

The Messenger

Summer 2018

The newsletter of First Saint Paul's
Evangelical Lutheran Church

Pastor Johnson's Sabbatical in New York City



Dear friends and church family,

Thank you so much for your gracious and generous support of my time in New York City this spring. Perhaps the best way to thank you is to share what I have learned as well as the renewed energy that I have for ministry at First Saint Paul's.

You'll remember that Rev. Dr. John Nunes extended extraordinary hospitality to me at Concordia College, New York, where he is the president. They provided a room and many meals at the cafeteria. As soon as I arrived, President Nunes and I met him to discuss the goals of my time, just as I had with the elders before I left. My goals were to reinvigorate, reflect, converse, experience the spiritual life of NYC, and finally to communicate back to our community.

It is not easy to find rest in New York City. But I did find the museums, Central Park, the trails around Concordia College, and walking the city streets of Manhattan to center my thoughts, quiet my mind, and open me up to whatever God was trying to teach me.

There were many conversations over meals, in various churches, and along the streets of Manhattan. Each time I met with someone or had a meaningful interaction, I found a quiet place to write down everything I could remember in a journal. Some of the highlights of those interactions were pastors who shared their heart for city ministry. Here are a few quotes:



Pastor Johnson waits for a train to New York with Rev. John Nunes.

"Churches that build fences, theological superiority, and homophobia do not do well in the city."

"Our greatest outreach to young professionals is excellence in music and preaching."

"It is of paramount importance to be crystal clear about the Gospel."

—Pastor Amandus Derr, St. Peter's, Manhattan, NY

"We have a steady flow of first generation who truly have never heard the Gospel."

"We have good theologians, excellent liturgical practice, but lack evangelical fervor."

—Pastor Derek Lecakes, Atlantic District President

"People are lonely in New York City."

—Grant Pothast, former member of FSP

"Loving your neighbor includes concern for his or her welfare (social justice)."

"Authenticity is my greatest joy in ministry."

—Rev. Dr. Dien Ashley Taylor, Redeemer, Bronx

"Humility, authenticity, and excellence are essential to ministry effectiveness."

—Pastor Mike Popovits, Our Savior, Queens

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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.*

1301 N. LASALLE DRIVE
CHICAGO, IL 60610
312.642.7172
www.fspauls.org



CHURCH STAFF

The Rev. Dr. Thomas R. Johnson
tjohnson@fspauls.org

Mrs. Marlo Schulz-Kittl
Dir. Family Ministry & Outreach
mschulz@fspauls.org

Steven Wente
Cantor
swente@fspauls.org

Margaret Danilovich
Associate Cantor
mdanilovich@fspauls.org

Laurie Bart
Church Secretary
office@fspauls.org

Cindy Goers
Financial Advisor
finance@fspauls.org

The Rev. Delayne H. Pauling
Pastor Emeritus
312.545.8876

Sandy Wilborn
Security
meals@fspauls.org

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 Ansoerge

Vice Chairman*
Mark Knoblauch

Recording Secretary
Christine Lutze

Assistant Recording Secretary
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Treasurer*
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Assistant Treasurer
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Assistant Financial Secretary
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Gretchen Randall

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Chair, Board of Evangelism & Outreach*
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Chair, Board of Social Ministry*
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Chair, Board of Deacons*
Buff Bethlen

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David Rogner
Jill Stemmerman

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Todd Webb
Ethan Werkmeister

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Susan Morgan
Mike Schubert
Hannah Werkmeister

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Communion Assistant Coordinator

Jody Lucey

Community Meals

Lisa Richards
Sandy Wilborn

Concordia Cemetery

John Stodden

Human Resources Committee

Susan Rosborough

Liturgical Arts

Darlene Fahrenkrog

Lutheran Home

Susan Rosborough

Sunday School

Barb Webb, Superintendent

Wunder's Cemetery

Dan Hendricksen



As I reflected on the wisdom, challenges, and joys of ministry in NYC, questions about our ministry in Chicago began to emerge: What really is distinct about our ministry? Can what is said about NYC also be true of Chicago or even of rural areas? What are our joys in ministry at FSP? What are our challenges? What are we doing right here at FSP? In what ways can we grow as a church in our faithfulness as well as in our outreach?

