

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

## Monthly Highlights for May

- ✝ National Day of Prayer – May 4
- ✝ Faith-Based, Family Film Night – May 6  
*“Lorenzo’s Oil”*
- ✝ Mother’s Day – May 14
- ✝ Last Day of School – May 19 (*Closing Chapel Service, 8:30 AM*)
  - ✝ SPL 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Graduation – May 21 (*10:30 AM Service*)
  - ✝ Memorial Day – May 29 (*Church & School Offices Closed*)
  - ✝ Semi-Annual Voters Assembly – May 30 (*7 PM*)



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

## ***A Time to Be Silent, & a Time to Speak – Ecclesiastes 3:7b***

Dear Christian Friends!

For those who were at the Special Voters Assembly on April 23, your minds are probably swirling ... and have been since the meeting ended (perhaps even since it began). As I write this the day after, my mind is – and, I've heard from many of you who feel the same way. To say the least, our Sanctuary was filled with people who are passionate about our school ministry. I'm convinced of that – equally convinced that every person present (whether they spoke or not) wants the very best possible future for our congregation and all of her many ministries ... of which our school has long been primary.

The proposed motion began: *WHEREAS St. Paul Lutheran Church, shortly after its founding in 1861, established a parish school for the Christian education of her children in 1863; and, WHEREAS St. Paul Lutheran Church & School has existed ever since, now in their 156<sup>th</sup> and 154<sup>th</sup> years, respectively; and, WHEREAS it has been the guidance of the congregation to continue the ministry of our Lutheran school as a service not only to the member families of St. Paul, but also as a ministry serving children of the Leavenworth, Lansing, Ft. Leavenworth and surrounding communities – both those of other Christian denominations as-well-as those of other faiths or of no faith background ...* and it ended with these words: *all to the glory of God, the growth of His kingdom, and the good of His people ... especially the children served now and in the future by St. Paul Lutheran Church & School in her school ministry.*

I challenge anyone who feels that there was a single person present who would not agree with those words. For the parts of the motion that came in-between, it was quickly apparent that we have different views of how to best “continue the ministry of our Lutheran school.” Sitting in the meeting, quietly considering each opinion and viewpoint presented, one Scripture verse kept coming to mind: Isaiah 1:18 – “Come, now, let us reason together,” says the Lord.” The Concordia Self-Study Bible says of this verse: “a powerful, figurative description of the result of forgiveness” – a comment made regarding the entire verse: “Come, now, let us reason together,” says the Lord. ‘Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool.’” Let’s be honest, the tenor of the meeting left plenty of need for forgiveness – a gift we will be able to share before the Lord again this next Sunday, seeking forgiveness from Him and from one another; while also offering it to one another.

Let’s also be honest about something else: we need to “reason together” in terms of the future of ministry at St. Paul. To me, that means we need to have the opportunity (which, again, let’s be honest, the Voters Assembly was not) to hear from one another. For that purpose, I have asked that our President, Janice Denney, together with the Chairman of our School Ministry Team, John Denney, sit down with me and dedicate time to listening to whomever would like to speak about our congregational future. We have agreed to hold this “listening time” at 6 PM, Monday, May 8, in the School Gym. Everyone is invited – to listen, or to speak (see: Ecclesiastes 3:7b, above).

We ask only a few things: we ask that as many of our Ministry Directors and members of the School Ministry Team as are able be present (also to listen, since they regularly have time to speak in their respective meetings); we are also asking, to better enable us to listen, that those who plan to speak either bring their written comments with them, or send them to us ahead of time (so we won’t have to try to take notes and listen at the same time); and depending on attendance, we may ask that your time to speak be limited (so that we can hear from as many as possible).

This listening session will end at 7 PM, so that the School Ministry Team may continue on with their regular meeting – if we need to have another such time at a later date, we will. We do not intend to offer any answers during this session, we're not even prepared to tell you how or when we will respond – we only want to provide you the opportunity to speak and for us and your congregational leadership to listen.

Please pray for the success of this special time, and for our futures together – here on this earth in joint ministry as forgiven fellow-sinners; and one day in heaven as forgiven fellow-saints!

