

St. Paul Partners

What's INSIDE

- 1 Pastor's Article
- 2 100 Years of WELCA
- 3 Thank You Note
- 3 Meet the Agape Counselors
- 4 Youth News
- 4 LutherRock Memories
- 5 Calendar
- 6 Servant & Birthdays
- 7 ELCA Youth Gathering Recap
- 8 Sunday Celebrations

Sponsored by the Seekers Class in honor of our Choir

A Word from the Pastor

WHAT A WHIRLWIND

Dear St. Paul Family,
As I reflect on the month of July, I realize it was a complete whirlwind of camping and gathering opportunities for our young people at St. Paul. All the ventures were safe and successful filled with learning and growth. Elsewhere in this newsletter you will find feedback from our youth about their experiences this summer.

For now, let me update you on a few things. Two years ago, some of you will recall we supported a pastor who bicycled from Florida to Camp Lutherock outside of Boone, NC to raise money to purchase 53 acres of land at the front of the camp to save it from future development encroachment. I am happy to report enough was raised to make a down payment on the property



and a loan has been secured to pay off the rest in satisfaction from the sellers who also wanted to see the property preserved. This means Lutherock is now close to 750 acres of pristine and prime land for generations of campers to grow in faith in an outdoor setting. The next step is to work with a landowner regarding purchase of some acreage on a ridge next to camp – again to further buffer it from future development and encroachment. While a deal has not been worked out at this time, the camp is confident an

Continued on page 2

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Mission Statement

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.

Pastor's Article Continued

agreement can be reached soon.

Regarding the Youth Gathering in Detroit as over 30,000 Lutheran youth and adults came together for a week, I am happy to report these results: one million diapers were collected, 1,425 backpacks were distributed, 3,200 vacant lots cleared of debris, 319 vacant homes boarded, 1,847 mural boards painted, 36 urban gardens installed, 99 picnic tables built, 26 dumpsters filled and 600 neighborhoods affected in a positive way. This is in addition to new friendships made, inspiring worship and guest speakers who shared their stories and planted seeds for social justice and inspiration for serving God where we are planted; all while the love of Jesus was shown to the people of Detroit.

We also had another successful Agape Day Camp as 28 youth learned the meaning of how to pray and how we relate to God, through crafts, songs, skits,

service projects and a "water day" compliments of the Startown Fire Department. To further emphasize these experiences there will be an "End of Summer/Emphasis on Sunday School" gathering at St. Paul's in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday August 30th beginning at 8:30AM. This will be in place of Sunday School for that day and will include breakfast along with sharing from our youth about their camp experiences and pictures displayed.

I thank you for your support of these endeavors for our young people through your prayers, volunteer work, well wishes and financial giving. It has all come together for Christ-centered things to happen while passing on faith. The ELCA – God's Work; Our Hands!

Yours in Christ,




100 years and going strong!!

On August 9, 2015, we will celebrate a special birthday. On that day, in 1915, the first women's organization was formed at St. Paul Lutheran Church-Startown. It was called "The Women's Home and Foreign Missionary Society." All monies received came from dues and freewill offerings and all went to missions except for a very small amount for current necessary expenses. Bazaars and suppers were not to be tolerated! Meetings were held three times a year and dues were \$0.05 per meeting. At that time the

Pastor (A. L. Bolick) served as President of the Society.

The name changed in 1948 to Women of the Church and yet again in 1956 to the LCW or Women of the Lutheran Church. The LCW had four committees: Education, Christian Service, Membership and Offerings. By 1979 the committees were renamed Spiritual Renewal, Special Concerns, Stewardship Keynotes, and Membership/Fellowship. And, of course, the women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America are now known by the shortened name WELCA.

An offshoot of the first women's group also organized in 1915 was the Children's Missionary Society. This group also experienced name changes, first to the "Light Brigade" and later, to the "Children of the Church." The Women's Society in 1915 was under the supervision of the Church Council and it was stated "no person could belong to it who lived an immoral or unchristian life."

