

# The Messenger

September/October 2021

The newsletter of First Saint Paul's  
Evangelical Lutheran Church

## ***Celebrating 175 years of Ministry at First Saint Paul's "He who promised is faithful" (Hebrews 10.23)***

We have been celebrating our 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in various ways this spring and summer and will continue into the fall.

Our lounge has been transformed into a wonderful anniversary display for all to view. There are many items from our history and from past celebrations. Thanks so much to Mike Cacicio for his work on arranging the materials! The display will remain through the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary observance.



*An early edition of the Messenger,  
Summer 1893 written in German*

Back in April, we began a series of weekly "snapshots" depicting moments in the history of our congregation, all under the theme "*He who promised is faithful.*" (Heb. 10.23) These Anniversary Moments, written by a few FSP members, have been a huge blessing in honoring the history of First Saint Paul's and showing how far we've come in our ministry.

The whole collection of these Anniversary Moments can be found at:

[www.fspauls.org/175th](http://www.fspauls.org/175th)

Read on to learn more about our 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event schedule, including a concert series & Anniversary Service and luncheon.



## Call to Worship

*Let everything that has breath praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!*  
—Psalm 150.6



The last five psalms (146-150) all begin with the call to worship “Praise the Lord!” In Hebrew it is הללויהָ which is transliterated to hallelujah. This call to praise, revere, hallow, return thanks, and celebrate God is a thread throughout the entire Bible. It begins when God breathes into the nostrils of Adam the breath of life (Genesis 2.7). It culminates in Revelation chapter 19 with the great hallelujahs of the heavenly chorus. (Can you hear George Frederick Handel’s *Hallelujah Chorus* from *Messiah*?)

Jesus tells us in the Sermon on the Mount, “Look at the birds of the air” (Matt 6.26). There are so many things to learn about God’s love and care for us by looking at his greater creation. The birds that made their nests in the Temple were also celebrated and were examples to God’s people of the precious gift of corporate worship: “Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, at your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God. Blessed are those who dwell in your house, ever singing your praise!” (Psalm 84.3-4)

In this final breath of the Psalter (Ps 150.6), the psalmist calls upon all breathing things to praise the Lord. Just as all creation groans for redemption (Romans 8.19-23), so all creation sings for joy to our Creator. We know that birds sing for various reasons—to find mates, to protect their territory. But scientists say that birds also spend a great deal of time singing for the pleasure of song—just for the joy of it. The same can be said for many creatures—even humpback whales whose songs can reverberate for up to 10,000 miles through the deep waters.

This past year and a half, we have all longed to breathe in the same air in the sanctuary and then to fill that space with a joyful noise with our lips, vocal cords, lungs, and hearts. We have been able to in a limited capacity at times. And at least for the time being we are able to at a greater capacity. But the great gift through all of this is the shared tug on our hearts to gather together around Word and Sacrament.

The one vocation that will continue from this life to the world to come is to join the heavenly chorus with our breath, voices, and praise. We are created to worship. We are raised to eternal life to worship the Lamb forever and ever. Praise the Lord! Hallelujah!

Yours in Christ,

*Pastor Jim Johnson*



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## *From the Board of Christian Education*

### **Fixing What's Broken**

Possibly those of you farther along your path to sainthood than I am won't relate to this, but sometimes the state of the world bothers me. People keep doing things they shouldn't! Sometimes even... unethical things! Clearly they should be punished. If I was in charge of this, no doubt harmony and righteousness would prevail. OR ELSE.

Of course I speak facetiously. We correctly pray for wise, just, and benevolent governance, and for all people to receive the blessings of faith, but it isn't given to any of us to order the world according to our wishes, undoubtedly for the best. It's true that King David composed imprecatory psalms calling down divine wrath upon his (or more accurately God's) enemies, but we should both recognized that this is an advanced technique that is dangerous if handled incorrectly, and appreciate that as a king, David was appointed by God as a worldly authority to punish the wicked on His behalf (cf Romans 13:3-4); we are not kings.

What should we pray for then, when we see ugly deeds being done? If we're not to angrily condemn, nor to wish that anyone prosper in their wickedness (in my experience one of the commonest misunderstandings of unbelievers is the notion that a Christian should always desire other people to get whatever they want; there's a nuanced difference between loving one's neighbor and being superficially nice to him), nor to throw up our hands and just say "it's a fallen world, whaddaya gonna do?". Well, what I do is very simple. I'm a simple man and like things pithy and memorable, and I pray, "Heavenly Father, please fix our hearts."

