

September/October 2016

The Messenger

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

First Saint Paul's invites you to Germany for a day...

Oktoberfest 2016 SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24th 5 – 10 PM



First Saint Paul's annual Oktoberfest is scheduled for Saturday, September 24 from 5PM-10PM. All tickets include the full menu (brats, German potato salad, sauerkraut, and strudel), one non-alcoholic beverage and live entertainment. Tickets are on sale now! Prices are as follows: Adults: \$20; children aged 6-13: \$5; children 5 and under are FREE. **Advance tickets** include a **FREE** glass of wine or beer and a **FREE** non-alcoholic beverage – a \$5 savings! Advance tickets can be purchased in the fellowship hall on Sunday mornings following the 9:30AM service or in the church office Monday–Friday, 8:30AM-12PM.

Tickets can also be purchased online. Simply visit our website, www.fspauls.org, and click the button marked “Donate” in the bottom right corner of the home page. Once purchased, please print your receipt and bring it with you on the night of the event.

We look forward to seeing you at Oktoberfest 2016!

Live Music & Entertainment for children
German brats & beer, potato salad, apple strudel
Silent Auction – Raffle

For more information, call 312.642.7172
or visit www.fspauls.org

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.*

**1301 N. LASALLE DRIVE
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www.fspauls.org**



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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

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Vice Chairman*
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Treasurer*
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John Mason
Taiwo Ogunyankin
Mike Schubert & Liz Lassiter

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Wally Heintzen
Jen Masengarb
Susan Rosborough

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Communion Assistant Coordinator

Jody Lucey

Community Meals

Lisa Richards

Sandy Wilborn

Concordia Cemetery

John Stodden

Human Resources Committee

Susan Rosborough

Landscape Committee

Jan Seefeldt

Liturgical Arts

Darlene Fahrenkrog

Lutheran Home

Susan Rosborough

Sunday School

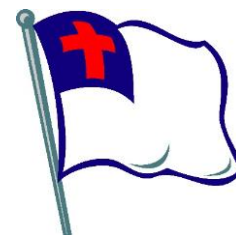
Barb Webb, Superintendent

Wunder's Cemetery

Dan Hendricksen



DUAL CITIZENSHIP



“For the Lord’s sake accept the authority of every human institution, whether of the emperor as supreme, or of governors, as sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to praise those who do right.” —1 Pet 2.13, 14

*“But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.”
—Philippians 3.20*

From the very beginning of his ministry, Jesus teaches two kingdoms. He says to Pontius Pilate, “My Kingdom is not of this world” (John 18.36). The early church had to make a choice to “obey God rather than any human authority” (Acts 5.29). The first Lutheran statement of faith said, “Therefore the power of the Church and the civil power must not be confounded...our teachers discriminate between the duties of both these powers, and command that both be honored and acknowledged as gifts and blessings of God.” (Article 28 of *The Augsburg Confession*).

There is a lot of anxiety right now about the upcoming presidential election. And, judging from social and news media, Christians are not exempt from this anxiety. But we have a rich heritage in Scripture, history, tradition, and identity as God’s people. We do not have to live in the paralysis of fear. We are called to live our lives by faith and in the tension of the truth.

We are first citizens of *God’s Kingdom* where Christ is King. This Kingdom has no beginning or end. Humanity first learned about it when God promised Adam and Eve a son that would bring final justice to death, sin, and evil. This Messiah would come through Abraham and Sarah and be a blessing to all the families of the earth. The Royal Son would come through the tribe of Judah. He would be born in a Roman occupied territory called Israel. We are made citizens by Christ’s life, death, and resurrection. We realize our citizenship by faith and through Holy Baptism. We are indelibly marked on our foreheads with the sign of the Cross. And we are called to live out our lives as royal children—to love God above all things and our neighbor as Christ loved us.

We are also citizens of at least one *earthly kingdom*, country, or commonwealth. Unlike God’s Kingdom, these kingdoms rise and fall. They are all led by imperfect human beings. Some of those in authority are born and/or appointed into privilege and power; others are chosen by voters or other elected officials. When leaders understand their place “under God” and truly serve the greater good, it is something to give thanks to God about. When they are not, it gives us something to pray about just as the Apostle Paul said, “Pray for the emperor (probably cruel Nero) and all who are in authority” (1 Tim 2:2).

