

Feb.—April 2016

The Messenger

*The newsletter of First Saint Paul's
Evangelical Lutheran Church*



2016 Lenten Caring and Sharing

Lutherans around the world and in our own community are responding to human needs resulting from poverty, disease, natural disasters, war and religious persecution. Five ministries provide an opportunity to support people in need and the work of our church through special Lenten offerings.

Lutheran World Relief works with local partners to provide lasting solutions to poverty, injustice and human suffering. LWR improves the lives of millions of small-scale farmers and their families, helping them adapt to and mitigate the effects of weather and environmental conditions. LWR helps communities cope with and recover from emergencies in ways that promote lasting improvements in people's living conditions. LWR is currently working in 35 countries. www.lwr.org/

Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service is one of nine national organizations that resettle refugees on behalf of the U.S. government. In partnership with local organizations and congregations, LIRS strives to create welcoming communities to receive refugees. Syrian refugees, who cannot return home, are among those being assisted. More than 50% of the population of Syria has been displaced from their homes – by bombardment, civil war, and the growing threat of ISIS. Of the more than 4 million registered Syrian refugees, 76% are women and children. (Source: UNHCR, as of 10/4/2015) <http://lirs.org/our-work/>

Regenerations, a program of Lutheran Child and Family Services of Illinois, is an important element of their foster care services. Regenerations helps youth, usually ranging in age from 14-20, who are in the custody of the Department of Children and Family Services and involved in the juvenile justice system. The ultimate goal is to reduce recidivism through intensive wraparound services, including advocacy, education, therapy and vocational training, which help these youths make changes in their lives. www.lcfs.org/regenerations/

Foot Clinic at First Saint Paul's provides healthcare at no charge to homeless and other low-income residents in our neighborhood. The life conditions of these patients often lead to problems that require podiatric medical care. The clinic operates on the second Saturday of each month and is staffed by Dr. Charlotte Covello, a member of our congregation, and her associates. Gifts to fund the Foot Clinic provide supplies for the generous volunteer doctors. Donations of new, white socks for foot clinic patients are always welcome.

Voice of Hope Behind the Wall reaches out to prisoners at Stateville Correctional Center in Joliet. Deaconess Lori Wilbert, who has ministered at Stateville for nearly 30 years, relies on support from individuals and Lutheran congregations. "Many of our discussions focus on finding God in the midst of all that the men have experienced in life as well as understanding God's love in light of who they are and what they have done," Wilbert has said. In addition to Bible studies, group classes work with inmates on issues such as anger management, parenting while in prison, addiction, and restorative justice.

The Messenger

FIRST SAINT PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

*First Saint Paul's,
established in 1846, is the oldest
Lutheran Church in Chicago.
The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
was founded when historic meetings
were held here in 1847.*

