

**St. Paul Lutheran Church & School**

311 N. 7<sup>th</sup> (@ Miami) Street  
Leavenworth, KS 66048-1994  
(913) 682-0387 – Church  
(913) 682-5553 – School  
(913) 682-5583 – Daycare

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**WORSHIP  
WITH US**



Service


*Communion Served 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of each Month*

Adult-Staffed Nursery provided!

Sunday Worship Schedule at  
St. Paul

- \* 8:00 AM – Liturgical Service
- \* 9:15 AM – Sunday School &  
Bible Classes
- \* 10:30 AM – Prayer & Praise

*May 2012*



the St. Paul  
**SEED PACKET**  
your monthly guide to  
sowing the seed of relationship

## Monthly Highlights for May

- ✦ Friday Night Faith-Based Family Films – May 4, 11 & 18
- ✦ Mother's Day – May 13
- ✦ End of School Year Picnic – May 16, 6 PM @ the School
- ✦ Paul's Buffet – now the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday each month (11 AM – 1 PM)
- ✦ 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Graduation – May 20, in the Late Service
- ✦ Semi-Annual Voters Assembly – May 22, 7 PM
- ✦ Last Day of School – May 23 ... *Chapel Service, 8:20 AM*
- ✦ Memorial Day – May 28



### INSIDE THIS ISSUE OF THE *St. Paul Seed Packet*

- ✦ News About St. Paul Members
- ✦ PTA: Paging the Aging  
*(St. Paul's Older Saints)*
- ✦ Stephen Ministry
- ✦ Stewardship in Review



*At St. Paul, we C.A.R.E.  
We are "Cultivating Awesome Relationships for Eternity!"*



# Principally Speaking

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Have you felt the grace of God recently? Not just a perceived blessing, but an actual outpouring of His undeserved favor? Sometimes we are so close to it, so surrounded by it, that we fail to recognize or properly appreciate it.

The following example of grace is one to which teachers, parents and students should be able to relate.

From: Rev. Charles Mueller – who writes: GRACE – *Ephesians 2:8*

Ron knew it was coming. He knew that when the grades for class conduct were given, he would get the worst possible. He knew it because for the past month, he had been really miserable in class. The teacher was always correcting him – with cause. He couldn't seem to control his actions. The other kids stayed away from him. He did foolish things. He did them all the time.

There was a reason for his behavior, but he didn't think he could talk about it. At home his mom and dad were fighting. He hated that. He loved them both so much. All he wanted was that they get along. He was afraid they would get a divorce. He had even heard his dad use that word once.

He couldn't say anything at home. Whenever he spoke up, another fight seemed to start. So, when Ron got angry – at himself, at his world, at his parents – he took it out on those at school. Now he knew that when he brought the report card home, his folks would start yelling and fighting again, blaming each other for Ron's failures.

When Mrs. Moeller gave out the report cards, she asked Ron to stay for a moment after class. As he waited to speak with her, he peeked at the grades which he had gotten. He was stunned. For conduct, he got a big *B*. He thought there was a mistake.

"Ron," said Mrs. Moeller, "I gave you a B for conduct. You deserve an F. You have made life miserable for everyone in this class for more than a month. I think I know why you're acting as you do. I don't excuse how you have acted. Yet as a way to show my love and concern for you, and as a way to keep you from getting in trouble at home, I have given you a B. Ron, you don't deserve it. I give it to you with love. I hope you will accept my gift and do what you can to be more like a B student in the future. But no matter, the B is yours to keep."

The B was grace. Grace means *undeserved favor*. We get grace from God. We get grace from God daily. We get it for the same reason that Ron got the B from Mrs. Moeller. Can you understand that? Can you explain that? Try it.

It is truly the undeserved favor we have received daily from God that allows us to help build His kingdom in spite of all of our imperfections.

Can you understand that? Can you explain that? Try it!

Serving the Master Teacher,

*Jay Floetke, Principal* ✚

## News About

### St. Paul Members . . .

**Tim Jordan** (Sous Chef at Charlemagne's) was shown in the Times at the ribbon-cutting of the new German restaurant in Leavenworth; ... **Steve Fruechtenicht** was on the front page of the Times, on his knees – not praying, but planting potatoes for J&B Truck Farm, that will be sold at the Leavenworth Farmers Market (*and, they even spelled his name correctly: S-t-e-v-e!*); ... mess with Clif, Laura, Caleb (even Victoria) if you want, but you'd better not mess with **Amelia Cribb**: who recently placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in her division at the Power-Lifting Nationals in Oklahoma; ... **Jamie Kootz**, placed 10<sup>th</sup> in the IAAF 20k Women's Racewalking Olympic-qualifying event in Eugene, OR, on Palm Sunday; ... **Ralph Diaz** entered his Father's heavenly mansion on April 2 – his eternal life being celebrated in the Sanctuary on April 6; ... on our 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Sunday, we received new members: **Hope Goodwin**, and her daughters **Rebekah & Vivian**; and **Leanna Marshall**, and her sons **Spencer & Evan**; ... that same day, April 15, saw the baptism of **Owen Daniel Watkins**, son of **Daniel & Lindsey** (who herself was baptized during the celebration of our 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary).

