

## **Pastor Paul's Retirement**

### Introduction

My name is Bob Knoll. I have been asked to say a few words as President of the congregation.

Pastor Paul:

**On behalf of the members of Our Shepherd Congregation, We thank you Pastor Paul for your great dedication and outstanding, spiritual leadership as our pastor for 49 years!**

**Pastor Paul has "Made a difference" and had a great impact our lives, and the growth and development of Our Shepherd. What are some of the highlights of the ways Pastor Paul has led us as our pastor for nearly a half century?**

### Pastor Paul's Background:

**Pastor Paul first came to Our Shepherd in 1966. He was installed as our pastor on June 19, 1966. At that time, Our Shepherd was a young congregation and this was a new church.** Our Shepherd Congregation was organized as a congregation in **1958** (8 years old) and the first worship services were held in this church 3 years earlier in **1963** (church was 3 years old).

Pastor Paul **came here** from **St. John's Lutheran Church in Watertown, Wisconsin**. St. John's congregation then had **5,000 members**. There he **organized and led a Bible Class with 400 members**. (He served there for 5 years).

Before that, he served as pastor at **Faith Lutheran** in **Godfrey, Illinois** (located in west, central Illinois, not far from St Louis, MO). (He served there for 3 years).

Before that, he served as a **Hospital Chaplin** in Brooklyn, New York during his first year after **graduating from the seminary in St. Louis in 1958. Pastor Paul and Sylvia were married also in 1958 (June 8, 1958).**

Pastor Paul **followed in his father's footsteps** in becoming a pastor (those of Rev. Walter P. Schroeder).

### In 1966 – (for Perspective)

**What was life like in 1966 when Pastor Paul began his ministry here in 1966:** bell-bottomed, colorful, Leisure suits were in style; Peter, Paul & Mary, Simon & Garfunkel, and the Beach Boys had hit songs; Lyndon Johnson was President; our country was at war in Viet Nam, and gas was 32 cents per gallon.

### The Church in 1966

**In 1966, the church did not have a central entrance or a center aisle.** There were 2 front entrances with organ centered between them. **Naomi was the organist** at that time. **Naomi and I were married by Pastor Paul the following year** (in 1967). When Pastor Paul started here, **the church was not air conditioned. On hot days, huge, noisy fans blew in fresh air from opened windows and he needed to speak out very strongly, because there was no sound system at that time.**

### Pastor Paul Greeted Guests and Visitors and Remembered their Names

**Before the start of each church service**, Pastor Paul **welcomed all new guests and visitors, asked and remembered their names, and greeted them by name** at the door after the church service.

### Pastor Paul brought Outstanding Spiritual Leadership

**Pastor Paul** walked about and delivered his sermons in **clear, concise, orderly, and easy to understand sermons**. He **didn't use notes**.

He **clarified key points** in his sermons by going back to the **original texts** in **Greek or Hebrew languages** (For example, He taught us the **four meanings** of the word "Love").

Pastor Paul **helped us to remember key points in his sermons and key passages in the Bible by using unique symbols** and letters of the alphabet (**acronyms**).

Pastor Paul **especially stressed the importance of mission work to spread God's Word**, and how important it is for us to **stay "hooked into the vine" of God's Word** through **regular worship and Bible Study**.

He challenged us to **grow in our faith**, and to **share it with others**. He stressed that each of us has been **called to "go out and teach all nations" to bring others to faith and salvation**.

Pastor Paul brought **bold but caring, outstanding, spiritual leadership** to Our Shepherd.

### Sacrificial Giving comes First, then Budgeting

**When the time came to make our pledges and adopt a church budget**, Pastor Paul **turned our congregation around in our way of budgeting and giving**.

He taught us that **our gifts are gifts to God, not contributions to the church budget**. He taught us about **giving, sacrificially**. He **emphasized that God can bless gifts given sacrificially, no matter how small** (such as the **widow's mite**).

He taught us that the **first step** is for us to **pledge to give sacrificially**, and **then to set the church's budget according to the pledges made** (and not the other way around).

Our Shepherd has done very well under his teaching.

