

Sponsored by Margaret Ikerd in honor of her daughters Rebecca & Kathy

ONGOING OPPORTUNITIES

Dear St. Paul Family,

In my ongoing personal spiritual journey there are things I used to see as obstacles or unexpected surprises that I now try to see as opportunities. For instance, when I receive a compliment, I see that as an opportunity to graciously receive it and be thankful for that bit of uplifting encouragement. Likewise, when an obstacle or challenge arises I try to discern where the opportunity is to grow or what new thing God might be doing.

Some of you recall back at the end of 2019, in order to present a more realistic spending plan for ministry I took a significant and voluntary cut in my salary. As the congregation approved it, there was also an understanding between me and council that I would be free to take up part time work to support my income if the right opportunity came along. Well, last month an opportunity presented itself from Pastor Ryan Ray at Mt. Olive Lutheran in Hickory in the Viewmont area. He has begun working on his PhD program in ministry and he needs some help with the ongoing pastoral care needs in his congregation. He thought about me as he is aware of my financial situation, we have known each other for years and we both work well together. In fact, St. Paul and Mt. Olive have partnered recently with Confirmation programs and joint service projects in the community with our youth.

Pastor Ray and I have agreed that I will partner with Mt. Olive in a part-time way where I will be on call for him when he is out of town and on a week to week basis I will help with visiting and taking Holy Communion to their shut-ins just like I do here at St. Paul. It is understood that my time with Mt. Olive is not to exceed 10 hours per week. While there is not a

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signed contract, Pastor Ray and I have worked out what you might call a “Gentleman’s Agreement” that I will have this partnership with Mt. Olive for as long as it works for everybody concerned. This arrangement also has the blessings of Bishop Tim Smith.

As we here at St. Paul have already been discerning possible opportunities for yoking or merging with another congregation at some point, Pastor Ray and I are also open to any possibilities for partnering that may work for us and Mt. Olive. This is not to say we are going to officially merge or anything like that but I think it will be good to discern if the Holy Spirit provides something we may not even be thinking of yet. In the meantime an agreement has been negotiated for how much I will be compensated for my time, it has been approved by Mt. Olive leadership and I shared this with our Council at the August meeting. I am now taking the opportunity to share it with you the rest of the church family for clarification and transparency of what I will be up to

with some of my time. Hopefully this is clear that my on-going duties as the Pastor of St. Paul will not change, I just now will be reconfiguring some of my time with another congregation.

Throughout this newsletter you will see opportunities for us to plug into including but not limited to giving to Lutheran Disaster Relief and participating in estate planning. Obviously we can’t all take advantage of every opportunity every time it is offered in life but part of spiritual growth and discernment is taking advantage of opportunities we can do where God can use as vessels for the building up of His kingdom. And so this month I look forward to being with you as we discern ongoing opportunities to 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 Judy Herman and family upon the death of Judy’s sister, Mrs. Sandra Moore Harvell who died on August 18th.



To the kind and generous ladies of St. Paul, Startown:
Thank you for providing food and drinks for the family of Kim Bass Conrad.
With Love & Appreciation,
Judy Bass Darden

Dear St. Paul Family,
Thank you to all of you who sent food. It was all eaten and greatly appreciated.
Gayle Jarrett & Family

SEPTEMBER

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Sept 1	Elsie Sanders
Sept 5	Evie Warlick
Sept 10	Luke Warren
Sept 11	Blanche Lowman
Sept 12	Louise Simmons
Sept 13	Steven Blackburn Lucy Ballentine
Sept 15	Alexis Helton Rachel Pitman

Sept 17	Becky McNeil
Sept 18	Pam Jarrett
Sept 19	Kathy Frye
Sept 24	Chantae Lail
Sept 27	J.D. Scott Joey Potter

No September anniversaries recorded.

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 St. Paul Family,

Grace and peace to you. We wish to thank all of you for your kind words of sympathy, calls, emails, cards, love and support you have given to us upon the death of our beloved wife, mother and mother-in-law, Edith Lerch. The meal you provided for us after the service was delicious and timely as my sister and her family had to get on the road later that afternoon. We are aware memorials are continuing to come in and for this we are grateful, again for your love, support and honoring Edith's life in this way. As this time of mourning is not easy, it certainly is easier to bear with a caring church family. May the Lord richly bless you.

God's Peace,

Mary, Pastor Lerch, Pastor Ralph

Dear Pastor Kraft,

Thank you for supporting the mission of Carolina Caring as a Hall of Faith partner. Your generosity ensures that compassionate care is always available – regardless of age, illness, or ability to pay for services. Your heartfelt donation of \$50.00 makes a real difference in the lives of our patients and families. No one should face advanced illness alone. Thank you for making it possible to be there to offer support at a time in life when it is most needed. In recognition of your commitment, a professional photograph of your church is prominently displayed on our campus for visitors and others to enjoy. Thank you again for your partnership in caring for our community.

Gratefully,

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. The letter is posted on the church bulletin board outside the office.

GIRL SCOUTS AND ST. PAUL

After being away for several years, we are pleased to announce that our area Girl Scout District leaders will begin meeting in our fellowship hall again the first Tuesday of each month from 6:30PM – 8:30PM. Their meeting for this month will be Tuesday September 7th.

