

The Messenger

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

March 2015

Pastor's Page

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Special points of interest:

- Jesus Loves Me Learning Center
- Campus Ministry
- Lenten Services
- Vicar's Corner
- LWMS
- Bible Studies

He who believes in me will live, even though he dies.

Lent is a somber season of the church year because it is the approach to Holy Week when God's one and only Son dies suspended from a cross and is buried. Often, like this year, it is also the season members of our congregation die and are buried. I thought this might be a good time to review **what funerals at St. Paul's are all about**. Quotes that follow come from two sources: The Shepherd Under Christ (an NPH publication that served as one of my seminary textbooks) and Sermon Texts (an NPH publication in my personal library).

"Nowhere in Scripture are we told that believers had any kind of religious service in connection with the burial of their dead." Funerals are simply a custom the church practices in its Christian freedom "connecting religious features with the burial of its members. It has done so for the purpose of bringing comfort to the survivors by confessing the hope which we have concerning our dead."

Our hope in the face of death rests solely on the work of Jesus Christ on our behalf. His righteous life and innocent death alone head our souls in the right direction on the other side of death's veil. So a funeral service in its entirety focuses those in attendance on Christ—music, readings, message. "The pastor will tactfully direct the family to selections which give positive expression to the Christian hope and are not just sweetly sentimental." The choice of presenters is not to be for sentimental reasons either. We choose them because of their agreement with us on the Word of God. Then we can be confident of what they say and why they say it. This is a practice of scriptural fellowship.

"The funeral sermon should remind the listeners that the cause of all death is sin. It will proclaim the Savior's pardoning grace. It will herald the comfort which lies in the resurrection of the body and life everlasting." "While it is not amiss to take note of the good example set by the deceased if he was rich in good works, the main thrust of the funeral sermon is not to be a eulogy, but to eulogize the Savior." "There are several main facts to the comfort which the pastor will try to offer: 1. The Lord's purpose in permitting this death to occur when it did and as it did was a purpose of love (Ro. 8:28). 2. Those who die believing in their Savior go to be with their Lord in heaven as soon as the soul leaves the body, and that is far better (Php 1:23). 3. We bury our dead in the hope of a resurrection to everlasting life (1 TH 4:16,17). 4. The Lord will according to his promise be with the bereaved to comfort them, guide them, provide for them, and receive them too into glory at last."

May God bless our ministry to the bereaved.

Pastor Roger Knepprath

Lenten Services

Our mid-week Lenten services began on February 18. This year, we are taking a look at several of Jesus' "I tell you the truth" statements. As we have done for the past several years, we are in a preaching rotation with the pastors of St. Mark, Mt. Olive, and Peace Lutheran Church.

Mid-week service #3, March 4 – *"I tell you the truth ... Faith Can Move Mountains"*

Preacher: Vicar John Paustian

Mid-week service #4, March 11 – *"I tell you the truth ... You will disown me"*

Preacher: Pastor Luke Ulrich, Mt. Olive Lutheran Church (ELS)

Mid-week service #5, March 18 – *"I tell you the truth ... Fruits of faith will be remembered"*

Preacher: Pastor John Petersen, Mt. Olive Lutheran Church (ELS)

Mid-week service #6, March 25 – *"I tell you the truth ... anyone who sins is a slave to sin"*

Preacher: Pastor Timothy Hartwig, Peace Lutheran Church (ELS)

Our Wednesday evening worship schedule is 4:00 and 6:30 p.m. at St. Paul's. There is a 9:00 p.m. service at The Beacon Lutheran Student Center (WELS) on Warren St. The Beacon services are different than the ones at St. Paul. After the 4:00 service at St. Paul's, various groups and organizations host a light meal that is served in the Multi-Purpose Room beginning at 5:00 p.m. Our Lenten suppers are truly a win-win situation. We are blessed with a delicious meal that we don't have to cook while we are supporting the various groups' ministry or activity. The groups serving us this year are:

| | | |
|----------|-----------------|--------------------------------|
| March 4 | Mid-week 3 | Risen Savior Basketball Team |
| March 11 | Mid-week 4 | St. Paul's Softball Team |
| March 18 | Mid-week 5 | |
| March 25 | Mid-week 6 | St. Paul's Youth Group |
| April 2 | Maundy Thursday | Beacon Lutheran Student Center |

We hope that you will make it a point to join us for these special services as we focus on Christ's suffering on our behalf. This is a great way for God's people to grow spiritually as we witness Christ's love for us in a special way. What a great opportunity for you! We'll see you there.

