

where the message of hope is shared

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In this issue...

- Letters from the Pastors
- November Calendar
- Youth Group News
- School News
- and more...

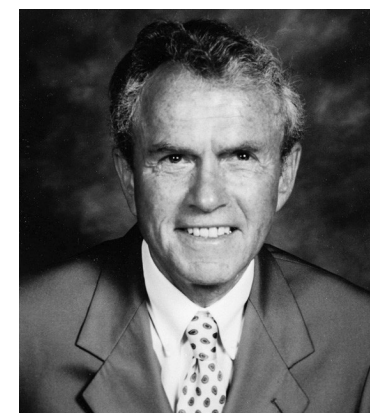
An Abundance of Thanks



Thanksgiving Services

will be held on Wednesday, November 23 at 7:00 pm
and on Thursday, November 24th at 10:00am.
Join us in praising God and giving Him thanks for all
the blessings we have received.

Dr. Maier Presentation



St. Paul's Lutheran Church will once again host Dr. Paul L. Maier as a speaker on November 19th, 2011, when he will present "Christianity and the Competition - Who Is Right". Registration begins at 9:00 am and the presentation runs from 9:30 am - 3:15 pm. Coffee, donuts and a box lunch will be served. Limited tickets are available at St. Paul's church office for \$15 per person or 2 for \$25. Dr. Maier is a Professor of Ancient History at Western Michigan University and the Second Vice-President of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. He has penned numerous scholarly and popular works including "A Skeleton in God's Closet," which became national best seller in religious fiction. Reserve your ticket, by calling the church office at (219) 836-6270 or purchase them in the gym between services on Sunday mornings.



From Pastor Stumpf

Dear Friends and Members of St. Paul's, The focus in November use to be on Thanksgiving. Some decades ago the Thanksgiving theme had competition. Christmas, which, for the most part, politely waited until the Turkey was packed away for leftovers, came forward with all its glitter the next day. I still cringe at the reference to "Black Friday," as the official start of Christmas shopping.

Today, especially this year it seems, Christmas advertizing does not politely wait until after Thanksgiving, but is in competition with Columbus Day!

But never mind that, I want to think about Thanksgiving Day. I am of the opinion that Thanksgiving Day has its roots farther back in time than the Pilgrim's feast in 1621. I am not tipping my hat to American historical scholars who want to shift all things first in America to Jamestown. It is true English settlers who landed in 1619 about twenty miles upriver from Jamestown designated the day they landed, December 4, as a day of thanksgiving, quoting their charter... "We ordaine [sic] that the day of our ships arrival at the place assigned for plantacon [sic] in the land of Virginia shall be yearly and perpetually kept holy as a day of thanksgiving to Almighty God.

I am referring to the roots in the Passover. God freed his people with a mighty outstretched hand from their slavery, brought them to the land of Promise, for which they gave thanks. The heart of the Passover Seder meal is to remember this act of grace and in the remembrance of the act, to thank God for his rescue. Very early in American history the pioneers often saw themselves like the Children of Israel, traveling a long way to a land of promise, a land of milk and honey, a land God directed them to settle.

I realize American history is a poor step-child in today's academic endeavors and favor. Many simple are not interested in their history at all, as if they sprung forth out of the earth with no previous link to anything. Perhaps this permits themselves the self-centeredness of seeing themselves as first, last, and always. But the advice of their parents – yes, they do have a past, after all – is to learn from their mistakes. This takes an appreciation of history, at the very least.

History's service to the Christian is to know our story is part of God's story. In time and place God acted. We see the evidence of God's relationship to us in Christ. Take the history away and we see but dimly, if at all. As God delivered his people, God delivered our ancestors to this land, perhaps recently or hundreds of years before. All we see around us is gifts of God, but even the best is second to the greatest gift, to know Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior from all my sins and the death penalty that comes with those sins. We feast at a great table on Thanksgiving, for in the bread and wine of the Lord's Supper we receive the body and blood of the Savior for the remission of sins, life, and salvation.

