

SHARING GOD'S UNCONDITIONAL LOVE AND PROMISE IN JESUS CHRIST WITH ALL PEOPLE

# THE EPISTLE

## COMMUNION!



On Maundy Thursday, we celebrated with seven young people from 1<sup>st</sup> through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade as they concluded Holy Communion Enrichment. Four students celebrated their First Communion: Payten Heine, Keegan Steeg, Olivia Bailey, and Kiley Housenga. Also honored were Caleb Charlson, Chase Stonestreet, and Davis Waterman, who have been communing, but also joined in taking this milestone class.



**WORSHIP TIMES**  
SUN 8:00 am & 10:30 am  
THURSDAY 7:00 pm

**OFFICE HOURS**  
MON-THUR 9:00-4:00  
FRI 9:00-11:00



## From Pastor Elizabeth...

Worship had just ended – a full Maundy Thursday service, in which we heard the story about how Jesus knelt down and washed his disciples' feet, in which we celebrated first communion with several young people and their families and guests, at which the altar was stripped in remembrance of how Jesus was stripped before he was crucified.

As I left the worship service, someone told me that there was a guy in the narthex who “wanted to see a pastor.” Indeed, when I peeked around the corner, there he was, sitting small and still on the bench in the narthex.

And there, immediately following worship, sitting on the bench in the narthex, needing a place to stay, was Jesus himself.

I've learned to be wary when strangers ask to see the pastor. Very rarely are they seeking spiritual counsel. Almost always, they are seeking material assistance. They're looking for gas money, or food, or a place to stay. Almost always, their request puts me in a quandary. I don't want to be a pushover (which, actually, I

am; that's probably why they ask for a pastor); on the other hand, I don't want to turn away somebody who is truly needy and whom we could help. I want to be a good steward of the resources we have, as well as of the dignity and needs of somebody asking for help. The trouble is, I'm not good at all at determining true need. Regardless of how I respond (or don't), I usually feel uneasy, inadequate, and second-guess myself.

So, here was such a man on Maundy Thursday evening. Swirling around me were parishioners and visitors coming out of worship. Here was somebody travelling through, wondering if there was any place in town to stay. I was happy to refer him to the Victory Center, blessedly only three blocks away. I called them, learned they had room, gave the man their address, took him to the door and pointed him in the direction of the center. His request turned out to be relatively easy to fulfill.

I didn't want to deal with him. But here's the thing: It was Maundy Thursday. We'd just finished worship, where we heard about how Jesus got down and washed his disciples' feet and then admonished them to serve. And there, immediately following worship, sitting on the bench in the narthex, needing a place to stay, was Jesus himself. (Read Matthew 25:31-46)

He's pretty crafty, that old Jesus, don't you think? He exposes us to lofty and challenging ideas and admonitions in worship – about serving, and forgiving, and giving, and loving -- and then without fail, gives us the opportunity to put those into practice in our post-worship life....



# EVENTS

## EVENTS IN MAY

- May 3 Men's Breakfast, 8:30 am
  - May 3 WELCA, 6:00 pm
  - May 3 Committees Meet, 7:00 pm
  - May 4 Confirmation, 6:45
  - May 7 Bike Ride to the Dam, 1:00 pm
  - May 8 Church Music Sunday, both services
  - May 9 Ruth/Deborah Groups, 1:00 church
  - May 10 Lydia Circle, 7:00 pm
  - May 11 Confirmation, 6:45
  - May 12 Memorial Service for Virginia Schreiner, 10:30
  - May 12 Executive Committee, 5:00 pm
  - May 12 ARCH in FH, 5:00 pm
  - May 17 Council Meeting, 7:00 pm
  - May 18 Confirmation, 6:45
  - May 19 Hannah Circle, 1:00 pm (11:45 lunch)
  - May 20-21 Synod Assembly
  - May 22 Spring Musical at Both Services
  - May 22 Piano Recital, Congregation is Invited, 3:00 pm
  - May 22 Last day of Sunday School
  - May 22 Epistle Deadline
  - May 29 Community Meal, 5:30 pm
  - May 30 Office Closed, Memorial Day
  - May 31 Watanye Dinner, 6:45 in FH
- Jun 2 & 5 Summer Worship Schedule Begins

## Summer Worship Schedule:

At their April meeting, the congregation council agreed to move to just one Sunday morning worship service this summer. **Beginning June 5, worship will be held at 9:15 a.m.** (Thursday evening worship at 7:00 will continue as usual.) Council also discussed the possibility of keeping to the one-service schedule beyond the summer, and designed a process for congregational feedback about this question. Beginning in June, worshipers will be invited to return a survey form, and there will be forums on the subject after worship July 10 and 17<sup>th</sup>. A decision will be made in mid-July. Although this is being driven primarily by decreasing worship attendance, most people found last summer's worship experience to be positive, as we enjoyed a more full sanctuary, and got a renewed sense of community. Let us prayerfully consider together what is the best schedule for us at this time in our history.