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SERVICES OF WORSHIP

Sundays

9:30AM

Wednesday Spoken Eucharist

7AM

HOLY COMMUNION

Celebrated every
Sunday morning

ELECTED CHURCH OFFICERS

* Voting member of Church Council

Chairman*

Howard Ansoorge

Vice Chairman*

Mark Knoblauch

Secretary

Christine Lutze

Assistant Secretary

Arlene Dahm

Treasurer*

Bryan Scheider

Assistant Treasurer

Barbara Webb

Financial Secretary

Jan Seefeldt

Assistant Financial Secretary

Peggy Cassidy

Membership Secretary

Gretchen Randall

Assistant Membership Secretary

Mary Langman

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Board of Elders

Lisa Beavers

Doug Harkness

Dan Hendricksen

David Rogner, Chair*

Jill Stemmerman

Gene Svebakken

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Christine DeVries

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Todd Webb

Chair, Board of Stewardship*

Amy Hendricksen

Chair, Board of Evangelism & Outreach*

Tom Randall

Board of Worship & Music

Margaret Danilovich

Darlene Fahrenkrog

Todd Hains

Sandy Lawrence

Jody Lucey

Jen Masengarb

Gavin Morgan, Chair*

Steven Wente

Board of Deacons

Buff Bethlen, Chair*

Carrie Foreman

Diane Holland

Barbara Hart

Karla Lewis

John Mason

Taiwo Ogunyankin

Nominating Committee

Peter Chan

Mike Danilovich

Wally Heintzen

Jen Masengarb

Susan Rosborough

COMMITTEE/GROUPS

CHAIRS/CONTACTS

Altar Guild

Sandy Lawrence

Communion Assistant Coordinator

Jody Lucey

Community Meals

Lisa Richards

Sandy Wilborn

Concordia Cemetery

John Stodden

Finance

Michael Danilovich

Human Resources Committee

Susan Rosborough

Landscape Committee

Jan Seefeldt

Liturgical Arts

Darlene Fahrenkrog

Lutheran Home

Susan Rosborough

Sunday School

Barb Webb, Superintendent

Wunder's Cemetery

Dan Hendricksen



Kingdom Growth: A Lesson from Bamboo

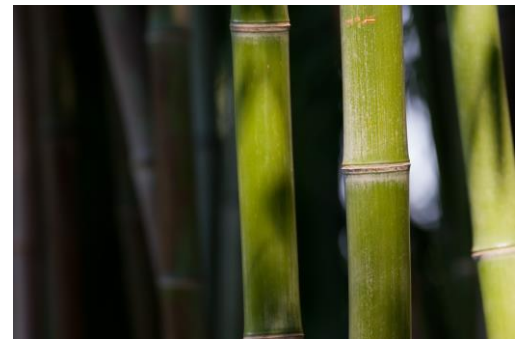


Bamboo and river cane fascinate me. Our home is filled with this invaluable resource. We have many oboe reeds that are skillfully cut from Giant Cane from the Middle East. I have a Persian Ney flute which has been made out of the same material for thousands of years (no, I cannot get a sound out of it). I also have a Cherokee flute made from river cane that is native to the Appalachian Mountains. I also am intrigued by Panda bear in China whose sole diet consists of this woody stalk. But I digress.

Bamboo is the fastest growing plant. Some varieties grow at a rate of 91 centimeters a day--that's almost a yard of growth every 24 hours! But there are times that the bamboo appears to stop growing. Some people get anxious because their bamboo plant looks like it has suddenly failed to thrive. All that is part of the genius of bamboo engineering. It is at these times of stunted growth that the plant is creating nodes. These are the ring-shaped breaks in the shoot that divide it into sections. These nodes give strength and vitality to the plant. Without them, the shoots would sag, drop to the ground, and rot in the moist soil or river.

The Apostle Paul said, "I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth" (1 Cor 3.6). And Jesus says, "The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how" (Mark 4.26,27).

I believe we as a church family are at this node-strengthening point in our growth. We did see significant growth last year in our membership, baptisms, and overall attendance. Now is the time to strengthen the rings of fellowship, the nodes of encouragement, and integrity of our community together. Research by the Carnegie Institute of Technology shows that 85 percent of success is due to skills in "human engineering" or relationship building not mere technical knowledge. As we strengthen our bonds to Christ and to one another, we can move forward with confidence that God will give the growth in his own time.



Lord of the harvest, strengthen us as your people and make us a nurturing community that we may be your servants and a place where you build your Kingdom. To the praise of your glory. Amen.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Johnson

Meet First Saint Paul's New Director of Family Ministry & Outreach: Marlo Schulz



A transplant from Wisconsin, I have lived all over the Midwest. I have family in Wisconsin, Kansas, and Texas. I am the middle of three girls and have the blessings of five nieces and nephews. (Pictured with my youngest sister's children.) Fun facts: Being left-handed is my super power and I have the t-shirt to prove it. My favorite creatures are Golden Guernsey, the "blondes and redheads" of the dairy world (and my grandpa's farms), as well as fuzzy burrows—loveable, stubborn burden carriers who provide me with a gimmick, which is a must for a middle child. I enjoy traveling abroad to visit friends and make new ones. I appreciate an invitation to try new foods and explore the wide array of cultures that continue to amaze and expand my understanding of God's creation.