Imagine a world where everyone was strong in faith and cheerfully obedient to an awakened conscience; where no one was enslaved to sin or vice or fear or despair. Where every person was trustworthy, and possessed an unshakable good will and the God-given strength to resist all temptations to sin, and practically the only evils left in the world were natural ones like hurricanes or cancer. It almost defies the imagination, but this is a glimpse of the world we strive for by living out and professing our faith in Christ (I hasten to disclaim that attempts to perfect mankind and build a perfect society through top-down and purely human efforts apart from Christ have a... spotty record). And we want this paradise for everyone! Anyone we hate, anyone we think is beyond redemption, or an agent of terrible wrongs, far better that their hearts be fixed and we reconcile and embrace them as brothers and sisters in Christ than that wrath find them. They say the best revenge is living well, but better yet is living well together.

To my mind this is what Paul is getting at in Ephesians 6:12. Whatever they say or do, people are not ultimately our enemies. Everyone has meditated on evil at some point; "For such were some of you", Paul reminds the Corinthians of their sordid pasts as unbelievers, but God has reached into our hearts and graciously given us what we lacked, and armed us to go forth and do likewise. God takes no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but the rejoicing in heaven is very great at the repentance and belief of every sinner. This we can safely emulate without reservation.

History hasn't finished and no doubt there's trouble ahead. Let's meet it without anger, despair, or resignation. We already know how this story ends, how complete the victory will be. Money, fame, and prestige will pass away, but the contents of our hearts will endure. Heavenly Father, please fix our hearts!

*Peter Wirtala, Chair*

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### ***Looking to get involved?***



As we return to a more open worship environment, we are in need of worship assistants in many areas: ushers, altar guild, livestream, lectors, communion assistants, and people to host fellowship hour. If you are interested in any of these areas, please contact the church office ([office@fspauls.org](mailto:office@fspauls.org)), and the specific coordinator will be in touch. For most roles, the tasks are not overwhelming and are done only occasionally, but we do need many hands.



## Calendar of Upcoming Events

- September 12 **Holy Cross Day (observed)**  
**Dedication of New Exterior Cross**—During the 9:30AM Worship Service
- October 10 **Chicago Marathon** (Service at 11AM)
- October 17 **Stewardship Kickoff**—Our Sunday Services Oct. 17-Nov. 14 will include an emphasis on the stewardship theme *Give as I Have Given to You!*—9:30AM
- October 24 **Organ Recital**—The first of our Anniversary Concert Series. Music for Organ Plus, featuring musicians from First Saint Paul’s, highlighting contributions of past musicians to the congregation.—2PM
- October 31 **Festival of the Reformation**—9:30AM  
*Save these future dates!*
- November 7 **All Saints’ Day (observed)**  
**175th Anniversary Service**—The Rev. Peter Lange, First Vice President of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, will be preaching. An anniversary luncheon will follow.—9:30AM
- November 14 **Stewardship Consecration Service**—We conclude our stewardship initiative and will celebrate with an extended Fellowship Hour following the service—  
9:30AM, 11AM  
**Concordia Chicago Chamber Orchestra Concert**—Our Second Concert of the Anniversary series, given by the Chamber Orchestra from Concordia University Chicago, conducted by Dr. Maurice Boyer. Dr. Boyer was music director at First Saint Paul’s from 2008 to 2010.—2PM
- December 12 **First Saint Paul’s Annual Christmas Concert**—featuring the First Saint Paul’s Choir plus guest singers and instrumentalists, and highlighting contributions of past musicians to the congregation.—4PM

*Due to the changing and challenging situation related to COVID, one or another of these events may need to be postponed or cancelled.*



### Our New Cross

Thanks to Mike Cacicio, Tom Randall, and Roberto Vergara, and his artisans at ProImage, First Saint Paul’s now has a beautiful new stainless steel cross over our front doors that matches the cross in front of the church. We’re so thankful for this beautiful addition, especially as we celebrate our 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary! We hope passersby will more readily recognize our building as a house of worship.





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## *From the Board of Stewardship*

I am so grateful that we are returning to in-person services, and I hope to see many more of you at First Saint Paul's in the coming weeks. The Board of Stewardship is hard at work planning the 2022 Stewardship Initiative and I am thrilled to be able to share some of the plans with you in this article.

The 2022 Stewardship Initiative will kick off on October 17, 2021, and will be held on October 24, November 7, and conclude with the consecration service on November 14. This year, the Board selected ***Give as I Have Given to You!*** to be the theme and *Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us* as the stewardship hymn. As in previous years, we will display the theme and sing all or part of the hymn during the worship service throughout the initiative.

Reverend Peter K. Lange, First Vice President, Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, is scheduled to preach on Sunday, November 7 as part of the 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration and will include a focus on stewardship in his message.