Dear Members of St. Paul,

We would just like to say "Thank You" for the wonderful welcome and hospitality you all have shown during our time here at Ft. Leavenworth. Though the duration has been short, we are glad that we had a chance to become a part of St. Paul and we hope that we find a church in Fairbanks, AK that is just as welcoming.

*The Beier Clan*  
(a.k.a. *Karl, Theresa, Samantha,*  
*Hailey, & Nicholas*) ✝

#### St. Paul Lutheran Church & School

7<sup>th</sup> St. (from Miami to Osage), Leavenworth, KS 66048  
(913) 682-0387 Church, (913) 682-5553 School  
(913) 682-1139 Church FAX,  
(913) 682-5647 School FAX  
Business e-mail: [office@splcs.org](mailto:office@splcs.org)  
Web Page: [www.stpaul-lcms.org](http://www.stpaul-lcms.org)



#### OFFICE HOURS

Church Office — Mon – Fri, 8:00–3:00  
School Office — Mon – Fri, 8:00–3:30

#### HOURS OF WORSHIP & STUDY

Sunday Morning Worship, 8:00 & 10:30  
Sunday Bible Study & Sunday School, 9:15  
\* For Small Group Schedule, call Church Office

Rev. Ed Mease, Sr. Pastor  
Rev. Dennis Kootz, Ass't. Pastor  
Connie Denney, Parish Worker  
Jay Floetke, Principal

Dawn Booth, Church Secretary  
Judy Ronk, Financial Office Assistant  
Kathleen Adams, School Secretary  
Matthew Denney, Church Custodian

#### Teaching Staff

Paula Cole	Sue Kersten
Becky Denney	Cheryl Kirkendoll
Pam Floetke	Lea Metz
Becky Gruoner	Andrea Staples
Brandy Hamilton	Ellie Tebbenkamp
Kathy Huskey	Susan Wells
Andrea Staples, Admissions Counselor	

#### Aides

Cheryl Borgeson	Leanna Marshall
Ashley Bressman	Cindy Page
Sarah Cotter	Lorraine Schultz
Dana Floetke	Andrea Taylor
Whitney Shockey, Daycare Lead Teacher	

#### Ministry Directors

President: Denis Johnson;  
Vice President: Steve Fruechtenicht;  
Secretary: Kathy Johnson; Treasurer: Tammie Wahaus

At-Large Ministry Directors:  
Robin Crim, Don Denney, Tracy Knueven  
Tom Orlowski & Becky Blanken

#### MEMBER CARE MINISTRY TEAM

Ken Atkinson, Diane Barrett, Velma Bass, Catheryn,  
Carolyn Donald, Lynn Genter, Del Housworth,  
Janet Jackson-Knight, Becca Mease, Pastor Ed,  
Sally Niemann & Barbara Regnier



**PTA:  
Paging The Aging  
(St. Paul's Older Saints)**

Seed Packet articles are due on the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month: since I last wrote on March 15, there have been SO many sights and sounds and happenings in our church family that I want to put a few of them in print. Many of you shared these sights and sounds: add your own to the list.

... Paul's Buffet on St. Patrick's Day was followed immediately (a 30-minute changeover) by an 80<sup>th</sup>-birthday party in the Church Basement. That was good use of time and space!

... Hebrew spoken by an Israeli, heard at the model Seder Supper, is a joy to my ears. There is always something more to learn about the close ties between Passover observation and our Lord's Passion when we listen to Jewish people who believe in Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

... Pastor Ed did a fine job leading our P.R.A.Y.E.R. Service at the Zone LWML event – 60 women shared the day. Annie, the Newfoundland dog, and her human told of the wonderful work of the Human-Animal Bond organization. I saw the truth of the worth of HAB when I worked at a nursing home. I can't quite imagine owning THREE Newfies, though, as Kendall Casey does. Wow! That's a lot of dog.

