

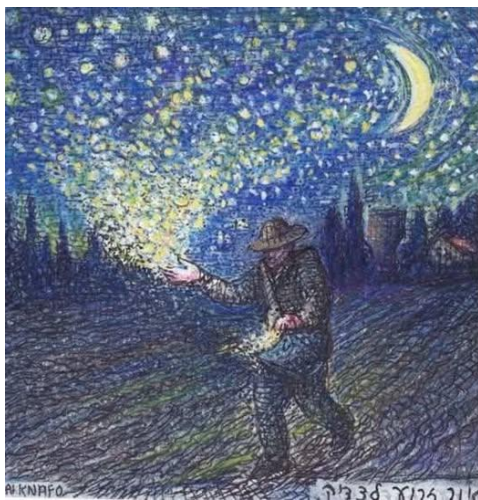
Greetings St. Paul Lutheran Church!

I am excited to announce we have hired a new Director of Music Ministries who will start after Fonda retires.

We didn't want Fonda to retire yet because her organ shoes will be hard to fill. I have shared with her that I think she is a unicorn. A musician who plays all types of music well, but also is a joy to work with, and she challenged the vocal and bell choirs enough to have them grow in their abilities but also rely on the Holy Spirit to bring the music to a new level. There were many times in our Thursday Prayer Zoom we were praying for our choirs and their songs for the upcoming Sunday. We will celebrate Fonda's ministry on her last Sunday on August 9th. We will have a farewell and Godspeed for both her and her husband Bill toward the end of worship and then go into the fellowship hall for a special coffee hour in their honor. Together they have been a wonderful part of our St. Paul church family and we will truly miss them.

I tend to talk about seasons of ministries. Fonda and Bill were here for a season. And now our music ministry will enter into a new season with Tambry Schoolcraft as St. Paul's Director of Music Ministries. Tambry lives in Sarasota and has a wealth of experience in elementary school teaching, organ, piano, handbells, flute, and church music ministry, just to name a few. We look forward to her ministry starting August 16. We will have a time of installation during worship and a welcome coffee hour after worship on that Sunday. I look forward to seeing how the Holy Spirit will lead us in this next season of St. Paul.

Last Sunday we had the scripture about sowing seeds and one of the points I shared was about the idea of the wisdom of insecurity and how we are called at times to not be certain but still act, just as the sower scattered seeds everyone. We just scatter seeds and don't know what they will accomplish but we know God's purpose is about mercy, justice, and life abundant for all people and that will be accomplished by God, oftentimes through us. It is good if we can get more comfortable with insecurity so it doesn't paralyze us from doing the next faithful step, whatever that may be.



I saw this image on Facebook earlier this week. I see it as the sower sowing seeds of light in the darkness which are really the stars. "The picture is called Starlight Sower, by Hai Knafo (2011). It was inspired by Psalm 97:11, 'Light is sown for the righteous, and gladness for the upright in heart' (ESV). [The former bishop who posted it] wondered if this psalm was the inspiration for Jesus parable of the sower." I sure like that idea.

I tend to name my vehicles. I struggled with my latest car's name. I finally settled on Starlight not too long ago. After I saw this image, I definitely was glad I picked that name.

Take care and God bless

-PrAshley