



# **St. Paul Lutheran Church**

**Newsletter for October 2024**

Pastor Linda gave the invocation to the Peace and Justice Fair last month. I think it speaks well of our journey as a congregation:

**What has struck me in the years before when I have participated in this event is the diversity of we the participants, but the unity of our purposes.**

**Last year, for example, our booth with three mainstream Lutheran churches was located between the booths of the local mosque on our right side, and the local MCC, Metropolitan Community Church, the so-called “gay church,” on our left side. And even though we are different, we are here with the common purpose of seeking peace and justice in our own personal lives and in our shared public lives.**

**How we get there, what words and practices we use to support our work, are different. But we are on a journey, and it is a journey we **MUST** travel together, or none of us will get there. And yes, it is a journey where we seek peace and justice in the greater world, but I believe it must begin with peace and justice in our own hearts, and in our own lives.**

**And so I would ask you to stop for a moment and let me share with you a writing from my spiritual tradition. This is a paraphrase written by Nan Merrill of a portion of the 83rd Psalm. I think it describes the journey that we are on together.**

**[Psalm 83]**

O Great Creator, do not keep silence; do not withhold your peace or be still, O Giver of life!

For fear is rampant in the world; those who rule by oppression rise up with power.

They lay deceptive plans against the people; they consult together against freedom and justice.

Crafty words hide intent, as thousands reap consequences; nations go to war and the innocent suffer!...

Who will save the homeless, the orphans, the starving, those cast aside by decisions based on greed?

Who will speak up on their behalf? Let all with faith-filled hearts rise up with Love!

Clothe us in the dress of your peace, and the stronghold of your mercy, that we might bear the power of Love.

Let us walk in shoes of integrity and put on the cloak of truth. Let us shed the tatters of envy and fear,  
the rags of anger and greed,

And let us say together, "We shall seek only the Truth, which will set us free!"

**May it be so.**



## Serving in Worship – October 2024

<b>Oct</b>	<b>Assisting Minister</b>	<b>Reader</b>	<b>Projection Technician</b>	<b>Ushers/Greeters</b>
6 <sup>th</sup>	Mick Johnson	Joe Aalbue	Jeff Belamy	Pat & Marilyn
13 <sup>th</sup>	Jeff Belamy	Steven Ullrich	Sally Schlachtenhaufen	Bill & Crisann
20 <sup>th</sup>	Joe Aalbue	Jeff Belamy	Mick Johnson	Susan & Joy
27 <sup>th</sup>	Susan Craswell	Kari Jackson	Ben Jackson	Gena & Cecil
Nov 3	Mick Johnson	Josh Heitman	John Troth	Pat & Marilyn
<b>Oct</b>	<b>Communion Bread</b>	<b>Communion Set-up</b>	<b>Coffee Hour</b>	
6 <sup>th</sup>	Jody Jack	Susan Craswell	Art Krautz	
13 <sup>th</sup>	Jody Jack	Jody Jack	Joy Carlson	
20 <sup>th</sup>	Jody Jack	Pat Irland	Pat Irland	
27 <sup>th</sup>	Jody Jack	Marilyn Aldrich	OPEN	
Nov 3	Pat Irland	Susan Craswell	Sally, Joe, Marlene	

## October 2024 – Readings and Psalm

<b>Oct</b>	<b>First Reading</b>	<b>Psalm</b>	<b>Second Reading</b>	<b>Gospel</b>
<b>6</b>	Genesis 2:18-24	Psalm 8	Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12	Mark 10:2-16
<b>13</b>	Amos 5:6-7, 10-15	Psalm 90:12-17	Hebrews 4:12-16	Mark 10:17-31
<b>20</b>	Isaiah 53:4-12	Psalm 91:9-16	Hebrews 5:1-10	Mark 10:35-45
<b>27</b>	Jeremiah 31:7-9	Psalm 126	Hebrews 7:23-28	Mark 10:46-52

**Most of you should be familiar with our church administrator, Leslie Relth. Leslie is married to an artist named Tom.**

Tom has worked behind the scenes at St. Paul for several years, providing website design, maintenance, and marketing materials. He has also curated recent art exhibitions in St. Paul's hallways. But he is also a professional artist painter.

Born in Los Angeles, Tom Relth has traveled to over 20 countries, lived in different homes, and worked in 28 studios/workspaces. He and Leslie lived and worked for five years near Casablanca in Morocco, North Africa.

Tom explains the benefits of his extensive travel, "Each time I have moved, I was required to rethink how I will survive this. And, each time, there were new challenges and a new culture. The greatest influence and adventure was moving to and teaching art in Morocco. We lived within one block of the Atlantic Ocean. It was idyllic but challenging. Both Leslie and I learned so much."

He adds, "The chance to work, visit, and experience so many different cultures and arts has now carried into my current artwork."

As a practicing artist, Tom now makes his home and studio in downtown Vancouver, WA, working on mural-sized (and smaller) works with various media, mixing traditional and contemporary influences.