How can we not have a great Thanksgiving if we remember and give thanks for God's many mercies?

In Christ,

From Pastor Stock

Dear friends in Christ,

During this beautiful fall season, it is good to take some time to see the blessings in our life and to be thankful for them. This would be a good month to intentionally look for and make a note of these good things. Bringing a mental or even a written list of blessings to the table with us will make Thanksgiving day a much richer celebration and will give us a deeper look into the grace of our heavenly Father. It is a small additional thought, but keeping in mind that the good things we enjoy are the gifts of God will help us appreciate them and see His loving care.

Once you are seeing God's blessings in your life, I would like you to go one step further. I hope you will see that you have been blessed to be a blessing.

Many of us have been blessed with so much that we can be a blessing to those in need around us. We are blessed with enough clothing, food, time and resources to share with them. We've been blessed with talents and abilities that we can put to use serving God and helping others.

I am sure there are many more blessings in your life that can lead you to be a blessing. Why not make an effort to keep your eyes open for them this month.

A special thought for parents, God has blessed us with children. Now it is up to us to bless them with a godly example to follow and the gifts God gives in His Word and Sacraments area did just a thought to get you thinking "outside the cornucopia".

In His service,

LWML NEWS

LWML Grants Lutheran Braille Workers \$100,000 To Purchase A New "Plate Embossing Device" (PED)

"Being With Jesus — Living on the Edge" was the Convention theme for LWML's 2011 convention. More than 4,600 women from throughout the United States gathered in Peoria, Illinois June 23rd through the 26th, in celebration of God's grace and in re-commitment to service to Him. The Scripture verse that set the tone for the convention was from Acts chapter 4: "They realized that they had been with Jesus. For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard" (Acts 4:13b and 20).

Each year the LWML chooses a number of ministries with which they partner by providing mission dollars. Lutheran Braille Workers is honored to have been given a grant of \$100,000 toward the purchase of a new Plate Embossing Device. Through this generous partnership, untold thousands of people throughout the world will be blessed by being able to "see" Jesus with their fingers through the production of Braille.

The Plate Embossing Device (PED) Lutheran Braille Workers currently has is more than 15 years old, and the manufacturer now refuses to repair it or manufacture new parts for it.

The PED makes the Braille "masters," the zinc plates used in our manufacturing process. The PED is, therefore, central to our ministry. This gen-

erous grant from the LWML will go a long way toward the purchasing of a new PED (the total price being \$125,000). With this wonderful gift from the LWML, Lutheran Braille Workers is 4/5th of the way to purchasing the desperately needed PED.

Your prayers and gifts will bring this project "over the top," and allow LBW to place the order for this PED soon. Through the many prayers, labor, and financial resources offered by the LWML and by people such as you, people without sight will be given the opportunity to know Jesus, grow in their faith, and tell others of His love. Due to the partnership with the LWML and LBW's volunteers, donors, prayer-partners and staff, lives are being changed and the Kingdom of God continues to grow. Together we are helping people touch the promises of Jesus.

Article reprinted from the Lutheran Braille Workers, Inc. Newsletter, with permission.

This is only one of the many ways that the "Mitey Mites" we collect here at St. Paul's are used. Please continue to save your change in order to make a change in the lives of others.

Girl Scouts

The Brownies from Girl Scout Troop #10094 read *The Giving Tree* to the pre-school class at St. Paul's this month. The girls are learning how important trees are to our environment and how we all need to protect God's creation by reducing the amount of paper we use. The girls made art projects out of recycled paper to show to the children. Stop by the display case near the church office to see their beautiful creations!

Pictured from left: Harper Swope, Rachel Hodge, Madison Langdon, Madison Luchene, Payton Stachelski, Katelyn Sons and Emma Phillips.