... Larry and I walked with Pastor Dennis from the Courthouse to Riverfront Park on the Cross Walk sponsored by the Ministerial Alliance. It was a warm, sunny day – Father Michael Munro had on a 'hoodie' to show his support of the Trayvon Martin family. The school kids who shared the duty of carrying the Cross took their responsibility seriously, and singing verses of "Were You There?" at every stop with people from many other churches was a humbling experience.

... All of the Family Film nights were good: I finally mustered up courage to see Mel Gibson's "The Passion of the Christ." Seeing it right before Holy Week added to the reality and finality of the lessons we heard on Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday.

... What a blessing it was to share in the confirmation of Nicolas, Zina and Alex Williams on Palm Sunday! We look forward to the same blessing as the rest of the family grows up: those NOLA folks who moved to Leavenworth after Katrina have been a blessing to our parish.

... "Go and do likewise..." We'll never go to Kenya, but Christine Knueven will, and we'll be her prayer support, just as we'll pray for Jason Wahaus when he goes to Alabama again, this time as a Kaleo team leader. We'll cheer for our Alaska mission team, too. You GO, kids!

... The location changed, but all day long on Good Friday our faithful members spent time in prayer during our Prayer Vigil in the Lower-Level Conference Room. Everyone is busy – but sometimes taking time to pray lengthens available hours.

... I've played at a lot of funerals, but I'd never played "Take Me Out to the Ball Game" as a recessional until the uplifting service for Raphael Cruz Diaz. What an honor. It made me remember playing "Anchors Aweigh" for Norm Nolop's service not so long ago.

... Ah, Easter! Early morning greetings at Sunrise Service – the aroma of lilies – majestic music – the bravery of Laura Elkins as she stood in the middle of 7<sup>th</sup> Street taking our faith-family photo – the delicious breakfast served by our youngsters – the Resurrection services are the best of year for me.

... And then there was the 'kick-off' for the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration. That could fill a whole page by itself! Two services, just alike, with all kinds of music, even a verse in German – a beautiful quilt – a gorgeous banner – seven tall men portraying our courageous and committed ancestors – interesting bulletin boards and displays – a guest speaker who considers St. Paul his 'home church' – a tasty dinner served in elegant style – laughter as we received the color scheme and pattern for our next sanctuary paint job.

My eyes and ears and brain have been on sensory overload this last month. And before you even read this, I'll add on the three days of Kansas District LWML Convention at Lawrence to the load: worship services, Bible study, banners, music (one woman playing 37 handbells?), friends from all across Kansas, laughter, hugs. That might be a whole page for the next issue! God is good – all the time.

*Comments and/or suggestions? Contact PTA writer Velma Bass at 682-8942 or [larrygb@att.net](mailto:larrygb@att.net) ☩*



## BACK TO BASICS: Celebrate! Remember! Fight Back!

**Relay for Life:** Team St. Paul is getting ready to spend 12 hours on the track at Warren Middle School on Friday night/Saturday morning, June 1-2. Cancer survivors will walk the opening lap at 6 PM

after sharing the complimentary "Survivors' Dinner" at 5 PM. in the Warren Middle School cafeteria. Go to [www.relayforlife.org/leavenworthcoks](http://www.relayforlife.org/leavenworthcoks) to see a listing of our team: it's sizeable and ambitious, and it's not too late for you to join! We probably won't match the efforts of the Rotary Team: they're aiming to raise \$20,000 this year and might get there. But we're doing just fine for our first year.

You can be part of the effort to raise money for cancer research and patient assistance. You can donate money toward the goal of any of our team members and/or you can purchase a 'luminaria' *in honor of* or *in memory of* someone you know who has dealt with cancer. Maybe it's YOU! Each luminaria costs \$5 + an item of canned goods: place your order with any team member or with team captain Velma Bass. Helen Genter is doing her professional printing on all of our luminaria sacks that will outline the track at the special 10 PM Service of Remembrance. Glow-sticks are used to illuminate the sacks: candles take too long to light since there will be 400-500 of them. It's pretty impressive.

Activities go on all night while members of the 43 teams circle the track. Each team has been instructed to have a hula hoop ready for something to happen: none of us are certain that we could keep the hoop hulaing (*is that a word?*) for very long, but we've got a red one covered with glitter ready for whatever happens there. We will also supply a cake or cupcakes for the Cake Walk – we can do that.

