

Pastor Gail's Professional Journey

Gail's first vocation was teaching German at the University of Miami for 8 years. She continued teaching Adult Education for another 15 years.

In 1980 Gail moved to Chico CA, with her son Paul (19 months old) where she managed a medical office for 15 years.

While there, she visited Faith American Lutheran Church and never left. Pastor Carl told her for years, that she was "underemployed" at the medical clinic and she needed to go to seminary. In 1993, this was three times confirmed by Pastor Don at a funeral luncheon. Gail, as a lay leader, had presided over the funeral service because no clergy were available.

Gail attended seminary at Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary. Her first call was in Green Bay, and it lasted for 10 years. Then she was called to St. John in Edgar, Wisconsin where she has served for 15 years.

We are so glad that God directed her steps to include Pastoring in Edgar, Wisconsin!



Blessings on your Retirement!



**Pentecost 5, June 23, 2024, Order of worship
Celebration of Pastor Gail's retirement,
and her marriage to Mike Blank**

St. John Lutheran Church, ELCA of
St. John/St. Stephen Lutheran Parish, ELCA,
Edgar, WI 54426

Pentecost 5, June 23, 2024

Celebration of Pastor Gail's retirement

Officiating: Bishop Laurie Skow-Anderson

Organist: Denise Zenko

Prelude

***Call to Worship** *Listen! You Nations* LBW 14
This canticle is unfamiliar; please sing along as you are able

***Confession and Forgiveness**
(from *Sundays & Seasons*, 2023, Augsburg Fortress, p. 190)

P: Blessed be the Holy Trinity, +one God, the God of manna, the God of miracles, the God of mercy. **Amen.**

P: Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance, let us confess our sin. God, our provider,

C: help us. It's hard to believe there's enough to share. We question your ways when they differ from the ways of the world in which we live. We turn to our own understanding rather than trusting in you. We take offense at your teachings and your ways. Turn us again to you. Where else can we turn? Share with us the words of eternal life, and feed us for life in the world. Amen.

P: Beloved people of God: *in Jesus*, the manna from heaven, you are fed and nourished. *By Jesus*, the worker of miracles, there is always more than enough. *Through Jesus*, +the bread of life, you are shown God's mercy: you are forgiven and loved into abundant life. **Amen.**

Keeping in Touch, June 23, 2024

THIS WEEK

Monday, June 24—Pastor Gail is RETIRED and on her HONEYMOON
Please leave any messages with Rose or on the answering machine.

Wednesday, June 26, 1-3pm—Senior Citizen Event at St. Stephen.
BINGO! Refreshments, snacks, and prizes.

At 5:30pm—**Music on the Farm** at Bauman Nursery. (*see below)

Prayer Concerns

Mike Sebold—Continues to recover well at home.

Winona—12-year-old granddaughter of Eugene & Millie Borchardt
(St. Stephen) has multiple cancers.



Prayers of Comfort

Family & Friends of Enola Willhite—Our dear Enola passed away on June 11. Her funeral will be at St. John on July 5th. Visitation will be from 9-11am with the service at 11. A luncheon will follow in the church dining hall.



The window for the "Conversations" Survey is CLOSED. Results will be presented to the Council and the Call Committee. More information will be forth-coming.

***On June 26 Bauman Nursery** will again be having "Music on the Farm". We have the opportunity to run the concessions that evening. We're looking for volunteers to help serve the food and drinks. Also needed are donations of cookies, bars, cupcakes (any baked goods). Planning on serving food starting at 5:30pm. Any questions? Contact Cal or Jayne at 715-574-9090.

The list of RAFFLE WINNERS from Breakfast in the Park is posted on the Bulletin Board!

*The Wedding of
Gail Sowell and Mike Blank*

Thanks to all the family & friends who are here to join in this wonderful celebration. Special thanks to those who helped in planning, preparing and serving.

We'd also like to lovingly acknowledge those who were not able to be here with us today. Some sent well-wishes along with their regrets, others have preceded us through the gates of eternity.

All are a special part of Pastor Gail & Mike's story.



*Please join us for a celebration luncheon
downstairs in the church dining hall
immediately following the service.*



*Gathering Hymn *Beautiful Savior* LBW 518

*Kyrie (response: **Lord, have mercy**)

*Prayer of the Day: O God of creation, **you preside over land and sea, sunshine and storm. By your strength pilot us, by your power preserve us, by your wisdom instruct us, and by your hand protect us, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Sharing the Peace

Receiving our Offerings of Thanksgiving

A reading from Job, the 38th chapter (38:1-11) pew Bible, p. 835
(after each reading, "The word of the Lord." "**Thanks be to God!**")

A reading from Psalm 107 (107:1-3, 23-32) pew Bible, p. 947

*Gospel Acclamation: **Alleluia! Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia!**

*The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the 4th chapter (4:35-41)
pew Bible, p. 1558

Before the gospel: ***Glory to you, O Lord!***

After the gospel: ***Praise to you, O Christ!***

Sermon

*Hymn of the Day *Blest Be the Tie That Binds* LBW 370

*The Creed LBW, p. 85

*The Prayers of the Church

(Each petition ends: Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**)

*The Lord's Prayer (**Our Father, Who art in heaven...**)

***Benediction:** May the Christ who walks on wounded feet walk with you to the end of your road. May the Christ who serves with wounded hands teach you to serve one another. May the Christ who loves with a broken heart be your love forever. May you find the face of Christ in everyone you meet, and may everyone you meet find Christ in you (author unknown).

***Sending Hymn** *On Our Way Rejoicing* LBW 260

Pastor Gail will exit. We invite you to remain for the wedding of Gail Sowell and Mike Blank.

We thank Bishop Laurie Skow-Anderson for being with us to preside and officiate on this momentous day. We know that Pastor Gail has appreciated Bishop Laurie's ministry of serving as the "Pastor to the Pastors" of the Northwest Synod of the ELCA.

We thank God for his leading, gifting, calling and empowering of Pastor Gail as she has served as an ordained minister these past 25 years. Fifteen of those have been here at St. John, and 7 in a yolked parish with St. Stephen.

What a blessing she has been as she has preached and taught God's Word ("always remember, context, context, context"). She has given much encouragement at bedsides, over the phone, and in-person (*maybe even over lunch*).

Pastor has celebrated with us in baptisms, first communions, confirmations, and weddings. She has grieved with us as we've bid farewell to members of our faith family when they've entered the gate of eternal life, and led us in celebrating their earthly journeys.

Pastor Gail has made mention of us in her daily prayers, and gone to visit our shut-ins for all these years. We have been blessed and we are so thankful.

Today we rejoice with you, Pastor Gail, and pray God's rich blessings on you, as you begin this new chapter of your story.

The Wedding of

Gail Sowell and Mike Blank

Officiating: Bishop Laurie Skow-Anderson

Organist: Denise Zenko

Prelude

Bride's Entrance.....Trumpet Voluntary

Invocation

Prayer

Exchange of Vows

Exchange of Rings

Thanksgiving to God

Blessing and Prayer for the Bride and Groom

Benediction

Presentation of the Couple

Recessional *Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee* *Hymnal #551*

Attendants:

Jean Wendricks.....Friend of the Bride

Rose Morse.....Friend of the Couple

Dudley Blank.....Brother of the Groom

Janet Blank.....Friend of the Bride/Sister-in-law of the Groom

Many thanks to Denise Zenko for playing the organ for us today. Denise is the organist at Grace Lutheran Church in Green Bay. She's a dear friend of Pastor Gail's, from her time in Green Bay where she previously served. We are so glad that she and her husband Mike were able to help celebrate this very special day. Thank you!