Blessings,



An Update  
From Our President

**ENGAGE** – occupy or attract (someone's interest or attention)

The past couple years has been a time of tremendous growth for me personally and I believe for St. Paul Lutheran Church & School as well. Growth can include ebbs and flows; it can be painful and joyous. God allows us to use all our emotions to **engage** with our fellow believers. We shout with joy with our Christian family at great news they receive and we cry with them during the low times in their lives. The consistent piece is that we are in it together knowing that God's grace is sufficient for us. *But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."* – II Corinthians 12:9

It was exciting to see all the people in attendance at the recent Voter's Meeting. What an outstanding show of support for St. Paul Lutheran Church & School. Clearly leadership, staff, school parents and the congregation are **engaged** with regard to the work to be done and the opportunities and challenges ahead of us. I have not seen such overwhelming support in many years. The passion is evident. I invite you to continue to watch the Seed Packet for updates from our Principal Call Committee and the work already started to make St Paul Lutheran Church & School an even better place for children to learn the love of Jesus.

SPLCS is blessed to have individuals in positions of lay leadership who are fully **engaged** in the work of the church and school. While the names and contact information of the Ministry Directors are published each month in the Seed Packet, I wanted to take a moment to thank them along with the School Ministry Team. Please join me in thanking Monica Collins, Ed Dane, John Denney, Chuck Engstrom, Pam Floetke, Steve Fruechtenicht, John Goodloe, Randall Hoppe, Del Housworth, Mark Klotz, Audra Madison, Mark Niemann, Barbara Regnier, Darl Summers and Teri vonSeggern for their service to St. Paul Lutheran Church & School.

*"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters."*  
– Colossians 3:23

In Service to our Risen Lord and Savior,  
Janice Denney, President ☩



# Principally Speaking



God has blessed us with another beautiful spring – a sign of His faithfulness! He has also successfully carried us through another academic year. We are proud to announce the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade graduates that will be graduating on Sunday, May 21, at 10:30 AM. Congratulations go to: Adriana Carnoali, Matthew Olson, Tyson Root and Abigail Taylor. We pray that you will always be close to your Savior and follow His leading for your life. May you have enough tears to keep you humble, and enjoy joys to keep you walking hand-in-hand with Jesus! May you always look to Him in trials, and be so very grateful for His many blessings. O the places you will go! We are all excited for your future!

We are still enrolling for the 2017-2018 school year. Please contact the School Office for more information (913-682-5553) and please continue to pray for enrollment and that God would move parents' hearts to enroll their children in our school that **“Personalizes a Christ-Centered Environment that Develops the Whole Child.”**

*“The Lord’s loving-kindnesses indeed never cease, for His compassions never fail. They are new every new every morning; great is Your faithfulness. ‘The Lord is my portion,’ says my soul, ‘therefore I have hope in Him.’” – Lamentations 3 22-24*

In Christ’s service,  
Mrs. Braum ☩

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## **St. Paul Ladies Auxiliary News**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Sally Niemann, Helen Genter, Chyza Nelson, Cheryl Redpath, Laura Elkins **GUEST:** Kendra Parker **INTRODUCTIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Chyza opened the meeting with a prayer of thanks.

**THIS MONTH’S BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES:** Birthdays: March – Laura; April – Cheryl

**APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 2017 MINUTES:** Yes **TREASURER REPORT (BOOK NOOK):** Not Available.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Barbara is becoming a member-at-large; she will remain the Treasurer for the group and look after the Book Nook. **OLD BUSINESS:** LWML Banner. We sold 29 lilies this year, that’s a record for Ladies Auxiliary! Thanks, Laura, for organizing this event.

**CHRISTIAN GROWTH LESSON:** We read Chapter 1 in the book “Love Rules – A Study of the Ten Commandments” by Christina Hergenrader. Helen led us in discussion on the chapter questions.

**ANNUAL SOCIETY DUES** of \$2 are due, please give to Barbara (or leave with Dawn in the Church Office).

**KC CROSSROADS:** Spring Zone event is Saturday, April 29, at Risen Savior Lutheran Church in Basehor. Time is 8:30 AM – 12:30 PM; cost is \$5. Breakfast and Lunch will be served; the charity has not yet been decided. The event theme is The Theology & Architecture of the Church, the Bible verse is Ephesians 2:20. Chyza and Helen plan on going to the event, if anyone would like to go and car-pool, let them know.

**BOARD OF DIRECTOR MEETING** is August 13, to discuss the Fall Zone event. **NATIONAL LWML CONVENTION** is June 22-25 in Albuquerque, NM. District event will be next year.

