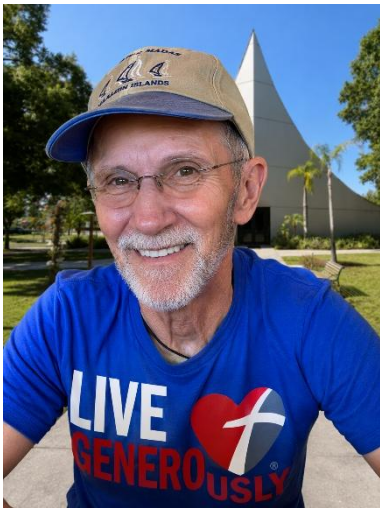


Greetings St. Paul Lutheran Church!

I know this last week has been harder than normal with first hearing John Beyer was unexpectedly under hospice care at home with terminal cancer and then entering into his heavenly home just a few days after being at home with Cody and Maggie. I know I expected him to be with us physically at least a little longer. He was watching our worship service online and posting as he normally did on Sunday and then early Monday God took him home. While it is good for him to not be suffering any longer it is hard for us who are still walking by faith on this earth to know he is no longer with us physically. We will miss him.

Even though he was in Kentucky for the last year and a half, he was just a phone call or text away. Random pictures of his dream home property would show up on my phone. He was the one who always took care of my yard when he was here often on Saturdays, so there would still be Saturday conversations over the phone when he was in Kentucky. He never really left St. Paul in spirit. He continued to care about the people and the ministries. I was able to share that the community meal account has received many financial gifts recently. John was the one who started the meal and this ministry will continue as his legacy at St. Paul. Even in our last phone call he asked how the Good Samaritan account is doing. Is there enough money in it to keep helping people? I was able to tell him that yes there is. John to me epitomizes the saying, "Well done, good and faithful servant."



I love this picture that Loni Truitt created. She had the picture of John and then via AI was able to put the picture of the sanctuary behind him. This is John. If you didn't know him, I think just by this picture you could get a sense of him. John is in his "Live Generously" t-shirt. There is a cross and heart on it. John lived is life generously. He was generous with his time always giving to the church. If it wasn't the community meal, then it was the sound booth, or edging the grass or trimming the trees, or just sitting with someone in conversation, listening to their story. He was generous with his attitude about people. He always looked at the best of everyone. He knew what it was like to be down and struggling so he was able to relate to those who most in the church cannot. He knew the power of the Holy Spirit that can change people because it happened to him. He spoke easily about the love of Christ in his life and encouraged others through it. He has been an inspiration to this congregation. I hope this picture stays with you as it does me.

Of course, I have other pictures of John that I wanted to share too. Maybe less poignant but still meaningful.



John, Cody, Rick, Sue, JoAnn, and I celebrating Rick's birthday



The two of us before he left for Kentucky



John blessing the pets at the pet blessing service. He blessed all the pets while I I blessed the humans since I am allergic to dogs and cats. He blessed them all but this is a picture of John blessing his last dog Maggie.

Take care and God peace,
-PrAshley