

Sponsored by Lucy Ballentine in memory of her husband, David Ballentine

OCTOBER OUTINGS

Dear St. Paul Family,

Jesus said, “But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.” Matthew 24: 36.

As God’s people we live in what some call the “in-between” times. We know that Jesus has already come once and has promised that he will come again, it just hasn’t happened yet. Throughout the ages (and even now) many have tried to make predictions as to when that coming again will occur, but alas it is all for naught as in the above scripture, Jesus clearly points out that nobody knows when that second coming will be – not even Jesus.

So, we are called to faithfully be about our life journey, serving God as we serve others. While we don’t know everything the future holds, I don’t think there is anything wrong with setting goals and doing planning for the future and even though we don’t know when Christ will come again we do know there will come a day we will die to this life. Having a Last Will and Testament and letting your loved ones know what your wishes are and where your documents are – birth and baptism certificate, social security card, land deeds, mortgage papers, bank account information, etc. is important

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to have organized and for your trusted loved ones to know the location of.

In my lifetime and especially in my experiences as a pastor, many people fail to make their final wishes known or make the time to draw up a will. This lack of planning can create confusion and false assumptions among our survivors and loved ones. More than once I have seen issues of land, money and things tear families apart. Having a Last Will and Testament doesn't guarantee your loved ones won't argue or disagree over the estate, but at least your wishes are spelled out in writing and this carries a lot of weight and makes things easier on your survivors. If you die without a will, the settling of your estate goes into the hands of the state in which you reside, which means a government official decides who gets your estate and how it gets divided. Now granted the government appreciates receiving and processing our tax dollars but they really are not in the business of settling estates and would much prefer we take care of that ourselves on our own terms.

So, if making a Last Will and Testament is something you have been putting off and still need to do, we are offering an outing to make that happen. On Tuesday October 12th from 6:00PM – 7:30PM we will be hosting an estate planning event at the Mission

Property. This is open to members and non-members alike. Our own Mr. Steve Sayer will be on hand to present information on all the details of putting a will together. We are also hoping to have a lawyer on hand as well to answer any questions. I am hoping you will see this as an outing that will be an opportunity to take advantage of the fall weather, make use of our beautiful Mission Property and do some important planning for your estate. Even if you already have a will you are welcome to come pick up some additional nuggets of wisdom or review to make sure your final wishes are up to date.

As the Lord calls us to be good stewards of all the blessings we have received this is a good opportunity to make sure your estate is taken care of and passed on in the best ways possible. Elsewhere in this newsletter you will find an article entitled “*Don't Miss Out*” which gives a few more details about this outing. You will also find other information on outings and opportunities available this month to grow and to serve. 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

OCTOBER

Birthdays

| | |
|------------|-------------------------------|
| October 8 | Becky Dowell |
| October 10 | Emma Bolch Dick Walker |
| October 15 | Elena Wooten |
| October 17 | Zoey Lail |
| October 20 | Dorraine Lail |
| October 22 | Brenda Detter |
| October 28 | Tony Moore Sharron Scronce |
| October 30 | Brandon Williams |
| October 31 | Marie Scronce |

OCTOBER

Anniversaries

| | |
|------------|---|
| October 10 | David & Becky Dowell Paul & Chantae Lail |
| October 27 | Rayford & Linda Herman |

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 Agape Group,
Thank you for helping our patients' day become so much brighter. The Tray favors were wonderful!!

Blessings to you all,
Jennifer, Carolina Caring

Dear Ladies,

Thank you for giving a memorial gift in memory of Edith. Thank you also for your cards and visits and special treats. We both appreciated your friendship and prayers. The luncheon you prepared after the memorial service was delicious! Thank you! God blessing to you all!

Love in Christ

Malcom, Mary and Pastor Ralph (9/8/21)

Dear friends of WELCA,

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. We are humbled by your generous donation of \$50.00. No one should face advanced illness alone and your thoughtful tribute in memory of Ken Chester 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. Thanks for giving in such a special and meaningful way.