During the in-person services, we will once again be able to hear stewardship minutes shared by several First Saint Paul's members as well as using the gratitude cards to gather your thoughts on the blessings received during the last year. Not forgetting the online community, we will once again release a Stewardship Initiative web page where members and friends of First Saint Paul's will be able to read stewardship messages, share blessings through the online gratitude cards, and view additional stewardship minutes. Please contact the Church office if you'd be interested in recording a stewardship minute to be included on the web page.

Because of events planned to celebrate the 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, the Board of Stewardship will not offer a luncheon this year. Instead, we are planning to host an extended coffee hour after the consecration service on November 14 and hope that all of you will make plans to join us on that Sunday for worship and fellowship. Watch for additional information on the 2022 Stewardship Initiative to be released this fall.

I ask that you continue to support First Saint Paul's with your prayers and through your online giving, in-service offering, or by mailing your offering check to First Saint Paul's Lutheran Church, 1301 N. LaSalle Drive, Chicago IL 60610.

Yours in Christ, Asa Carter, Chair

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## *From the Board of Worship & Music*

### **175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Concerts Series**

As part of the celebration of the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of First Saint Paul's, we will be having three concerts this fall. The first program, on October 24, will feature music for organ and organ and other instruments. As part of the program, we'll include pieces composed by former church musicians at First Saint Paul's. A second program in the series will take place on November 14, and will be a guest concert by the Concordia University Chicago Chamber Orchestra, under the direction of Dr. Maurice Boyer. Many will remember that Dr. Boyer was the director of music at First Saint Paul's from 2008 to 2010. Both of these programs will take place at 2:00 pm, so that parishioners can worship in the morning, have time for lunch and stay for the program.

The anniversary concert series will conclude with the annual and popular Christmas Concert on December 12, at 4:00 pm. The program this year will also highlight the heritage of music at First Saint Paul's and its various musicians. Please mark your calendars now with these dates, watch for further information, and be ready to invite friends and neighbors to this concert series.



## *Praying Through the Church*

**BECAUSE WE ARE A CHURCH FAMILY**, a community of faith, we have a concern for one another, a concern that is expressed on Sunday mornings, as we pray for members of our church family by name.

**WE PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER** remembering the words of St. Paul the Apostle to Timothy, "I urge then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone..." and the promise of our Lord Jesus Christ, "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you."

**WE ALSO ENCOURAGE** members and friends of the congregation to make their prayer requests, births, illnesses, deaths, anniversaries, special occasions for intercession or thanksgiving, known to the pastor, preferably before the Sunday morning services, but in cases of emergency, right up to the service time.

**THE FOLLOWING FRIENDS & MEMBERS** of our church family will be remembered in the services of worship during the months of September & October.

**Sept 5:** Jeff & Rachel Leininger, Grace and Andy; Michael Leonhardt & Karla Lewis; Virginia Liles-Dudley and Jesse; Jan Loesch & Jody Lucey; Lynn Luchtenberg; Sarah Ludwig.

**Sept 12:** Juliana Lutz; Christine Lutze; Timothy & Ericka Maier and Margo; Karen Malonis & Ned Dikmen; Jen Masengarb; John & Judy Mason; Megan McGinnis.

**Sept 19:** John Menet & Beverly White and Ted; Jane Meyer; Robert Miller; Sue Mino, Isabella and Sevilla Cartagena; Jo Anne Rioli Moeller; Leslie Moeller.

**Sept 26:** Paul & Chie Moeller, Paul III, Frederick, Bartholomew, and Chihaya; Karol Moller; Gavin & Susan Morgan, Gabriel, Jacob and Samantha, Nancy Morgan.

**Oct 3:** Madeline Muecke; John Nuechterlein; Anthony Occhipinti; Kofo & Taiwo Ogunyankin, Tolu, Tobi and Kemi; Shane Otten.

**Oct 10:** Adam & Kassandra Peck and Ana; Melody Percic and Harmony; Gail Peterson; Chris & Connie Rademacher; Michelle Rae; Janette Ramirez; Tom & Gretchen Randall; Rick Richter.

**Oct 17:** Eric & Kim Robinson and Emily; David Rogner; Susan Rosborough; Bryant & Ellen Rosenwinkel, Franklin and Samuel; Joseph Ruiz; David Rush; Dan Schedler.

**Oct 24:** Dan Schlemmer; Bryan Schneider; Michael & Liz Schubert, Louisa and Gavin; Marlo Schulz-Kittl & Chris Kittl, Avery and Austin; Jan Seefeldt; Joni Seidel-Burnett.

