talk to me if you

have any questions about this event. In the meantime I look forward to being with you as together we are partners in ministry as we put our mission into practice to Witness, Welcome, Worship and Work in the name of our Lord.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Ralph



JUNE Birthdays

June 3	Daphna Robinson
June 4	Ellen Lail
June 5	Mike Reed Charlene Scott Denny Davis
June 6	Myrtle Urcinola
June 10	Everly McNeil
June 12	Mary Carriker
June 15	Pastor Ralph
June 20	Barbara Arrowood
June 22	Alex Fincannon
June 26	Philip Lindler
June 27	David Miller
June 28	Harvey Frye
June 30	Doug Brady Sara Lane Kathy Simmons



JUNE Anniversaries

May 8	Richard & Wanda Helton
May 25	Richard & Gail Blackburn
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June 7	J.D. & Charlene Scot
June 9	Sterling & Gayle Jarrett
June 17	Malcom & Edith Lerch
June 21	Tom & Dorraine Lail
June 25	Jason & Katherine (Hoke) Thompson
June 30	Hugh & Betsy Linder

Did We Miss Your Birthday or Anniversary?

If so, please accept our apologies! Let us know so we can make it right by calling (828) 464-3853 or email morgan@stpaulstartown.org



WHATCHA DOIN'?

We hope you will join your Sisters in Christ on June 14th at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall as the St. Paul Women of the Evangelical Church in America (aka WELCA) will gather to share faith and smiles. Ann Walker will lead our devotional time and we will continue exploring how we can support one another and our community as witnesses to Christ's love for all.

GOT DIRECTIONS??

Many of us have a GPS unit in our vehicle or on our smartphone. Or maybe even the old Rand-McNally Road Atlas in the trunk. Those tools will help us get from point A to point B. And in our lives we have a “map” to help us navigate life – it’s called the Holy Bible. We all try to follow the “directions” in the Bible to reach our destination of eternal rest and life, a place we will reach because of Christ’s sacrifice (GRACE = God’s Riches At Christ’s Expense). But between now and then, does your family know how you want to leave this life on earth? Ohhh – hard question and even harder topic for some to think or even talk about. But what greater gift could you give heirs than a clear “map” with your final wishes. St. Paul WELCA has reached out to Carolina Caring, an organization that has a complete program to help navigate this difficult path. We are partnering with Rev. Sandi Hood to present a program to offer information, answer questions and provide us with our own personal “GPS” for final wishes. Carolina Caring also will provide the necessary forms at the first meeting and will provide Notaries Public at the follow-up meeting two weeks later. All of this vital information is FREE to all those attending. You will have the opportunity to clarify your thoughts and wishes, organize your personal and health care information and put in writing and discuss your “travel” plans with your loved ones. We all see the numbers scroll across the bottom of the television screen: 13,000 people in NC have died due to Covid-19 in the last 16 months, 300 of those right here in Catawba County. What better time than right now to make sure our loved ones know what we want? Our planned gatherings dates are June 8, 2021 from 5-6 PM at the Mission Property and June 22, 2021, also from 5-6 PM at the Mission Property. Give yourself and your family peace of mind by attending this unique opportunity. You and your family members are all invited.

Church Council will meet Sunday June 13th in the Fellowship Hall immediately after worship. Please bring your Council packet with you which you should receive as email the Wednesday beforehand.

Music & Worship Team will meet after worship on Sunday June 6th in the Conference Room.



CONGRATULATIONS TO LILLIAN GRACE ARROWOOD who affirmed her baptism through the Rite of Confirmation during worship on Sunday May 23rd. Lilly has completed a two-year Confirmation experience which has included instruction in Luther's Small Catechism as well as service to the church and community. She was presented with her confirmation certificate and several gifts from the church family. We rejoice with Lilly as she has reached this important milestone in her faith journey.

ST. PAUL MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

Last month Luke Warren and his father John went to Raleigh and met with NC Legislators to advocate for the passing of the bill "Firefighters Fighting Cancer Act 2021." They got to tour the General Assembly and get a first-hand experience of our state government in action. Luke and his younger brother Logan are both potential fourth generation firefighters in the Warren family.



Congratulations to Ellen Lail who was chosen as media specialist coordinator of the year at Lincoln County Schools.

Congratulations to Dylan Lail who has graduated from Patton High School and has signed on with Lees-McRae college in Banner Elk, NC to play lacrosse.

Congratulations to Karina Coulter who has graduated from Fred T. Foard High School and has signed on with UNC Charlotte for cross country and track.

