

Greetings St. Paul Lutheran Church!

It's great to be back after some time away. I had a nice time at the Conference on Ministry. You will hear about some of it during my message on Sunday. The keynote speaker was a professor at Trinity Seminary (the ELCA seminary in Ohio), Rev. Dr. Mark Allan Powell. I've heard him speak other times and he never disappoints. He even did a workshop about "Hospitality Spanish" that shared how to do some bilingual worship services that may be helpful to us if we receive the Vision 2 Action Grant for a Latino Ministry. We'll find that out come the end of November.

One of the more meaningful experiences at the Conference on Ministry was closing worship that included a renewal of vows for ordination. It is a time to recommit to our callings as Ministers of Word and Sacrament. Years ago, this renewal of vows was done during Lent but lately it has been during our Conference on Ministry in the Fall. It is especially powerful for me in the Fall as my ordination date was October 10, 2007. I based my ordination date on my baptismal date. I was baptized on October 10, 1982. So today is my 18th anniversary of my ordination (some call it Ordiversary) and 43rd baptismal birthday. And Sunday will be my 8th anniversary at St. Paul. I actually started on Oct 12, 2017 at Synod Assembly, my first Sunday was October 15, 2017. As I shared last Sunday during announcements I am honored and blessed to be your pastor. St. Paul is a special place. I joked around when I started here that I wanted to retire from here like Pr. Don and Pr. Lyle. So now I'm starting to give my 24-year notice of retirement. ☺

The ELCA elected a new Presiding Bishop earlier this summer. Rev. Yehiel Curry was installed as presiding bishop last Saturday. You can find the worship service on YouTube at this link. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uc7KzC2mPto&list=RDuc7KzC2mPto&start_radio=1&t=6067s Yes, you'll notice it is 3 hours long but it is an inspiring worship service. I'm sure it was partly that long because of Holy Communion distribution (many people at this worship service), so you could fast-forward through some of it if you don't want to listen to the music. The sermon, preached by Rev. Kevin Vandiver, was given a standing ovation.

On Sunday, November 2 we will celebrate All Saints' Sunday in worship. It is the day when we remember those who have entered their heavenly homes. We will lift up the names of St. Paul members who have died since last All Saints' Sunday, those whose lives we celebrated at St. Paul in the last year, and give an opportunity to name any loved ones we want to remember on this day (the loved one does not have to have died in the last year). If you want their name in the bulletin, please let me know by October 26.

Please keep bringing in candy for the Arlington Park Halloween Trail. We will be putting together 200 bags of candy and information on St. Paul to hand out. We'll put together the bags on Sunday, October 19.

Take care and God bless

-PrAshley