Upcoming Singing Groups

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

March 1: Youth Choir 10:30

March 4: Jesus Loves Me Learning Center 4:00, Senior Choir 6:30

March 15: Treble Choir 8:00 & 10:30

March 18: Jesus Loves Me Learning Center 4:00

March 22: Senior Choir 8:00 & 10:30

March 25: Jesus Loves Me Learning Center 4:00

March 29: Risen Savior Lutheran School 8:00 and 10:30

From the Desk of the Church Administrator

Due to being on vacation, Mark will be back next month with an article for everybody.

“A Multitude of Bible Studies Offered”

Worship and Bible study are perfect partners. That’s why we have three adult Bible studies on Sunday mornings. At the beginning of March, we continue our study of *“Families Under God”* in the Fireside Room, *“God’s Great Exchange”* in the upstairs classroom and the *“Adult Christ Light”* in the Heritage Room.

Our Sunday morning Bible studies give us a great start to getting into God’s Word. We have other Bible studies during the week. On Tuesday mornings, Pastor Wong leads a lively class that is following the triumphs and tragedies of the nation of Israel. They are currently studying **Nehemiah**. They meet in the Fireside Room from 9:15-10:15. 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. They are listed in the Campus Ministry article. Join us for as many of these Bible studies as you are able.

Martin Luther College

Join us on Sunday, March 22nd at 3:00 p.m. at the Martin Luther College Chapel, New Ulm, MN as the Martin Luther College Choir, under the direction of Dr. Kermit Moldenhauer, presents a choral concert titled, For God So Loved the World. The program will include two newly commissioned works on John 3:16, works for choir and congregation, as well as a selection of choral anthems. A free will offering will be gathered to help with choir expenses. Martin Luther College is part of the worker training program of the synod. The college prepares teachers and staff ministers who are ready to accept positions in our congregations and it prepares men to enter the seminary to complete their training to serve as pastors. Come and meet some of our future church workers and enjoy the music they bring with them.

Bethany Lutheran College

Mark your calendar and plan on joining us for this year’s “Women’s Day Out”. Guest speakers will include Tina Kotulski, Jennifer Schwertfeger and Amanda Gerdts who will speak on “Resilience in Hope.” The day will be filled with sessions, activities, and vendors and we will end the day with a new show from “THE LOONEY LUTHERANS”. The day begins at 8am Saturday, March 7 in Trinity Chapel. For more information and registration options visit the Bethany website at: www.blc.edu/womensdayout, contact Carrie Flanagan at 507-344-7314 or email Carrie.Flanagan@blc.edu.

From the Desk of the Church Administrator

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Vicar's Corner

Lent is upon us! Our lives are pretty busy already trying to get everything done, whether it is shoveling snow, finishing taxes, or getting to the last basketball game. But this Lent don't forget our Midweek Lenten services. Lent is a season of confession and repentance, looking at the Passion of Christ and all he did for us. Life gets busy, stressful, and worrisome if we try to hold the burden of sin by our self, so put down the burden of stress and take to the Lord in prayer. Come and see what Jesus did for us and how He alone saved us from our sin and rejoice in the warmth He gives you during these cold winter months. **"Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death--that is, the devil" (Hebrews 2:14)**

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 March we will be learning the Bible lessons of Jesus' Passion history. Some activities that help us learn the lesson are gluing food and coloring on a bread shaped piece of paper, rubbing a palm leaf, snipping a leaf shape, activities about prayer, and decorating a cross shape.

Of course we will read books about spring, rain, weather, and more to give children literature experiences. These experiences help them learn letters, colors, numbers, shapes and keeps their attention.

We will listen to literature by Marcus Pfister, have experiences with the letters S, T and U, practice and even draw a pentagon and hexagon shape and do activities involving the number 8. Our Movement Time in the gym will be called Rowdy Ropes of course with ropes. Our Small Group Times will include experiences in sequencing, relating models and pictures and the real thing, making models, drawing, and painting. One of our social skills this month will be about fair ways to play.

You may call 345-7707 or email at lingjlm@hickorytech.net 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 March!