**BAKE SALE:** Sale was very successful raising over \$200 for church hymnals ... thank you Barbara for organizing and overseeing the sale. Thank you to all who baked and donated goods for the sale – and thank you to all who purchased the yummy goods and contributed to the cause.

**CLOSING PRAYER:** We closed with the Lord’s Prayer. Helen will host the May 21 meeting in the Church Basement. Respectfully Submitted: *Chyza Nelson*, President, Ladies Auxiliary ☩

**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  
Business e-mail: office@splcs.org  
Web Page: www.stpaul-lcms.org



**OFFICE HOURS**

Church Office — Mon. – Fri., 8-3  
School Office — Mon. – Fri. 7:45 AM – 3:45 PM

**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. Kenton Rohrberg, Visitation Pastor  
Mrs. Braum, Principal

Dawn Booth, Church Secretary  
Dana Floetke, School Secretary  
Susan Engstrom, Admissions Coordinator  
Katherine de la Cruz, Accountant  
Matthew Denney, Church Custodian  
Danny Roemer & Chyza Nelson, School Custodians

TEACHING STAFF

Paula Cole  
Becky Denney  
Sue Eberth  
John Leon  
Sally Niemann  
Bevin Noack  
Becky Thomlinson  
Katie Urban  
Crystal Weakley  
Susan Wells

AIDES

Jill Gau  
Andrea Janoe  
Karen Jessup  
Kayla Moritz  
Stacey Veneziano  
Kayla Moritz & Crystal Weakley,  
Daycare Co-Lead Teachers

MINISTRY DIRECTORS

President: Janice Denney  
Vice President: Mark Klotz  
Treasurer: Steve Fruechtenicht  
Secretary: Audra Madison

At-Large Ministry Directors:

Ed Dane, Del Housworth  
Mark Niemann, Barbara Regnier

Member Care Ministry Team

Velma Bass, Alan & Maggie Beisert, Fred & Darlene Berg,  
Chuck & Susan Engstrom, Gwen Ernzen, Lynn Genter,  
Brenda Goebel, Margaret Hanawalt, Virginia Harth,  
Janet Jackson-Knight, Pat King, Becca Mease,  
Cheryl Orłowski, Tom Orłowski, Mary Rogers,  
Jeff & Judy Ronk, Angie Schwalm & Pastor Ed



**PAUL'S BUFFET VOLUNTEERS  
ARE NEEDED**

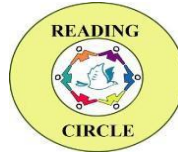
May 20 & June 17

Sign-up sheets are in the  
Information Center. ☩



*Life Quotes  
from  
Lutherans  
For Life*

“You and I will one day die. But the truths of Scripture we uphold when it comes to the sacredness of life will never die. That is why it is so important to not only protect and defend God’s gift of life, but also to protect and defend His truth about what gives value to life. If we lose the latter, the former will quickly erode. Thank you for being people who are ‘holding fast the word of Life’ (Philippians 2:16)!” *Rev. James I. Lamb, Executive Director of Lutherans For Life – A “Life Quote” from Lutherans For Life.* [www.lutheransforlife.org](http://www.lutheransforlife.org). ☩



A teenage girl is missing. Is your daughter involved, or is she next? Your daughter is in danger. But can you trust her? Those are the questions in “**Saving Sophie**” (by Sam Carrington), a taut psychological thriller ... that will be our book for May.

When Karen Finch’s 17-year-old daughter Sophie arrives home after a night out, drunk and accompanied by police officers, no one is smiling the morning after. But Sophie remembers nothing about how she got into such a state.

Twelve hours later, Sophie’s friend Amy has still not returned home. Then the body of a young woman is found. Karen is sure that Sophie knows more than she is letting on. But Karen has her own demons to fight. She struggles to go beyond her own door without a panic attack.

As she becomes convinced that Sophie is not only involved but also in danger, Karen must confront her own anxieties to stop whoever killed one young girl moving on to another – Sophie. A taut psychological thriller, perfect for fans of *The Girl on the Train* and *I Let You Go*.