**The first weekend of November, Tom will join the annual juried art tour, Clark County Open Studios, with 53 other artists. He hopes that you can attend.**

The tour is free and open to all, including families with children. Artists throughout the county will open their studios for the weekend of November 2nd and 3rd from 10 AM to 5 PM.

Many artists will display their work and demonstrate their process. Various art forms will be showcased, including ceramics, collage, drawing, fiber arts, glass, jewelry, metalwork, painting, photography, printmaking, recycled art, sculpture, watercolor, and woodworking.

**You can learn more about the art studio tour at <https://artstra.org/2024-open-studios-artists-2/>.**

To learn more about Tom's artwork, visit [www.relth.org](http://www.relth.org) or email [tom.relth@gmail.com](mailto:tom.relth@gmail.com).





# *We are in this Together . . .*

## Get to know Sally Schlachtenhaufen



So I have to tell you about me this month as we had a last minute change. I was born in Fort Dodge, Iowa, to amazing parents. Dad was a Lutheran pastor and mom was a nurse. I had five brothers who were filled with energy, intelligence and spirit. I spent most of my growing up years in Des Moines where our house was always filled with lots of people....kids coming to play on the basketball court, folks in need, visitors from other countries, or parishioners. I learned to cook and clean at an early age because mom went to work and we all had to pick up jobs. I learned by making lots of mistakes, but I learned. I also kept busy with sports, music and lots of friends. At 18 I went off in college in Minneapolis, Augsburg College. I wanted the city life! I was a nurses' aide during the

summers and loved that so considered nursing for a career, but in the end, education won out.

In my early twenties I moved to Seattle where my oldest brother and his wife were already settled. I taught school for 32 years. I loved it. I worked with intermediate students in the Shoreline district. I enjoyed using creative, innovative methods to help them learn. I also directed a lot of school plays along the way. At some point I went back to school at the University of Washington and earned a Master's Degree. I was also very involved in my neighborhood church, St. Paul Lutheran. It was in the Fremont neighborhood so the church was very much alive. We had few kids....maybe 6, but we did have 30-40 young folks and as many 70-90 year olds. It was great! At that time, I was one of the young ones. We did a lot in the community offering opportunities for kids who didn't have much and we did tons of outreach. Sadly, that church didn't make it as life wore on and people moved on.

My life was terribly disrupted or should I say fell into place when I met Joe. I didn't see it right away, but my brother Paul (Seattle brother) saw it and decided he wanted Joe to be his brother-in-law. So maybe he encouraged it in very subtle ways. It did take 4 ½ years and we married. That did mean a move to Vancouver and a total change of everything. We have had a wonderful life together for 30 years. I went to work at Orchards Elementary, an eye-opening experience, and became a pastor's wife also challenging, at times. Along the way, Joe has served (and as wife that includes me) St. Andrew, Family of Christ, Shepherd of the Hills in Stevenson, Bethel in Brush Prairie and St. Paul. When we first retired, I volunteered with Friends of the Carpenter for 8 years. I only gave that up when we came to St. Paul and I put my energy into her. We still do other ministries also. The biggest one for me though, was bringing my Mom and Dad out from Wisconsin when it was clear they needed a change from living at the lake in the woods. We built a home for them on our property and they lived with us until they died. Mom was with us 11 years. We loved having them.

I consider myself a "skut worker." We do tasks like painting etc. I want St. Paul to thrive and flourish.

We pray for our church every day!

# Did you know? And can you guess who?

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



- There is a real angel who jumps up and fixes the sound system when it's acting poorly. This person also helps us projectionists get the sermon on the St. Paul website correctly!
- There is a retired angel who still comes to church during the week and works, visits folks, sends cards and does all sorts of things. I guess this angel knows you don't get to quit just because you retire.

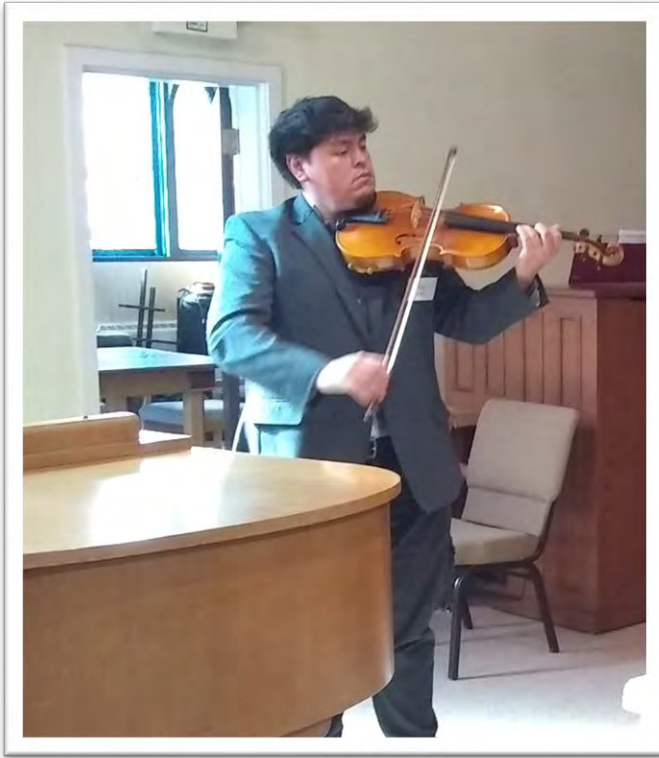
Answers from last month:

- There are several angels among us who 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! (Kari, Jody, Kate, Susan, Pastor Linda, Geri, & Pat)
  - There are three people in our congregation who are going to be trained as lay ministers through the Psalm Program. This is an amazing gift to St. Paul. (Kate Lovan, Jeff Bellamy and Susan Craswell)
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## God's Work, Our Hands!