Campus Ministry

March is another busy month for our students at the Beacon. Every Wednesday in Lent, the students are blessed with a mid-week Lenten service led by one of the pastors from St. Paul's, St. Mark, Mt. Olive, or Peace Lutheran Church. The theme for this year's mid-week Lenten services is Jesus' "I Tell You the Truth" statements that focus on his life, death, and resurrection. The Lenten Vespers services begin at 9:00 p.m. Attendance at our Bible classes remains solid. Pastor Knepprath is continuing with his "19 Minute Important Chapters of the Bible" class on Mondays. We have a Tuesday late morning Bible class at noon. Vicar Paustian is leading the "19 Minutes with the Messiah" Bible class. Mr. Probst continues with his class on the Gospel of Luke on Wednesday while Pastor Wong's class on the Book of Acts takes place at 4:45 on Thursday afternoons prior to the popular Dollar Supper. These classes are strengthening the faith of all who attend and are opening doors to those of different faiths or who might know very little about the Bible or Jesus as their Savior. You are invited to any and all of these Bible classes and to worship at the Beacon Wednesday evenings.

We have two students who will be participating in the WELS Kingdom Workers' Travel Canvass Witness Program. This ministry sends college students to various congregations to help our fellow brothers and sisters spread the gospel. A typical TCW trip involves canvassing neighborhoods, handing out flyers, or helping with a church's VBS or Easter for Kids. The Beacon has had a long tradition of participation in TCW that is truly a win-win situation. This year, our students will help at our sister synod's (ELS) church in Carthage, MO from March 8-15. There will be other opportunities for our students to "make disciples of all nations" in our own community. St. Paul's has already benefited from these ambassadors of Christ, several of whom helped in our efforts to survey lower North Mankato last fall. We pray for God's blessings on all of our students as they go out to spread the love of their Savior.

We are putting the finishing touches for our annual Grade School lock-In. The lock-In is scheduled for March 20-21st at the Lake Crystal Recreation Center. The cost of this overnight fun-filled event is \$25 per student (the same price five years in a row!). There will be a price break for the second and third child from the same family. The lock-In is for all students in grades 4-8. Registration forms will be available in the church office.

Pre-Marriage Workshop

Pastor Wong will lead our spring pre-marriage workshop on Saturday, March 14th. There is no cost for this class which begins at 8:00 a.m. and goes to 12:00 noon. Course material covers God's plan for marriage and family, as well as basics about wedding services conducted at St. Paul's. All couples planning to be married at St. Paul's must attend this course. For more information or to sign up, please call the church office or speak with Pastor Wong.

Church Leaders Workshop

Trinity Lutheran Church in Belle Plaine is hosting the annual Minnesota district Church Leaders Workshop on Saturday, March 7th from 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The keynote speaker is our MN District president, Pastor Charles Degner, from St. Peter. His topic is "Ten Ways Lay People Can Help Their Pastor." There are 5 different workshops from which to choose. Please look at the bulletin board for more details. The registration fee is usually covered by St. Paul's.

LWMS

Lutheran Women's Missionary Society (LWMS) is a group for women dedicated to serving Jesus by increasing awareness of, interest in, and support of the mission of outreach of the Wisconsin Evangelical Synod. An organizational meeting will be held on Monday, March 9th at 7 pm in [the Fireside Room](#) at St. Paul's to restart LWMS participation. More information about LWMS can be found at this website: www.lwms.org

Laurie Esch-Taylor has offered to coordinate getting a group started. If you have questions before attending the meeting about LWMS or are unable to attend but would like to participate, please contact Laurie by phone @ (507) 720-0581 or by email @ laurieet@aol.com.

Gustavus Adolphus College

On Saturday, March 14th, 9:30 am to 1:30 pm, the Sioux Trails Chapter of the American Guild of Organists will host a Pedals, Pipes, and Pizza for young musicians ages 8 – 18. This introduction to the pipe organ features demonstrations and hands-on opportunities, as well as pizza for lunch. Locations include Christ Chapel and First Lutheran Church in St. Peter. Registration, schedule, and other information can be found at www.agosiouxtrails.org. The event is free to all. Additional questions can be directed to Dr. Chad Winterfeldt at cwinterf@gustavus.edu or 507.933.7447