In June, we’ll be reading a true story in which the keepers of the Warsaw Zoo saved hundreds of people from Nazi hands. After their zoo was bombed, Polish zookeepers Jan & Antonina Zabinski managed to save over 300 people from the Nazis by hiding refugees in the empty animal cages. With animal names for these “guests,” and human names for the animals, it’s no wonder that the zoo’s code name became “The House Under a Crazy Star.” Best-selling naturalist and acclaimed storyteller, Diane Ackerman, combines extensive research and an exuberant writing style to re-create this fascinating, true-life story – sharing Antonina’s life as “**The Zookeeper’s Wife**” – while examining the disturbing obsessions at the core of Nazism. (Winner of the 2008 Orion Award.)

The **Reading Circle** meets at 10 AM the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month at the Kansas Country Store, 728 Cherokee St., in Leavenworth. *Questions? Book suggestions? Contact Becca Mease (913-547-0763; [rmease@kc.rr.com](mailto:rmease@kc.rr.com)).* †

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### STEWARDSHIP IN REVIEW

Date	Worship Attendance	Sunday School/Bible Study Attendance	Offerings
04-02-2017	116	15/27	7059.50
04-09-2017	173	19/36	20387.66
04-16-2017	235	NA	6765.00
04-23-2017	149	17/33	3473.45

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



Luminaria

**RELAY FOR LIFE** participants and donors remember loved ones lost to cancer, and honor those battling the disease, by dedicating luminaria bags. Luminaria bags are transformed and illuminated after dark at every local Relay For Life event. Each luminaria is personalized with a name, photo, message or drawing in memory or honor of a friend or loved one who has been affected by cancer. Luminaria can also be dedicated in support of a Relay participant. Each luminaria candle represents a person. They are our mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, friends, coworkers ... and so

many others. Team Food Fighters, led by Katherine de la Cruz, will be selling luminaries for this year's event. The luminaries will be sold in the front entryway after both services on May 14 & 28, cost is \$10 per luminaria. All the donations will benefit the American Cancer Society and help cancer patients and their families. If you have any questions please feel free to contact Brenda Goebel (913-563-0051) or Katherine de la Cruz (913-240-8172). ☩

Our family would like to thank you and your church for the donation to our family. It is very appreciated. We have been truly blessed for all the prayers, kind words and donations to our family. It has been a very emotional time for us so we are very grateful for everything. They have started the demo process, so hopefully they will be able to rebuild within 9 months. Thank you again. – *The Blackwell Family* ☩



**COME AND JOIN THE TEAM** for the 2017 St. Paul German Christmas Market. The first coordination meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 1, at 7 PM in the Lower-Level Conference Room. We look forward to seeing you there! For information, contact Laura Elkins (913-351-3649) or the Church Office (913-682-0387). ☩

**COME WATCH “LORENZO’S OIL” – On Faith-Based Family Film Night – Saturday, May 6, 7 PM**

Until about the age of 7, Lorenzo Odone was a normal child. After then, strange things began to happen to him: he would have blackouts, memory lapses, and other strange mental phenomenon ... eventually being diagnosed as suffering from ALD, adrenoleukodystrophy: an extremely rare incurable degenerative brain disorder. Frustrated at the failings of doctors and medicine in this area, the Odones begin to educate themselves in the hope of discovering something which can halt the progress of the disease.

**HEADED TO ALASKA!**

In late July, for some of the men, it's a return trip to continue work on the Burle Post Retreat Center – for our youth, it will be their first trip to Alaska ... both to lead Vacation Bible School in conjunction with the Alaska Mission for Christ, and then also to head out to the bush to work at the retreat center.

You have two opportunities this month to help support that work: there will be fresh-baked bread for sale on Sunday, May 7 ... follow your nose to the front entryway, make a donation and enjoy fresh bread for Sunday dinner (and plan for it again the first Sunday of both June and July); then, on Friday, May 12, there will be a Pulled Pork & Rib Sale ... you'll find the smoker on the Parking Lot between 3-6 PM. Watch for the advance-order form in upcoming worship folders and school Spirits!

# STEPHEN MINISTRY

## The Quest for Quality Caring

Many of you were likely present at church on April 23, when some of the Stephen Ministers presented a “Reader’s Theater” skit using the first sections of the book The Quest for Quality Caring, by Kenneth C. Haugk, the founder of Stephen Ministries. This book is a short novel about a koala in Australia – “Kalawaka” – who goes on a quest to find out what quality (“koala”ty) caring is all about.