And so we move forward as both citizens of God’s Kingdom and citizens of an earthly “kingdom.” Our priority is loving God, then our neighbor, and then finally ourselves. Our neighbor is any other human being—*any* other human being. It is our cross to bear to figure out how to live in the tension of these two kingdoms. It is our duty to pray for our leaders and prospective leaders as we draw near the election season. And it is always our call to be good and godly citizens of *all* the kingdoms to which we belong.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Johnson

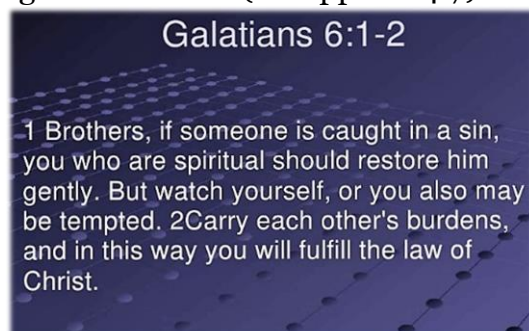
Being a Christian Integrator

By Marlo Schulz,

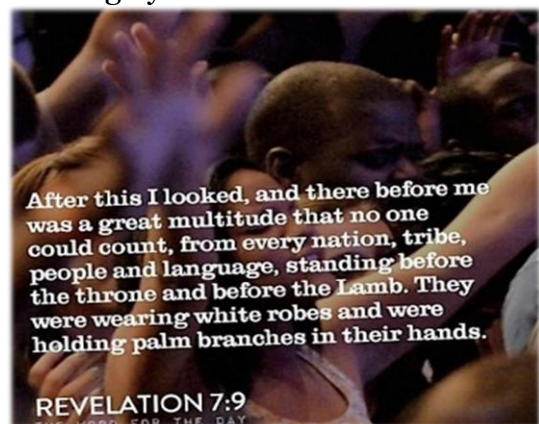
Director of Family Ministry & Outreach

Greetings family and friends of First Saint Paul's! As we gear up for fall, I have a question for you to contemplate: are you a Christian integrator? "A Christian integrator is someone who is working on his or her own integrative journey of faith. Christian integrators will take personal responsibility to thoroughly engage their particular faith traditions and practices in holistic ways that bring about theological and psychological formation...They are embodied and embedded, in that they pray, read Scripture, and serve the needs of the neighbor with other believers in the body of Christ. This is the only way to bring integration from intellectual contemplation into day-to-day living. In this way we will be better equipped to know what we are integrating, with what, and with whom" (Brad Strawn, introductory article of Fuller Institute's Magazine). There is an exciting connection between this definition and our mission statement; "First Saint Paul's is on a mission to proclaim Christ, nurture faith, and serve others!"

Research has shown that daily, personal Bible study is the clearest indicator that a Christian is growing spiritually. Daily Bible reading has the highest correlation to other spiritual disciplines, as well. God's Word is filled with power to transform our lives as God continues to renew our hearts and minds through Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:7).



Our faith journey is both personal and communal. God has called you by name (Isaiah 43:1), He has gifted you, He has created good works for you to carry out (Ephesians 2:10), and He has begun a good work in you that He will carry out to completion (Philippians 1:6). This knowledge blows my mind! Then, God calls us to be part of a family that is both **personal** (My faith family at First Saint Paul) and **universal** (there is only one Church, Christ's bride). Our personal family: I have a place to belong. I have become a disciple within a household; "those who call on the name of Jesus and those who need to find shelter within them." Called to restore one another and share each other's burdens, to celebrate, serve, love, encourage and spur each other on towards the goal God has called us all to, becoming more like Christ. You have a very unique voice and God has joined you to His family for that voice to not only be heard, but to impact the lives of people He will choose to reach through you.



Our universal family: we belong to the Priesthood of all believers from all times and for eternity. This teaching as part of the Lutheran faith tradition is celebrated every time we participate in Eucharist. I once had a friend write about the joy she experienced each Eucharist. It was enough joy that she felt like dancing down the aisle back to her seat. We have brothers and sisters all over the world, too. The beautiful bride of Christ is made up of all believers, past, present and future from every race, people, and place.



