

Life Together—February 2019

Welcoming All in Worship

This familiar cartoon (pictured right) was circulating around Facebook last week.

It's always worth a chuckle and maybe a nervous titter as we recall a scene or two like that in our own church. Or maybe there's a twinge of guilt or conviction remembering when we felt a little put out because someone sat in our usual place.

As a friend once said, "Churches are funny places."

Most churches think they are welcoming. Often, it's right there on the sign out front: "All Are Welcome!" But sometimes, what we say is undone by what we do.

Hospitality takes some effort. For us right now, it involves giving up some Wednesday evenings—and some time to study at home—to learn conversational Spanish so that some of our neighbors might feel more welcome.

Not that we will all become fluent in Spanish, but in being able to use even a few words or phrases we welcome and affirm neighbors with a Spanish-speaking heritage. We acknowledge and appreciate them as beloved children of God.

Expect to see some Spanish words and phrases popping up in our worship over the coming months. It's an expression or result of our mission to journey with Christ, each other, and the neighbors God gives us.

Also expect to see—and hear—something else during worship. Kids.

I like to think of it as "Holy Noise," the sound of children during worship. And not just the sweet, soft cooing of babies. Or the cute things kids might say up front during the children's message.

I'm talking about the occasional meltdown or tantrum, too. The scream. The wail. The sob.



All of it is going to burst out from time to time when we truly invite and welcome young families into worship. That's why I call it "Holy Noise." It's the sound of God's people, from the youngest to the oldest, gathered in worship. That's holy. And sometimes it's noisy.

I will never forget a parishioner with young children describe her experience at a church where her daughter attended a weekday pre-school. The church invited all of the pre-school families to come to a Sunday morning worship service celebrating the preschool.

As the service was about to begin, the pastor reminded the congregation that there were a lot of preschoolers with them that morning.

"And remember," he said. "This is a no-shush zone!"

Tears welled in that parishioner's eyes as she recalled that she had never felt so welcomed in worship. That's a holy thing.

God's peace – and joy!

Pastor Mark Rollenhagen



CONVERSATIONAL SPANISH CLASSES

Wednesdays at 7pm

This class is especially important for anyone planning to volunteer in ministry and community outreach activities next summer and fall. But our entire ministry will be strengthened by all who make this effort to welcome our neighbors to St. Paul's. We have books available from the church office for anyone who did not get one from the first order.

“Creatively engaging the arts...we nurture and equip people to use their gifts and talents.”

A new space is being created in the Gathering Room to display examples of the visual arts created by members of St. Paul's. Please take the time to view the fruits of God's gifts and talents given to some of our members. If you are interested in displaying your art, contact Stephanie Stover at stoversheep@gmail.com.



36th Annual Music Festival

Sunday, Feb. 24 at 3pm

Mark your calendars and plan to attend this fun event that shows off the talents of St. Paul's singers and musicians! To be a performer, please contact Ellen Montgomery as soon as possible. Invite your family and friends to this annual fundraiser for St. Paul's music ministry.



7th Annual Waukegan Choral Festival

Saturday, Feb. 23 at 4pm at Trinity United Lutheran Church

Join St. Paul's, Trinity, St. Anastasia and First Presbyterian Church Choirs, as well as the Swedish Glee Club of Lake County, Waukegan Concert Chorus, and the Waukegan High School Choir for an afternoon of voices lifted together in song!

CURRENT COOL NEEDS:

The food of the month for the pantry is breakfast items: cereal, oatmeal, muffin mix, pancake mix, etc. The COOL Transitional Housing program is in need of twin sheet sets for a teen boy and girl, pots and pans/cookware, and silverware. Please contact Amanda Williams at awilliams@coolministries.org or call 847-662-1340 x1.



Thank You for Your Donations!

Thank you to all recent donors of 35 pairs of eyeglasses for the work of Lions. The glasses will be cleaned and graded and distributed free to the needy worldwide. The Lions Club also accepts hearing aids and keys for recycling.