**Oct 31:** Sarah Sekki; Michael Siebert; Jessica Smith; Eric Soderlund; James & Bonnie Spurlock.

## *Thank you, Volunteers!*

We are so thankful for everyone who gives of their time and talents; for the ushers, lectors, members of Altar Guild, Communion assistants, choir members, soloists, musicians, deacons, those who serve the Fellowship Hour, those who help run the live-stream, Community Meals volunteers, our wonderful trustees, all our church officers, and all who help beautify the grounds of our church & Wunder's Cemetery. Our ministry could not be what it is without you.

We are especially grateful for those who have stepped in to assist with office work while we seek to fill our secretary position. Our community of faith is truly blessed!

## *Official Acts*

### **Death:**

Mary Occhipinti 7/16/2021

### **Baptism:**

Chihaya Anne Moerller, daughter of Paul and Chie Moeller; Baptized 8/1/2021

### **Weddings:**

Bethany Mitton and Jeremy Sage  
Married 5/22/2021

Brittany Finlayson and Matt Knutson  
Married 8/1/2021

### **Transferred in:**

Jen Masengarb, returning from Copenhagen

### **Transferred out:**

Richard & Marilyn Schanze to Our Savior  
Lutheran Church, Bettendorf, IA

### **Moved, remaining members:**

Karla Lewis and Michael Leonhardt



## FIRST SAINT PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

*First Saint Paul's,  
established in 1846, is the oldest  
Lutheran Church in Chicago.  
The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod  
was founded when historic meetings  
were held here in 1847.*

**1301 N. LASALLE DRIVE  
CHICAGO, IL 60610  
312.642.7172  
www.fspauls.org**



## CHURCH STAFF

**The Rev. Dr. Thomas R. Johnson**  
tjohnson@fspauls.org

**Steven Went**  
Cantor  
swente@fspauls.org

**Margaret Danilovich**  
Associate Cantor  
mdanilovich@fspauls.org

**Laurie Bart**  
Interim Church Secretary  
office@fspauls.org

**Cindy Goers**  
Financial Advisor  
finance@fspauls.org

## SERVICES OF WORSHIP

### Sundays

9:30AM (In-person & Live Stream)

### Wednesday Morning Communion

7AM (in-person)

### HOLY COMMUNION

Celebrated every  
Sunday morning

## ELECTED CHURCH OFFICERS

\* Voting member of Church Council

### Chairman\*

Gavin Morgan

### Vice Chairman\*

Susan Rosborough

### Recording Secretary

Vacant

### Assistant Recording Secretary

Vacant

### Treasurer\*

Bryan Schneider

### Assistant Treasurer

Cheryl Kobetsky

### Financial Secretary

Pam Kaji

### Assistant Financial Secretary

Arlene Dahm

### Membership Secretary

Gretchen Randall

### Chair, Board of Christian Education\*

Peter Wirtala

### Chair, Board of Stewardship\*

Asa Carter

### Chair, Board of Evangelism & Outreach\*

Tom Randall

### Chair, Board of Social Ministry\*

Vacant

### Chair, Board of Worship & Music\*

Janette Ramirez

### Chair, Board of Deacons\*

Buff Bethlen

## Board of Elders

Howard Ansoorge  
Doug Harkness  
Christine Lutze  
Susan Morgan  
David Rogner, Chair\*

## Board of Trustees

Tom Boisseau  
Michael Cacicio, Co-chair\*  
Dwight Deppen  
Robert Miller  
Ethan Werkmeister, Co-chair\*  
Eric White

## Deacons

Buff Bethlen, Chair\*  
Tom Bohac  
Liz Lassiter  
April Szymanski

## Nominating Committee

Amy Harkness  
John Mason  
Mike Schubert, Chair  
Betsy Pennington Taylor  
Hannah Werkmeister

## COMMITTEE/GROUPS

### CHAIRS/CONTACTS

#### Altar Guild

Sandy Lawrence

#### Communion Assistant Coordinator

Steve Went

#### Community Meals

Arlene Dahm

#### Concordia Cemetery

John Stodden

#### Human Resources Committee

Susan Rosborough

#### Liturgical Arts

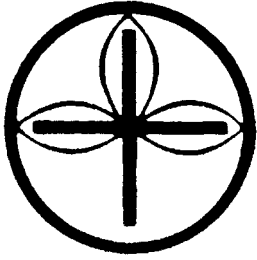
Darlene Fahrenkrog

#### Lutheran Home

Susan Rosborough

#### Wunder's Cemetery

Dwight Deppen



FIRST SAINT PAUL'S  
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
1301 N LASALLE DRIVE CHICAGO IL 60610

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ONLINE**

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**#FSPAULSCHICAGO**

***“We welcome you to be at home among us.”***