St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church

The Messenger

May the LORD make our love increase and overflow for each other. 1Thess. 3:12

April 2015

Church Staff

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Special points of interest:

- Jesus Loves Me Learning Center
- Campus Ministry
- Upcoming Singing Groups
- Vicar's Corner
- Tuition
 Assistance
- Bible Studies

Pastor's Page

COME...

"Come to my house." What is your first thought when a person says this to you? Is it, "What a nice invitation?" or is it, "Why is he bossing me around?" If it is the second thought and you actually go to his house, what are the chances that you will enjoy yourself?

"Come to my house." Somebody says this to us every week, sometimes more than once per week. You can't read his book for long without hearing him say to you, "Come to my house." Is he being nice or is he being bossy? Is Jesus extending an invitation or is he making a command? If you hear this primarily as a command there's slim chance that you will find it enjoyable. Church will be just another one of those things you have to do.

Please, listen again to Jesus and be assured his words are a kind, gracious, encouraging, love-laced invitation. "Come to me all who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest." (Honestly, who of us isn't burdened with guilt for our sins and weary of sin's consequences?) "Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters . . . come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost." (This is a host whose pantry is well stocked.) "Come and see the place where he lay." (This is seasonal. Miracles happen in Jesus' house all the time.) "'Come now, let us reason together,' says the LORD. 'Though your sins are like scarlet they shall be white as snow.'" (This is also seasonal, sadly. What astonishing news is provided at Jesus' house!) "Come and share in your master's happiness." Jesus has something he wants us to see, to hear, to have, to be blessed by.

Easter approaches and I pray Jesus' house will be full. Oh, what resurrection blessings our LORD has for those who respond to his invitation. We get to see our Savior in all his glory. We get to see the glory that will be ours because of the victory he won for us.

Our LORD's invitation is more than annual, however. It is DAILY. Its very repetition may tempt us to hear it as a command. But it is each and every time the same invitation from our dear Savior. Some of his invitations are extended. His parable of the Great Banquet is one example of this. I invite you to read it in Luke 14:15-24. Jesus told parables so that people could easily identify themselves in the story and make appropriate adjustments. This is a parable worthy of our attention every three to four months. Why? Who we are in this story can change all too quickly and easily. Read it now in March and read it again in July. Jesus wants you to measure what you have been doing with his invitation. If we have been making excuses let's stop. Let's respond eagerly and gladly to Jesus' invitation and come to his house.

I truly look forward to seeing you.

Pastor Roger Knepprath

PAGE 2 The Messenger

"A Multitude of Bible Studies Offered"

Worship and Bible study are perfect partners. That's why we have multiple adult Bible studies on Sunday mornings. We have been enjoying the "Families Under God" Bible class in the Fireside Room and equipping our members to share "God's Great Exchange" in the upstairs classroom. Benny Schroeder leads an Adult Christ Light class that studies the lessons that are being taught in Sunday School. His class meets in the Heritage Room downstairs (the area right next to the elevator). All of our Sunday morning classes run from 9:25-10:15 a.m.

Our Sunday morning Bible studies give us a great start to getting into God's Word. We have other Bible studies during the week. There are a number of Bible studies in homes of members Sunday evenings. Pastor Wong teaches the Communicating Christ Class on Monday evenings from 6:30-8:00. They meet in the Heritage Room. This basic Bible information course is appropriate for life – long Christians as well as someone who doesn't know anything about the Bible and God's love that is centered in our Savior. On Tuesday mornings from 9:15-10:15, Pastor Wong leads a lively class that is studying the nation of Israel. They are currently in the Book of Esther. For the early morning risers, Pastor Knepprath leads the Coffee with Pastor Bible study at the Happy Chef Restaurant on Highway 169. This class meets from 6:30-7:30 a.m. Finally, don't forget the Bible studies that are offered at the Beacon Student Center. On Mondays at 12 and 2, Pastor Knepprath is leading the students in a class on important chapters of the Bible; Vicar Paustian teaches a class called "19 Minutes with the Messiah" at noon on Tuesdays. Mark Probst leads a study on the Gospel of Luke at 11 a.m. and noon on Wednesdays, while Pastor Wong's class is studying the Book of Acts on Thursday afternoons from 4:45-5:30. Don't forget the TWO Cards and the Word classes on Thursday afternoons at 3:00; the men meet in the Heritage Room while the ladies meet in the Fireside Room. Join us for as many of these Bible studies as you are able. Please speak with our ministerial staff if vou have ideas for other Bible classes.