Sincerely,

Lorissa Vines

Director of Development (8/26/21)



Our Christian sympathy and hope in the resurrection is extended to the family of Willie Rader Raley Huffman who passed away on September 9th at Abernathy Laurels. A graveside service was held September 20th at Catawba Memorial Park officiated by Pastor Ralph. Memorials may be made to St. Paul Lutheran Church, 3761 Startown Rd., Newton, NC 28658.

CHURCH COUNCIL

A reminder that the Church Council will meet this month on October 10th following worship in the fellowship hall.



WINDOW ON WELCA

On October 11, 2021, many of the women of St. Paul-Startown will be gathering in the Fellowship Hall at 6:00 PM for an hour of fellowship and Fall planning. Please consider sharing this hour with us as we work to support one another and engage in ministry and action. Among our topics for discussion will be serving on Congregational Council, remembering our college students and donating to the LIRS drive. We

have plenty of room to spread out so, women of St. Paul, please come with your mask, your smiling eyes and ideas for sharing God's love through our actions.

DON 'T MISS OUT!!

We sure hope you have made plans to join your Church family for the free Estate Planning event being held on October 12, 2021, from 6:00 – 7:30 PM at the Mission Property. Bring your questions, a lawn chair or cushion and a blanket (if the weather is cool) and leave better informed about the complex issues regarding your last will and testament, trusts, probate, and all those other queries about our final financial wishes. We are so fortunate to have among our church membership Steve Sayer, a Certified Financial Planner, who will present the program and will answer as many questions as possible. And if you prefer not to drive at dusk, please contact the Church office and leave a message, requesting a ride. We have plenty of volunteer members who will transport you to and from the event for the small price of one (1) smile!!





FALL CLOSET CLEAN-OUT

As you are perhaps cleaning out your closets and bringing out your Fall and cool weather outer wear and find a coat or jacket that you no longer wear, please consider donating it to our St. Paul Coat Closet. Hopefully, you remember the special Palm Sunday Service we had this year and saw the coats lining the main Sanctuary aisle and on the front steps of the Church. Those coats (77 of them) were donated to the patrons of The Corner Table and we hope to do the same again this Spring.



YOU WERE AMAZING!!

Oh, my, YOU did “respond” to our Donation Station destination. Our September “destination” was Lutheran Disaster Response and YOU did “respond!” Over \$600.00 was donated by YOU in only 4 weeks and will be used 100% to directly provide help combating the

Western wildfires, the Hurricane Ida victims and the earthquake survivors in Haiti, as well as those affected by the active volcano on the Spanish island, among so many other disasters. And the Carriker train has changed “direction” beginning in October. The “destination” will be Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services (LIDR). So, get “on board” for another life-saving trip!

IT'S HOW OLD?!?!?!?

LIRS is 82 years old – WOW! Oh, who or what is LIRS? LIRS is not a who, but it is a what: Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services. It was founded in 1939 and is the largest faith-based national nonprofit dedicated exclusively to serving refugees, asylum seekers and other vulnerable immigrant communities in the United States. Through over 80 years of service and advocacy, LIRS has helped over 500,000 migrants and refugees rebuild their lives in America, including 10,000 Afghan allies through the Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) program.

In partnership with Lutheran congregations and Lutheran social ministry organizations, the work is driven by God’s love for all people and a vision for congregations to be welcoming and generous centers for mission and ministry. The work of LIRS includes responding to people caught in conflict and facing persecution, advocating for their needs and interests, helping people access resources for basic human needs, working with foster care programs for minors, legal assistance and developing new and innovative service programs and much more. Over the next five weeks of October, our Sunday Servant insert will share specific information about each of these opportunities to share God’s love through LIRS. Please prayerfully consider sharing your treasure either at our “Donation Station” in the Narthex or through your contribution envelopes. According to Isaiah 1:17, “Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed, take up the cause of the fatherless; plead the case of the widow.”