The biggest impact on me personally was the opportunity to visit many churches—about 30 of them. It has been over 25 years since I began seminary and remembered what it is like to be a layperson visiting a church for the first time. Did I feel welcomed? How was I encouraged in my faith? Did the worship lift my mind, heart, and spirit? Did the sermon speak meaningfully about Christ and how Scripture intersects with my daily life? Do I want to come back to the faith community I just visited? What am I really seeking as I enter a church?

Here are some final “take-aways” as I continue to digest and integrate my time in NYC:

- The culture around us is increasingly secular, cynical, and has no time for superficial engagement about God.
- There needs to be a healthy respect and appreciation for the breadth of the Body of Christ. Not everyone entering our doors has a Lutheran or even a Christian background. We need to believe God has already been working on that person long before we ever meet them.
- People need to feel welcomed and immediately experience authentic interactions with God’s people when they visit; this is not just for the pastor to accommodate. We all play a role in hospitality. The *first time visit* is very important because it is likely the *last* if we fail—and even when we do not fail! It’s all about relationships—with God and one another.
- Authenticity is key. And that takes humility, humor, vulnerability, trust, and empathy.
- There is no formula for success. Ministry always involves risk and mess—especially when God blesses. It requires teachability and understanding one’s immediate context. As one pastor said, “It’s great when we don’t know what we are doing! God has us exactly where he wants us!”
- We need to kindle afire an evangelical fervor. Knowing God’s love for us in Jesus Christ is a life-changing experience *temporally* and *eternally*.

Thank you all again for the gift of time away and the opportunity to give back. God continue to bless our partnership here at First Saint Paul’s, Chicago!



*Pastor Johnson and
Rev. David Benke.*

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Johnson

*Pastor Johnson and
Rev. Robert Pohl,
former pastor at First
Saint Paul’s.*





What role does discipleship play in connecting who we are with ways that we can live life together? An interesting definition for community is - ‘Household’- “those who call on the name of Jesus as well as those who need to find shelter within them.” Household was used in Acts to describe when whole families were baptized. This definition connects with our First Saint Paul’s motto: “We welcome you to be at home among us”. So how can we continue to grow as a family of those who call on the name of Jesus and invite others in need of shelter to make their home among us? Who is God calling us to welcome into our family? Who are the people God causes to cross your path daily and how does the Holy Spirit call and equip us to reach out and connect with those who might be in need of finding shelter among us? Let’s find out together this summer as we travel around the globe to meet new friends and learn how they love God and serve their neighbors.

Join us as we learn about the universal Church by connecting with friends and family of First Saint Paul’s as they share their stories and experiences with us. Members & friends of First Saint Paul’s will share about their personal journeys around the globe and share how these experiences helped encourage, challenge, and grow their faith and relationship with God. Come experience the culture and beauty of God’s body, the Church.

We are excited to hear your stories, too!

You are invited to come and create a Flat Jesus to take on your summer adventures. Bring Flat Jesus with you—to the park, hiking, to church, and even the lake! Where will your journeys take you and your Flat Jesus? Record your time with Flat Jesus with pictures or short videos and post them on Facebook using #FSPFlatJesus2018.

Some benefits of summer session include: nurturing faith by studying God’s Word together in a multi-generational setting, making new friends, and serving together. We will meet in the fellowship hall as household groups beginning June 3. Materials will be made available so you can keep up with us wherever your travels take you this summer. Let’s see what adventures God has planned for us! Where will you go with Jesus this summer?

Highlights

June 3—Make and take your Flat Jesus.

June 10—Eric Becker and Jessica Smith will share their global experiences

June 17—Meet the Clausings, missionaries to Kenya, via video and in person on June 20, 12N. *Rev. Johnathan Clausing is Dr. David Rogner’s nephew.*

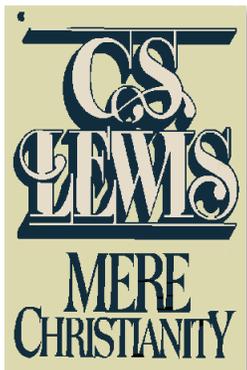
June 24—Marlo Schulz-Kittl will share about Hong Kong

Other FSP members sharing theirs stories with us this summer to include: Astra Aunina—Latvia, Jen Masengarb—Denmark, and a few others.



