

Greetings St. Paul Lutheran Church!

Last Sunday, we said Farewell and Godspeed to John McAuliffe and Deacon Michele Hilton. They received gifts from the congregation and a wonderful Mother's Day Brunch in their honor after worship. A couple of the gifts were more comical than serious – a blingy tiara for Michele and fish flip-flops for John. Little did we know though that John's shoes (flip-flops) that he wore to church on Sunday broke soon after he was given his gift so he needed to wear his gift on Sunday. You can see them in the picture.



At the congregation council meeting last night we heard the recommendation from the Taskforce for the Education Building construction timeline. After looking at all the options and weighing all the pros and cons for all of them, the Taskforce recommended that the construction begin during Spring Break of 2024. While it is awhile to begin, we will enter into a contract for the beams asap to ensure they are ready for March 8, 2024. The Taskforce will continue to meet with the contractor and architect every two weeks for updates on the project. We will keep the congregation up-to-date as well.

On Sunday we celebrate Senior Sunday. Congratulations to Emilee Miller on her graduation from Sarasota High School. During worship will pray for her and will have a special reception for her after worship. Congrats Emi!

We have had Holy Communion with individual wafer and wine/juice glasses now for the last couple of weeks at the altar. This week we will have it at the baptismal font. It is especially for those who cannot easily and safely walk up the steps to the altar. All are welcome at the Lord's Supper and we do not want to deny anyone the feeling of being a part of community gathering. Yes, folks can take the bread and wine/juice at their seats but for some being surrounded by others eating and drinking at the same time is more meaningful. I am reminded of this quote.

It's not your Body or your Blood.

It's not your Table.

It's not your Church.

It's not your Invitation.

You are the servant.

You are not the Master.

You don't assemble the guest list.

*You were appointed an ambassador of the Good News,
not a bouncer at the door of Club Heaven.*

A week from today (May 26) is our Early Childhood Learning Center VPK Graduation. All are welcomed to attend the graduation ceremony in the sanctuary at 12noon. It is a wonderful event hear the kids sing, see them receive their diplomas while wearing graduation caps and gowns, and learn what they are doing next school year.

Sunday, May 28th is Pentecost so remember to wear red as we celebrate the birthday or baptism of the church and a reception of a returning member Christina Danielewicz. It will also be the choir's last Sunday of singing until September. There will be special music each week in June, July, and August. Keep you eyes and ears open especially for the summer choir that rehearses right before worship on a Sunday and sings that day. It's an easy time to sing in a choir without a commitment to rehearsals.

On Thursday, June 1st we will inter Bonnie Zipf's remains into the St. Paul Memorial Garden at 1p. It is a very brief service on interment but all are welcome to attend.

Take care and God bless - *PrAshley*