Jesus Cares

Every April, we focus our attention on our Jesus Cares ministry to the developmentally disabled. We thank Pastor Woller for coordinating our program and the many volunteers who give of their time and talents to share God's Word with the developmentally disabled. Jesus Cares meets the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of the month from 9:30 -11 a.m. in the Fireside Room. What a joy God gives to us to minister to all his children!

Upcoming Singing Groups

The following groups are scheduled to participate in our worship services in the month of April:

April 2 Maundy Thursday Treble Choir 6:30 p.m.

April 3 Tre Ore St. Paul's Orchestra, Senior Choir, Treble Choir

April 3 Tenebrae Senior Choir 6:30

April 5 Easter Sunrise Senior Choir 7:00

April 5 Easter Festival Orchestra 9:00 & 10:30

April 26 Treble Choir 8:00 & 10:30

From the Desk of the Church Administrator

The snow that fell shortly after the spring equinox proves to us winter weather is not truly over when one season ends and another begins. Pretty as it was as it gently fell, the moving and shoveling the wet heavy snow made us all wish that winter would finally end and the warmth of spring would finally begin. We had that slight tease of warmer weather, but again we were dragged back into reality with cooler temperatures and frozen precipitation.

Our lives as Christians often follow this same path. There are times our lives go along so smoothly that we don't realize how dangerous our situations are until the Devil and his evil ways fall upon us. The Devil masks his evil ways so as to seem gentle and harmless. But like the wet and heavy snow, the weight of the sin causes us great discomfort and pain, and it is difficult to move and lift it out of the way.

In Matthew 11:27-29, Jesus' response to all of us who daily fall prey to the Devil's pressure is to remind us to come to him for rest. It reads: "All things have been handed over to Me by My Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father; nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and anyone to whom the Son wills to reveal Him. <u>28</u>"Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. <u>29</u>"Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and YOU WILL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS...."

May the Easter Celebration of our Lord Jesus Christ rising from the dead and ascending to his Father's throne give you the comfort and the assurance that one day you, too, will be with all of the heavenly hosts praising the Lord on high.

Fellowship Tour

- Spring Bus Tour to Milwaukee
 - April 24th-April 26th. Itinerary is posted on Activities Board by office.
 - In order to get a medium sized coach bus, we need 18 people to sign up and monies deposited for this tour. Deadline for the deposit has been extended to April 3rd.
 - If we get less than 18 people, we have two options. Rent two 12 passenger vans or pay more for the tour.
 - Former Vicar Allen Kirschbaum and family will be meeting with us and dining with us.
 - New Synod office building, Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, the Northwestern Publishing House and historic churches will be included on the tour.
 - If interested, please contact the Church Administrator

Facility Update

- Painting
 - The Support board and members of our congregation have gathered together to paint the commons hallway by the Fireside Room and the soffit of the Heritage Room. Thank you to all who came together to accomplish this task.
- Restrooms
 - The Support board is gathering the necessary information and prices of what it would cost to replace the fixtures, counters and sinks in the two main restrooms. The fixtures have been causing a lot of grief to those who use them. Repairs have been made, but the problems still exist. The fixtures could be replaced with lower priced equipment but the Support board would rather do the work with the intent of bringing the rooms up to date, but also usable for many years.

From the Desk of the Church Administrator

Parking Lot

• Spoke with Jason Kuester from Ground Zero Paving. The finishing work on the parking lot will be completed in May. As expected, the lot has settled in several areas. These spots will be leveled off before the final coat of asphalt is laid. Once that is done, the parking lot will be lined and striped.

- The principal balance on the parking lot loan is now down to just under \$42,764 and another \$1,300 will be going towards the principal soon. Praise be to the Lord for moving the hearts of our members to accomplish this task in such a short period of time. It would be wonderful if by this time next year the entire principal on the parking lot loan would be paid off.
- Indoor and Outdoor caretaking
 - Once again we are asking for volunteers to step forward to help and assist with the care and watering of our indoor and outdoor plants. Harold and Gloria Linde are continuing to take care of the plants in the entrance way and the office, but really need some people to take over this responsibility. The time is minimal, but the joy and pleasure of seeing these plants and flowers edifying and beautifying the Lord's House are beyond measure. Please consider this and talk with anyone in the church office about volunteering to do this.
 - Our outdoor landscape has been faithfully taken care of each summer by Dean and Karen Willrett. They wish to continue to do this but are also in need of capable people to volunteer their time to tend and care for our landscape. It has taken long time and much work to beautify our property, and maintaining it also takes time and energy. Please consider this and talk with Dean and Karen or the Church Administrator about how you can help. Perhaps you could volunteer to take a section of the outdoor landscape and make it your own area?
 - In the past we have had both an Arbor Day and Arbor Week to get our property ready for the spring and summer. Raking of leaves, pruning bushes and plants, trash pickup plus other important tasks can be hired out, but it would be so much more good stewardship if members of the congregation would come together to finish these tasks. The week of April 6th-10th has been designated as Arbor week here at St. Paul's. Bring your garden tools, gloves, trimmers and energy, and let us prepare our property for the coming summer.