As part of my Christian integrator process, God blessed me with an opportunity to serve alongside brothers and sisters in Christ in Hong Kong. The blessings of the relationships formed will last a lifetime and Hong Kong will forever have a place in my heart, as will the countless others God has used to restore, equip, encourage, and celebrate my journey and your journey this side of heaven.

But that's not all! God continues to challenge us to step out in our faith to stretch, refine, and shape us. A recent personal challenge of mine has been learning to move from charity to justice. Jesus didn't stop at healing, forgiving, and restoring people; he was a friend of poor and rich, the outcast, and the untouchable of his time. He built relationships and sought justice to move the scales back into balance (see the book *Subversive Jesus* by Craig Greenfield for more on this idea of moving from charity to justice). Justice is a theme that runs throughout the biblical narrative.

Here is an interesting view on justice from Tim Stafford, a guest writer for the blog, *A Holy Experience*: "Justice begins with the Garden God created. Justice reigns in the garden, because all the good components are in right relationship with each other...That is the world God intended — a world of just relations. When that just world is spoiled by sin, God sets out to restore it. The rest of the Bible is dedicated to telling that story: how God works to set the world right.

"Through Abraham, through the nation of Israel, through David, through Jesus, ultimately through His followers—through us—God is setting the world right. That story finds its final vindication in the Last Days—the vision expressed in Isaiah, in the gospels, in Revelation of a gleaming city. Wars are no more, pain and death are gone, and all ethnicities come together to worship in the light of the Creator God. That is the world of justice realized...we are called to join a loving God who is fighting for us. That's inspiring. That's encouraging. That's something you can build into a joyful life" ("When We All Ache for Justice" *A Holy Experience*). (Check out the new NIV study Bible by Stafford, *God's Justice: the Holy Bible*.)

What is God calling you to as part of your Christian integrator process? What faith stories do you have that reflect the work of God in your life? How can the household of believers at First Saint Paul's encourage, celebrate, restore, and spur one another on to experience the amazing adventure God has invited us to be a part of both individually and collectively, at First Saint Paul's, and to the ends of the earth? With God, no calling is small and nothing is impossible (Luke 1:37).

"We welcome you to be at home among us."

God's continued blessings as our journey together this side of heaven endures,

*-Marlo Schulz
Director of Family Ministry and Outreach*



BUDGET UPDATE

From Howard Ansorge, Congregation Chair

Several years ago, First Saint Paul's adopted the following mission statement:

Proclaiming Christ—Nurturing Faith—Serving Others.

In furtherance of that mission, First Saint Paul's has taken affirmative steps aimed at expanding our ministry and our outreach to the community. These steps have included adding a DCE as Director of Family Ministries and Outreach. The steps we have initiated are bearing fruit, thanks be to God.

The operating budget adopted by First Saint Paul's Voters' Assembly for calendar year 2016 includes estimated expenses of \$401,000. Thus, in order to maintain a balanced budget for the funding of our ministries, we need to receive \$401,000 in donations in 2016. To meet this goal, contributions must average \$7,712 per week throughout the year.

Contributions through the end of July totaled \$204,057, which is 50.9% of the amount budgeted for the year. Thus, at the end of July, we were approximately \$32,000 behind budget. Considering that we were through 60% of the year (31 of 52 weeks) at the end of July, we were approximately 8% behind budget (\$32,000 is 8% of \$401,000). This means that during the last five months of 2016, our contributions need to average about \$9,300 per week to meet our target.

Traditionally, contributions are lower during summer months when many members are away on vacation, but we have met our budget the past few years because contributions picked up as we approached the Christmas season. However, because the budget we adopted for 2016 anticipates significantly higher contributions than recent past years, we need to maintain our focus on the goal we have set for ourselves.

These are exciting times at First Saint Paul's! I see our ministry expanding and witness the growing enthusiasm of our members for participating in the many activities that make First Saint Paul's a vibrant community of believers who want to share their joy in the good news that Christ has redeemed us. So let us take heart and rejoice in our communal effort to support the mission and ministry at First St. Paul's. As our church's namesake Saint Paul wrote in his second letter to the Corinthians (9:6-7): "whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or out of compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."



