

The Messenger

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

May 2015

Pastor's Page

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Special points of interest:

- Jesus Loves Me Learning Center
- Campus Ministry
- Upcoming Singing Groups
- Vicar's Corner
- Thursday Night Services
- Bible Studies

“April Showers . . .

. . . bring May flowers.” You knew how that ended. Have you ever wondered why this phrase was coined? Was it, perhaps, to help people put up with a bunch of rain in April? April might be a dreary month, but without it May would not be near as bright.

Have you ever heard this phrase and thought, “True, but I thank God it doesn’t just rain in April?” I’ve lived in enough rural communities to know crops kicked off by April rains end up stunted or fruitless without consistent rains May through September.

I love Isaiah 55. You know this if I’ve officiated at a funeral for your family. The prophet compares, “As the rain comes down . . . so is my Word.” While we can’t control how often or when it rains from the sky, we can control how often God’s Word showers us with grace and peace through Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection.

When are your April showers? How often do you drench yourself with God’s Word? Do you plan so that you are rained on consistently throughout the entire year? Do you look for the blossoms in your day to day life that will result? If you see your blossoms wilting, or you see less and less blossoms, you know it’s time for a good watering. Come to worship. Come to Bible study. Schedule some one-on-one time with your pastor.

We have five young Christians who have been rained on very consistently for the last four years. They include Anastasia Harnitz, Brady Hopp, Franklin Selvey, Amanda Seykora, and Nicole Thiem. I have truly been blessed watching them blossom and bloom this past year in my classroom. You will get to meet them in person on May 3rd at the 10:30 service as they make their public confession and join us as communicant members of St. Paul’s. I encourage you to congratulate them heartily. Keep an eye on this group of Confirmands. When you see them bear fruit rejoice over them and with them. We want them to know the value of remaining well watered with the Word.

Pastor Roger Knepprath

Risen Savior News

The Lord has blessed Risen Savior with continued growth. The students are growing in their faith as every subject is taught in the light of God's Word. The school is also growing in terms of the number of families who are sending their children to our school. As of this writing, the projected enrollment is 94 students. The students, faculty and staff have been blessed with two years in our new facility. We will have an opportunity to praise the Lord for our ministry to his precious lambs at our Risen Savior Sunday service at Sibley Park. Risen Savior is blessed with a dedicated and faithful faculty that includes Principal Rupnow, Mrs. Polzin, Mrs. Flunker, Mrs. Knepprath, and Mrs. Dressel. We thank Mrs. Polzin for her years of faithful service and wish her God's blessings as she leaves Risen Savior. We welcome Mr. Galen Holzhueter (a 2014 MLC graduate and St. Mark member) as our 3-4 grade teacher. Mr. Holzhueter will be here for 3 years as part of our synod's Principal Apprentice Program. We also welcome Mr. Michael Vlieger (St. Paul's member) as our 5-6 grade teacher and technology coordinator. We look forward to the next school year with confidence from our Lord who encourages us, "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these" (Matt. 19:14). Please keep our faculty, the students and their families, and Risen Savior School in your prayers.

Thursday Services Start Memorial Day Weekend

Our Thursday night worship services begin on Thursday, May 21st and will be held throughout the summer until Labor Day weekend. As usual, the Thursday evening services begin at 6:30 p.m. All services will be held in the sanctuary.

Confirmation

On May 3rd five of our youth will make their promises to the Lord at their Confirmation. We will receive into membership Anastasia Harnitz, Brady Hopp, Franklin Selvey, Amanda Seykora, and Nicole Thiem. Please welcome and pray for these young people as they have reached another milestone in their journey with Jesus.

Ascension Service

We will celebrate the Ascension of our Lord on Wednesday, **May 13th**. Our evening worship begins at 6:30 p.m. It will be a great opportunity to worship our Lord and to sing praises to our glorious King. Please join us for this special service to worship that includes many musical groups.

Upcoming Singing Groups

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

May 3	Senior Choir/Confirmands
May 10	Youth Choir 10:30
May 13	Ascension 6:30 p.m. Orchestra, Risen Savior, Sunday School, Senior Choir and Treble Choir

From the Desk of the Church Administrator

Today, writing the article for the May Messenger is sharing time with Bible study preparation for this week at the Beacon Campus Center and for Cards and the Word. In addition to that, preparation for the Vespers service at the Beacon on Wednesday evening is also on my mind.