SUCCESSFUL (ad)VENTURE!

The Easter Adventure, held last Saturday, welcomed 90 children and their families into St. Paul's for some activities and the egg hunt. What a blessing to use our church and ourselves to tell others of Christ's love for us! THANK YOU to ALL who helped with this event from church staff to event staff to candy/prize givers to website designer to Jesus Cares egg fillers to....WE ARE BLESSED! Please pray that the Holy Spirit work in the hearts of all who heard the Truth of Jesus.

Vicar's Corner

"April showers bring May flowers." It is that time of the year again, spring is in the air and we wish for some rain to give some color to the brown earth around us. "God has shown kindness by giving you rain from heaven and crops in their seasons; he provides you with plenty of food and fills your hearts with joy." (Acts 14:17) The bright colors of flowers give us joy this Spring, but the empty tomb makes us rejoice. "He is risen!" His resurrection signifies victory given to all mankind and it is our duty to share this glorious news. For when Christ fills your heart with joy, every task of this world becomes so much sweeter because he has provided the one thing needful. Through his sacrifice, he has cultivated us by his Gospel and made us into a beautiful, pure flower. God sees us as one of his own, a chosen and beloved child of God. Let us soak up as much of Christ's truth as we can in devotion and meditation this coming month to grow in Him.

Jesus Loves Me Learning Center

The mission of St. Paul's Learning Center is to provide opportunities for young children (ages 16 months through school age) and their families to learn more of Jesus' love and His plan of salvation, and to guide the child's educational and social development through exploration and discovery in this Christian setting.

In April we will be learning the Bible lessons of Jesus' Resurrection and appearances to his disciples, His Ascension and Pentecost. Some activities that help us learn the lesson are butterfly is various shapes, clouds pictures, coloring and a project to remind us of the work of the Holy Spirit.

Of course we will read books about Easter, spring, flowers, rabbits, rain, weather, and more to give children literature experiences. These experiences help them learn letters, colors, numbers, shapes and helps them be prepared for kindergarten.

We will listen to literature by Leo Lionni and Lois Ehlert, have experiences with the letters V, W and X, practice and even draw a crescent and semi-circle shape and do activities involving the number 9 in April. Our Movement time in the gym will be called Hold It Catch It - a unit with balls. Our Small Group Times will include experiences in painting, role-playing and having fun with language in many ways. Two of our social skills this month will be learning how to invite others to play and join in with play.

You may call 345-7707 or email at <u>lingjlm@hickorytech.net</u> for any ways you might be able to serve your Lord here at JLMLC.

Jesus Loves Me Learning Center is presently taking enrollments for children ages 16 months through preschool age and school age for summer and fall. Space is limited so please call for more information at 507-345-7707.

May God bless all of you in this month of April!

Campus Ministry

Our students, including two individuals who participated in the TCW trip to Carthage, MO, returned from Spring Break refreshed and energized to serve the Lord with the varied ministries offered at the Beacon. We thank the pastors from our local WELS/ELS congregations who are sharing their message of Jesus' suffering on our behalf under the theme of Jesus' "I tell you the truth" statements at our Wednesday evening Vespers services. Having been richly fed with God's Word in this Lenten season, the Beacon students will be serving the Lenten meal at St. Paul's on Maundy Thursday. We ended the month of March with our annual Youth Lockin. We had 90 students from grades 4th-8th from our area WELS/ELS churches and their friends participate in a night of fun, food and fellowship at the Lake Crystal Rec. Center on March 20th-21st. The evening began with swimming followed by pizza. One of the highlights was the basketball tournament. The full night and morning of activities ended with breakfast at the Beacon Center. The Beacon RA, Tara Martinez, students and volunteers from Bethany Lutheran College and MVL did a great job. April is the last full month of activities at the Beacon. Our annual Easter Feast also took place in March. We are in the process of interviewing applicants for the RA position for the 2015-2016 school year. We will elect new officers for the coming year and bid a fond farewell to our graduating seniors on Wednesday, May 6th, for our annual cookout and farewell to our seniors.