The Lions serve humanitarian needs through 47,000 Clubs in over 200 countries throughout the world. Current efforts focus on the areas of diabetes, vision, hunger, environment, and childhood cancer. St. Paul's members Rick Riddle & Russ Nixon encourage anyone who would like to join the Little Fort Lions of Waukegan to contact them for more information. You may also donate to Lions International online at www.lcif.org/donate.



Ushers

- Feb. 3** Baraboo, Kilpatrick, Koskinen
- Feb. 10** Athanas, Robinson, Wiesemann, Nixon
- Feb. 17** Aaron, Stover, Campbell, Staler
- Feb. 24** Hall, Sandine, Swanick, Alwardt
- March 3** J. Burba, Gehrt, Sorensen, Hopkins

Communion Lead

- Feb. 3** Dale Justin
- Feb. 10** Gabi White
- Feb. 17** Adrienne Elbe
- Feb. 24** Linda Erickson



Our online directory has been updated. Thanks to all of you for being such great sports and getting your photos updated. We will be emailing out a copy for you. If you dislike the photo contact Becky Ingram about a redo or email her one you like. The Church Directory App is a handy way to have contact info for our members on your phone or tablet. Contact the office for more information.

Financial Recap	December
Weekly Giving	\$27,378.33
Monthly Income	\$41,626.30
Monthly Expenses	\$21,771.97
Monthly Surplus	\$19,854.33
YTD Surplus	\$30,452.39
Mortgage Balance Outstanding	\$133,313.25
Raise the Roof Fund Balance	-\$12,838.24

Wow! Thank you for your generosity and stewardship in 2018. We experienced a budget surplus of about \$30K. We had predicted a budget surplus with our 2018 budget of about \$12K. We exceeded that amount primarily because everything that was budgeted was not spent. Even though it was a leadership transition year, giving remained very consistent.

Our budget surplus was used to repay funds taken from the Property and Facilities Fund for roof repairs. We still need to repay ourselves almost \$13,000 for those repairs. We also created an Organ Repair Fund for anticipated work. That means it is now also an available fund to designate gifts and memorials. The remaining surplus was added to our Operating Cushion Fund.

Thank you as always for your gifts of time, talent and resources to Christ's church through St. Paul's.

Mary Ellen Modlin
Financial Secretary



Annual Meeting

Sunday, Feb. 3 at 10:30am

Please join us for the Annual Congregational Meeting right after worship. We will approve the 2019 budget, elect members and see the new SPLC website!





Come for Sunday Dinner!

Pastor Mark and Alison would like to get to know you and are inviting all members of St. Paul's to Sunday dinner with them at their home in Waukegan. They can host up to 8 people during the winter months. Sign up on the sheets on the credenza in the Gathering Room for a Sunday meal and conversation.



FEBRUARY



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 9am Worship & Sunday School 10:30am Annual Meeting	4 1-3pm Knit & Crochet	5 6pm Pealers 7pm Women's Bible Study 7:30pm Sanctuary Choir	6 10am Bible & Brew 7pm Conversational Spanish	7	8 8am Men's Breakfast 11-145am Worship Planning	9 
10 9am Worship & Sunday School 10:30am Adult Bible Study	11 7pm Altar Guild	12 6pm Pealers 7pm Women's Bible Study 7:30pm Sanctuary Choir	13 10am Bible & Brew 7pm Conversational Spanish	14 	15 8am Men's Breakfast	16
17 9am Worship & Sunday School 10:30am Adult Bible Study	18 <i>Presidents' Day</i> 1-3pm Knit & Crochet	19 6pm Pealers 7pm Women's Bible Study 7:30pm Sanctuary Choir	20 10am Bible & Brew 7pm Conversational Spanish	21 7pm Church Council	22 8am Men's Breakfast	23 4pm WAUKEGAN Choral Fest At Trinity United
24 9am Worship & Sunday School 10:30am Adult Bible Study 3pm Music Festival	25 9:30am-3pm Quilters	26 6pm Pealers 7pm Women's Bible Study 7:30pm Sanctuary Choir	27 10am Bible & Brew 7pm Conversational Spanish	28		