THREE! TWO! ONE! — COUNTING DOWN TO CONSTRUCTION

Rich Allen reports that a vendor has been identified to repair our sanctuary roof and the Trustees are locking in the final details. An inspection of the clerestory windows has revealed serious rust damage in the steel framework, which must be addressed before working on the roof. The Trustees are fielding bids from engineering firms to perform an analysis and provide recommendations for necessary repairs. The fellowship hall radiator-piping project will begin in the next 3-4 weeks. The budget for all of this work remains \$110,000 as approved at the June Voters' Assembly.

The *Preserving God's House Fund* is one of the sources from which we will finance this work. It has grown from \$47,306 at the end of May to \$53,437 at the end of July thanks to several generous contributions. Thank you and keep it up!



The Sound of Silence

Steven Wenthe, Cantor

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence (5th century, Liturgy of St. James)

Now the Silence, Now the Peace (20th century, Jaroslav Vajda)

The sound of silence...when we hear that somewhat ironic phrase (sound/silence), many people will likely think first of Simon and Garfunkel in the 1960s. Yes! Silence *does* have a sound, and the church has recognized that through the centuries. Silence was observed before the priest prayed the collect of the day, as a sign of collecting the thoughts of the upcoming Bible readings. In the middle ages, parts of the liturgy came to be “spoken” by the priest silently. But during the Reformation, leaders wisely concluded that such silence (called in the mass “the secret”) was not a good idea at all, and that all text should be proclaimed and heard. In the United States some small groups of Christians (think Quakers and Shakers) gathered in silence and waited for the spirit to speak. Modern Taizé services incorporate large chunks of silence for meditation and reflection.

Our hymn-writers often refer to silence. The Liturgy of St. James, sung in Jerusalem and Antioch, suggests that we show reverence for the eucharist (communion) by preparing in silence to receive it. Here is the familiar first stanza:

Let all mortal flesh keep silence
And with fear and trembling stand;
Ponder nothing earthly-minded,
For with blessing in His hand
Christ our God to earth descending
Comes our homage to demand.

Lutheran Service Book, 621

Some Lutheran congregations used to print this stanza in the bulletin each Sunday as an encouragement for reflection. Perhaps some still do.

The sainted 20th century hymn-writer Jaroslav Vajda encourages believers to prepare for worship with silence. His well-known description of his personal preparation for worship in his role as a Lutheran pastor began with meditating upon the liturgy, and the story it tells. From that meditation the hymn “Now the silence” (LSB 910) was born.

In the Divine Service, a short time of silence is found at several points: in the confession, at the prayer/collect of the day (a time of silence to collect our thoughts), and frequently in the prayers of the church. Our weekly gathering rite provides an additional opportunity for silence as we begin the liturgy with a piece of music to help us focus on the service (and on God) and then a brief silence. In our busy world we often go directly from one thing to another or try to multi-task. In the secular realm ‘work’ is often accompanied by noise – office chatter, traffic, machines, clicking keyboards and background music. But the liturgy—the work of God’s people—is very different. The liturgy offers us opportunity to put all that aside for a brief time. Let us take advantage of reflection and the *sound* of silence.

Coming up:

The First Saint Paul’s Choir begins rehearsals on Wednesday, September 7, 7:30 pm. Please let Steven Wenthe (swente@fspauls.org) or Margaret Danilovich (mdanilovich@fspauls.org) know if you would like to sing.

This year we will celebrate the festival of St. Michael and All Angels on Sunday, September 25. The choir will sing a cantata by Dieterich Buxtehude, *Command Thine Angel to Appear*.



58th Annual Dearborn Garden Walk a Success at FSP!

A wonderful Sunday afternoon in July...

On Sunday afternoon, July 17, over 200 people visited First Saint Paul's. Our building was a stop on the 58th Annual Dearborn Garden Walk. Our garden and patio were prepared with care by FSP volunteers. A lovely bouquet of flowers from the Fahrenkrog's garden welcomed people in the narthex. Our volunteers enjoyed lunch together. Sandy Wilborn kept us safe.