Risen Savior and MVL News

In his letter to the Christians in Ephesus, Paul writes, "It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists and some to be pastors and teachers to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up ..." (Eph. 4:11-12). The Lord of the Church has been very active in providing teachers at our Lutheran elementary school and area Lutheran high school. We thank the Lord that Mrs. Knepprath and Mr. Michael Vlieger, St. Paul's members, have accepted their calls to teach 1st grade and 5-6 grades, respectively. Our principal, Jason Rupnow, has received a Call to be principal and teach 7-8 grades at Zion Lutheran School in Columbus, WI.

Meanwhile, we thank the Lord that Jon Hermanson has accepted the Call to teach choral Music and that Miss Deneal Sperle has accepted her Call to teach English at MVL. Mr. Dave Biedenbender, who teaches social studies and history at MVL, has a Call to teach at Christ the Lord Lutheran School in Missouri City, TX (near Houston). Please keep all of these teachers and their respective schools in your prayers.

Minnesota District Pastors' Conference

This year, Pastors Knepprath and Wong and Vicar Paustian will be attending the Spring Minnesota District Pastors' Conference in New Ulm, MN on April 13th-15th. Your pastoral staff appreciates your support of our continuing education in God's Word so that we may better serve the Lord and you.

Music to Memorialize or Honor

Did you know that you can pay for a choir or orchestra piece – copies for each musician – and the gift can be a memorial or in honor of someone? The cost varies (from around \$25 to as much as \$100 for orchestra). When "your" piece is first played or sung we will print the designation (memorial or honor) in the bulletin. See the directors – Robyn Woods, Senior Choir; Dave Urness, Orchestra; Glenda Bossow, Treble Choir - if you would like to do this or have questions.

Special Encouragement for Tuition Assistance

The month of April is the month in which we make some of our larger payments for Tuition Assistance for our members attending a WELS/ELS grade school, high school, college or seminary. This means that each April (and November) a sizable sum of money is sent to support this program. Tuition Assistance is a great way for our congregation to recognize and support Christian education. We also ask others who see the value of Christian education to support this program as well. Any extra gifts that you might be able to give specifically to this program will help our budget as we make these payments.

Tuition Assistance Forms Deadline Coming Due

Anyone applying for Tuition Assistance grants for the 2015-2016 school year is reminded that applications for grants should be submitted by April 15th. Grants for tuition assistance are available to member families according to St. Paul's policy (currently Jesus Loves Me Learning Center, Minnesota Valley Lutheran High School, Martin Luther College and Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary). Families who have or intend to enroll their child (or children) in Risen Savior Lutheran School need not apply since our congregation is subsidizing a majority of the cost for each member student. If you have not received a form for the next year, please check with the office.

Upcoming Fine Arts Events at BLC

Sunday, March 29th at 2 p.m. in Trinity Chapel - **Composing Art: A Composition & Conducting Recital.** A plethora of musicians will perform newly composed music by senior Annalise Tecken. Selections include a traditional spiritual and a Renaissance echo song. Hear a 29 voice choir, Bethany's very own String Band, a harpist, flautist, pianists, organist, and a percussionist. This recital is free and open to the public with a reception to follow in the YFAC.