Often I am asked what my work day is like. The best answer I can give is that it varies from day to day. Having been a teacher most of my career, I generally follow a schedule or "lesson plan" for the week. I write on a pad of paper all of the items that need to be done during the week, with room for adjustments as needed. There are items that come up that throw things off. But as in all types of work, if it's something that needs to be done, allowances must be made for it. At the end of the week, if all of the items on the lesson plan are crossed off, I take the time to thank God for giving me the patience, endurance and capabilities to finish it. If some things are left on the list, again, it is the time to thank the Lord for giving me the fortitude to do what he had planned for me to do for the given week. Then, if it is his will for me, they will be done the following week.

Our office staff is so very good at recognizing that the called workers here at St. Paul's have many different challenges. We very much appreciate their assistance in getting St. Paul's work finished! We are so blessed here at St. Paul's to have such a dedicated staff of workers, not only in the administrative office, but also in our custodial crew as well. Recently, a visitor to our church remarked how well our team works together. They said that everyone was so pleasant and worked together like a well oiled machine.

All of us here are pleased and happy to work for the Lord and to do the tasks he has laid out before us. There are times, situations or challenges that can place a road block or stumbling block in our way. When we see one of our Lord's workers, whether he or she is a part of the called staff, hired staff, volunteers or regular member, who is troubled or under a heavy burden, it is our duty to follow the scripture of 1 Thessalonians 5:11. "Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing." Encouragement to build each other up is so very much a part of our ministry. Giving that person a shoulder to lean on or a shoulder to help carry the burden is so much appreciated. Our encouragement gives that person the incentive and the assurance, so when someone else needs this same, they, too, will follow your lead.

Blessings to all as we build a stronger congregation through the words of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Fellowship Opportunities

Mark your calendars for September 11, 12 and 13th. The St. Paul's Book Retreat will be held again this year at the Heartwood Center near Trego, WI. This is the former Schwan Center where we have had similar retreats in the past. Information regarding this retreat will be forthcoming and a signup sheet will be posted outside of the Administrative Office.

There is interest in doing one day bus trips this summer. We have connections with a local firm that has smaller coach-type buses that would provide comfortable riding accommodations. If you have suggestions as to some places that we could visit, please contact the office staff.

Do you enjoy going to Moon Dog games at "the Frank" (Franklin Rogers Park)? Once again, the Moondogs are offering Faith Nights at the Frank to members of area churches, with reduced ticket prices. The dates of this year's Faith Nights are June 21st and July 12th. If anyone would like to coordinate this activity, please contact Kenny Larson from the Family Nurture Board.

See next page..

From the Desk of the Church Administrator

Improvements to the Fellowship Activities Bulletin Board outside of the Administrative office are in the process of being made. This board is our way of promoting or advertising various upcoming events. As you walk through the Commons hallway, stop by this board to check out what is coming up or information about future events.

Facility update

The final layer of asphalt will be laid on the parking lot the first week of May. Once that is completed, the lines will be painted to mark the parking spaces. As expected, there was some settling of the base to the parking lot over the winter months. Ground Zero will be coming to level these areas prior to the final paving. The response of our members towards the reduction of the loan for this project has been excellent. The remaining balance of the loan is just over \$33,000, which is the equivalent of 33 parking spots. Please keep this in your thoughts and prayers. The monthly payment to pay off this loan is \$550, which goes for interest and principal. The sooner we pay down or pay off the principal owed, the sooner we will no longer have to make this monthly installment.

Summer facility projects will be limited this year to primarily the Commons area restrooms and possibly the windows in the upstairs classrooms. Until the loan for the parking lot is satisfied, extra funds for these projects is not available. It is the Support Board's intention of replacing the sinks, countertops and toilets in the restrooms. The windows in the second story classrooms are in poor shape. The sills have rotted out and replacing them is the only option. To complete these two projects is estimated to cost between \$20,000 and \$25,000. Funds for these projects are not available, so work will be done as monies are available.

As in past years, the floors and carpets in the JLMLC will be cleaned the first week of July when the center is closed. Carpeting in other areas of the facility will be done as well, as needed, in the remainder of the facility.

Feed My Lambs

Scrap for Cash is starting up once again this summer. The dates to drop off your unwanted or spare scrap are May 10th, June 14th, July 12th and August 9th. Remember we are unable to accept tires, refrigerators, freezers, mattresses and box springs. If you have something that you would like us to pick up, please contact the church office and arrangements will be made with you. Over the past four years, this program has raised over \$12,000.