As Kalawaka travels the world, he not only finds out what quality caring is – but also what it is not. Quality caring is: Genuine, Empathic, Patient, Available, Present, Confrontive, Dependable, Accepting, Unpretentious, and Selfless. Quality caring is not: Game Playing, Sarcastic, Artificially Sweet, Being Swept Along, Rescuing, Possessive, Disavowing of Authority, or Problem Solving.

We will go through the book together, during the month of June, during the Bible Class Hour in the Church Basement. The book is an “easy read” – in fact, we will read it together during the study in June on Sunday mornings. All you have to do is be there to join in with us. Besides covering what quality (“koala”ty) caring is and isn’t, we will also cover 13 different ideas in part 3 of the book that is “Kalawaka’s Guide to Quality Caring.”

The skit that was presented, and the study guide, were prepared by Gary & Susan Williamson from Trinity Lutheran Church in Mission, Kansas. They graciously shared their ideas and extensive work put into both the study guide and the skit with the group of Stephen Leaders from the Kansas City area. This group of leaders meets three to four times annually to share ideas with each other, and has been a big benefit for those who are able to attend. Even those who are unable to attend benefit, as the ideas are e-mailed out to all those who have their names on the list.

Stephen Ministries in St. Louis recently gave the approval for us to use the skit and discussion guide materials. We are thankful to Dr. Haugk for all the work he put into this book, and to Susan & Gary for their additional work on the skit and discussion guide.

Eric Rathburn and I are looking forward to leading a discussion on this book in June and we hope you will plan on joining us during the Bible Class Hour each Sunday. (*Even if you cannot make it every Sunday, please plan on coming on those Sundays when you can attend.*) You will be receiving a copy of the book and the study guide, so if you can’t make it every Sunday, you can go through some of the material on your own.

May God be with all of you and help you be a caring individual to those around you!

*Helen Genter, Co-Stephen Leader, St. Paul Lutheran Church & School ☩*

*If you would like to learn more about Stephen Ministry or would like to request a visit with a Stephen Minister who would listen and share your burden, please contact Pastor Ed (913-758-7624; [pastor@splcs.org](mailto:pastor@splcs.org)) or one of our Stephen Leaders: Helen Genter (913-775-0710; [lgenter63@gmail.com](mailto:lgenter63@gmail.com)) or Eric Rathburn (913-221-2411; [rathburneric@gmail.com](mailto:rathburneric@gmail.com)).*







Lauren Lindsay, Director of Financial Planning for Personal Financial Advisors LLC in Covington, LA, can be contacted at [reports@wsj.com](mailto:reports@wsj.com).

Lent and Easter – the death and Resurrection portions of our church year – are history for 2017, but I found an article that talks about death, so I'm bringing it up again. It appeared in the March 27, 2017, Wall Street Journal, and it reminded me about our St. Paul "When God Calls Me Home" forms. Article author,

### **PLANNING YOUR OWN FUNERAL IS TOUGH, BUT DO IT ANYWAY.**

Death is a hard topic to broach. People don't like to acknowledge that it's going to happen, so funeral planning may not be something to which they give a lot of thought, if any.

But communicating your funeral wishes is one of the best gifts you can give your survivors.

I like to provide a funeral-planning work sheet to my clients. (*Note: our SPLCS form is in a folder located in the hallway to the upstairs restrooms. Contact the Church Office if the forms are all gone.*) The two-page

document identifies everything from whether the client would like to be buried or cremated, to whether they want friends and family to donate to charity in lieu of flowers.

If the client lists a specific funeral home, I will ask whether they've been in contact with the home and whether they've considered planning and paying for arrangements in advance.

I don't ask clients to fill out the document in my presence, but I offer to keep a copy in their file and ask to whom I should send copies.

I've found that every person who's completed it has at least one thing they feel strongly about – maybe they want to be buried with a particular item, or they want a certain song played at the service. This is the kind of information people might have in their heads but have never written down.

An estate-planning attorney may ask how your estate should be distributed, but they don't always ask how you want to be honored when you die.

And even if they do ask, the will usually isn't a good place to communicate funeral wishes because it usually isn't read until after the service.

Relatives who end up using a funeral-planning document say it help them feel like they were doing what their loved ones wanted. It is especially helpful for people who don't have a spouse or children and identify a niece or nephew, a sibling, or even a close neighbor to carry out their wishes.

Know who these people are and have their contact information.