Thursday Night Book Club Summer Book & Schedule

Join us for a guided discussion bi-weekly from 7-8:30PM at First Saint Paul's in the Lounge. This Summer we will read through C.S. Lewis's *Mere Christianity*. Questions? Call 312.642.7172 or email Marlo Schulz-Kittl at mschulz@fspauls.org. (Copies of books available at Life Way Bookstore Chicago/LaSalle)



About the book: "In the classic *Mere Christianity*, C.S. Lewis ... explores the common ground upon which all of those of Christian faith stand together. Bringing together Lewis' legendary broadcast talks during World War Two from his three previous books *The Case for Christianity*, *Christian Behavior*, and *Beyond Personality*, *Mere Christianity* provides an unequalled opportunity for believers and nonbelievers alike to hear this powerful apologetic for the Christian faith."

Schedule:

June 7- Mere Christianity Preface-Book 1

June 21- Mere Christianity Book 2-3

July 5- Mere Christianity Book 4

We will begin *The Spirituality of the Cross* by Gene Edward Veith in July (Pastor Johnson's recommendation) followed by *Being Lutheran* by Trevor Sutton in September.

Faith Integrator Challenge

A Christian integrator is someone who is working on his or her own integrative journey of faith. Did you know that God has gifted you with unique talents to expand God's kingdom? 1 Corinthians 12 tells us "There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit; there are different kinds of service but the same Lord (Jesus Christ); there are different kinds of working but the same God (Father) works in all'...these spiritual gifts have the same SOURCE (Holy Spirit) and same PURPOSE (goodness of the body/ the Church). Take the survey at fspauls.org click on the banner:



For those who have taken the survey, how are you seeking ways to incorporate and use your spiritual gifts to proclaim Christ, nurture faith, and serve others in your vocational callings in your family, community, profession and church?

School Kit Collection



Save those coins this summer for a Change for Change collection in worship on Sunday, August 26. Funds raised will go to off-set shipping for the Lutheran World Relief school kits we pack during Fall Kick Off, September 9. We will collect items for 80 school kits as part of our Summer Sunday Morning Program. Last year our school kits went to Bosnia and Herzegovina.



REAL.PRESENT.GOD.

LCMS YOUTH GATHERING | Minneapolis · July 11-15, 2019

Who: The LCMS Youth Gathering's primary focus is for youth participants ages 14 to 19. Youth participants must meet ONE of two eligibility requirements: – Must be 14 OR entering his or her 9th grade year at the time of the Gathering.

(*A note about friends:* The Gathering is a great event for youth to invite friends who are not members of their church but are longing to learn more about God's love for them in Jesus. Friends will need to meet the same requirements.)

What: Held every 3 years since 1980, NYG is a great opportunity for students to share their talents (opportunities for choir, orchestra, dance, etc.), meet fellow believers from around the world, participate in service projects in the host city, worship with up to 35,000 others daily, have fun, hear speakers on topics relevant to teens, and learn more about his/her Lutheran identity.

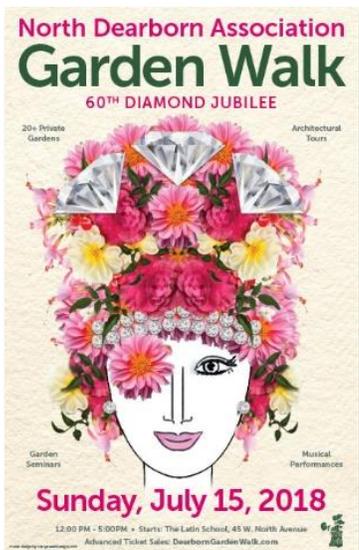
Funding: The average cost per student is around \$1000-\$1,200. Funds will be split between church budget for chaperones and student scholarships. Fundraisers will help offset costs & Families will be responsible for the registration fee (about \$375).