- ❖ We offered a respite from the heat, access to washrooms and cool water to drink.
- ❖ People toured our Ed Dart designed sanctuary and appreciated its beauty and wondered at its peacefulness.
- ❖ A young child asked one of our volunteers "Where do you pray?" and she showed him, sitting with him in one of the rear pews, talking, and sharing how we pray. Overheard when he was leaving with his sister: "See, I told you Jesus is real." Lovely!
- ❖ A woman asked another volunteer "Can anyone worship here?" "Of course," was the answer, "You will be welcome."



(Left): Dan Hendricksen shows off his wonderful artistic skill during the "Paint-a-Pot" activity led by Marlo Schulz.



(Right): Susan Joy Schleef goes through her presentation on herb gardening

A breezy and cool Fellowship Hall was very busy.

- ❖ Olga Pierce-Busse offered tickets to our 2016 Oktoberfest.
- ❖ About forty people participated in two presentations on herbs and herb-gardening led by Susan Joy Schleef, master gardener. A number took home the basil plants she offered.
- ❖ Marlo Schulz led a family Paint-a-Pot activity that drew in several of our visitors, especially those who took advantage of the free basil plants. Several of our members including Dan Hendricksen camped out at her table to be creative and talk with people.

Thanks to everyone who made this afternoon such a wonderful happening. I'm looking forward to next year!

-Amy Hendricksen, Board of Stewardship, chair

Thank you to each person who has served the FSP community during our program year—Altar Guild, Board Members, Choir, Church Council, Communion Assistants, Community Meals Volunteers, Counters, Cross/Book Bearers, Fellowship Hour Hosts, Lectors, Liturgical Arts, Musicians, Office Assistants, and Sunday School Teachers. Your participation in the life of the church is so needed and appreciated!



Highlights from our Summer Sunday School Program



Where did your summer take you? In Summer Adventures at First Saint Paul, we saw that with Jesus, we can stand up to the storms of life. We joined Noah and his cast of unusual characters and saw God keeping His promises. Joseph showed us that God makes all things good through the ups and downs of life. David defeated Goliath and we learned the impossible is possible with God. We celebrated how God created with careful hands and we painted works of art. Daniel's life gave us confidence in God's protection even when we're afraid. Jonah taught us God's amazing grace, and how to take a brave step in obedience. Jesus walked on water and encouraged us since Jesus also walks with us.

We packed school kits for Lutheran World Relief as we learned how Jesus wants us to notice the people around us who need help and follow His example of love and restoration through the Good Samaritan.

Zacchaeus showed us that an encounter with Jesus sets us on a new course of seeking justice for those wronged. We gave thanks for what we have and learned that when we put everything in Jesus's hands, He will do mighty things in and through us just like the feeding of 5,000. We shared faith stories along the way that enriched our experience and encouraged us as a household of those following after Jesus and our friends who sought shelter within First Saint Paul's. Finally we took time to rest, pray, and prepare for our next adventure! Come join us and reconnect with friends and family at the Rally Day and Fall Kick Off, Sunday, September 11 and see what adventures we have planned for this fall for nurturing faith together in community.



"We welcome you to make your home among us."

Direct questions to Marlo Schulz at mschulz@fspauls.org or call 312.642.7172.

EVANGELISM & OUTREACH NEWS

Church Picnic a Success!

On August 28 we had our annual church picnic. Volunteers grilled brats, hot dogs and hamburgers on the back patio and salads or desserts were supplied by family and friends. Around 100 people were in attendance. There were fun games, such as bean bag toss, for all ages. Thank you to all who made it a wonderful afternoon!

Veterans Honored for Independence Day

We honored our veterans at the July 3 church service. About 13 of our active members have served in the Armed Forces. Eighty names of family and friends who have served were honored as well. Before the worship service, Daniel Johnson and Madeline Mortell read the names of all of those who have served. Small American flags were handed out after the service on the way to fellowship hall. Margaret Danilovich led the group in a patriotic sing-along during the fellowship hour. We would, once again, like to thank all those who have served or are currently serving our nation.