If you've never attended a Relay, come out and watch what happens. We're going to gather by our tent at 6:15 for a group photo: most of us might not make it all through the night, but a couple of us will and you'd be welcome to join us! Bring a lounge chair for a comfy nap, although the DJ plays music all night long and you probably won't sleep soundly. We'll have a 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary banner displayed prominently at our tent: walk around and find us – sit in the bleachers and cheer us on! ✚



### LADIES AID – Lutheran Women's Missionary League

Spouses, friends and neighbors are welcome to join members of Ladies Aid when we meet on Wednesday afternoon, May 2, at 1 PM, in the Church Basement. *Our hosts will be Pastor Ed and Pastor Dennis: past history indicates that a surprising good time will be had by all who attend.*

Our Bible Study will center on the Minor Prophet book of Jonah; please choose a verse from that book to answer roll call. Mites will be gathered for Missions as we begin to fund the projects adopted at the April 2012 Kansas District LWML Convention in Lawrence. A short report will be heard from those who attended the gathering: our delegate, Carol Reese; and convention guests Velma Bass, Connie Denney, Nancy Fruechtenicht and Janet Jackson-Knight.

If you have questions about Ladies Aid and/or Lutheran Women's Missionary League, please call President Velma Bass at 682-8942 or e-mail her at [larryqb@att.net](mailto:larryqb@att.net). ✚

## GUINEA PARTNERSHIP

The Kansas District has pledged to support God's work in Guinea through prayers, funds to support missionaries and mission projects, and assistance in recruiting and encouraging additional volunteer and career missionaries. This year, the Kansas District is encouraging all congregations to lift up Pentecost Sunday as a celebration of our Guinea Partnership, receiving a special offering to support God's mission in Guinea. This year's offering is designated for Guinea Building projects, including Growing in Grace Lutheran Church in Siguiri, Training Stations for church leaders in the Forest Region, and metal and tarpaulin chapel roofs. Thanks to your generous support last year, the Guinea Lutheran Church in Conakry has a permanent site with funds remaining for needed renovations. Now they have the space and the place to freely gather for worship, Bible study and Christian fellowship.

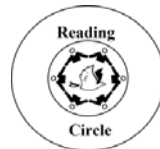
A MOST Ministries Eyeglass Clinic Team recently conducted eyeglass clinics in Conakry, serving 839 people. A synopsis of their trip, updates from our missionaries, and descriptions of the Guinea building projects are found in the color brochure that you will receive on Pentecost Sunday, May 29. John & Elizabeth Wendorff, members of Hope/Shawnee and owners of The Personal Marketing Company, have once again generously donated their time and services to print and mail these brochures to all of our Kansas congregations. ✝

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**Paul's Buffet:** We are now serving Paul's Buffet monthly, the third Saturday of each month, 11 AM – 1 PM. On average we serve 50-100 meals a month. We hope this increases as people learn that it is every month at the same time. We need 5-6 volunteers each month to help set-up, clean-up, and serve. If you would like to volunteer for any month, please contact Kathy Johnson at 351-2768, or [sasnak1@msn.com](mailto:sasnak1@msn.com).



\* **Groups:** *Please plan your days for this same Saturday, and join us for lunch either during, before or after your project time.*



Gods in Alabama (by Joshilyn Jackson) is the story of Arlene Fleet, who has lived in Chicago for 10 years trying to escape her past, who then returns home to introduce her black Northern Baptist boyfriend to her white Southern Baptist family. Join us May 12 as we discuss religion, racism and rednecks!

For June, we're reading Courageous – yes, it was a movie ... but to just watch it and not actually read it ... well, that's a trick that should have been left behind in Junior High! Randy Alcorn (with Alex & Stephen Kendrick) reminds us that "honor begins at home" in this drama that follows the lives, and faith, of a group of law enforcement officers.

*The variety of books chosen by our group keeps the discussions lively and interesting. Current secular media as-well-as traditional Christian literature is discussed with a Biblical worldview. We would love to have your insight. Join us on the second Saturday each month at 10 AM at the Kansas Country Store (728 Cherokee St.). Questions? Book suggestions? Contact Becca Mease (547-0763; [rmease@kc.rr.com](mailto:rmease@kc.rr.com)). ✝*

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In the spring, as we water the new flowers and sprinkle the newly seeded lawn, we have little doubt that come May the flower beds will be filled with red petunias or day lilies and the lawn will be a lush mat of green grass. When you have water and sunshine, things grow; past experience is ample assurance of this. Pentecost has a point or two of comparison with the spring grass and day lilies. Pentecost concerns growing things – people, to be exact. Pentecost speaks about the coming of the Spirit to grant us new, fresh life. On Pentecost, God poured out His Spirit like water to germinate a fresh life in His chosen disciples. Acts 2:1-4 records that wonderful day:

“When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.”