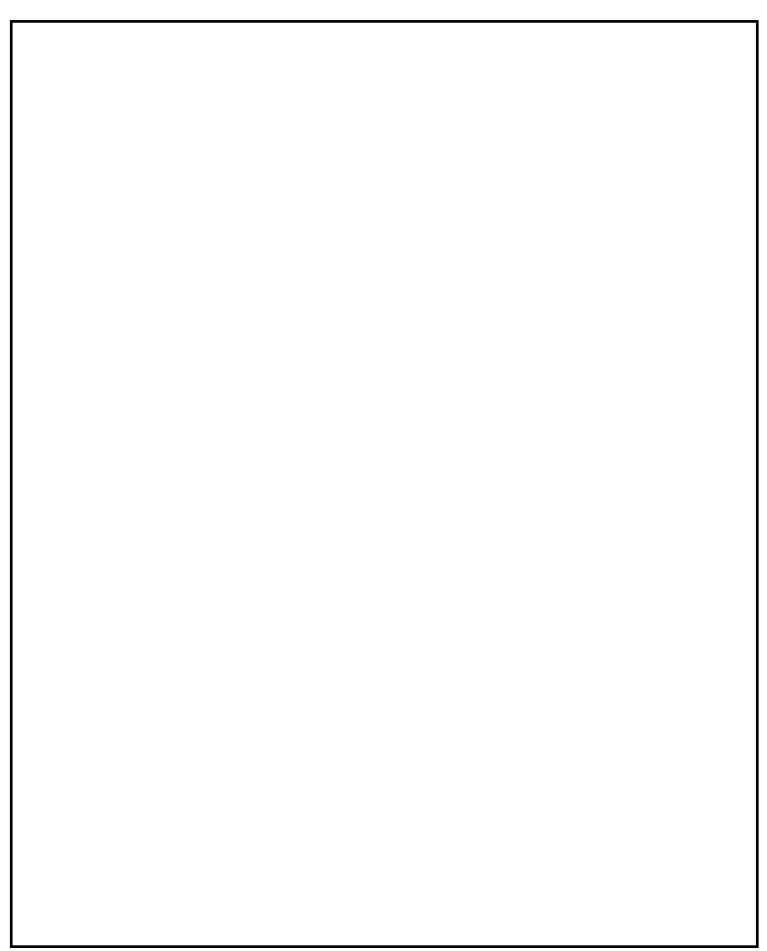
Sunday, March 29th at 7 p.m. in Trinity Chapel - The Minnesota River Valley Wind Ensemble, directed by Dr. Amy K. Roisum-Foley, performs a spring concert entitled **Folk Songs and Dances**. Free!

Thursday, April 9th at 7 p.m. in the YFAC gallery - Four Bethany art majors present their senior show titled **"Less Talk, More Art"**. View graphic and logo designs by Zachary Carlson, photography and graphic design by Megan Grunke, drawings by Andrew Hulke and paintings by Anna Wittig. Reception to follow. Free and open to the public. This exhibit will be on display March 30 - April 14.

Sunday, April 12th at 7 p.m. in Trinity Chapel - The **Bethany Jazz Band** under the direction of Erik Hermanson will perform a spring concert at 7 p.m. in Trinity Chapel. The concert is free, and all are welcome to attend.

Wednesday, April 15th at 7 p.m. in Trinity Chapel - a guest artist concert titled Coming Together - Celebrating Innovative Music by Composers of Our Time, free and open to the public. Coming Together features: Adrian Lo (violin/viola), Johnathan Moeller (electric guitar), Lauren Farquhar (flute), Tom Giles (trumpet), Tom Nuessmeier (trumpet), Dave Schultz (horn), Ryan Shirk (trombone), Sarah Houle (trombone), Julie Sweet (piano) and Ryan Rader (percussion).

The Bethany Theatre Department presents their spring play *Metamorphoses* by Mary Zimmerman, directed by Benji Inniger. Based on Ovid's transformation myths, *Metamorphoses* mixes the ancient stories with contemporary language, humor, and thought, all enacted in and around a large pool of water. Performances are Fridays and Saturdays, April 17, 18, 24, and 25 at 7:30 p.m. with a Sunday matinee at 2 p.m. on April 19. Online ticketing opens March 30 at blockedu/theatre. BLC's box office is open weekdays from 1-5 p.m. starting April 6 at 507-344-7374. Ticket prices are \$10 for adults and \$6 for students and seniors (55+).



April Anniversaries

- 1 Harold and Gloria Linde
- 3 Amanda and Jon Mueller
- 4 Les and Lana Ennis

8 -

9 -

Haley Roberts

Gladys Berlin

Tom Cray

Dot Spartz

Jaxon Strusz

- 5 Bob and Emily Bohlke
- 9 Ben and Sarah Havens

- 14 Aaron and Anne Flatau
- 17 Mike and Kim Bruegger
- 22 Ralph and Elaine Miller
- 28 LeRoy and Cheryl Kiecker
- 29 Trevor and Karen Will