First Saint Paul's Calendar of Events

Upcoming Events for September & October

September 11	Rally Day/Fall Kick Off for Sunday School students & teachers
September 24	Oktoberfest, 5—10 PM
October 2	Pet blessing, 12 NN
October 9	Chicago Marathon <i>First Saint Paul's service at 11 AM</i>
October 16	8 th Avenue Winds Quintet Recital, 2 PM
October 30	Reformation Sunday, 9:30 AM



Save the Dates for November & December

November 6	All Saints Day (observed)
November 13	Stewardship Sunday—Catered Brunch after the Service
November 24	Thanksgiving service, 11 AM
December 18	Christmas Concert, 4 PM
December 21	Longest Night Service, 7 PM
December 24	Christmas Eve service, 7 PM
December 25	Christmas Day service, 10 AM
December 31	New Year's Eve Service, 7 PM

Save the Date—Sunday, December 18, 4PM



First Saint Paul's Christmas Concert

Free Parking—2 blocks west on Goethe



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 the months of September and October:

9.4.16: Eric Ause; John & Laurie Bart; Doriann Basaraba; Sarah Basel; Lisa Beavers; Emily & Annie Bechert; Eric Becker

9.11.16: David Benck; Eric & Andrea Berg, Alexandra, Katherine and Sonja; Getachew Betaw and Khalekidan; Buff Bethlen; Charles & Catharine Betzig, Theodore and Isabelle; Gary & Linda Blumenshine

9.18.16: Jeff & Rebecca Bobroff and Jackson; Laurene Boock; Kevin Boyer; Genevieve Braatz; John & Charlotte Brandenburg; Darlene Braun

9.25.16: Carolyn Braverman; Faye Breen; Julie Ann Brej; Matt & Kendra Briggs, Lillian and Evelyn; Marilyn Bunck; Olga Pierce Busse; Michael Burkholder & Lorinda Scrogam; Mike Cacicio

10.2.16: Mary Cade; Joseph Cartagena; Asa Carter; Peggy & Joe Cassidy; Peter & Joyce Chan, Patrick and Max; Samantha Chapin & Mike Coyne

10.9.16: John & Dorothea Chaveriat; Andrew Chaveriat; Judy & Christopher Chudek and Kyle; Clara & Kevin Chun; Bill Clark; Nancy Clark

10.16.16: Therese Collings; Todd & Kristen Cordell, Beckham & Mia; Kelli Corkle & Deron Fuller, Emelia and Eloise; Nick Covello, Hayden & Nicholas

10.23.16: Arlene Dahm; Andy & Susan Danilovich; Michael & Margaret Danilovich; Jonathan Dedmon; Dwight Deppen; Christine & Jon DeVries

10.30.16: Paul & Cara Diederich, and Graham; Daniel & Emily Dubay; Marilyn & Neil Dungan; Richard Eisenhardt; Jay Elder; Lance Erickson

Official Acts

Baptism

7.17.16 *Frederick Albert Moeller*
Born 9.8.15 to Paul Lee
Moeller Jr. & Chie Moeller

New Members

By Transfer

6.8.16 *Tim Mueller*
7.31.16 *Paula Borg, Tom Stemwedel & Ben*
8.10.16 *Elwood & Marcia Gruschow*

By Affirmation of Faith

7.31.16 *Chelsea Nelson*

Transfers out

8.4.16 *Hannah Hanke to St. James Lutheran, Green Bay, WI*

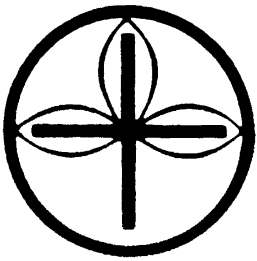
Deaths

2.15.16 *Paul Carter, brother of Asa Carter (Memorial Service 6.19.16)*

Weddings

7.30.16 *Michelle Boryca & Scott Heck*
8.6.16 *Ava Kellogg & Bogdar Bistriceanu*





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

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SAVE THE DATE!!

**FIRST SAINT PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
1301 NORTH LaSALLE DRIVE
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS**

Free Stewardship Luncheon

Sunday, November 13th

11AM in Fellowship Hall

Catered by Polo Café