Like dead seeds coming to life in the soil, many a dying faith rebounds to new life as the Spirit of God fills the heart. At St. Paul Lutheran Church & School, we see this nurturing taking place every week as God's promises are proclaimed and received by God's children. We do know through experience that nurturing is very important for the flowers and grass, and nurturing is also needed for our faith. It is through God's nurturing hand that our own faith life grows and flourishes. Apart from the hand of God, we are left to the attacks from our own sinful nature, the world, and Satan who would like nothing more than to cause us to spiritually wilt away and die. Thus, our Lord and Savior gave to His Church a combatant against these attacks, the Holy Spirit. This Holy Spirit fills us with faith as we continue to grow and take root in the rich soil of Christ's righteousness and forgiveness. Through these means of God's grace, we flourish as God's own children.

May we continue to strengthen our faith through God's gift of the Holy Spirit.

In Christ's service,

*Pastor Dennis Kootz,  
Assistant Pastor for Evangelism & Assimilation ☩*



## OPEN SUNDAYS

Dear Christian Friends!

Have you ever paid attention to that sign? The one above the front porch door coming into the Church Office building – that says: “Open Sundays.” I take full credit for that sign being there. When I saw it while rummaging thru the odd collection of stuff that used to be at L&V Outlet, I knew I had to have it ... I knew just where it was going to go: right where it is now.

Chick-fil-A has made itself known for being closed on Sundays – holding to the philosophy of its founder that a Sabbath Day's rest honors the Lord, who will in turn bless him and his company for doing so. (Google it, and learn more about it ... and check out Hobby Lobby while you're at it: same philosophy, same blessing.) To my knowledge, we don't have any employees of either business who currently worship with us on Sundays, but we're “open for business” should they choose too!

And, while what happens here on a Sunday morning is important in our lives, the fact that we're “open” the other 6 days of the week is important as well. With just a quick glance at the calendar in this *Seed Packet* you can see that there are very few days when there is not some event, activity, or meeting scheduled to take place. And, there are other avenues in which we are open for ministry that never make the calendar – our Small Groups, for example.

But the days of the church just opening her doors for “business” and people coming in are history. That's not the culture we live in today ... while it once was almost that easy, that business model no longer works. Being open and available to people does work: not just open doors, but open hearts. Jesus did ministry that way. His heart ached for the lost souls in Jerusalem. He saw crowds of people as sheep in need of a shepherd.

And people saw His openness to them – and responded to it. Large crowds followed Him. Little children came to Him. People even carried others to Him who could not get there on their own.

And we are commanded to go and do likewise. We are promised that we will do the same things He did, even greater things.

To accomplish that, we must first be open to the leading of His Holy Spirit. The first disciples were told to remain in Jerusalem until they had received the promised power from on high – and once they had received it, they set out to change their world. Mimicking Jesus, they were open to others ... maybe not with set Office Hours or worship times, but open to them and their needs. They shared what they had in common with one another, as any one of them might have a need. And, the Lord added to their numbers daily!

We celebrate Pentecost once again this month – I, along with my son, Daniel, actually will be celebrating it in Belfast, Northern Ireland, at the Christian Fellowship Church ... a blend of Catholic and Protestant believers who believe that by being open to one another, they can help to bring healing to their torn nation. They are known for leading revival in Belfast: I pray that we can be known for leading it in Leavenworth and Lansing, on Post and in our surrounding communities.

It starts by being open.

Blessings,

*“Pray for us ... that God may open a door for our message.”  
– Colossians 4:3*

# STEPHEN MINISTRY

## "People of Refuge"

Years ago, at one of our Stephen Ministry support meetings, we watched a Chuck Swindoll video, "People of Refuge." In this video, Swindoll uses Psalm 31 as the text to explain about suffering and the need for a "refuge." He lists three reasons for the suffering that we go through on this earth. In verse 9 of Psalm 31, David says he is in "distress; my eyes grow weak with sorrow, my soul and body with grief". David speaks of the guilt of his sin in verse 10 and the stress he feels because of all his adversaries in verses 11-13. All of the reasons that David listed as reasons for needing a refuge are also reasons for *us* to need a refuge. "In You, O Lord, I have taken a refuge; let me never be put to shame; deliver me in Your righteousness." (Verse 1)

Chuck Swindoll goes on to tell his audience that we need to be "People of Refuge" – we need to be those who are "there for" others in time of need. We need to be the "someone who cares – someone who is willing to stoop" to help someone who can't quite make it on his or her own. Jesus gave that example to His disciples as He washed their feet and told them to be servants, also. Swindoll also repeated the phrase "a shared sorrow is half a sorrow" several times on the video. When we take the time to listen to someone in need and share their burden, we lighten their load of sorrow.