The original purpose of the organization "was (1) to arouse its members to greater activity in church work in general; (2) to cultivate in its members a greater spirit and love of missionary work; and, (3) to raise funds to help carry on the work of the church, both at home and abroad."

Our goals have not significantly changed in the last 100 years. We may have had different names but our focus has been our Lord and sharing his message of love, generosity and faithfulness.

HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY, WOMEN OF ST. PAUL!!!

St. Paul's,

Thank you so much for inviting us to your church! We have enjoyed being with your kids this week, they are so loving and sweet. We are so grateful for your encouragement of our ministry. Your love and support makes what we do possible. Thank you so much for a fun week!

God's Love,

Sarah, Lucas, Beka, Liz, Leslie

[Editor's note: This letter came from our Agape Day Camp counselors.]



Meet the Counselors

Did you ever wonder why a young man or woman would want to be a church camp counselor? Would YOU like to meet new children every week for eight weeks with each child having their own personality, needs and exposure to the Word? Would YOU be willing to travel to a new location, every week, and have different living facilities and support? The 2015 Agape Day Camp at the pavilion had such a team, willing and eager to take on those challenges. These five team members underwent two intense weeks of training at Kure Ministries before heading out to various assignments. And to keep their programs (and themselves) fresh, the teams are jumbled and re-assigned to team leaders every week.

So, back to the original question: WHY do it? The answers received from our five counselors were as varied as the people themselves. Sara smilingly said she “just loved it.” Liz, who is spending her second years as an Agape counselor, said, “what other job is there where you get paid to play?” This was Lucas’ first year as a counselor and he said he really enjoyed building relationships and especially enjoyed the smaller groups that Agape leaders assign them. And Leslie said she wanted children to make the same memories she formed when she went to church camp as a youngster.

The rewards?? Becca said she felt so good when the campers remembered the lessons and stories. Sara’s reward is seeing the difference it seems to make, perhaps not right away, but hearing from parents later that their child really learned more about our Lord. Liz reported that she felt she had enriched a child when they don’t want to leave or say good-bye. Lucas said he really enjoyed working with the younger campers who were less inhibited, more impressionable and ready to embrace God’s lessons of love.

Our 28 campers, their families and the four churches involved were truly blessed to have these talented, tireless and Spirit-driven young people sharing faith lessons with our children and leading them into a closer relationship with God.



Pool Party – Sunday August 2nd after church at the home of Richard and Gail Blackburn. Lunch will be provided by the Blackburn's. All youth, friends and parents are invited. Text Pastor Ralph at 828-855-7212 to let him know if you can attend so we can plan accordingly.

Youth Executive Team – Will meet at 9:00AM during Sunday School on Sunday August 16th. All parents and older youth are invited for a time of planning for fall activities.

THE BLESSING OF NEW DRIVERS – During worship on Sunday August 16th Pastor Ralph will have a ceremony for the blessing of new drivers. This is for all senior high youth who have obtained their driver's licenses in the past year or two.

CAMP/ SUNDAY SCHOOL CELEBRATION & BLESSING OF BACKPACKS: Sunday August 30th beginning at 8:30AM we will have breakfast and a time of sharing (including pictures) regarding camp experiences while emphasizing Sunday School. Pastor Ralph will also bless the backpacks during worship that day as a new school year begins.



LUTHEROCK

Looking back at LutherRock

In July, thanks to generous donations, St. Paul was able to send eight young members all expenses paid to Camp LutherRock. As one can see by their responses to five questions below, they certainly had an incredible experience and they are looking forward to next year!

The first question was an easy one: what did you miss most? Joey and Alex missed their families while Natalie and Dylan missed their phones! Karina's answer was simple: "everything!"

Four campers agreed on the second question: what was the hardest part of the week? Dylan, Alex, Natalie and Joey all immediately replied, "Hiking." The steep climb and long distance with a 40 pound back really was a challenge. Making new friends on the first day and leaving on their last day were the toughest parts for Karina and Tayler.