Congratulations to Everly McNeil and Savannah Lail who served as Junior Marshals at the high school graduations for Foard and Maiden High, respectively.

Pictures can be found on the bulletin boards in the hallway outside the office and the youth bulletin board in the fellowship hall.



Our Christian sympathy and hope in the resurrection is extended to Laura Warren and family upon the recent death of Laura's grandmother, Mrs. Josephine Van Horn Lail.

FATHER'S DAY

We pray to “Our Father, who art in heaven,” and we pray for our earthly fathers as well. Just as May has “Mother’s Day”, June has “Father’s Day.” Ties, hammers, golf clubs are among the top gifts given on this day which was invented by Mrs. Sonora Smart Dodd who wanted to honor her father, a veteran of the Civil War, who had, as a single parent, raised his six children after the death of his wife.* This was uncommon at the time as widowers usually placed their children in the care of others or remarried quickly.* The first Father’s Day was celebrated at a YMCA in Spokane WA YMCA on June 19, 1910, over 110 years ago!* The customary celebration of fatherhood dates back to at least 1508 and in European cultures is usually celebrated on March 19th as the feast day of St. Joseph.* The world record for having the most number of children officially recorded is 69 by the first wife of Feodor Vassilyev (1707-1782), a peasant from Moscow. His first wife gave birth to 16 pairs of twins, seven sets of triplets and four sets of quadruplets.* Dinnertimes must have been hectic! The first American president to support the concept of Father’s day was President Calvin Coolidge, who did so in 1924... but it wasn’t until in the year 1966 that President Lyndon Johnson signed a presidential proclamation that resulted in the declaration of the third Sunday of June as Father’s Day.* So, with all this information tucked away, call or wish your Dad or the one who was like a Dad to you a happy day, both today, every day and especially on June 20, 2021. And give thanks to “Our Father” for your earthly father.

**Dates & facts from Wikipedia.*



SYNOD ASSEMBLY IS VIRTUAL THIS YEAR

The North Carolina Synod Assembly will be held Thursday June 3rd – Saturday June 5th and will be held 100% virtually. The main agenda will be the election of a bishop and approval of the synod budget among other items. In addition to Pastor Ralph we thank members Jonathan Jarrett and Barbara Reed who have agreed to serve as our voting members from St. Paul. Anyone should be able to log on to some of the sessions as a visitor through the synod’s website – nclutheran.org.



THANK YOU

Special thanks go to all the church members who came out to the mission property on Saturday May 15th to clean up and spruce up. With all the helping hands we were done before lunch and now have the property ready for events this summer which include rentals, our Advanced Planning meetings, scout meetings and Agape Day Camp.



AGAPE IS A GO!

What a difference a year makes! In the summer of 2020 our Agape Day Camp was cancelled due to Covid-19 concerns. But we are resilient and resourceful together. We have been informed that the 2021 Agape Day Camp program will return this July. Yes, there will be some changes to ensure the health and safety of all campers and their families, counselors and volunteers. But much will be the same and what is summer day camp without arts and crafts?? We are excited to see what they will create with the basic items they have asked the host churches to provide. The counselors have asked us to collect pipe cleaners, markers, coffee filters and clean tin cans, preferably 15 oz. or larger. And they have one more need: seeds of any kind: flower or vegetable seeds! Hmm..... what would YOU make with these things? Look for donation baskets in the Narthex and Fellowship Hall in which to place your donations for the campers. "Camp will be at the Mission Property from Monday July 19th – Friday July 23rd for rising 1st – 8th graders. Registration and medical forms are available in the church narthex and the table in the hallway underneath the bulletin boards. Cost is \$130.00 per camper and scholarship forms are available."



	Beginning Balance	Income	Expenses	Ending Balance
General Fund	21,011.91	10,069.86	12,445.04	18,636.73
Dedicated Fund	33,639.64	1,822.32	4,163.65	31,298.31
Current W/H Tax Payable	-6,589.96	0.00	305.46	-6,895.42
Total General Fund	48,061.59			43,039.62

	<u>Fund Balance</u>
Gift & Memorial Fund:	\$10,735.53
Mission Campus CD:	\$152,193.08

NOTE:

St. Paul Lutheran Church

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STAMP
HERE

<<Address Here>>

We the people of St. Paul are called and empowered by God- To **Witness** through Christ; To **Welcome** everyone through the Holy Spirit; To **Worship** with joy; and To **Work** with God to meet the needs of our community.



PENCIL IT IN

Advanced Planning Seminars

On June 8th and June 22nd from 5pm to 6pm, we will be having advanced planning seminars at the Mission Property. See inside for more details.