In October, when school was out and St. Paul's teachers were receiving special training, so were the Cadettes in Girl Scout Troop 10135. Mrs. Radermacher from the Red Cross taught these 6th grade girls how to take care of infants and young children, including rescue breathing and basic first aid. If you are looking for a Red Cross Certified Babysitter talk to the girls or contact their leader, Mrs. Weller at cweller@stplmunster.com.

Pictured from left: Sammy Miller, Morgan Schoon, Emily Pals, Mrs. Radermacher, Laura Weller, and Camille Gallicho.



Thrivent News by Carsten Falkenberg

Thrivent / Kids Against Hunger Food Packing Event a Huge Success

Thanks to 284 volunteers, we packed 112,218 meals in one eight hour day, exceeding our goal and again setting a record for our annual Valparaiso University event! Over the past three years, our Thrivent Valparaiso projects have packed well over 300,000 meals, more than any other group working with KAH-Greenwood. This year, 90% of the food we packed was distributed to food pantries in Lake, Porter, and LaPorte Counties, mostly through our partnership with the Northwest Indiana Food Bank, while 10% went to the area of Africa currently affected by starvation and political upheaval. At 23c per meal, we raised \$25,810 to pay for the required ingredients. 75% of the funding came from our Northwest Indiana Lutheran community: Lutheran churches and schools (20%), individuals and families (25%), and four Thrivent chapters (30%). The remainder was from area businesses and organizations, our Thrivent Mid-America RFO, and Thrivent Foundation. If your church or school contributed funds and/or collected an offering for the cause, they have received a thank you note with the details, and hopefully that is available for viewing on a bulletin board near you. We are sincerely grateful to all of you who, through donation of money or time or both, enabled Thrivent's South Shore Group to again complete a super successful project with the Kids Against Hunger Greenwood satellite. Same time next year? If you would like more information, please contact Carsten Falkenberg, Thrivent Financial Wealth Advisor, at 219-663-8699 local, 800-663-8699 toll free, or carsten.falkenberg@thrivent.com.

Blessings, Carsten Falkenberg, CFP® ChFC, CLU, CASL® FIC Wealth Advisor, Mid-America Region, South Shore Group, Thrivent Financial for Lutherans® 6811 E 125th Ave, Crown Point, IN 46307-7944 Office: 219-663-8699 Toll-free: 800-663-8699 Fax: 219-663-6352 Email: Carsten.Falkenberg@Thrivent.com



From the Board of Deacons

Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." John 20:19

A Soothing Voice:

"I am struggling with my sin," said the penitent. The confessor, giving spiritual counsel, replied, "Are you reading the Bible every day?" "Well, no. But how would that help? The problem is with me. My sin is about my weakness and ungodly willfulness." "If the problem is in you, then your only help will come from outside of you; from the Bible. The Bible not only makes clear your sin, but it is God's resource for those who are struggling. It is the medicine for sick souls. It is the prescription for life." How often we dispense with the Bible and ignore its power! Our wicked tendency is to "bootstrap:" to attempt to remake ourselves by an act of our own will, rather than by the power of the Word of God. How we struggle unnecessarily, because we do not avail ourselves of the power of the divine Word in our lives.

Many years ago, a homeless man came to the door of the church at which I was serving, requesting money for food that he said he intended to purchase at a local fast food restaurant. It was quite late in the afternoon and so I suggested to him that he and I could share my dinner of leftovers, which my wife had prepared for me for that evening meal. I would split the food with him. He and I could eat together. Without knowing what the food was, the man said indignantly, "I don't eat none of that." To which I replied, "Well, I do." It is amazing the number of times people refuse to delve into the banquet of God's Word to feed on Christ. "They don't eat none of that," because they think they have their spiritual lives under control on their own, or at least ought to. Being in the Word is literally crucial to our lives in Christ. You can't have one without the other.

SCHOOL News

St Paul's School has been a busy place. While some of the faculty has been in Indianapolis at the Lutheran Church Worker convention updating their skills, other faculty members have stayed here at St. Paul's school and were involved in other learning experiences. On the first seminar day Heather Finnegan presented a Power Point presentation on Sensory Processing Disorder. The lecture was enlightening and supported explanations on why there are many behavioral and learning rates and styles in children. The next seminar day was devoted to more Smart Board and technologies training.