This is what Stephen Ministry is all about – sharing the load of someone else – helping their sorrow to be "half a sorrow." Stephen Ministers are trained to listen and "be there" for their "care receivers." We presently have thirteen active Stephen Ministers: Larry Bass, Velma Bass, Janice Denney, Pam Floetke, Nancy Fruechtenicht, Steve Fruechtenicht, Helen Genter, Lynn Genter, Margaret Hanawalt, Becca Mease, Lea Metz, Christine Strohm and Linda Trotzman. Helen Genter, Becca Mease and Lea Metz serve as our Leaders. Some of these Stephen Ministers are not presently assigned to a "care receiver". (In other words, we have Stephen Ministers available, if you would like to have someone visit with you.)

***An important thing for everyone to remember about Stephen Ministers: WE can't contact you to start visiting you. YOU have to make a request to have a Stephen Minister call on you. The process is completely confidential and can be activated by contacting Pastor Ed or one of our Leaders. (See their contact information below.) Once a Stephen Minister is assigned to you, you and the Stephen Minister make arrangements for how often you visit with one another and where you have your visits.***

If you have a friend or relative who you believe would benefit from Stephen Ministry, please suggest it to him or her. Women are matched with female Stephen Ministers, and men are matched with male Stephen Ministers.

Contact information: Pastor Ed (682-0387; 758-7624; [pastor@splcs.org](mailto:pastor@splcs.org)); Helen Genter (682-6434; [hlgenter@kc.rr.com](mailto:hlgenter@kc.rr.com)); Becca Mease (547-0763; [rmease@kc.rr.com](mailto:rmease@kc.rr.com)); or Lea Metz (772-8501; [leametz@sbcglobal.net](mailto:leametz@sbcglobal.net)).

***Let's all practice being "People of Refuge" – someone who is willing to listen and share the load of another! ✚***

## President's Update: May 2012

*"So I thought it necessary to urge the brethren to go onto you before me, and arrange in advance for this gift you have promised, so that it may be ready not as an exaction but as a willing gift. The point is this, he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must do as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." – II Corinthians 9:5-7*

Sunday, April 15, was a wonderful kick-off event to the celebrating of the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of St. Paul Lutheran Church & School. I believe Pastor Mayer best stated it when he said it was not only a celebration of the past 150 years but as we look forward to the next 150 years.

My wife Kathy and I talked later that evening about what a feat it is for a congregation to be in one place for 150 years and still thriving. If you consider the changes that have taken place since the horse and buggy days of 1862 to the high technology of 2012, and that St. Paul Church has continued to thrive, it's truly remarkable!

Kathy and I were raised in the same church, Messiah Lutheran, in Kansas City, Kansas. That church was also built at the turn of the century and was also a beautiful building. Unlike St. Paul, Messiah was not able to adapt to changes and began to see noticeable decline in membership starting in the 1960's. They merged with Trinity Lutheran to become All Saints Lutheran and built a new building in 1972, but membership continued to decline. By the early 1990's, the membership had declined to the point that they had to close their doors.

I believe the ability to embrace and reach out to the surrounding community, as St. Paul Lutheran Church & School has done and continues to do, is instrumental in sustaining St. Paul, as Pastor Mayer said, into the next 150 years.

The Ministry Directors will be presenting a Financial Plan at the Voters Assembly on May 22. In that plan, as part of our ongoing Strategic Plan, we are once again asking for funding to increase staffing.

We are seeing sustained growth in the lower grade levels at St. Paul School. Our Kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> Grades are at between 13 to 15 students per grade. Currently we have combined 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> Grade classes. With lower grade level classes moving up we will have 23 students moving into the 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Grade in classrooms that are suited for no more than 20 students. If we don't move forward and add a teaching position we will have to turn away future students in those grade levels and hamper our growth and our mission of providing a Christian education.

The seats in those classes won't be filled the first year, and it may take several years to completely fill those classrooms. The school tuition does not fully support the staffing positions, nor has it ever done so – St. Paul, like most parochial schools, depends on a supporting congregation to supplement its funding.

As we present the upcoming Financial Plan we will be depending on the financial support of the congregation to continue to expand our ministry. As those in 1862 did, and those who have followed in the 150 years since have done, we will need to have faith in our mission, to sustain the continued growth of St. Paul Lutheran Church & School.