Funeral planning can remove the grim, negative aspect of death and place it almost in the party-planning realm. You're doing it for the people you leave behind – not for yourself.

A comprehensive funeral plan is a comforting thing to loved ones at a time of tremendous loss.

My document is on file in the Church Office. My funeral processional will be Toccata and Fugue in G by Charles Marie Vidor played by Dr. John Leavitt – since he recorded it on CD, he won't even have to be here to play it in person. I heard him practice it years ago on our St. Paul organ when he was a student at our school. I love it, and how he plays it, and my family knows that. I also specified that I want the bells rung full-force-of-three and not tolled. Have YOU written down the Scripture references that YOU want read at YOUR service? How about songs that you'd like to have the congregation sing? Fill out that form this week or update the one you filled out some years ago. I have to change mine: no need for pallbearers since I've decided to be cremated. Declare May "be nice to your family" month: make your final worship plans for them and help them through their tears when you move home to heaven.

Comments? Suggestions? Contact PTA writer Velma Bass at 682-8942 or [larrygb@aol.com](mailto:larrygb@aol.com). ☩

### **News from our Ladies Aid –Lutheran Women’s Missionary League**

Our Ladies Aid, part of the LWML CrossRoads Zone, LWML Kansas District, and national LWML, will meet on Wednesday afternoon, May 3, at 1 PM in the Church Basement. Host for the afternoon will be Pastor Ed: history tells us that the theme of the day will be unique, informative, and just plain fun.

The afternoon study will be “The Man – Part 4” in our study of Martin Luther: roll call will be answered by a verse about salvation. Mites for missions will be received: 75% of the contents of our little Mite Boxes stays with the District LWML for the projects adopted at our Manhattan convention in 2016; 25% goes to national LWML. All projects adopted by the national organization in 2014 at Des Moines have been paid: delegates to the June convention in Albuquerque will select the next projects to be supported. “Jennifer’s Jar” will be on the table to receive donations to support the Guatemalan girl we’ve adopted through LeadAChild.

Why not visit us once? We emphasize Mission Education, Mission Inspiration, and Mission Service in our programming – and our fellowship is both supportive and connective. *President Velma can answer questions about the organization: contact her at 913-682-8942 or 913-683-2460.* ☩

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### **Return to sender – ADDRESS UNKNOWN – no such number, no such zone!**

OK, even though Pat King could tell us all who sang that song, it’s doubtful she could tell us all of these unknown addresses! You will see a list of names below, for which we no longer have addresses on file in the Church Office ... and with land-lines also nearly all gone away, we have no way of contacting these families. But, it is our guess that someone reading this will know the address of someone on the list – and, if not the address, at least some way for us to be able to track them down!

Any help you could supply us will be greatly appreciated! Call Dawn in the Church Office (913-682-0387) or email her ([office@splcs.org](mailto:office@splcs.org)) so that our mail doesn’t come back marked “return to sender, address unknown, no such number, no such zone!” And, may we say it in advance: *“thank you, thank you, very much!”*

**Brett Harris – Carla Kant – Scott & Maura Kelley – Tony Mangler – Kelly & Mary Mansil  
Ann Matekas – Mitzi McDaniel – Brian Mullins – Norbert Neitzel – Nancy Poff  
Chris & DeAnn Queen – Tonya Raw – Sheryl Robison – Rhiannon Staley – Wayne Valentine**

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### **HEADED TO ALASKA!**

In late July, for some of the men, it’s a return trip to continue work on the Burle Post Retreat Center – for our youth, it will be their first trip to Alaska ... both to lead Vacation Bible School in conjunction with the Alaska Mission for Christ, and then also to head out to the bush to work at the retreat center.

You have two opportunities this month to help support that work: there will be fresh-baked bread for sale on Sunday, May 7 ... follow your nose to the front entryway, make a donation and enjoy fresh bread for Sunday dinner (and plan for it again the first Sunday of both June and July); then, on Friday, May 12, there will be a Pulled Pork & Rib Sale ... you’ll find the smoker on the Parking Lot between 3-6 PM. Watch for the advance-order form for the smoked meats in this Seed Packet, and in upcoming worship folders!