4 F Funds

If you have not taken advantage of the ways you can help the future ministry of St. Paul's grow through the various endowment and trust funds, please pick up one of the flyers that identifies these opportunities. There are envelopes on the welcome center in the narthex along with the flyers for you to use. If you have questions regarding these funds, please contact Tim Oakland, Steve Persons, Art Zuhlsdorf or Mark Probst.

Vicar's Corner

The busyness of Lent and Easter has come and gone in a flash. And now we look forward to the relaxation of summer, sitting on porches, grilling out, and playing outside. But just because summer is getting closer and the days are growing warmer, doesn't mean we forget about that great Easter message. The spectacular truth that our crucified Savior is alive, He is Risen. Christ has power over Death and the Devil and he loves us! His perfect love drives out all fear from our lives because we have the confident assurance of a home in Heaven. So as we begin to enjoy the warm weather, take out your Bible to read on the deck. Have a nice family picnic and finish the meal by gathering around God's Word. And as the Spirit moves you, go and tell the Gospel truth! He is Risen!

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.

JLMLC is currently having a fundraiser. Here is the link to go to order and see information about our fundraiser. <https://www.schwans-cares.com/c/20219> "JLMLC Schwan's Fundraiser" is what our fundraiser is called and it is very easy to follow instructions there. We get 20% of sales for the next 30 days and \$10.00 of every \$25.00 gift card bought (1 per customer). The money raised will be used for educational purposes to enhance our ministry for children ages 16 months-school-age.

May 18th-21st – JLMLC will be running the Brat and Hot Dog stand outside of Cub on Madison Avenue – we will need approximately 25 people to do this in shifts of at least 2 people for about 3 hours each. We invite YOU to consider helping with this event. The potential is there to raise about \$1000 for educational purposes here at JLMLC. It will give us a chance to share with people what our center is all about.

In May we will be learning the Bible lessons of Philip Tells a Man about Jesus, Peter Heals a Crippled Man, Paul's Conversion and Jesus Blesses the Children. Some activities/projects that help us learn these lessons are a Bible, story book and a blessings picture.

Literature by Frank Ash and James Marshall, letters Y and Z, octagon shape and the number ten will finish out our school year curriculum. Summer VBS curriculum will soon be upon us.

Our Movement time in the gym will be called Silly Scarves. Our Small Group Times will include experiences in various ways of writing. Our social skills this month will be problem solving, thinking of solutions and speaking up assertively.

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 May!

Campus Ministry

May marks the end of another school year. Our final event will be our cook out and Senior Farewell on Wednesday, May 6th. The food and fun start at 5:30. Graduation will be on Saturday, May 9th. We congratulate Stephen Schamber upon his successful completion of his studies and pray for God to richly bless him in his post graduate pursuits. Our Student Center will be officially closed after May 9th. We thank Tara Martinez for her faithful work as our RA. Because of her many responsibilities, Tara will not be returning. Our new RA is Jesse Lindloff, a junior at MSU. We thank Stephen Schamber, Katie Smayling and Joy Fastenau for serving as our student officers this year. We have some wonderful students who already have and will be stepping forward to take on leadership roles and to help carry out the ministry at the Student Center.

The ministry at the Beacon shifts gears in the summer months. Since MSU has limited our access to incoming freshmen at the summer orientation fairs this year, we will be more creative in reaching out to those incoming students. I have already met with the seniors at MVL to promote campus ministry and invite those who are planning to attend MSU-Mankato, Bethany, Rasmussen, and South Central Community College to attend the Beacon. We will also offer the Beacon parking lot for the Vikings Training Camp. The money we receive from parking helps fund the ministry. Last year was a record breaker, both in terms of number of cars parked (and therefore revenue) and in the number of volunteers.

Pastors Knepprath and Wong will be attending a conference for campus pastors in Peewaukee, WI on May 18th and 19th. The main topic will focus on how we can minister to Millennials.

Graduation

We will honor our students graduating from our area high schools, colleges, and graduate schools at our services on Memorial Day weekend (May 21, 23, and 24). We would like to recognize any member who has graduated from high school or college, received an advanced degree or completed a program. Please give that information to the office or Pastor Wong.