I earned my B.S. in Interior Design from the University of Wisconsin, Madison and found work in Kansas City at a variety of firms. In 2001, God chose to redirect my life through a series of events that led to serving as interim youth director at Bethany Lutheran Church, Overland Park. After 14 months of service, I returned to school in 2005 to earn certification as a Director of Christian Education from Concordia University in Seward, NE.

I have worked in a variety of Christian programs serving all ages. My first call was to St. Peter Lutheran in St. Joseph, MO. I served as an intern and later a called DCE for 2 ½ years. St. Peter is a multi-generational congregation that cares deeply for the community and its youth. I served with Lutheran Urban Mission Agency in Kansas City, MO at a new coffee house art gallery ministry and oversaw the art gallery. I then volunteered at the Urban Scholastic Center in Kansas City, KS, a ministry dedicated to sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ and making disciples who will become socially responsible Christian leaders. I was brought on staff to as the director of Life Enrichment, an after-school discipleship and leadership development program for fourth and fifth graders. This mentor based program, matched mentors with students for a three day a week program that focused on teamwork, literacy, and broadening student experiences through community enrichment and involvement. I served at the USC for 3 ½ years in which the program grew to over 21 students and 16 mentors. Recent ministry experiences opened doors to international missions supporting English language learning at St. Matthew church and three schools with our sister synod in Hong Kong in 2011-2012. When I returned from Hong Kong, I was hoping that there would be more opportunities to serve in the LCMS, but this was not the case. I served at Our Redeemer in NE Kansas City, MO teaching first communion classes to Liberian students. I then served at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Kansas City, KS helping with youth ministry, confirmation, and other educational programming as needed. I took on three part-time positions, two in ministry and one working as a challenge course facilitator at Timberridge Recreation and Adventure Center. Each of these jobs sustained me during a very difficult transition. Towards the beginning of 2015 I felt the urge for change. I questioned my call to ministry and took a serious look at how I could serve God better by expanding my skills. I applied for an alternative teaching certification program and was accepted and placed in Oklahoma to teach third grade. God allowed trials that would not permit me to continue down this path. Here my passion for full-time ministry was renewed.

Then I received an inquiry email from First Saint Paul. I cannot express the joy and hope I experienced during this entire process. During the call deliberation time, I read a devotional that spoke of hopeful waiting. Dietrich Bonhoeffer said, "for the greatest, most profound, tenderest things in the world, we must wait." I have been waiting, not always patiently or even hopefully."

Cont. on page 5



I know I will not be perfect, but I pray that I will faithfully seek to walk along-side all of you and serve with you as God calls, prepares, and guides us in the ministry He has brought us together to accomplish for His glory. I am so excited to join you and am in awe of God's great provision along the way. I look forward to meeting all of you and learning first-hand the rich history of First Saint Paul's and where you see God directing us to love and serve our community. I can't wait to discover how we can best partner to enhance sustainable family and outreach ministries that connect to the very core and passion of who we are as a family loving God and loving our neighbors.

God's continued blessings as our journey with him continues this side of heaven.

—Marlo Schulz



From the Cantor

During the season of Epiphany, the choir has met for rehearsal on Sunday mornings. Originally planned in part to compensate for typical January weather (from which we were largely spared this year), rehearsals on Sundays also provided the opportunity for singers who are not available otherwise to participate. We are thankful for the positive response of so many, and we hope to build upon this for the future. For Lent, rehearsals will return to the Wednesday pattern, following the mid-week Lenten services.