## MAY “MISSION OF THE MONTH”

**– 10 million pairs of shoes, on the feet of 10 million shoeless children, in 10 years –**

Over 30 years ago, a young Nigerian boy, Manny Ohonme, received his first pair of shoes at the age of 9 from a missionary from Wisconsin. It changed his life and now he wants give others that same opportunity for change and impact. Samaritan’s Feet – founded by Manny and his wife, Tracie – wants to inspire hope through the gift of shoes, the act of washing feet, and encouragement to those who need it most. People without shoes face dangers like laceration, fungus, and insect bites that can lead to infection, disease, and even death.

Children with no shoes are often not allowed entrance to education in many countries and can find their way into slavery, or unsafe and inexcusable child labor environments. Since their founding in 2003, Samaritan’s Feet and its partners have distributed over 6.5 million pairs of shoes in 88 countries and 325 U.S. cities.

According to the World Bank (2011), there are 2.2 billion people living in poverty who can’t afford education and basic articles of clothing like shoes. The WHO (World Health Organization) in 2013 reported that over 1.5 billion people are infected with diseases that are transmitted through contaminated soil. And, shoes and socks, as determined by Champions for Kids (2015), are in the “top five items needed” by students in school.

Our May “**Mission of the Month**” will be to support the work of **Samaritan’s Feet**, by sponsoring Caroline Steele (who is Hope Goodwin’s mother) on a trip this coming July to Haiti to wash the feet of children, and fit them with shoes. Previously, she has gone to Honduras, and serves in agreement with Manny’s own words, that “our legacy should be created based on what we do for others, not on how much money we make or how many material things we acquire. We will never know the impact of the ripple effect of our actions and obedience if we sit on the sidelines as spectators.”

This is our opportunity to be more than spectators – by our prayers for Caroline and the work of Samaritan’s Feet, as-well-as our financial support of helping them fulfill the distribution of that last 3.5 million pairs of shoes ... and more. Caroline will be at St. Paul on May 21 (for Rebekah’s graduation), giving you the opportunity to speak to her in person – in the meantime, you can visit [www.samaritansfeet.org](http://www.samaritansfeet.org) or [www.mannyohonme.com](http://www.mannyohonme.com) to learn more. Samaritan’s Feet International, a global humanitarian organization, works in over 85 countries – including the United States.

May these words of Jesus always guide our mission in life:

*“Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet,  
you also should wash one another’s feet.*

*I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.*

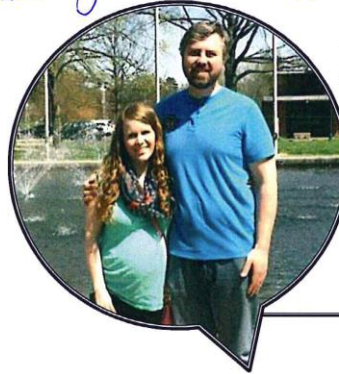
*I tell you the truth, no servant is greater than his master,  
nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him.*

*Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.”*

*(John 13:14-17)*



Thanks again for your support! - Joshua



## WITH JOYOUS THANKS FROM JOSHUA, SUZY & BABY BRAKHAGE

1602 Aberdeen Court † St. Charles, MO 63303 † joshua411@gmail.com † (918) 706-1632

CHRIST IS RISEN! HE IS RISEN INDEED! Our alleluias have returned as we bask in the light of Christ's resurrection. How powerful it is to remember Jesus' Easter victory is the end of death's claim on us. As His Easter people, we celebrate the newness of life that's ours right now. We don't have to wait for heaven; by faith, our eternal inheritance is ours already. The old was buried with Christ on Good Friday. Easter reminds us that the new has come, is here, and is coming again. Happy Easter!

Easter is a thrilling (but always busy) time for the people of God, and Suzy and Joshua are no exception. Along with work and school, we are expectantly preparing to welcome our son. It's hard to believe that we'll meet him in just a matter of weeks. As proud, but first-time, parents, we have been taking weekly childbirth classes at the hospital where our son will see his mom and dad for the first time. We've also picked out a name. We're calling him Graham, but the middle name is still up in the air.

Joshua has been serving more at his fieldwork congregation, Ascension Lutheran in St. Louis, throughout the Easter/Lenten season. He has been serving as liturgist (worship leader) for Ascension's midday Wednesday services. This has given him his first experience with chanting. Joshua has also been rotating through a few of the Sunday School classes as a substitute teacher, while Suzy continues leading the preschool class.

