

SHARING GOOD NEWS ST PAUL'S UCC DELANO MN

Volume 3 Issue 8

August 2026

AUGUST CALENDAR

08/02 Communion

08/02 Pastor Gale Leading Service

08/03 Pastor Karen Returning from Vacation

08/16 Council Meeting

FELLOWSHIP HOSTS

08/02 Becker

08/09 Stewart

08/16 Open

08/23 Open

08/30 Open



Wheat among my weeds

By Steve Garnaas-Holmes

*The ants I wish to banish from my house
are such encouragement of industry,
teamwork and perseverance.
Even as I mitigate, I bless.*

*The knee that wakens me in pain
is sore because it's healing.
Hobbling, I praise the miracle.*

*Sometimes the trucks that run the
rumble strip
on the Interstate play a note right in
tune
with our wind chimes. I sing along.*

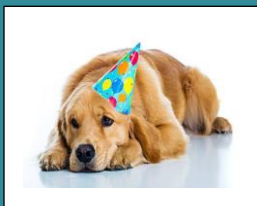
*Purple vetch grows in the ditch-sides,
the lot corners, the weed patches.
I take a mouthful of the little purple
blossoms
with humble thanksgiving.*

*Look for it.
Grace is a small masterpiece of art
in a really big frame.*



BIRTHDAYS

No Birthdays in August



On September 13, we are planning a special "Be The Church" worship service. It will be a lovely time to come back together after the summer and hear from each other... and a great opportunity to invite friends, family and neighbors to join us to, as Chris Brazelton says, "dip a toe in the gentle waters." Members of the congregation are invited to speak for 1-5 minutes (with a story and some personal reflection) on one of the lines of the colorful sign outside our front door. We have some volunteers already. These four lines have not been claimed yet: *Protect the environment. Reject racism. Share earthly and spiritual resources. Love God.* Please tell Pastor Karen if you want to riff on one of these.



August 2026

Hidden things.

"I will open my mouth to speak in parables; I will proclaim what has been hidden since the foundation of the world." (Matthew 14:35b, NRSV)

As I worked on last Sunday's sermon, I pondered Jesus' announcement of "what has been hidden." The revelation of secrets long buried is compelling, especially given David Lohman's story of repressed memory, our political context of conspiracy theories and misinformation, and our project as Christians to find contemporary meaning and purpose in millennia-old scriptures, especially the purposely puzzling parables.

It's also interesting given our church's recent experience in the sanctuary basement.

If you haven't heard, Hal Becker and Dave Rieder spent whole *days* down there in cramped quarters, digging out dirt piled up by wildlife over-wintering in the crawl space, and repairing flexible ductwork the critters had broken down. It was estimated that 30 years had passed since anyone visited the basement, so our furry friends had plenty of time to make themselves comfortable. There were also a *lot* of bugs. Dave ranks it in the top five worst jobs he's ever done. Ask Hal if it's at the top of his list.

Every one of us owes Hal and Dave a heartfelt thank you (at the very least) for the dirty, demanding work they did underground, and their mechanical expertise in restoring the air conditioning upstairs.

What can we learn from this situation? Perhaps, to stop ignoring what has been hidden!

Jesus, of course, is talking about wisdom, not wildlife, but even so, we can work the basement analogy (our very own St. Paul's parable!) to ponder what has been hidden in our church history and in our own lives.

How have we been shaped by the families and times we were born into? Why do we do the things the way we do? Where do we most often run into trouble? Is there something we're being called to let go of?

Every one of us has repressed, to varying degrees, whatever we perceive to be our tragic or shameful flaws. Carl Jung calls it the shadow side, and says our ego wants to keep these things in the dark. But as people of Christ, and therefore children of the light, committed to truth, perhaps we can all do a little digging, and be honest about what we have buried in our personal and communal basements.

Greater self-awareness leads to relational and spiritual growth. Shadow work, say therapists and counselors, is often soul work.

This has been my own experience. But I have to confess it took me way more than 30 years to open up my basement door.

Digging in with you,
Pastor Karen



On Saturday, September 12 we will hold our next Culturally Responsive Dinner in the fellowship hall. In March Cliff and Joyce Specht vacationed in Indonesia spending several days in Bali. They have agreed to host a dinner and share what they learned about the country and the culture. On August 28 Joyce and Lani will publish the cookbook and email it to all. They vow to ensure that we Minnesotans will be able to handle the spice and heat levels in the recipes. Mark your calendars and be ready to claim your recipe at the end of this month.

Wright County Pride Festival

On Saturday, July 18 St. Paul's had a booth at the Wright County Pride Festival in Monticello for the third year in row. Many people set up the tent and banners, others brought cookies and bottled water, others worked in the booth talking with people who came by encouraging them to add a rainbow to our chart. Pastor Karen was able to network with other pastors in our area when she wasn't busy talking with people visiting our booth. The weather was remarkable with cool breezes wafting from the river after 90 degree temperatures were in the forecast. We were assigned the first booth on the west end of the park with plenty of shade trees and an open area on one side for a semicircle of chairs for members and visitors. Workers declared it was a great day to be out in nature, and most seem anxious to do it again next year.



From Left to Right: Cliff, Lani, Karen, Monty, Chris and Joyce



From Left to Right: Sam and Monty

It's summer! Hope all are enjoying It. Winter will be knocking on our doors soon!
Here are some summertime pics.



Asa Jackson on Ripple Lake in Aitkin
Pastor Karen Larson and Steve Jackson's Grandson



Owen Sackrison on the Mississippi River in Brainerd
Jim and Shala Holm's Great-Nephew



Trent, Peter and Joe Lucht in Port Washington on
Lake Michigan



AND...Geraldyn Lucht watching Jorge in Greenfield
(while the guys fish for Salmon) at no charge\$.

July Financial Statement

Total Income/Offerings : \$3,895

Expenses: 7,407

Over/Short: (\$3,512)

Contact Us

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Did you know that St. Paul's has a Basement?

Dave Rieder and Hal Becker had their work cut out for them. The main church area wasn't cooling. It was discovered that animals entered the crawl space under the church and damaged/destroyed all flexible heat/AC runs as well as the return ducts. The ducts are now replaced and repaired the furnace heat/AC return ducts. What brave souls to tackle this! Pastor Karen visited the church basement! Yikes! If you get a chance, please thank Dave and Hal for their bravery and expertise!



Left to right, Dan, Dave and Sue Rieder (sitting on top of the basement hatch).



Dave Rieder at work!



Hal Becker assessing the damage.



Hal Becker managing to smile through a living nightmare!