Blessings,

*Denis Johnson, Congregation President* ✝

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## MAY BIRTHDAYS

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1 <sup>st</sup>	Hayden Anderson Noah Souser	11 <sup>th</sup>	Julia Beemer Mary Lou Hamilton	22 <sup>nd</sup>	David Balock Maggie Wells
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Mallory Price		Kris Hoppe	23 <sup>rd</sup>	Steven Anders Danielle Rios
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Amy Faith Freddie Schmeckel, III	13 <sup>th</sup>	Quintin Hoppe Beth Tucker		Virginia Harth
5 <sup>th</sup>	James Folk Timothy Joachims	14 <sup>th</sup>	Ed Dane Earl Faith	24 <sup>th</sup>	Sally Niemann Paton Sickler, II
6 <sup>th</sup>	Matthew Denney Dolores Martin		Anna Foster	26 <sup>th</sup>	Devin Driskell Amie Kankelfitz
7 <sup>th</sup>	Kelsey Eskina Justin Seeler	15 <sup>th</sup>	Anthony Guardado Lori Lott		Chris Norris Joshua Panek
	Jim VanHoozer	16 <sup>th</sup>	Mindy Williams	27 <sup>th</sup>	Evangelina Moritz
	Carol Wiseman	17 <sup>th</sup>	Sarah Hill	29 <sup>th</sup>	Brandon Cole
8 <sup>th</sup>	Ben Malto	19 <sup>th</sup>	Clif Cribb Ward Polk	31 <sup>st</sup>	Mark Denney Ray Hoppe, Jr.
9 <sup>th</sup>	Charlotte Appleby Victoria Cribb	20 <sup>th</sup>	Shirley Jobe		Pastor Ed Mease
10 <sup>th</sup>	Mike Forbis Madison Gritz	21 <sup>st</sup>	Lori Humble Tom Orlovski		

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## MAY ANNIVERSARIES

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12 <sup>th</sup>	Ray & Betty Hoppe
13 <sup>th</sup>	Jack & Ruth Loewenstein
18 <sup>th</sup>	John & Trish Peeler
19 <sup>th</sup>	Eugene & Tambra Anders Ken & Carolyn Donald Bruce & Susan Wells
20 <sup>th</sup>	Bob & Basia Cassella
21 <sup>st</sup>	John & Dianna Allen Justin & Kayla Moritz
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Michael & Petra Beemer Tracy & Lu Knueven
24 <sup>th</sup>	Earl & Amy Faith Mark & Chris Norris
25 <sup>th</sup>	Terry & Darlene Sullins
26 <sup>th</sup>	John & Roberta Pretz
30 <sup>th</sup>	George & Georgiana Nelson



**Birthdays & Anniversaries  
in May!**

## STEWARDSHIP IN REVIEW

Date	Worship Attendance	Sunday School/Bible Study Attendance	Offerings	Making the UPgrade
2-26-2012	193	31/38	\$4,530	\$445
3-4-2012	201	30/38	\$7,043	\$1,885
3-11-2012	200	30/35	\$4,149	\$775
3-18-2012	177	28/34	\$5,638	\$588

*A complete Treasurer's Report is available from the Church Office.*

### *Life Quotes from Lutherans For Life*



"We fight abortion knowing that the eternal fight for human life is won. We fight assisted suicide knowing that the eternal fight for human life is won. We fight against everything that tempts us to pride or despair, everything that tempts us to sin and idolatry, everything that tempts us to be disobedient, murderous, unchaste, stealing, lying, covetous rebels. We fight not with weapons of this world, but with the sword of the Spirit, the Word of God." *Rev. Christopher S. Esget, Pastor, Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church, Alexandria, VA. This "Life Quote" is from Lutherans For Life - [www.lutheransforlife.org](http://www.lutheransforlife.org) / 888-364-LIFE. †*

#### **Reasons why I participate in Relay for Life:**

mother, brother, father, sister, aunt,  
uncle, teacher, professor, partner,  
babysitter, friend, great-aunt, great-uncle,  
neighbor, colleague, friend, daughter, son,  
wife, husband, daughter-in-law, son-in-law,  
classmate, stepson, stepdaughter,  
stepfather, stepmother, grandfather,  
grandmother, godmother, godfather,  
nephew, niece, boss, mother-in-law, father-  
in-law, cousin, me. †

### Thrivent Ice Cream Social

Benefiting the  
"Geske Family Memorial Fund"  
in the Church Basement,  
Sunday, June 3, 3-5 PM.