Grandparents! We are looking to bring back our Reading Grandparents program. If you would be interested in volunteering a few hours a week to listen to St. Paul's School children read aloud please call our school secretary, Lana Richardson, and give her your phone number. You do not need to have a grandchild at our school, just a willing heart and ear to listen to our school children.

St. Paul's Congregational School remains firm in the mission of "train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it."

Thank You,
L.C. Braatz
Interim Principal

LPTL is once again selling Golden Opportunity Books for Northwest Indiana and for South Suburban Chicago. They are \$25 each. New this year are coupons for Strack & VanTil, GFS, and Food4Less. Display books and order forms are in the School and Church Offices, or contact Caroline Weller at 219-836-6270 x225 or cweller@stplmunster.com.

Sometimes people think that if they read the book once, they needn't open it again. But they fail to understand each morsel of God's word needs to be carefully savored by consideration of it over and over again. It needs to be meditated upon and carefully digested. I don't know how many times I've been confronted by a word of God that I've read hundreds of times and yet suddenly something I had missed previously was extremely helpful to me; especially at a time of personal crisis or sorrow. The Lord's Word is new every morning. It speaks into our situation in ways we cannot predict before we pick up the book and set our hearts upon it. Listening to the divine speech can be very comforting and soothing. When a child is disturbed by a thunderstorm at night, he just needs to hear the voice of his father to give peace and to still his troubled heart. The Bible is our Father's soothing voice. Let's listen to it.

The above taken from MemorialMoments.org by Rev. Scott Murray, Houston, TX.

We pray: Blessed Lord, who has caused all Holy Scripture to be written for our learning, grant that we may so carefully hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that by patience and comfort of Your holy Word we may embrace, and ever hold fast, the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

Bob Jensen, Board of Deacons

Sports News

The girls volleyball season is wrapping up and basket ball will be starting soon. Our B Girls team finished in 3rd place at the Illinois tournament. The A Girls finished 1st in regular season play and 1st in the tournament. Congratulations on an undefeated year. Our St. Paul's Boys Basketball season starts the end of October with the first six games on the road. The first home game is Nov 29. Come out and cheer on our kids.

2011 A & B Boy's Home Basketball Schedule

TUE Nov 29 th Game Time: 4:30	Home	BBBB vs Hobart
SAT Dec 3 rd Game Times: 1:00 & 2:00	Home	BBBB and ABBB vs Oak Lawn
TUE Dec 6 th Game Time: 4:30	Home	BBBB vs Crown Point
TUE Dec 13 th Game Times: 4:30 & 5:30	Home	BBBB and ABBB vs Valpo
FRI Dec 16 th Game Times: 7:00 & 8:00	Home	BBBB and ABBB vs Tinley Park

*****Christmas Breakfast*****

LPTL is having a Christmas Breakfast on Sunday, December 4th from 8 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. We will have food from 8 - 11 a.m. The fun and games will run until the end!! There will even be a photo-op with Santa, so bring your cameras!! If you would like to help with baking please call Michelle Wilinski 219-669-4800 or email at mlwilinski@yahoo.com. The more the merrier!!

More News & Information

CHURCH INFORMATION

Offering Envelopes will be available later this month.

The box size is smaller, so there are 2 boxes to accommodate the envelopes we use. Be sure to pick up both of your boxes. If you did not find your envelopes please contact the church office.

Voters Meeting will be on Monday, November 21 at 7:30 pm. Plan now to attend this important meeting.

Lutheranism 101 will be offered at the Sunday Adult Bible Study at 9:30 AM in the Adult Education Room. Grab a coffee and a donut and join us for these presentations. The first class starts November 6. The study will incorporate a visual presentation as well as study handouts and searching the Bible to demonstrate the scriptural principles which supports our Lutheran teaching and faith. Whether you are an advanced student of Scripture and theology or quite new to Christianity, you will find good information as you study with your brothers and sisters in Christ.