Summer Softball

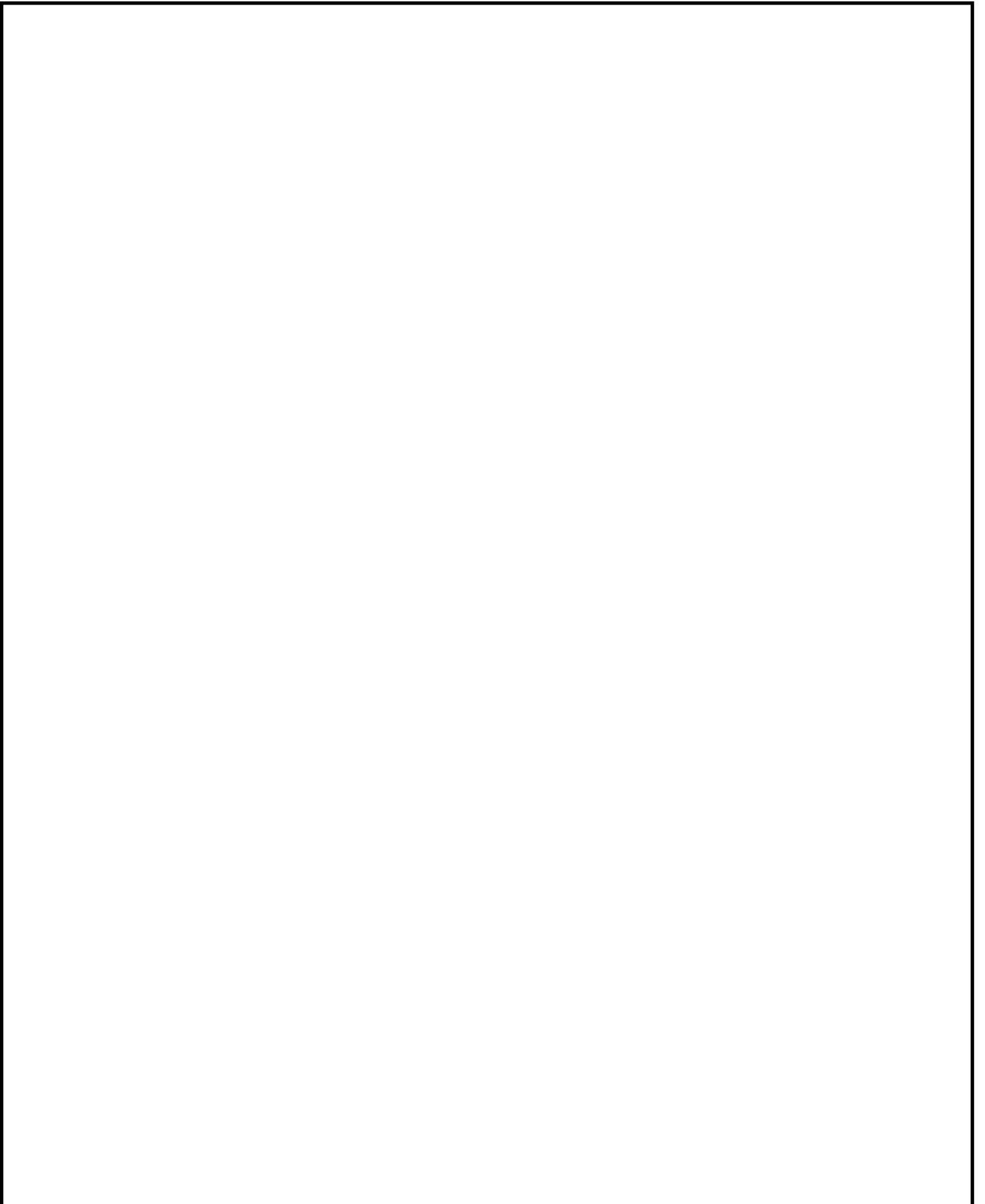
Summer is only a few months away and softball registration is upon us. A sign-up sheet is located on the church activities board outside the office. When signing up please add your name, phone number and indicate the leagues you would like to participate in. Due Dates: Team Registration March 8th and League play starts April 27th. League Dates are listed below: Church-Monday evenings, Women's-Monday evenings and Co-Rec-Tuesday evenings.

You're Invited!