Many of us have memories from our church camping and these young people also made some lasting memories. Dylan thinks he will always remember the creek hike and for Natalie it will be the camping with the bonfire. Karina was impressed with all the encouragement the attendees received from the counselors. And Tayler will remember the positive interaction between the counselors.

Inspiration was key at this year's LutherRock experience. For Tayler Lail the prayer songs "really clicked" for her and "brought it all together." Joey was inspired by the last night's dance and, with Alex and Karina, was inspired by the counselors. Dylan was struck by the candle-lit cross and the prayers offered by each participant. Karina was also moved by the bedtime devotion time each evening.

Finally, any camping event involves food! The St. Paul participants all rated the food as "good" to "amazing" and "awesome." The BBQ earned 5 stars and Tayler enjoyed the cheesy potato casserole while Joey chowed down on the "river chicken." Only Natalie scored the lunches as "so-so" (missed her mom's cooking?).

In conclusion, St. Paul congregation, your donations and contributions made HUGE impressions on eight future leaders and created life-long memories. On behalf of the campers, THANK YOU, GOD AND ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH!!!

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2 8:30am - <i>Java With Jesus</i> 9am - <i>Sunday School</i> 10am - <i>Worship with Blessing of Collected Supplies</i> 12:30pm - <i>Youth Pool Party</i>	3 1:30pm - <i>Senior Citizens</i>	4	5 6pm - <i>Hymn Planning Team</i> 7pm - <i>Choir Practice</i>	6	7 8pm - <i>A.A.</i>	8
9 Celebrating 100 Years of WELCA! 8:30am - <i>Java With Jesus</i> 9am - <i>Sunday School</i> 10am - <i>Worship</i> 11:30am - <i>Worship & Music Team</i>	10 10am - <i>Sunshine Circle</i> 6pm - <i>Sisters in Spirit</i>	11	12 7pm - <i>Choir Practice</i>	13	14 8pm - <i>A.A.</i>	15
16 8:30am - <i>Java With Jesus</i> 9am - <i>Sunday School; Youth Executive Team Meeting</i> 10am - <i>Worship with Blessing of New Drivers</i> 11:30am - <i>Church Council</i>	17	18	19 7pm - <i>Choir Practice</i>	20	21 8pm - <i>A.A.</i>	22
23 8:30am - <i>Java With Jesus</i> 9am - <i>Sunday School</i> 10am - <i>Worship</i> 12pm - <i>Rader Reunion</i>	24	25	26 7pm - <i>Choir Practice</i>	27	28 8pm - <i>A.A.</i>	29
30 8:30am - <i>Camp & Sunday School Celebration</i> 10am - <i>Worship with Blessing of Backpacks</i>	31					

August Servants

Liturgy...The Work of the People Offered Unto God

<i>MONTHLY DUTIES</i>		
Ushers	Tim Lail	Paul Lail
Altar Guild	Keith Frye	Kathy Frye
Money Counter (Teller)	Gail Blackburn	Richard Blackburn
Sunday School Teller	Gail Blackburn	
Communion (1st, 3rd, 5th)	Richard Helton	Wanda Helton
Communion (2nd, 4th)	Mary Kraft	Betsy Lindler

<i>WEEKLY DUTIES</i>	Aug 2	Aug 9	Aug 16	Aug 23	Aug 30
Greeter	Roger Frye	Chantae Lail	Harvey Frye	Willie Huffman	Donna Miller
Lay Reader	Libby Wells	Natalie Lail	Wanda Helton	Richard Helton	Mary Kraft
Prayer Leader	Libby Wells	Gail Bowman	Kathy Simmons	Richard Helton	Pastor Ralph
Acolyte	Mary Kraft	Keith Frye	Alex Fincannon	Everly McNeil	Zoey Lail
Crucifer	Betsy Lindler	Donna Miller	Judy Hoke	Connor McNeil	Wanda Helton
Children's Message	Wanda Helton	Richard Helton	Mary Kraft	Barbara Sloop	Gail Bowman



