



## St. Paul Lutheran Church

### Newsletter for September 2024

*In other Lutheran churches, it's customary that in September, there is a "Rally Day" to celebrate the children and the beginning of a new Sunday School year. Here at St. Paul, Kari Jackson is working on beginning a new Sunday School year for OUR three kids. But at St. Paul, we will have our Rally Day on September 29 to celebrate folks who have decided to become new "official" members of St. Paul Lutheran Church. So far, we will be welcoming new brothers and sisters, Kate Lovan and Alex Oden and their twins, Clara and Elana, and we will be welcoming Pastor Joe's sister, Jan Albrecht. And I know others are thinking about it because I have handed out many membership forms. So today, I want to talk just a little bit about reasons that do NOT require you to become a member of Saint Paul.*

*First, you don't need to become a member of Saint Paul just because it will make the pastor look good, even though it might make the pastor look good. When the people up the chain of command look and see how things are going at Saint Paul and see that we have new members, maybe someone will say, "Oh, that Linda Marousek must be doing a good job." But making the pastor look good is not a good reason to join a church.*

*And second, you don't need to become a member of St. Paul just because it will make St. Paul*

*look good! Maybe it will make St. Paul look good because this little old church is growing instead of dying, but that is not a good reason to join the church.*

*A political organizer said that signing on the dotted line is a good way to make sure that people keep their commitments, like their commitment to register to vote or to go vote. So if you sign up for membership, under that theory, you would be more likely to do what you say you will for the church, like pull weeds, or give an offering. But we are all grown-ups here, and if you say you will do something, I trust that you will do it. Joining so we can guarantee you keep your commitments is not a good reason to join the church.*

*But here is a good reason to join the church. Martin Luther, as he was dying, wrote, "We are beggars. This is true." Luther said this after a lifetime of devotion, study, teaching, and writing about faith, and what he meant was what God had taught him from the beginning: that faith is a gift of God, not something one can earn by good deeds or even by membership in a Lutheran Church. The main reason to be a member and to attend regularly is not so much that we would be committed to doing more, but rather that we would receive more, and this more is overwhelmingly the spiritual gifts God wants us to have - forgiveness, salvation, and the assurance that since Baptism, we have already been living forever. These are gifts that are only available where He said He'd meet us - as a part of the body of Christ.*

*And personally, I am a beggar. So, I am happy to be a member of this body of Christ. What about you?*

From your Pastor,

Linda A. Marousek

## Serving in Worship – September 2024

Sept	Assisting Minister	Reader	Projection Technician	Ushers
1 <sup>st</sup>	Susan Craswell	Steven Ullrich	Jeff Belamy	Pat & Marilyn
8 <sup>th</sup>	Mick Johnson	Jeff Belamy	John Troth	Bill & CrisAnn
15 <sup>th</sup>	Jeff Belamy	Mick Johnson	Sally Schlachtenhaufen	Gena & Cecil
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Joe Aalbue	Kari Jackson	Mick Johnson	Susan & Joy
29 <sup>th</sup>	Susan Craswell	Josh Heitman	Ben Jackson	Frank & Joe
Oct 6	Mick Johnson	Joe Aalbue	Jeff Belamy	Pat & Marilyn

Sept	Communion Bread	Communion Set-up	Coffee Hour	
1 <sup>st</sup>	Susan Craswell	Susan Craswell	Marlene, Joe, Sally	
8 <sup>th</sup>	Susan Craswell	Jody Jack	Bill & CrisAnn Larson	
15 <sup>th</sup>	Susan Craswell	Pat Irland	<b>OPEN</b>	
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Susan Craswell	Marilyn Aldrich	<b>OPEN</b>	
29 <sup>th</sup>	Susan Craswell	Susan Craswell	<b>OPEN</b>	
Oct 6	Pat Irland	Jody Jack	<b>OPEN</b>	