Also on Thursday September 16th there will be a recruitment meeting held in our fellowship hall from 6:30PM – 7:30PM. This will be an opportunity for girls in 1st – 12th grade to sign up for the Girl Scouting program. If you have any children, grandchildren or neighbors in this age group who could benefit from Girl Scouts please bring them to this meeting.



WELCA WANDERINGS...

The September meeting of St. Paul WELCA will be September 13th, from 6-7 PM in the Fellowship Hall. We will continue to explore how we can help our neighbors as Fall approaches. Of course, we will continue to support our Card Ministry and offering Worship Assistant guidance. Women of St. Paul, please come join us for an hour of faith-building discussion and action.

ENCORE, ENCORE!!

Do you have a last will and testament? When is the last time you reviewed it? Do you know the difference between an “administrator” and an “executor”? What does “probate” mean? Have you developed a financial plan? Does your family know where your important documents are?

Due to the strong interest in our recent Living Will informational program, we are going to follow-up with another such program. Whether your “estate” consists of a single-wide on a ¼ acre or a 3 story McMansion with stables on 10 acres of land, you may have some questions like those above. Church member Steve Sayer, a Certified Financial Planner, has offered to share information that we all will find helpful. At this time the event will be held at the Mission Property during the second week of October from 6-7:30 PM. Please consider joining your Church family for this opportunity to learn some of the ins and outs of financial planning, ask questions and feel more confident as we age. We are blessed to have such a knowledgeable person who can answer many of our questions and provide assurance that will help us plan appropriately. The exact date will be published ASAP. In the meantime, start thinking about what questions you have. And do not hesitate to invite your family and friends for this special opportunity.





STARTOWN GRATITUDE

The staff at Startown Elementary School were absolutely ecstatic when we unloaded the book bags stuffed with school supplies gathered from our Christmas in July drive! They know about St. Paul from all the support we have shown them over the years but this year was particularly special for them. They had not received any donations from any other groups or organizations. Their shelves were quite empty before our arrival. The dozens of pencils, crayons, glue sticks, notebooks, erasers, colored pencils, and all the other items you donated were SO MUCH appreciated and are SO needed for the incoming students. You, indeed, have invested in the future!

NEED AN ENGRAVED INVITATION?

We sure hope you don't need an embossed invitation to serve as a Worship Assistant. The sign-up sheets are posted on the Bulletin Board outside the Church Office and there are plenty of opportunities to offer your time over the next two months. You see others sharing their time – you know what is involved. So, why haven't you stepped up? Perhaps, by serving, you may even find the worship experience even more meaningful and personal. We will be happy to offer single or group informational sessions. Just let Pastor Ralph or a current Worship Assistant that you would like to learn the key points of serving. We also have outlines for each way of serving which you can borrow.



CHURCH COUNCIL

A reminder that the Church Council will meet this month on September 12th following worship in the fellowship hall.

Rosy Grier?

Did you know that Pro football player, Rosy Grier, former LA Rams Player, did needlepoint as a form of relaxation? Betcha didn't!! What do you do to relax? Have you tried needlepoint, knitting, crocheting, embroidery, rug-hooking or other crafts? The Crochet Cronies would love to see what you are working on! Come and join us for 2 hours of smiles, faith and busy hands on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month, from 9-11 AM in the Conference Room. Our next meeting will be September 13th – hope to see you!





THANK YOU, SCOUTS!!

We offer our heartfelt appreciation for the hours of dedicated hard work performed by Boy Scout Troop #398 which meets at St. Paul. The effort was spearheaded by potential Eagle Scout Charlie Lovelace, who led his fellow scouts to rebuild the playground located adjacent to the St. Paul Campus parking lot. Be sure to see the new swings, bench, picnic table, playhouse with its climbing wall and slide, and all this play area covered with inches of protective mulch. Look elsewhere in this newsletter for pictures of their selfless giving of time and labor. Congratulations, Charlie and thank you to all your fellow Scouts and leaders.

See page 7 for pictures!

RESERVE THE DATE!

Our Annual Congregational meeting is coming up in November. In addition to approving the 2022 proposed Spending Plan and other topics, we will also be voting for 3 new Church Council members. Remember, in order to be able to vote, one must be confirmed and shall have communed and made a contribution of record during the current or preceding calendar year. (Reference Constitution of St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church of Startown (ELCA) *C8.02). And be in discernment about serving on Church Council and helping shape the direction and future of St. Paul.



DESTINATION STATION

FROM PAGE 8

Starting in September, you will see a train station erected in the Narthex. We are hoping you will drop your loose change into the “Station” and the “train” will carry our donations in September to Lutheran Disaster Services. And in October the “destination” will be Lutheran Immigration Services. Even if we collect only a few dollars each month with our loose change,

those coins can still help those suffering loss of homes, businesses and help those relocating to more peaceful areas. So, lighten your pockets and purses by dropping your change into the “Destination Station” and easily help support the ELCA programs which can immediately help all those in need.



EAGLE SCOUT
PROJECT PICTURES

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.



**Lutheran Immigration
and Refugee Service**

Destination Station

A two-month special offering drive to benefit Lutheran Disaster Services and Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS).

See page 6 for more details!