Now What:

1. Let us know you're interested in going. Talk to Marlo Schulz-Kittl or email her at mschulz@fspauls.org.
2. Save the dates **July 11-15, 2019**.
3. Help out whenever possible with the planning and execution of events.
4. Checkout the NYG 2019 website: www.lcmsgathering.com
5. Pray for this opportunity and how God is guiding you to be involved. This includes adults. Maybe God is leading you to be a chaperone. Participants who are 21 years or older by the time of the Gathering are able to attend the Gathering as a Primary Adult Leader (PAL). Those who are 19 – 25 years old may also serve as a Young Adult Volunteer. (YAVs) have the unique opportunity to work behind the scenes and help the Gathering run smoothly & experience some elements of the Gathering with the youth & fellow YAVs.
6. Commit to the process of attending knowing there will be regular meetings, bible studies & opportunities to build community as we prepare.
7. Registration is due by **early October 2018** to reserve your spot.

UKANDO Missions is back this summer, June 25-29, 2018

UKANDO Missions is a Christian mission organization dedicated to helping youth and adults become the heart and hands of Christ to those in need around the world. This year we will have a group of teens and adults join us at First Saint Paul's and Wunder's Cemetery. We invite members of First Saint Paul's, especially our teens, to come and be a part of these projects, which will include an art project in the choir/nursery/youth room area and landscaping. Come host this group from outside Chicago as they serve in the city and enjoy this place we call home.



First Saint Paul's is a stop on the 60th Annual Dearborn Garden Walk, July 15!

An annual tradition blooms again in the Near North neighborhood. Plans are underway for this year's 60th Dearborn Garden Walk. Beyond the beautiful gardens, included are: Dearborn Garden Walk Brochure with a map for a self-guided tour of the gardens, live music in select gardens, guided architectural walking tours of historic Dearborn Parkway, special gardening seminars and opportunities to talk with Expert Gardeners about gardening questions.

<http://www.dearbornwalk.com/>

TICKET ENTRY INCLUDES: Admission to 20 distinctive rear gardens, narrated architectural walking tour of historic, Dearborn Street, Live jazz and classical performances in select gardens Gardening Seminars, and more! Tickets are \$30 and can be purchased at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/dearborn-garden-walk-60th-annual-walk-diamond-jubilee-tickets-44818506359?aff=es2>

We are thankful to participate in the highly anticipated 60th Annual Dearborn Garden Walk on **Sunday, July 15**. Highlights of your stop at First Saint Paul's include:

- ❖ Access to First Saint Paul's spaces and activities are free that day; you need a ticket to see the other gardens
- ❖ Guided Sanctuary Tours by Paul and Darlene Fahrenkrog at 1 and 2PM
- ❖ Presentations by Amy Jo Schleef
- ❖ Rest and enjoy our renovated patio



How can you be involved and help us welcome guests?

- Set up following Sunday's Fellowship Hour, including setting up the portable screen, projector, chairs for lecture, and craft area following Summer Household Faith Nurturing.
- Greeters from First Saint Paul's to help welcome our speakers, guests, and keep refreshments stocked (drinks only).
- Take down and clean up following event at 5PM, including putting away chairs, leftover refreshments, projector, screen, and general clean up.

We had a lot of visitors last year. It's a good way to meet our neighbors and make new friends. Sign up on the bulletin board for the whole afternoon or for a couple of hours. All help is appreciated!

Questions? Talk with Marlo Schulz-Kittl or email mschulz@fspauls.org.



**First Saint Paul’s Lutheran Church
Operating Budget—Revenue and Expense Report
4 Months 2018 (April)****

	January- April 2018	Annual Budget 2018	% Annual Budget
Revenues			
Worship Contributions	\$116,422	\$398,921	
<i>Pre-Paid Pledges</i>	<i>4,500</i>		
Investment Revenue	332	0	
Rental Revenue	4736	0	
Reimbursement Revenue	1611	0	
Credit Card Cash Back	400	0	
Total Revenues*	\$128,001	\$398,921	32%
Expenses			
Christian Education	\$1,875	\$3,135	
Communications/Evangelism	954	8,000	
Fellowship	468	600	
Financial Services	3,581	12,320	
Music	18	2,425	
Office	2,458	14,643	
Social Ministry	146	500	
Stewardship	0	6,000	
Worship	2,474	4,475	
Pastoral Resources	95,043	267,158	
Synod Commitment	2,075	7,100	
Pastoral Travel/Activities	1,114	4,000	
Church Building Capital Reserves	6,000	6,000	
Church Building	17,617	49,406	
Building Services	8,636	25,800	
Total Expenses	\$142,459	\$411,562	36%
Revenue less Expenses	(\$14,458)	(\$11,641)	

*Contributions for the first four months of 2018 are slightly ahead of last year.

