

St. Paul Partners

A Publication of
St. Paul Lutheran Church

August 2021

volume 35 · number 2

Sponsored by David and Donna Miller in memory of all of those who have been recently called home to heaven, including Ken Chester, Charles Lamm, Kim Conrad, Sterling Jarrett, and Edith Lerch

CAMPS AND RETREATS

Dear St. Paul Family,

This is the best water day I have ever experienced at day camp. I'm glad I'm doing this service project. I can't wait to come back next year. We're glad we came to camp. This is the best vacation I've had in a long time. This is just a small sample of the comments heard from campers, counselors and retreaters alike as both our Agape Day Camp and Kure Beach retreat that was held at the end of July.

We didn't know until late spring if we would even be able to offer day camp this summer due to staffing shortages and uncertainty regarding what the updated guidelines for Covid-19 would be. When we did get the green light for camp, we put the word out here at St. Paul and other area churches for children to come. It worked out that we got 20 campers and 3 counselors from Camp Agape. It turns out that our week of day camp was also the biggest week for on-site camp at Agape and so sending us enough counselors was going to be a challenge. Two of those counselors were not full time this summer but had served in years past and happened to be living in this area as students at Lenoir-Rhyne University. They took a week off from school (*one of them is a nursing major who spent her spare time studying for an exam*) to come and help us out. One of them was so impressed with our program she said she wants to sign up as a counselor again next summer and is going to specifically request our Startown site. Regarding the campers we usually have one or two who don't make it the whole week or who have to miss one or two days because of other things going on but this year all 20 campers came everyday and had a fun and faith filled time each day. We also were still able to offer some modified serviced projects for the middle school aged campers which keeps them engaged on a

Inside This Issue

Pastor's Article	1
Birthdays and Anniversaries	2
Thank You Notes	3
WELCA News	4
Card Ministry	5
Agape Day Camp Photos	6
Backpack Blessing	8

different level. As in years past we had ample volunteers from our congregation who also were on site everyday diligently working behind the scenes to make sure everyone had what they needed and that things ran smoothly.

I believe the campers, counselors and adults who were there, were there because that is where the Holy Spirit wanted them that week. As it turns out we need 20 campers to break even financially with the program, so even though we couldn't have camp last year, it came back just fine this year, telling us the Lord continues to bless this ministry we offer to young people in a safe outdoor setting to deepen their faith lives and understanding of God in an outdoor setting.

Although Mary and I could not attend the Kure Beach retreat this year due to it colliding with the last part of day camp and the death of my mother-in-law, Edith Lerch, there were nine from our church and a few other churches who were able to make it

and spent time enjoying the beach, eating fresh seafood and spent time having devotions, caring conversations and worship as they also deepened their faith lives and understanding of God in an outdoor setting.

As your Pastor I am thankful we are able to continue to offer these camp and retreat opportunities. It is a wonderful way to make use of our mission property as well as support our camping ministry here in North Carolina.

As we move into the future we have many who are already looking forward to next summer. In the meantime I look forward to being with you this month and onward as we put our mission into practice to **Witness, Welcome, Worship** and **Work** in the name of our Lord.

Your in Christ,

Pastor Ralph

Our Christian sympathy and hope in the resurrection is extended to Donna Miller and family upon the death of Donna's father, Mr. Ken Chester.

Our Christian sympathy and hope in the resurrection is extended to the family of Mr. Sterling Jarrett who passed away on July 12th. A graveside service was held at St. Paul Memorial Park cemetery with Pastor Ralph officiating. Memorials may be made to St. Paul Lutheran Church.

Our Christian sympathy and hope in the resurrection is extended to the family of Mrs. Edith Lerch who passed away Saturday July 24th. She was the husband of The Rev. Malcom Lerch, mother of Mary Kraft and mother-in-law of Pastor Ralph. Her service was held at St. Paul Lutheran church officiated by Pastor Ralph on Thursday July 29th. Memorials may be made to St. Paul Lutheran in Newton or St. James Lutheran in Newton.