Lutheran Immigration
and Refugee Service



WEAR RED!!

Although we will not be hosting our Annual Trunk or Treat Halloween event this year, again due the Covid 19 precautions, we do hope you will wear RED on Halloween, October 31st, which is also Reformation Sunday this year. Guys, have you got a red sweater or a red tie? Ladies, shake out that red blazer or red scarf. Let's have the "red sea" parted by the main church aisle!

NOTICE OF ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The regular annual meeting of the congregation will be held immediately following worship on Sunday, November 21st. Nomination ballots (included in this newsletter) are due no later than Sunday, October 26th.



September 2021 Council Highlights

- Annual Trunk or Treat Event cancelled for 2021
- An updated draft of the Church Constitution is being worked on for submission to Synod.
- Council is considering rate increases for the Mission Property beginning with the 2022 Season.
- New copier lease with Xerox was approved for a 5-year term.
- Nominating ballots are to be sent with October newsletter.
- Annual meeting date set for November 21, 2021, following worship.
- Spending Plan for 2022 is being developed.



Some of the most amusing moments of my ministry have occurred while interviewing others to work in the various congregations I have served. "So what interests you in this Administrative Assistant position at our church?" I asked a candidate in Boone. "Well," she replied, "I've worked in a law office for several years now, and I'm honestly just sick and tired of how people can treat each other so terribly, so when I saw this position advertised, I thought, 'Wow, wouldn't it be great to work in a place

where everybody always gets along for a change!" Her assumption seemed to be the rule rather than the exception. Church people always love one another, and therefore they never behave in anything other than a loving way.

Continued on next page...

She should have read St. Augustine's daily prayer for the late 4th/early 5th century when he served as Bishop of Hippo in northern Africa. "...Lord, save us from the forces of evil and from all these Christians." Apparently, the 5th-century job description or practical reality for bishops was similar to that of the 21st. Manage conflict. Apparently, given St. Paul's 1st-century words to the church in Corinth, even the very earliest days of the church were rife with conflict. Heck, why was he in Corinth to begin with? Because he and Peter didn't get along back in Jerusalem! Jesus himself anticipated conflict in the Christian community and how to address it in Matthew 18. Anyhow, Paul urges Corinthians to stop their squabbling by focusing not on a convergence of opinion but on their common baptism into Christ.

Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same purpose. For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. What I mean is that each of you says, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or "I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to Christ." Has Christ been divided? (1 Corinthians 1:10-13)

The problem with the Church is the same as the problem with Communism, or Capitalism, or the Republican Party or the Democratic Party, or with the 4th, 12th, or 18th century, or the Royal Order of Buffalo: there are people in them! People are selfish, sinful, broken. Conflict happens, inevitably.

In counseling with couples preparing for marriage, we talk about the church in Corinth. Well, maybe not explicitly, but I always remind them that the fact that Jane loves Joe or Joe loves Jane or even the sum total of those loves won't sustain them over the long haul. There must be something bigger than Joe's love, bigger than Jane's love, at the center of this relationship, which is why we pray fervently for and focus mightily on Christ's presence at the center of that relationship binding them together in communication, sacrifice, commitment, and forgiveness.

Christians do not—and have not from the get-go—based their unity on shared preference, politics, or opinion. As different as we might be, what binds us is that somehow we are caught up in the story of Jesus and its promise and claim on our lives. So long as there are people in the church, which at the end of the day and even for all the challenge of it I greatly prefer, there will be divisions, hurt feelings, differences of opinion, and conflict along with all the positives of human community. Christ at the center, Christ as the lens through which we interpret everything, Christ as the peace we share before communion, will always be the tie that binds. May we always start and, when we stray, return there!

Walking With You,



The Rev. Timothy M. Smith, Bishop, NC Synod

St. Paul Lutheran Church

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<<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.



Estate Planning Workshop

October 12, 2021 + 6:00 PM

St. Paul Mission Property

See page 4 for more details!