On Good Friday, March 25, the choir will again present the setting of the chapters of the Gospel of St. John that relate the suffering and death of Our Lord Jesus Christ (chapters 18 and 19). Frequently, this account has been called the passion of Christ. Throughout much of the history of the church, the passion has been sung in a somewhat dramatic way, that is, that different roles were assigned to different singers: the narrator, called the evangelist; Jesus, and other individuals (for example, Peter, Pilate, the crowd). Since at least the Renaissance, it has been customary for the words of a group of people (the Pharisees and the crowd) to be set for choir.

This year the setting for the choir is by the Renaissance composer Tomás Luis de Victoria. Victoria was the most famous composer in 16th century Spain, and ranks with the most important composers of his time. His setting of the passion uses the traditional chant for individuals and sets the words for the choir in simple 4-part style.

The passion is sung during the service on Good Friday evening, and provides a contemplative and meaningful expression of the story of our Lord's crucifixion and death.

On Easter Sunday, hymns and liturgical music will be led by the choir, trumpets, and strings. The familiar "Awake, Thou Wintry Earth" with music by J.S. Bach will be part of the musical offering.

As always, we are thankful for the support of many members and friends for music activities. Support for guest instrumentalists and singers comes solely from members and friends. Should you be able to contribute toward music this spring, please mark your check/envelope for "music," or contribute online.

—Steven Wentte, Cantor

Welcome Laura, New Office Manager for Wunder's Cemetery!



The Board of Wunder's Cemetery is happy to introduce Laura Bowers-Hadley as the new Office Manager at our historic cemetery. This is how we know that God answers prayer!

Laura is originally from the Lakeview neighborhood where Wunder's

is located and is a member at Ebenezer Lutheran Church on Foster Ave. She has worked as a paralegal with several local law offices, and she is currently pursuing a master's degree in Gerontology at Northeastern Illinois University.

These and other experiences make her well suited to the part time tasks at Wunder's and we look forward to working with Laura. She and groundskeeper Bob Wells will make a good working team for the cemetery as we move forward in our 157th year. Welcome, Laura!

Laura began orientation and transitioning with retired Superintendent Valerie Stodden on February 1st. The cemetery office is open regular hours on Mondays and Wednesdays from 9AM to noon. Wunder's Cemetery is located at 3963 N Clark St, and is a 501[c]3 organization; individuals serving on the Board must be voting members of First Saint Paul's and are approved by the Voters Assembly.

—The Wunder's Cemetery Board



Thank you, people of First Saint Paul's, for your faithful giving in 2015!

According to our annual financial statements, we ended the year with revenues exceeding expenses by \$12,100. On January 24th, the Voters Assembly accepted the 2015 annual financial report and approved a budget of \$401,000 to support our ministry in this place during 2016.

This is a budget that will challenge us and stretch us to build for the future. It will require our full commitment and our clear focus on meeting this goal. Be of good cheer! God has placed within our community of faith the capacity to meet this challenge by working together. We begin this adventure prayerfully and with great expectations, led by Pastor Johnson, our Director of Family Ministry and Outreach, Marlo Schulz, and our committed Church Council. Let's get to work!

For those of you who were unable to attend the Voters Assembly, copies of the financial reports are available at the desk in the narthex. Look for regular updates of our giving in the worship folder. Your commitments make possible meaningful worship, strong faith formation, and service to the community. **Again, THANK YOU!**

Amy Hendricksen, Board of Stewardship Chair



Praying Through the Church

BECAUSE WE ARE A CHURCH FAMILY, a community of faith, we have a concern for one another, a concern that is expressed on Sunday mornings, as we pray for members of our church family ‘by name’.

WE PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER remembering the words of St. Paul the Apostle to Timothy, “I urge then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone...” and the promise of our Lord Jesus Christ, “Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.”

WE ALSO ENCOURAGE members and friends of the congregation to make their prayer requests, births, illnesses, deaths, anniversaries, special occasions for intercession or thanksgiving, known to the pastor, preferably before the Sunday morning services, but in cases of emergency, right up to the service time.