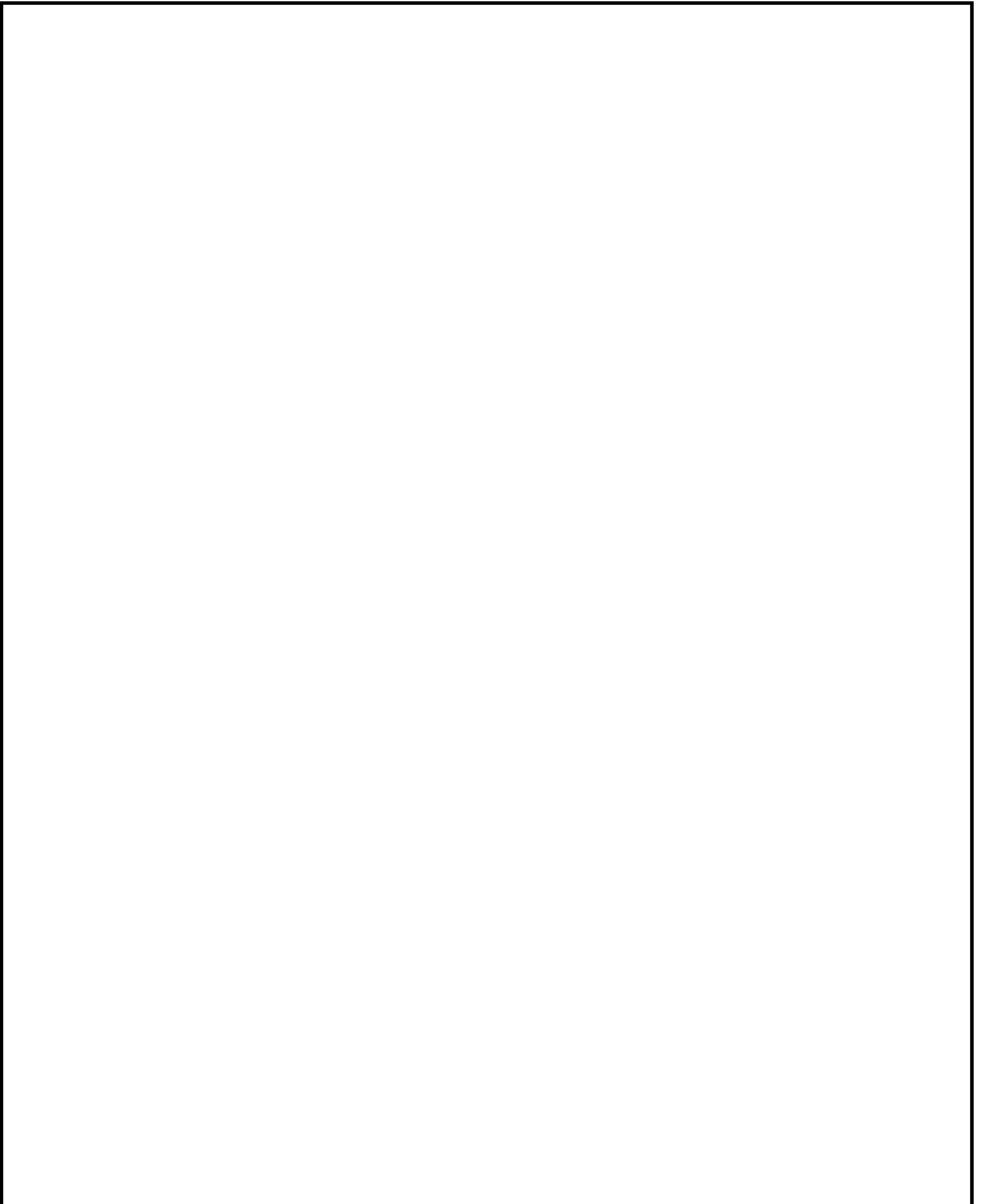
Call Day

May 21st is Call Day at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary. Why is that important to St. Paul's? That is the day we find out where, God willing, our former vicar, Allen Kirschbaum will be serving; it's also the day we find out if we will be assigned a vicar for 2015-2016. Our synod's vicar program has been a great blessing to us and to the young men who are training to be our future pastors. Please pray for these men and for St. Paul's and our ministry.

Annual Meeting Coming Quickly

Please mark your calendars already that the annual meeting is scheduled for June 23rd at 6:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room. All members are invited to attend this meeting. Open Forums will be held after the services the weekend before (June 11, 13, 14). Please make time to join us for this important meeting. We will be voting on some important issues regarding the ministry that is being carried out at St. Paul's and approving a budget for the '15-'16 fiscal year.