...and so are all families! The **Easter Adventure** is at church on Saturday, March 21st, an event for families with young children. There will be "adventure stations" for kids and parents to visit, snacks to enjoy and the indoor Easter egg hunt! We hope you can come and invite another family you know that may not know the real meaning of the season. **Invitations to use are at the table in the narthex.** If you have any questions, please ask Jenni Heins (507.388.9963).

MLC Volleyball Tournament

The tournament is scheduled for Saturday, March 28th. We have had success in the power division in past years, and are expecting to continue to be competitive. If you are interested in playing and/or putting together a team, there will be two divisions – recreational and power. Our church is allowed two or more teams. For more information, please call Barb Becker at 625-7435.



March Anniversaries

- | | |
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| 2 - Marty and MaryLou Rost 5 - Orlo and Pat Steffen 6 - Dusty and Elizabeth Julius | 11 - Arnie and LaDonna Schroeder Ryan and Hannah Rosin 19 - Miles and Becky Smayling 22 - LeRoy and Charmain Lueck |
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March Birthdays

- | | | |
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| 1 - Marcella Black Lee Jeffers Amy Louwagie Cody Rademaker Addison Landsom Trista Landsom 2 - Elaine Edwards Ben Stein 3 - Doreen Ulrich Wath Yak Ethan Kiecker 4 - Shirley Wilking Logan Franzmann 5 - Dale Arndt Scott Ruether 6 - Bill Becker Jennifer Strusz 7 - Warren Wilking Perry Madden Christian Lindmeier Adonis Oakland 8 - Barb Oliver Mimi Lamm Stacy Doering Greg Kasten Casen Pribyl 9 - Emma Fager Garrison Timmerman 10 - Sylvia Pettis Kelsie Seykora 11 - Roger Woller Skilene Gimmer | 12 - Trudi Anderson Mark Probst 13 - Renee Oakland Deb Pelzl Shaun Thom Kailyn Embacher 14 - Joel Lokken Diane Roman Brenden Fahey 15 - Craig Peterson Nate Risto 16 - Ethel Haugly Patti Jarveis Justin Shult Greg Regenscheid Gabriel Sprague 17 - Pat Steffen Orlo Steffen Gary Kratzke Pat Baumann Mike Zea Teagan Wendland Ryker Paulsen 18 - Amy Hanson Sarah Lazar Hudson Marks 19 - Rhonda Tolzmann Lisa Hayes Liana Michels 20 - Marion Lichtenberg Ralph Miller 21 - Sondra Szallar Larry Wiese Karie Jensen | 21 - Nick Olver Jessica Sikel 22 - Tim Rossow Meghan Bach Brittany Crock 23 - Diane Prom Nate Doering Zachary Larson 24 - David Maakestad Craig Landsom 25 - Glenna Loe Don Strusz Mike Hatfield 26 - Eric Hopp Mike Knepprath 27 - Jennifer Thompson Brandon Braam Andrew Torvick Gideon Heins 28 - Martin Nere Detlef Harnitz Jeneine Michels Tanner Stolt 29 - Jim Wilbur Denise Luehmann Kira Neeb 30 - Leonore Schlueter Jen Selvey Keegan Jeffers Matt Bruegger 31 - Kathy Fehlandt Zuri Hayes |
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Memorials

Carole Warnke in memory of her cousin,
Raymond Montgomery

Dale Thompson, Bernie Thompson's father,
Memorials

Kathy Duffee and girls
Bill and Naomi Schimmel

In memory of Manley Bratsch, Aaron Flatau's
grandfather

Maynard Larson Memorials
Dean Lavitschke
Joel Luehmann

Dale Ganske Memorials
Dean Lavitschke
Eunie Owens
John Dillon

Member Changes

Baptism

Eleanor Nicole Paustian, 2/1/15

Transfers Out

Erin Lau to Messiah in Wichita, KS

Deaths

Maynard Larson, 2/11/15

Dale Ganske, 2/15/15

Reggie Olson, 2/21/15

Aaron Furst, 2/24/15

Booster Club Auction

The MVL Booster Club Auction will take place Sunday, March 22. Doors open at 11:00. Grab some lunch, register and get a bidding number, check out the live auction items, bid on the Silent Auction items, and prepare yourself for an afternoon of MVL Auction fun!! Mages auctioneers are here again! And as always . . . A few surprises!

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.