### The Holy Land and Footsteps of St Paul

**Pastor Paul has helped us to grow in our faith in many ways**. He has led **hundreds of people on tours of the "Holy Land"** (Israel and Jordan) and the **"Footsteps of St. Paul"** (Greece and Turkey). He has been to the Holy Land 22 times.

He led hundreds of people to **experience** such things as: **standing on the top of the mountain where Moses stood to view the "Promised Land," sailing in a wooden boat on the Sea of Galilee, seeing Bethlehem, Nazareth, and the Garden of Gethsemane, walking the "way of the cross" through the ancient, walled City of Jerusalem, visiting places where Jesus and his disciples taught and prayed, and places where Jesus died and rose again for our salvation, and so much more**.

### 1972 – Shouters of Joy

In **1972**, Pastor Paul **called on us to join teams** he called **“Shouters of Joy” to visit homes in the surrounding communities to share our faith to lead others to faith and salvation.**

He assured the “Shouters of Joy” teams that **just as the mustard seed, the smallest of seeds, grows into a giant mustard tree, the smallest seed planted in a listener’s heart can grow into a giant sized faith and salvation.**

### 1976 – Addition to the Church

In **1976**, a new addition to the church was dedicated.

### 1978 – The Word Today Radio Ministry

In **1978**, Pastor Paul launched the **radio ministry. The Word Today** has grown to reach millions of people with translations into 54 languages in many countries throughout the world. **The Fish Building** is the **outcome of Pastor Paul’s vision and determination to have a home for the radio ministry.**

In **1983**, the **Hand bell Choir** was formed.

In **1984**, Pastor Paul introduced the **“Prayer for Healing”**.

In **1985**, Pastor Paul introduced the **“Prayer of Thanksgiving”**.

In **1986**, Pastor Paul **fondly** introduced us to **his ventriloquist-talking dummy, “Papa Schwartz”**.

In **1988**, Pastor Paul’s book **\*Coping\* was published.**

In **1989**, **“The Word Today Cookbook”** was published.

In **1990**, Pastor Paul’s books on **“The Key Chapters of the Bible”** were published.

In **1993**, **Pastor Doug accepted a Call** to become the **Assistant Pastor** here at Our Shepherd, and a **unique, father and son team of pastors began.**

### Improvements and Additions to Our Shepherd

**Our Shepherd has seen many additions and improvements since Pastor Paul first accepted the Call here in 1966. We now have a single front entrance, center aisle, a nursery, office space, conference room, elevator, air conditioning, the Fish Building and many others.**

### Pastor Paul has been very active in his ministry Outside of Our Shepherd

**Pastor Paul has also been very active in his ministry outside of Our Shepherd:**

He has **preached in four other countries (Africa, India, Canada and New Guinea); served as guest speaker at the seminary in St Louis and the seminary in Fort Wayne; written four books (“Coping,” “Pathways to Palestine “and a 2 volume set on the “Key Chapters of the Bible”).** He has **written many articles for publications and devotional booklets; served on the Boards of Directors of Lutheran Bible Translators, the Milwaukee Federation of Churches, the Milwaukee Lutheran High School Association, and in many other roles of spiritual leadership.**

When Pastor Paul felt the time was right, Pastor Doug became Senior Pastor

**When Pastor Paul felt the time was right, he announced his retirement as Senior Pastor, and Pastor Doug became the Senior Pastor.**

Retirement from serving at Our Shepherd

**Today, we celebrate and rejoice with Pastor Paul as he completes his ministry here at Our Shepherd, and begins a new chapter in his life. This is a Big Milestone for Pastor Paul, and for Our Shepherd.**

**We thank Pastor Paul for his bold but caring, outstanding, spiritual leadership.**

**We thank Pastor Paul for all the sermons he has preached, all the weddings, baptisms, confirmations, Bible studies, funerals, special Christmas and Easter worship services and many other ways he has led us as our pastor here at Our Shepherd for 49 years.**

**We thank Pastor Paul for guiding our paths, and those of millions of people throughout the world through the radio ministry.**

**We especially thank Pastor Paul for raising a 60 foot high, 45 ton cross, to “lift high the cross... to glory of God” for all the world to see. This is what we stand for!**

**It has been an honor and a privilege, and a great blessing that you have served as our pastor for 49 years. May God be with you and keep you. We thank you, Pastor Paul.**