THE FOLLOWING FRIENDS & MEMBERS of our church family will be remembered in the services of worship during February, March & April:

February 7: Barbara Hart; Matthew Haugh; Matt Hauman; Eva Haussner; Barbara Haveron; Jennifer Heathcote; Madeleine Heinisch; Wally & Elga Heintzen; Dan & Amy Hendricksen.

February 14: Brian & Jan Hieggelke; Curtis & Estelle Hieggelke; Christa Hoffmeier; John Holland; Dianne Holland; Sammy & Nicholas Holland.

February 21: Keith & Barbara Holm; Rachel Hoyt; Roseann Hubbard; Kelli Hurliman; Anita Ivory; Danita Ivory; Daniela Ivory; Nancy Johnson.

February 28: Brian Jones; Melissa Jordan; Alfred & Helga Kairies; Frank & Pam Kaji; Nancy Kamau & Ed Curran and Jeremy Nyambura.

March 6: Dan & Laura Keller, and Mia; Dan Kendt; Jocelyn King; Michael & Linda Kivi; Mark Knoblauch.

March 13: Cheryl & Don Kobetsky; Diane Kohler; Julia Kohler; William Kolb; Peter Kolch; Rev. Paul & Karren Krause; Kim Krubeck and Lena.

March 20: Vicki Ladage; Dale Lagerholm; Barbara Laken; Mary Langman; Sandy Lawrence; Michael Leonhardt & Karla Lewis; Shannon Letts; Jesse & Virginia Liles-Dudley.

March 27: Jan Loesch; Kayla Lohman; Katie Lohman; Brian & Amy Lovato; Jody Lucey; Lynn Luchtenberg; Sara Luedtke; Juliana Lutz.

April 3: Christine Lutze; Sharon & William Lyon and Katelyn; Kathleen Maas; Laura Madsen-Jolly; Karen Malonis & Ned Dikmen; Bogdan Manolescu.

April 10: Sarah Marcincin and Dan Hartman; Georgianne Marcinkovich; Jennifer & Tim Marler; Ruth Martin; Jacklyn Martin; Jen Masengarb; John & Judy Mason.

April 17: Charlotte McCain; Sara & Brian McCarthy; Ryan McEwen; Sandra McDowell; Rita McGrath; Rory McNeill; Katie Medick; John Menet & Beverly White and Ted.

April 24: Ruth Metsch; Jim Mews; Jane Meyer; Marion Michel; Wayne Miller; Micah & Rachel Miner, Natalya, Lydia, Sebastian and Evelyn.

Official Acts

Baptisms:

12.3.15 *Edward Curran*

12.13.15 *Jeremy Nyambura*
Son of Nancy Kamau

1.10.16 *Louisa Elizabeth Lassiter*
Schubert
Born 10.6.15 to Michael
Schubert & Elizabeth Lassiter

New Members Received: By Transfer

12.20.15 Dwight Deppen
Valerie Green
Hannah Hanke
Alfred & Helga Kairies
Daniel & Laura Keller (Mia)
Michelle Rae
Sarah Sekki
Julie Umnus

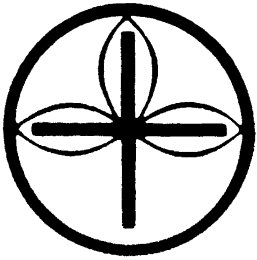
By Affirmation of Faith

12.20.15 Nancy Kamau
Ed Curran
Jeremy Nyambura

Deaths:

12.27.15 Helen J. Petersen
1.2.16 Joy-Helen Goodyear





**FIRST SAINT PAUL'S
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
1301 N LASALLE DRIVE CHICAGO IL 60610**

Nonprofit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
PERMIT No. 5887

HOLY WEEK



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

MAUNDY THURSDAY, March 24

Holy Communion and stripping of the altar
7 PM

GOOD FRIDAY, March 25

Remember Christ's Crucifixion
7 PM

RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD, March 27

Easter Sunday
Festival Holy Communion with choir,
brass & timpani
9:30 AM