- 1 -**Zavier Hayes** 10 -Lois Reynolds 18 -Jada Becker Gordy Regenscheid 20 -Gary Marti 2 -Chervl Furst Ryan Ellwein Anne Flatau Dwight Yaeger Daryl Timmerman 21 -Dorothy Miller Nicole Thiem Jeremy Birr Ron Anderson Vivian Mueller Darren Nash Phyllis Westendorf Stacie Torigian 3 -11 -Lynn Howley Gabrielle Bowyer Delores Steinberg 4 -Mark Rossow 22 -Joel Luehmann Harold Fritz Sabrina Lehne Lori Krohn Charmain Lueck Dan Clement Emma Bruegger 23 -12 -Mike Becker Braedon Flunker Phil Radel Jena Osterman Wendy Herfendal 24 -Sarah Hopp Chris Hatfield Lvdia Nelson Erich Willrett Knute Kallestad Joni Thiem 13 -25 -5 -Perry Conrad Leona Archerd Lisa Persons 14 -Jeff Hopp Laurie Shult Jacob Kiecker Dave Crabtree Jenni Heins Brandon Laird Mark Fleischer 6 -Marvin Metzler 26 -Joan Matthes 15 -Jacob Thom Erik Nelson Lucas Frederick Katie Ash Malakai Persons Megan Duffee Tim Lendt 27 -Thomas Flunker Margie Pasbrig 7 -Ali Urness Dylan Buhr Georgia Oglesby Gloria Linde Ethan Doering 28 -Paul Lokken Jonathan Mueller Bruce Boerner Matthew Rost 16 -Samuel Hopp Arlawayne Boerner Tony Laird
 - Jonathan Mueller

 16 Samuel Hopp

 17 Lois Palmer

 Kathy Woods

 Dave Lamm

 Crystal Pribyl

 Charlotte Pfingsten

 Bruce Boerner

 Arlawayne Boerner

 Ann Engel

 Jacob Fager

 Brooklyn Gohr

 29 David Haas

 Aaron Persons
 - 30 Debbie Hart

Memorials

In Memory of Martin Nere

Brad & Darlene Nere Russ & LuAnn Nere Kathy & Tim Carlson Julie & Lowell Amundson

In Memory of Maynard Larson

Helga Becker
Mark & Bonnie Shult
Gerald & Sandra Hansen
R. Paul & Phyllis Wilmes
Bruce & Arlawayne Boerner
D. Irene Stoll
Loel & Betty Hermel
Tim & Etta Rossow
Claudia Vosbeck
Merle Weinkauf
Deb Filter
Les & Lana Ennis

In Memory of Dale Ganske

Deb Filter
Bruce & Arlawayne Boerner
Gene & Pinky Buckley
Joel & Denise Luehmann
Loel & Betty Hermel
Tim & Etta Rossow
Roger & Tracy Knepprath
Gerald & Sandra Hansen
Claudia Vosbeck
Doug & Laurie Shult
Dorothy Miller
Bill & Joan Matthes
Les & Lana Ennis

In Memory of Reggie Olson from Dean Lavitshcke

In Memory of Marion Melzer from Bill & Naomi Schimmel

In Memory of Jodi Volk, Grandson's Stepmother, from Carol Warnke

In Memory of Troy Shult from Doug Shult

In Memory of Bernard Westphal from Bill & Naomi Schimmel

Member Changes

Baptism

Noah Paul Neubauer, 3/1/15 Brianna Lee Sullivan, 3/1/15 Carter Jay Sullivan, 3/1/15 Rudy James Smith, 3/2/15

Transfers In

Bethany J. Koshak from Redeemer Lutheran Church, Tomahawk, WI Linda Knudsen from Our Savior, Kasson, MN

Transfers Out

Lois Palmer to Cross of Christ, Coon Rapids, MN Abby Smith & Brecken, Carly, and Cullen to Peace Lutheran, North Mankato, MN

Deaths

Martin Nere, 2/26/15

This Newsletter was made possible by the following contributors:

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Rev. Gary Wong, Associate Pastor: 420-5020
Vicar John Paustian: 262-573-5705
Mr. Mark Probst, Church Administrator: 380-5994

SUNDAY SERVICES: 8:00 & 10:30 A.M. SATURDAY SERVICE: 5:30 P.M.

COMMUNION SERVICES: First and Second Sunday of the month and preceding Saturday Sunday Educational Opportunities:

Adult Bible Class (All Adults) 9:25 – 10:15 A.M. Dial-A-Devotion: 507-345-4939, press 4 Weekday Educational Opportunities:

Coffee with Pastor: Wednesday mornings at 6:30 a.m. at Happy Chef on Hwy 169

"Jesus Loves Me" Learning Center

Monday – Friday: 6:00 A.M. – 6:00 P.M.