**A full financial statement as well as the Capital Budget for 2018-2019 and a report on the Preserving God’s House Campaign will be presented at the June 24th Congregational Meeting.

A note from your Stewardship Leader: Thanks everyone for your faithful giving. During the first four months of the year we are close to the target for reaching our \$411,000 goal for 2018! Be sure to check out our online giving options including *Simply Giving* to keep up with your commitments during these busy summer months of vacation, fun in the sun, and lots of friends and family events. Look for the **donate** button at www.fspauls.org. It’s at the bottom of the right hand column, under the schedules. For help with this you can talk with Jan Seefeldt, Financial Secretary (jseefeldt@att.net) or Amy Hendricksen, Stewardship Chair (ahendricksen2@aol.com).



Music News

Summer Choir

Please come and sing with the choir. No previous experience is necessary, and there is no commitment other than for each individual day. Summer Choir will meet at 8:45AM on four Sundays this summer: June 24, July 15, August 5, August 26. Music will be available ahead of time. For more information, please contact Steve Wentz, steven.wentz@cuchicago.edu.

Chicago Choral Artists Is Returning

We are pleased to announce that Chicago Choral Artists will have a series of three concerts at First Saint Paul's in the coming year. The tentative dates are October 20; December 8; and April 13. These are part of their subscription series and will be ticketed events.

Chicago Choral Artists is the former James Chorale, which was conducted for many years by James Rogner, director of music at First Saint Paul's. In that time, rehearsals and many of their concerts were at First Saint Paul's. We hope that many in the First Saint Paul's community will come out and support them.

First Saint Paul's Christmas Concert

The annual Christmas Concert with choir and orchestra will be Sunday, December 16 at 4:00PM. We hope you will put this date on your calendars.

Pentecost Celebrations from May 20

Pentecost is the third great festival of the Christian year. On the first Christian Day of Pentecost, about 50 days after Easter, there came, hovering over the eleven disciples gathered together in Jerusalem, the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in the form of tongues of fire. On that day, the disciples were strengthened and empowered by the fulfillment of the promise of the Holy Spirit, which had been given them by the risen Lord.

Pentecost is regarded as the birthday of the Church, for on that day about 3,000 were reported to have been added to the fellowship of the disciples, with the injunction to repent and to be baptized in the name of Jesus. This initial large influx of converts, those who came out of the stirring events of Pentecost, "continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread and in prayers".

The liturgical color for the day is red, a reminder of the tongues of fire and also of the blood of the martyrs. Many members took the opportunity to honor loved ones by purchasing red geraniums to be displayed in the sanctuary. We also celebrated with a "birthday" cake during the fellowship hour. Many thanks to Pam & Frank Kaji, Darlene Fahrenkrog, and Mike Cacicio their help with the geraniums. Plants that were not taken home were graciously planted on our patio by Al & Helga Kairies.



Summer Events at First Saint Paul's



- July 1 **Patriotic Celebration**—Honor our nation's Veterans with a patriotic sing-along—11AM
- July 8 **Vintage Car Show**—Enjoy the summer weather while viewing some of FSP members' and friends' vintage cars—12N
- July 15 **Dearborn Garden Walk**—Expert gardener speakers, FSP's newly renovated patio debut, and a fun flower pot painting activity—12N
- August 26 **Church Picnic**—Food, fun, and fellowship! This event was a fun food-fest last year and is sure to be a “must-attend” occasion this year. More information to follow.—11:30AM
- September 9 **Sunday School Kick-Off & School Kit Packing**
- Save the Date!*
- September 22 **Oktoberfest**—Visit Germany for a day at FSP; Food, live music, and silent auction—5PM
- October 20 **Chicago Choral Artists Concert**—Beautiful choral music to start off their concert series at FSP—7:30PM

Vintage Car Show



Join us on Sunday, July 8 for the 2nd Annual Vintage & Collector Car Show right outside the First Saint Paul's door on Goethe Street, where classic car owners invite you to get a close look at their collector cars from various eras. If you're a nostalgia buff, feel free to dress the part as you stroll among the cars and share your stories of those good old days. Admission is free.