Ascension hosted a massive community Easter with multiple egg hunts, crafts and games, a petting zoo, inflatables, and live music. They even set up a miniature golf course in the gym. Suzy and Joshua helped to assemble and fill some of the 2,000+ eggs used at the event.



Joshua has been studying ancient church fathers and modern worship trends. Between tuning in homework assignments, we have loved the recent visits from friends from our home church in Tulsa. Our DCE visited the Sem with some high school students while they were in town for a youth event, and friends who played music with Joshua back home treated us to our very first visit to the legendary Ted Drewes Frozen Custard. (As a good Oklahoman, know that Joshua still prefers Braum's.) Please keep us in your prayers as you remain in ours. Pray that we continue to grow as spouses, parents and lovers of your Word.

### SNEAK PREVIEW

Big things are coming up quickly for our family. Along with the new baby, the Brakhages are moving from our apartment in St. Charles into the married student housing at the Seminary. We will provide our new address in our next newsletter. Also, if you receive the Concordia Seminary magazine, be looking for a familiar face on the cover of the next issue.

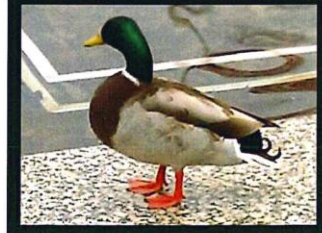
### JUST DUCKY



It has been a rainy spring so far here in the St. Louis/St. Charles area. Water made it inside our apartment for the second time since we've lived here, which meant carpets were pulled up and fans were brought in until everything was dried out.

While a wet home isn't what we would choose for ourselves, it is just perfect for the ducks who have taken up residency in the Seminary's fountain (the same one in which Joshua lost his ring last autumn.)

Our webbed-footed neighbors always bring a smile to the face of anyone passing, especially kids. We happily welcome our new friends, but it wouldn't bother us if they wanted to keep all the wet weather to themselves.



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## MAY BIRTHDAYS

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1	Noah Souser	11	Julia Beemer	22	David Balock
2	Mallory Price		Mary Lou Hamilton		Maggie Wells
3	Amy Faith		Kris Hoppe	23	Steven Anders
	Freddie Schmeckel, III	13	Quintin Hoppe		Danielle Rios
5	Jane Connell		Beth Tucker		Virginia Harth
	James Folk	14	Ed Dane	24	Sally Niemann
	Timothy Joachims		Earl Faith		Paton Sickler, II
	Elijah Watkins		Anna Foster	26	Devin Driskell
6	Matthew Denney	15	Anthony Guardado		Amie Kankelfitz
7	Kelsey Eskina	16	Mindy Williams		Chris Norris
	Justin Seeler	17	Sarah Hill		Joshua Panek
	Jim VanHoozer	18	Logan Cruz	27	Evangelina Moritz
	Carol Wiseman	19	Cliff Cribb	28	Sean Collins
8	Ben Malto		Ward Polk		Ken Rich
9	Charlotte Appleby	20	Shirley Jobe	29	Brandon Cole
	Victoria Lero		Seth Madison		Cassandra Elkins
10	Madison Gritz		Kara Malto	31	Mark Denney
		21	Lori Humble		Raymond Hoppe, Jr.
			Tom Orlowski		Pastor Ed Mease

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## MAY ANNIVERSARIES

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2	Jeffrey & Victoria Lero	26	John & Roberta Pretz
12	Ray & Betty Hoppe	30	Eric & Abi Rathburn
13	Jack & Ruth Loewenstein	31	George & Georgiana Nelson
18	John & Trish Peeler		
19	Eugene & Tambra Anders		
21	John & Dianna Allen		
	Justin & Kayla Moritz		
23	Michael & Petra Beemer		
	Tracy & Lu Knueven		
24	Michael & Carrie Bednarz		
	Earl & Amy Faith		
	Mark & Chris Norris		
25	Terry & Darlene Sullins		

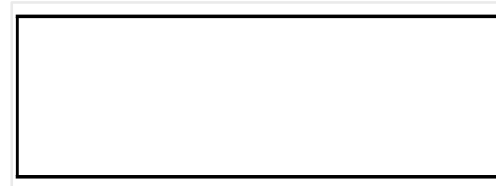


**St. Paul Lutheran Church & School**

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

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**Sunday Worship Schedule at St. Paul**

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

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

Adult-Staffed Nursery provided!

**MAY 2017**