### September Readings

	First Reading	Psalm	Second Reading	Gospel
1 <sup>st</sup>	Deut 4:1-2, 6-9	Psalm 15	James 1:17-27	Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23
8 <sup>th</sup>	Isaiah 35:4-7a	Psalm 146	James 2:1-10 , 14-17	Mark 7:24-37
15 <sup>th</sup>	Isaiah 50:4-9a	Psalm 116:1-9	James 3:1-12	Mark 8:27-38
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Jeremiah 11:18-20	Psalm 54	James 3:13—4:3, 7-8a	Mark 9:30-37
29 <sup>th</sup>	Num 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29	Psalm 19:7-14	James 5:13-20	Mark 9:38-50

## Birthdays and Anniversaries for September

### Birth Date:

Rebekkah Thomas	09/02
Abby Havig	09/11
Joyce White	09/12
Clara & Elena Oden	09/14
Irene Nevin	09/19

### Married:

Mick & Carol Johnson	09/03
David & Cheri Holland	09/05
John & Linda Troth	09/10



## St. Paul's New Tree

The new tree, which was planted by Mick Johnson, Frank Nicholson, and Joe Aalbue in the west yard, is a Japanese Snowbell. This satisfies a city requirement that all trees that are removed be replaced and additionally that they are on the city's list of acceptable trees. Yard and Garden Land helped to source this tree. Because it is a newbie, it requires some loving care. Ty McCall and others have been giving it extra water during the dry spells. Take a look at some of the other new trees that seem to like where they live, especially the hibiscus tree in the front of the church.

## We Have Acolytes!



St. Paul is blessed to have two new acolytes who were newly trained this month by Erik Ness from Family of Christ Lutheran. He is also a friend of Pastor Linda, who asked him to do this service. They have been serving ever since. Our young new acolytes are Clara and Elena Oden, who are joining the church in September with their parents, Kate and Alex. We are so thrilled to have the young girls as part of the worship team!

## We are in this Together . . . *Get to know Elena and Clara Oden*

**Elena** is thoughtful and insightful. She loves to plan and always has a clear vision of how she wants things to be. She is always making something with bits and bobs she sources from around the house. She is brave and very sure of who she is. When she thinks about the future, she wants to be able to help people. She says she will be a lifeguard in high school and is working on her swimming skills



with that goal in mind. She has a heart for the homeless and loves the idea of being an advocate. When she sees empty buildings or talks about where she will live in the future, she always includes something in the plan for people who are in need. Sometimes, she wants to be in politics, but she was disappointed when we said that her sister couldn't be her vice president. She is loyal to her family and loves her sister above all others. She harasses her sister constantly. She has a silly streak a mile wide and loves thinking of jokes and pranks. She loves fashionable clothing, particularly anything brightly colored or shiny. She LOVES wearing stylish boots, preferably with skinny jeans or leggings.



**Clara** is all heart and practicality. She is easygoing, kind, and loves to help. She takes excellent care of her sister, even when she is exasperated with Elena's refusal to do anything the easy way. She loves stories, particularly epic tales of girls

going on great adventures. She is ambitious and competitive, wanting to be the best at everything she does. She is social and takes pride in her ability to make friends. She is a fierce advocate for people she thinks aren't getting a good deal. She has said that she wants to be a Judge when she grows up so she can "get" the mean people. She also dreams of cool inventions, and she loves a project. She likes picking out her clothes and putting together her outfits. She favors bright colors, skirts, and dresses, but she always has shorts underneath so that she can play hard. She is excited to be on a basketball team this fall. She isn't picky about her sports, but she LOVES being on a team.

Thanks to Mom Kate Lovan for her insights into her daughters. Clara and Elena Oden are our new acolytes!

## Did you know? And can you guess who?

**We have some amazing angels at St. Paul...**

\*Several angels among us worked in our basement cooling center on the hottest days to help folks on the streets stay cool.

We are all so grateful for their angelic contributions!

\*Three people in our congregation are going to be trained as lay ministers through the Psalm Program. This is an amazing gift to St. Paul.



**Answers from last month:** Two angels selected and bought plants for the planter boxes, another who planted them, and yet another who is watering them! We are all so grateful. (Dale and Vicki Wayrynen, Calvin George and Ty McCall)

Nine wonderful angels are going to be serving St. Paul on church council in the coming year. Again, we are all so grateful for their leadership and

willingness to contribute to our ministry. (Mick Johnson, Frank Nicholson, Jodi Jack, Dale Wayrynen, Geri Hiller, James White, Joyce White, Dave Slocum, and Gena Roberts)



## St. Paul hosted an art exhibit in August featuring icon artists

Lori McDonald and Brenda Johnston

The Contemporary Iconography Group Exhibition will share the works of contemporary icon writers, informing, educating, and illustrating the practice to our community.