If you have a car you'd like to display during this event, please contact Nick Covello (312.217.5138) with the make, model, and year of your car.

If you'd like to volunteer your time for this event by helping to set up, directing traffic, security, taking photos, and cleaning up, please contact Nick Covello.



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 June—August.

June 3: Getachew Betaw and Khalekidan; Buff Bethlen; Charles & Catharine Betzig, Theodore and Isabelle; Stella Black; Tom Bohac; Tom Boisseau; Laurene Boock.

June 10: John & Charlotte Brandenburg; Carolyn Braverman; Karen Bressler; Howard Bressler; Cindy Bruno; Marilyn Bunck.

June 17: Olga Pierce Busse; Michael Burkholder & Lorinda Scrogam; Mike Cacicio; Joseph Cartagena; Asa Carter; Peggy & Joe Cassidy.

June 24: Peter & Joyce Chan, Patrick and Max; John & Dorothea Chaveriat; Andrew Chaveriat; Clara & Kevin Chun; Bill Clark; Nancy Clark.

July 1: Therese Collings; Kelli Corkle & Deron Fuller, Emelia and Eloise; Nick Covello, Hayden & Nicholas; Charlotte Covello; Arlene Dahm.

July 8: Andy & Susan Danilovich; Michael & Margaret Danilovich; Jonathan Dedmon; Dwight Deppen; Kaitlyn de Pena & Kory Edmark.

July 15: Christine & Jon DeVries; Marilyn & Neil Dungan; Emily Edkins; Richard Eisenhardt; Jay Elder; Lance Erickson.

July 22: Paul & Darlene Fahrenkrog; Monique Fields, Italia and Oswin; Paul & Jane Fish; Stina Fish & Reed Singer, Felix and Zeke; Gary & Lori Flagler, Harrison and Abigail.

July 29: Carrie Foreman; Tony Gadomski & Jill Stemmerman, Sophie and John; Bane & Susan Gaiser; Sally Garneski; Mike & Elaine Gawlik; Doris Geck-Belovesick and Michael.

August 5: Cindy Goers; Denise Goldfarb; Elwood & Marcia Gruschow; Ed & Marie Gumz; Dorothy Hagen; Kevin & Penny Haller.

August 12: Ann Hallberg; Doug & Amy Harkness, Greta and Anna; Barbara Hart; Matt Hauman; Eva Haussner; Jennifer Heathcote.

August 19: Wally & Elga Heintzen; Dan Heinzl; Dan & Amy Hendricksen; Brian & Jan Hieggelke; John Holland; Dianne Holland; Roseann Hubbard.

August 26: Pat Jessie; Alfred & Helga Kairies; Frank & Pam Kaji; Nancy Kamau & Ed Curran and Jeremy Nyambura; Jocelyn King; Amy & Lee King.

Official Acts

Transfers Out

4.18.18 Andrea Stoutenborough to Cross of Christ Lutheran Broomfield, CO

Moved

Jen Masengarb to Copenhagen, Denmark

Jason Ganek to Denver, CO

Adam Hammer to Boston, MA

Dan, Laura & Mia Keller to New York City, NY

Deaths

April, 2018 Bobby Phillips

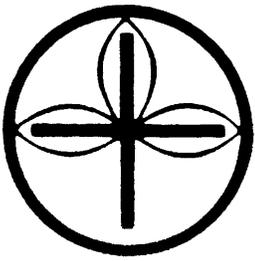
Confirmation

3.18.18 Nicholas Covello
Grace Friend
Greta Harkness
Grace Leininger
Joseph Johnson
Lucy Webb

Weddings

2.10.18 Jill Marie Westall & Douglas Kocur in Elgin IL, Married by Pastor Tom Johnson





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

Address Service Requested



SAVE THE DATE!!

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

**Oktoberfest 2018
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 22nd
5 – 10 PM**