*Watch for more info to come – or check with  
Pastor Dennis in the meantime!*

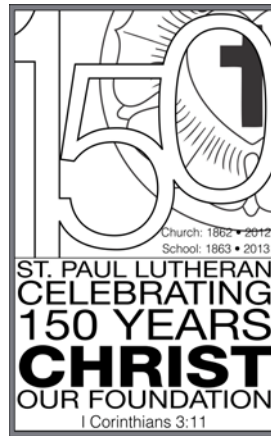


**Friendly Visitor Program.** The purpose of the program is to assist seniors to live in their homes as long as it is possible and they are safe. People of all denominations serve as participants and visitors. Hours and types of volunteer services vary and will be tailored to volunteer's life-style. Services offered include: Ring-a-Day callers, friendly home visits, phone friends, and assisted transportation. If you are interested in volunteering or know of someone over 60 who could use these services, please call Sister Arthel – (913) 651-1407.

*Your presence will enhance a senior's life.*

### **SAVE THE DATE!**

We will once again host Dr. Reed Lessing (of our St. Louis seminary) for a Live Video Conference – teaching on the Psalms – on Saturday, October 6 ... *mark your calendars now!* †



## The 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Update

The opening 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration event on Sunday, April 15, was terrific – the spirit and joy of our heritage was radiating throughout our worship services and the dinner-program that followed. The Gym was full of sharing, laughter, and the Holy Spirit. The new Gym sound panels did their job. It was a day of remembering. Our gratitude goes to Pastor Richard Mayer for his inspiring sermon, stories, humor, and for being a part of our legacy; and to the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committees for the first class music, dinner, program, displays and hard work to make the opening celebration a success and set the bar for future events. It was terrific! The historical information in the entry-area of church and throughout will be updated periodically during the celebration months and the Celebration Signature Quilt has a permanent home hanging in the Church Basement. On May 6, in the front entryway, **the Memorabilia Committee** will offer the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary ornaments, mugs, tumblers and note cards that were for sale at the event. The Memorabilia Committee plans to have memorabilia items available throughout the celebration period. Lastly, Darlene Berg took lots of pictures during the day, so watch for photo displays of our April 15 celebration event to remember and enjoy.

The 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Memory Garden plan was approved by the Ministry Directors in March. The approval to proceed stipulated the Garden Committee stay within the dollars available in our 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Fund and other donations made specifically to the garden. The Garden Committee met with the Leavenworth/Lansing Nursery in April to review the estimates and designate which phases of the plan to execute based on our available dollars. Leavenworth/Lansing Nursery will begin their work on **Monday, May 21**. Work includes: preparation of the area – both sides of the steps leading to the Basement to include removal of the crabapple tree and 8 viburnum bushes (four of the bushes will be replanted by the Parking Lot and four will be sold to a member); landscape plant areas and create walkways. Our dollars do not support fencing (lattice, privacy or brick) around the air conditioner or any of the plants. We will protect the space around the A/C so maintenance can be performed and no digging or walkway will interfere with performance. We have many of the plants, shrubs, and statuary covered with member donations, but still need more. Plant/shrub sign-up sheets are available. We will have memorial plaques for 'Donors' and 'In Memory Of' placed in the south entry of Church that can be updated when needed. We will also have venues available for engraving stakes and bricks to place in the garden. There will be a ground breaking ceremony on **Sunday, May 20, at 9:15 AM**. The actual Memory Garden Dedication will take place after completion of the project sometime in the late summer or fall. We need volunteers to help with planting on **May 26 or 27** – depends on when Leavenworth/Lansing Nursery is finished. If you can help, see Luis Olmo-Jimenez or Diane Barrett. Detailed lists of what our 150<sup>th</sup> Funds will buy are available, please ask Luis or Diane.

**The Historical Committee** remains busy with distribution of the celebration Pictorial Directories and working the Leavenworth Times Insert planned for publishing in late July or early August.

**The Special Events Committee** is busy planning our next scheduled events. Their immediate focus is on the **Sunday, July 1**, "Red, White & Blue" celebration which honors our peace keepers, firemen and guardians and the **Sunday, September 9**, "Care in the Square" celebration which is our community outreach worship and pot luck at Hay Market Square in downtown Leavenworth. Watch for more details in the coming months.

*'And the beat goes on ...'*

In His service, *Diane Barrett, 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Committee* †

Our Celebration Scripture: I Corinthians 3:11

*"Remember, there is only one foundation, the one already laid: Jesus Christ." (The Message)*