*Of the icon painting tradition that developed in Byzantium, with Constantinople as the chief city, we have only a few icons from the 11th century and none preceding them, in part because of the Iconoclastic reforms during which many were destroyed or lost.*

- Wiki.

## Icon artists at St. Paul cont.

Today, the practice continues to be handed down and taught through a mentoring practice. An experienced “teacher” will share the tradition. The apprentice eventually moves out on their own, sharing this practice with others.

One icon painter and practitioner, Lori McDonald, shared,

"I began painting icons in 2017 at a workshop at St. Placid's Priory in Lacey, Washington. I discovered the significance of this craft when the instructor explained that iconography was not just painting but a form of prayer for the artist."



Mary Magdalene, egg tempera and gold on wood  
Lori McDonald

"I use the traditional method of painting with egg tempera, which involves mixing egg yolk with water and pigments applied to a gessoed wood panel. The haloes are made of 23-karat gold. Most of the icons I paint are in a Byzantine Slavic style. I don't create the patterns;

instead, I use ancient patterns, each with various symbols that hold deep meaning. Icons are painted from dark to light, in contrast to many other painting styles, as each icon is meant to bring the light of Christ into the world."



Our Lady of the Universe, egg tempera and gold on wood,  
Brenda Johnston

"I find great fulfillment in this art. This practice has helped to deepen my faith."

*Thanks to Tom Relth and Alexandra Storey for curating this wonderful art exhibit.*

*We appreciate all the hard work that goes into bringing art to the Vancouver art community and allowing St. Paul to share in this vibrant scene.*



## Geri Hiller's Retirement

It was so wonderful to see so many people celebrating our Geri Hiller. Family, friends, pastors, and even our Vancouver Mayor were there to thank her for her many years of service to the community and to St. Paul Lutheran Church. Lots of food and, in true Geri fashion, delicious leftovers were taken to those in need.



In true Hiller fashion, we have no pictures of Geri's immediate family because they were all busy working to put on this party.





Geri is back singing with the choir!

## We are celebrating a WHO success story!

Ralph Dady moved into his new permanent housing after more than two years as a Guest at the Men's Shelter at St. Paul.

God Bless you in your new home, Ralph!



Special thanks to Susan Craswell for helping make this event a great success.



## Treble Tones Concert

On August 15<sup>th</sup>, we were treated to a concert by the Trebles Tones. Our own Lori Thomas is one of the singers. They raised \$218 for our homeless ministries.

*Thank you, Treble Tones!*



- ◆ Iona Anglican Community meeting at St. Paul Saturdays, 4:00 pm -
- ◆ Chuuk Logos Community Church meets at St. Paul Sundays, 2:00 pm -
- ◆ Contemplative Prayer in the sanctuary Wednesdays, 12:20-12:45 -
- ◆ God's Work, Our Hands Sunday, September 8, - -  
*Collect men's underwear & Label Socks*
- ◆ Poetry group. 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday afternoons at the church at 3:00 - Next Sunday, 9/8
- ◆ Council meetings 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday at 6:30 on Zoom: September 10
- ◆ WHO Kickoff at St. Paul September 11, 3:00-4:00 -
- ◆ Peace and Justice Fair - Saturday, September 14, 9:00-4:00. Call Pastor Linda if you can volunteer for a shift.
- ◆ Dorcas Quilters: 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday:- Next meeting 9/11
- ◆ Outreach Circle: Wednesday, September 4<sup>th</sup>, 1:30 at St. Paul
- ◆ Church on the Porch, Saturday, September 28- 11:00-2:00 - Free lunch and clothing and toiletries for our unhoused neighbors.
- ◆ Receive new members by Affirmation of Baptism, Sunday, September 29 -Kate and Alex and the kids; Jan Albrecht,
- ◆ Pastor Linda travels for the First Call Theological Education Retreat at Seabeck, WA - September 30- October 3

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