

Greetings St. Paul Lutheran Church!

I have a couple funny stories to tell that happened during our English and Spanish classes. The first was just proof that art is not my skill set. We were learning the words for plate, fork, knife, and other items that would be used during a meal. Plate is plato. Kind of easy. Table is mesa. Fork is a tougher one tenedor. But instead of seeing it on the paper, the teacher had me draw on the white board some of the items so we could say it out loud when we guess what it is. She had no idea how bad I draw. They figured out a plate. The fork looked like a pitchfork. The knife was just a lucky guess. And then the glass looked more like a salt or pepper shaker. We got a good laugh.

And then last week I almost broke up a married couple at my table. I was trying to say, “Te llamo” (which means I’ll call you – pronounced, tey – yamo). I was saying that to the husband of the couple. The wife looked at me and said, “No.” I kept saying it, trying to get it right. And she kept glaring at me and saying, “No.” I couldn’t figure out what was going on. The wife is Brazilian so her native language is Portuguese. She heard me saying to her husband “Te amo” which in Portuguese is “I love you” rather than “Te llamo,” I’ll call you. Oh, we got a good laugh out of that one. The pastor trying to get in between a husband and wife during English and Spanish class.

Laughter happens a lot in these classes because we are all trying to learn. It takes vulnerability to do so. Sometimes laughter is what we do when we are nervous too. Speaking aloud when you don’t know exactly how to pronounce something takes courage and grace from the people listening. We sing the song “You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore.” I love hearing the Spanish speakers belt out the song in Spanish to help us Spanish learners know how it goes. The class is a safe place to be loud or quiet, laugh or even share struggles. But, no I don’t think I will be called on to draw anymore and I’ll make sure my pronunciation gets better so there are no accusations of boundary violations. 😊



Here are a few reminders of upcoming events.

Ethel Hamilton’s birthday on Sunday, October 11. We will have an extended coffee hour in her honor.

Mid-Gulf Conference Gathering Saturday, October 17 at Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Venice, 8:30a-12noon. There will be a Martin Luther impersonator along with fellowship and worship. Even if you haven’t signed up, you are still welcomed to attend. Just let me or Irene know that you are planning on it.

Arlington Park Trick-or-Treat on the Trail and Barkoween – Friday, October 23, 5-7p. Come and hang out at our table to greet the kids and families. We’ll hand out candy and have a game for kids to win candy.

Reformation Sunday – October 25 – wear **Red**. We’ll also have an extended coffee hour in honor of Conrad Hellwege’s 95th birthday.

Take care and God bless

-PrAshley