AUGUST

Birthdays

August 1	David Urcinola Chole Grace Surbaugh
August 5	Anthony Helton
August 10	Donna Miller Gayle Jarret Savanna Herman
August 12	Beverly Moore
August 14	Glenn Hoke
August 15	Almeita Helton Lisa Tellado
August 17	Cierra Lail
August 19	Tim Lail
August 24	Sue Jarrett
August 27	Darrell Hamby
August 30	Nancy Brady

AUGUST

Anniversaries

August 11	Bradley & Sharron Scronce
August 18	Kathy & Gary Simmons

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



Dear Pastor Kraft,

With sincere gratitude, thank you for ensuring that compassionate care is available to people in need – regardless of age, illness or ability to pay for services. No one should face illness alone, and your thoughtful tribute in honor of Sandi Hood makes it possible to provide support at a time in life when it is most needed. You have made a real difference in the lives of those served by Carolina Caring. Thank you for giving in such a special and meaningful way.

Sincerely,
Lorissa Vines
Director of Development

Editor's Note: The monetary donation was given by the congregation in recognition of the time and resources provided by Carolina Caring (formerly hospice) for our advanced care directive event held in June.

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Dear Reverend Kraft,

My heartfelt thanks to you and your wife Mary for conducting the funeral service for Kim Bass Conrad with such grace and kindness. The church at St. Paul's Startown, will always have a special place in my heart for it was there at VBS, Sunday School, worship services, Luther League, et al, that I saw and heard and felt the love of God. May He continue to bless you as you serve Him there in that wonderful place.

Sincerely,
Judy Bass Darken and Family

St. Paul Lutheran Church,

Thank you so much for feeding the counselors this week and for materials for the service projects and extra masks and all of the snacks! We could not have done it without you all. You have allowed us to share the message with so many of God's children.

Peace,
The Agape Day Camp Team

St Paul Family

Thank you so very much for all the cards, thoughts & prayers that were sent to us during the recent passing of my precious Dad. God truly blessed me with a wonderful Dad & a wonderful Church Family.

God Bless each of you,
Donna & David Miller



VACATION IS OVER!

We hope the women of St. Paul enjoyed taking the month of July off! But now it's back to work doing God's work with our hands. Our August 2021 meeting will be in the Fellowship Hall on Tuesday, August 10th, from 6-7 PM. Our devotions will be led by Donna Miller, followed by our Treasurer's Report. We will be discussing how we can support one another and our community. Bring your ideas – like the TV commercial

says, "there's a lot of brain power" in the room!

WATCH OUT!!

This month Catawba County schools reopen. Be aware of school buses stopping and our children waiting on corners or in front of their homes or being dropped off. Most schools will reopen on August 23, 2021.





GIVE A GRIN!

Isn't it nice open your mail box and find a greeting card instead of bills or advertisements for cars or life insurance (which we already have through Christ's sacrifice)? The WELCA-supported card ministry can make a person smile, feeling remembered, missed and loved. And did you know that two WELCA members make every one of those cards. So, thank our 2 Barbaras (Sloop and Reed) for using their talents and time to make each of those one-of-a-kind cards that can show how much we care about our members and their families and friends. If you know some special person who needs a morale

booster, please let a WELCA member know so we can send a smile in an envelope! And thank you for following the sanitary protocols we currently have in place to ensure everyone's Covid-19 avoidance.

GOT A MINUTE (or 10)??

Yeah, we're beating that same old drum..... but we really need more members to offer their time one, two, three or four times a month to serve as Worship Assistants. We are a church family and, as a family, we share in the duties of a family. In your own home family, one takes out the trash, one washes the dishes or makes the bed or turns on the washing machine or dryer or walks the dog. Your church family also needs you to share your time. You ALL have seen what the ushers do or the Crucifer does. If you have walked from your pew to the Altar rail then you have done what the Crucifer does. Do you read your Bible at home? Then why not sign up to be a lay reader? Have you lit candles in your home, maybe for a special occasion? Then why can't you light candles on the Altar? Just imagine what Worship would look like if there was no Crucifer, no one lighting the candles, no one reading from the Psalms and Old and New Testaments, no bread or wine prepared for communion. C'mon St. Paul family, participate fully in our worship experience – sign up on the Bulletin Board in the Hallway.



CHURCH COUNCIL

A reminder that the Church Council will meet this month on August 8th following worship.



ST. PAUL SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

We are pleased to announce that Karina Coulter is this year's recipient of our \$1000.00 scholarship for school. Karina will be attending UNC- Charlotte this fall. Congratulations Karina!

Agape Day Camp 2021





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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.



**Blessing of the Backpacks
for the 2021-2022 School Year
will be during worship on
Sunday, August 29th.**