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|------|----------------------|------|---------------|
| 8/1 | Chloe Grace Surbaugh | 8/17 | Cierra Lail |
| | David Urcinola | | Sissy Moxham |
| 8/5 | Anthony Helton | 8/19 | Tim Lail |
| 8/10 | Gayle Jarrett | 8/24 | Sue Jarrett |
| | Donna Miller | 8/27 | Darrell Hamby |
| 8/12 | Beverly Moore | 8/30 | Nancy Brady |
| 8/14 | Glenn Hoke | | Herman Mercy |
| 8/15 | Almeita Helton | | |

ELCA youth rise up to help residents of Detroit

CHICAGO (ELCA) – Participants of the ELCA Youth Gathering held in Detroit July 15-19 responded to the event's theme "Rise Up Together" by taking part in neighborhood service projects throughout the Detroit metro area.

The projects included helping clean up neighborhoods and boarding up abandoned houses, creating community gardens, painting and cleaning schools and community centers, packaging food into family-sized portions for distribution and helping install mosaics on the backstops at a neighborhood baseball field.

The youth and adults at the Gathering also collected nearly one million diapers to help kick-start the city's diaper bank. Starfish Family Services helped manage the collection and has partnered with 37 agencies that provide early childhood care in Detroit. Starfish will also distribute diapers to families.

In addition to addressing the need of Detroit residents, the youth and adults at the Gathering also learned about global needs, such as clean water. In response, the ELCA World Hunger's Walk for Water exhibit raised more than \$402,000 during the event. The exhibit at Detroit's Cobo Center simulated the experience of women in Sub-Saharan Africa who walk an average of three miles each day to get water for their families.

In her sermon at the closing worship, ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton told those assembled that there are "thin spaces ... where we come into those places that are out of our normal elements and somehow the supernatural seems to be a normal thing to happen."

"I think that happened to us this week," Eaton said. "We were taken out of our normal places wherever they were across this country and the Caribbean and we were set down here in Detroit, and we were just ready – ready to see what was going to happen. The spirit could come in because we didn't have our defenses up."

Eaton recounted the day's Gospel reading from Mark 6: 30-44 and said the crowds that came to Jesus for healing understood that he was not just "some super healer with super powers. Instead this was the living God, the God incarnate, God in the flesh, God with us, who would, to complete his mission, be broken on the cross and by that death and resurrection we have justice. The world has been reconciled; we have our peace."

Eaton emphasized to the gathering that "Jesus is more than just a miracle worker or a justice worker, because if that were all he was, all the stuff that we've been doing this week, and what I hope you will continue back in your hometowns, would be for nothing."

"The work that we do catching up with where God has already reconciled the world to God's self is not always going to be perky and upbeat and fun," she said. "There's a lot that's going to be difficult. There will be a lot of times when we feel that we're not making any change, but we've got to trust and believe that the change has been made. And that resting in that confidence, resting in the crucified and risen Christ, we might know true joy."

The presiding bishop closed her sermon by posing a question to those gathered, asking whether they would still find that joy when faced with difficult decisions once they return home.

"Now here's the thing brothers and sisters: can we sing hallelujah particularly and especially when it gets hard, when we're weary and we think we can't do this anymore?" asked Eaton. "When we're in the company of friends or classmates or coworkers and they start in with some racial slur, can we still have the strength to say, 'No, that's a child of God. We won't talk that way.' Can we be busy in our communities when people think, 'Well, you're just a bunch of do-gooders. You don't realize how the world really works.' And when we're weary from helping people who have food insecurity or people who don't have homes or when we try to talk to our town councils or even our congregations and say we've got to get busy, can we still sing hallelujah?" asked Eaton.



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Sunday Celebrations

- August 2** *10am*
Blessing of Collected School Supplies
- August 9** *10am*
Celebrating 100 Years of WELCA
- August 16** *10am*
Blessing of New Drivers
- August 30** *8:30am*
Camp and Sunday School Celebration
10am
Blessing of Backpacks