It's a day when we do for others. This time it was simple, we labeled **Bomba** socks with the St. Paul name for **the Peace and Justice Fair** which we were planning to give to those in need. We also collected new men's underwear to share with those in need who come our way! (By the way, just a sampling of the helpers are pictured.)



## What A Gift!

Last Sunday following worship Zac Masiba played his viola for us. It was so beautiful and although all had been dismissed, the congregation stayed to listen....It was truly a gift!



## News Flash: We are Going to Have A Sunday School!

Kari Jackson is busy at work building a Sunday School curriculum for our kids and any others who want to join us! She is asking for donations from a special list of needs and would also welcome gifts of money given to the church and earmarked for Sunday School. It is exciting to envision a future with kids learning Bible stories and drawing closer to Jesus Christ. I am sure that Kari will also welcome your prayers for the leaders and the kids and the future unfolds.

### Birth Date:

Ethel Runyan 10/02 David Holland 10/06 Josh Heitman 10/08 James White 10/11 Jack Hiller 10/13  
Myla Hiller 10/14 Jake Irland 10/14 Jeanette Caples 10/17 David Runyan 10/25 Marilyn Aldrich 10/31

### Married:

Colin & Betty Hesketh 10/18



## Stained Glass Windows

I don't expect that anyone ever chooses a church based on how it looks, so we here at St Paul are blessed to choose this congregation and have a beautiful sanctuary to worship in every week. Part of that beauty, the stained-glass windows, are presently being repaired. Repairs are occasionally needed because the weight of the glass causes the windows lead structure to sag over time and they were last worked on 30 years ago. Last year we got a bid of \$60,000 to repair them and council decided to delay the work.

In her will, lifelong member Deloris Ruge left her house to St Paul. The church council decided to use that unexpected gift for significant projects and most of the funds have been used. This year the council decided to do the window project and the remaining \$45,000 of Deloris's gift could cover a substantial part of the cost.

The Lynch Foundation, created with the estate of Ed and Dolly Lynch, has been providing generous support of St Paul's homeless ministries for several years. In a recent discussion the stained-glass repairs were brought up with Michael Lynch, the fund administrator. Mr. Lynch offered to donate the remaining \$15,000 for the window repair in addition to providing increased support for the homeless program. And so, a second generous gift became available to fund the window project.

As often happens with projects, the price to do the windows this year is over \$80,000 and may still change in the last couple weeks of work. I will be recommending that the church council authorize the use of memorial funds to pay the remainder of the window project.

So, when you look at the newly repaired windows or someone mentions what a beautiful sanctuary we have, take a moment to pause. To remember that the refurbished windows are basically a memorial to the memory of Deloris Ruge, to the generosity of the Lynch family, and of the members and friends who donated to St Paul as a way of remembering those saints who enjoyed these beautiful windows when they worshiped here at St Paul.

Your Brother in Christ, Mick Johnson





## New Member Sunday

Pastor Linda-“Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism and our sisters and brothers, Kate, Alex, Clara, Elena, Jan, Jonna, Elaine, Bill, Crisann, Ty, Marlene, Ruby, Jody, Sally, Josh, and Zac all one of us in the body of Christ, who are today making public affirmation of their baptism.”

Welcome to the family of St. Paul.



**Signup to volunteer to help at St Paul SWS <https://bit.ly/HelpStPaul>**

The Severe Weather Shelter that we offer at St Paul is part of a network of spaces across Clark County that commit to opening on a temporary basis when extreme weather is anticipated in our area. Whether or not you have already told us that you may be willing to help in our SWS, we are building a list of people who we can contact by email, text or phone to spread the word when the shelter will open, and share the load. If you are interested (whether you have helped before or not) please complete the volunteer form at <https://bit.ly/HelpStPaul>

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## Calendar

- Saturdays, 2:30 pm - Iona Anglican Community meeting at St. Paul
- Sundays, 2:00 pm - Chuuk Logos Community Church meets at St. Paul
- Wednesdays, 12:20-12:45 - contemplative prayer in the sanctuary.
- Quilters: 2d and 4th Wednesday: Next meeting is September 25 at 1:30.
- Outreach Circle: next meeting is Wednesday October 2, 1:30, at St. Paul
- 2d and 4th Sunday afternoons at the church at 3:00 - Poetry group. Next one Sunday, October 13, 3:00
- November 2 and 3, Saturday and Sunday - Open Studios Weekend in Vancouver. Tom Relth's Studio will be open to visit.