Our St. Paul's Dartball League has two team that compete each week with area Lutheran Churches. As of Mid October the # 2 team was tied for second place in the A division.

STEPHEN MINISTRY

Your Gifts Package- Faith, mercy, teaching the faith, encouragement, or knowing: Do one or more of these gifts describe you? If so, check out Stephen Ministry, our congregation's one-to-one care giving ministry. Applications to become a Stephen Minister are now available at the welcome center along with the training class schedule starting this January. The deadline for the applications will be November 13th. Contact Jaymes Hayes at jhayes@stplmunster.com or 219-836-6270 x249 today to find out more about what you can do for the Lord.



Seniors

55+ Club will meet on Wednesday, November 9 at 12:30 in the Fellowship Area. After dessert and a brief business meeting, there will be a presentation on Holiday Decorating by Dixon Florist. Ideas for how to make your home bright and cheerful for Thanksgiving and Christmas will be shared. So come get into the spirit of things with us that afternoon. All are welcome.

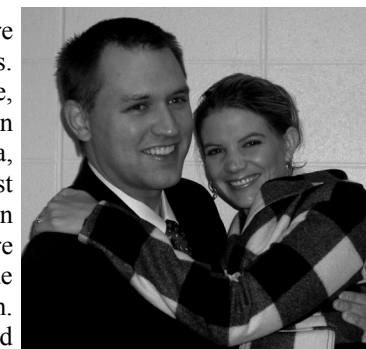
The annual Christmas Luncheon will be on Wednesday Dec 7, at 11:30 at Michael's Restaurant on 45th St this year. You may select from seven different entrees at a cost of \$10 per person. Deadline for reservations is November 30. Please contact Carol Avery at 836-1586 if you would like to join us that day for food and festivities. All seniors are welcome.

New Members

Melissa Boothe and her daughters Kaeley Harrington and Piper Boothe transferred here from St. Paul's, East Chicago. Kaeley attended St. Paul's School from 4th through 8th grade, being confirmed here this past April. She is now a freshman at Highland High School. The ties to school continue with Piper being in St. Paul's Kindergarten. Melissa is an Assistant Librarian with the Lake County Public Library. The family lives in Highland.



Robert and Ashley Rescot are enjoying many new things. They are new to married life, their wedding was in July. Then they became new to the area, moving to Munster in August from Immanuel Lutheran in Lawrence, Kansas. They were brought to the area by Purdue Calumet, where they both teach. Ashley is a French instructor and violin teacher. She shares her musical gift with our Contemporary Music Group as a violinist. Robert earned his doctorate and is an Assistant Professor of Civil Engineering. He enjoys computers, web design, video production, and is an ice hockey official.



Youth Group News

FLY- The November Senior High FLY events will be November 20th. We will meet from 3pm to 5pm in the youth room. Please come in through the North entrance.

Impact- The November Junior High Impact night will be Thursday November 10th, 6:30-8:30pm. Please come in through the North entrance.

Rake 'n' Run- The youth of St. Paul's will once again host the event of raking as many yards of our congregation members who need help as possible. The event will be November 5th. We will meet at 9:30am in the church's North parking lot and break into groups. We will return to St. Paul's afterward for Fall refreshments. All people are welcome to help. If you know of anyone who needs help raking please contact Jaymes Hayes at jhayes@stplmunster.com or 219-836-6270 x249.

Grounds Crew

The colorful leaves are still descending on the beautiful gardens of St. Paul's and we are still trying to corral them into one area! This season is just about over but there is still beauty in the gardens to admire. There is also food and refuge for the birds that remain in the area. Plans are still being formulated for the next growing season, maybe there will be a water feature or some benches for seating while awaiting a ride. Please consider joining the Grounds Crew next year - its more fun than work!