May Anniversaries

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| 3 - Marvin and Judith Metzler
Larry and Glema Wiese
4 - Corey and Shelley Freyberg
6 - Randy and Pat Ruether
7 - Chelsey and Barry Mawby
8 - Sid and Betty Spangenberg
10 - Bruce and Arlawayne Boerner
David and Cindy Haas
12 - Art and Nadine Zuhlsdorf
13 - Rich and Colleen Havens
14 - Merle and Carol Weinkauff
17 - Brian and Amber Baumann | 19 - Steve and Lisa Meyer
Don and Julie Strusz
20 - Tim and Jenn Lendt
Jon and Amanda Moeller
Tim and Crystal Pribyl
21 - Stan and Linda Stelter
22 - Greg and Callie Olson
Eric and Becky Hopp
23 - Thomas and Valerie Adams
27 - Bernie and Sue Thompson
30 - Ryan and Kristi Ellwein |
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May Birthdays

- | | | |
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| 1 - Shawn Olson
Kathy Prom
Amanda Randolph
Liza Hrabý
Matthew Thompson
Tristian Marks
Levi Freyberg
2 - Joyce Oachs
Randy Ruether
3 - Bill Ulrich
Art Zuhlsdorf
Jordan Smith
Domanic Wolle
Madison Wolle
4 - Laura Bowyer
Cory Cray
5 - Jane Cray
Matt Wong
6 - Jo Lavitschke
Mary Jo Starkson
Michelle Dressel
Jon Osterman
7 - Wyman Engel
Anna Terhune
Rylan Dressel
8 - Ardy Steinhaus
Darlene Archerd
9 - Nancy Rittenhouse
Courtney Oliver
Andi Knepprath | 10 - Carol Eckert
Trevor Will
John Warrant
Jacob Bruegger
11 - Lyndsey Stewart
12 - Reeanna Hassan
Chloe Marks
13 - Joe Schroeder
Evan Embacher
14 - Dave Kimble
Gary Wong
Rebecca Liggett
Katie Anderson
Kim Adams
15 - Justine Willrett
Owen Knepprath
Harrison Smith
Henry Smith
16 - Lila Larson
17 - Teresa Langworthy
Shanna Thompson
18 - Larry Steinhaus
Barb Hartwig
Leo Zuehlke
Katelyn Flatau
19 - Madison Urness
Mara Hartung
20 - Jim Johnson
Michael Abraham
Bethany Gangelhoff | 21 - Loel Hermel
23 - Katie Smayling
Emily Luehmann
24 - Rob Duffee
Sue Thompson
Jillian Dressel
25 - Bryan Rittenhouse
Thomas Ferris
26 - Barb Becker
Amy Adams
Cole Dressel
27 - Shirley Warrant
Wanda Ganske
Paul Prahł
Linda Stelter
Dave Von Berge
Isaiah Heins
James Osterman
28 - Donna Davis
Norm Ribbe
Beth Kasten
Ruby Marble
29 - Barb Rosin
Jenny Jandro
31 - Lois Schroeder
Joan Hurry
Dean Lavitschke
Nate Prust |
|--|--|---|

Memorials

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Schimmel in memory of
Clarence Becker

Doug Shult in memory of Troy Shult

George and Gerry Meyer in memory of
Dale Ganske

These are a few of my favorite hymns...

Many of us have our favorite hymns. Our synod is giving us a wonderful opportunity to give our input to the committee that will produce our next hymnal. You can do that by participating in the **Hymnal member survey** that is found on our synod's website: www.wels.net. The survey is in the bottom right corner of the home page. For those who do not have access to the internet, printed surveys are available in the office. Please return those to the office.

Member Changes

Baptisms

Colton James Bescheinen, 3/28/15
Iver William Oleson, 4/19/15

Transfers In

Anna Schroeder

Prof. of Faith

Jacob Finke

Transfers Out

Timothy Ibisch to Shepherd of the Lakes,
Fairmont, MN
Hannah Taylor to St. John's, Sleepy Eye, MN

Adult Confirmation

David Alan Kreuzer, 3/28/15
Jessica Klitzke, 3/28/15

Deaths

Ethel Haugly, 4/8/15
Phyllis Dumke, 4/20/15

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.