## GROUP MEETINGS

### WELCA

Tuesday, May 3, 6:00

### HANNAH GROUP

Thursday, May 19

1:00 Lesson at Church

Leader: Donna Jean Holste

### LYDIA CIRCLE

Tuesday, May 10, 7:00

### DEBORAH | RUTH GROUP

Monday, May 9

1:00 Lesson at Church

### MEN'S BREAKFAST

Tuesday, May 3, 8:30 am



**OFFICE CLOSED**  
May 30 (Memorial Day)

## Information Referral & Assistance's Annual Helping Hands Event will be Friday, June 24th.



This event includes a golf tournament, dinner and silent auction. The event raises money that IR&AS uses to assist area people in need by helping them pay for rent, utilities, gas, work clothes, prescription medications and more.

**IR&AS is asking Saint Paul members to put together a themed basket to be auctioned at the event.** If you wish to help in putting together a basket please call the office so we can let IR&AS know. 242-4102

**Want more information about GOLFING at the HELPING HANDS EVENT?** Fliers are on the bulletin board. -or- call IR&AS at 243-5818

# YOUTH NEWS

## SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

The last day of Sunday School is May 22nd. Sunday School will resume in September.

Enjoy your Summer!

The Learning Committee



Sunday School

## SAINT PAUL GRADUATES WILL BE HONORED MAY 28!

We will invite our high school graduates to come forward for a blessing that day, and to greet people at a reception between worship services. *We would like to recognize all graduates from our community. If you or a loved one from Saint Paul will graduate (...from tech school, community college, graduate school, or anything in between), please Angi know in the church office, so we can include you in our list. Thanks!*



## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

VBS will be JULY 18<sup>TH</sup> – 21<sup>ST</sup>

We Welcome Youth, ages 3 (and potty trained) ~ going into 6th grade to join us at Saint Paul's Vacation Bible School July 18th ~ 21st.

Children will be encouraged to grow in faith, have fun and share some of God's love with the world!

We also invite youth going into 7th grade - college age, and adults, to volunteer at VBS to help in whatever way they feel comfortable. We will be looking for teachers, helpers, kitchen help, decorators, etc. To volunteer, or if you have

any questions, please call Jen Heine at 243~9298 or Traci Bailey at 243~4658.



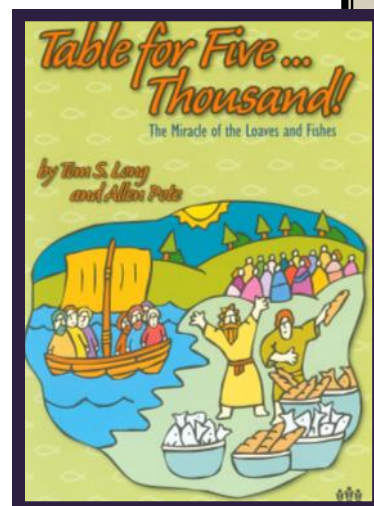
## The Luther Choir presents... TABLE FOR FIVE... THOUSAND!

*The Miracle of the Loaves and Fishes*

By Tom S Long and Allen Pote

May 22 - 8:00 am & 10:30 am  
in the Saint Paul Sanctuary

This is a musical version of the story where one young boy with five loaves and two fish is the catalyst for everything that follows. We really don't know anything about the boy other than his apparent willingness to share, but we know the results of his action: an event so startling, members of the crowd wanted to proclaim Jesus as king. Later the event leads to an even greater revelation as Jesus tells his disciples, "I am the Bread of Life. Those who come to me will never go hungry."



## *A Memorial Service for Virginia Schreiner will be*

*Thursday, May 12, 10:30 am at Saint Paul.*



## **BIKE RIDE TO THE DAM**

**Saturday, May 7 at 1:00.**



Please come and join us for up to a ten mile ride to the lock and dam. Meet at the Shell Station in Fulton ready to ride by 1:00! See Jim Nelson or Pastor Liggett for more info.

**Carl Gerwulf** continues to recover from his stem cell transplant, and would welcome cards and greetings. Please send them to Carl Gerwulf, Room #7104, U of I Hospitals, 200 Hawkins Drive, Iowa City, IA 52242-1009 or visit his page at [www.Caringbridge.org](http://www.Caringbridge.org).

## **Congratulations to Jen Heine and Travis Flatten!**

On March 24 they both were honored at the annual Jaycee Honors Banquet. Jen received the 2010 Outstanding Young Religious Leader Award; and Travis received the Jaycees' Key Leadership award, as well as the prestigious 2010 Distinguished Service Award.



Although one could cite long lists of activities and accomplishments and traits that make both Jen and Travis worthy of such recognition,

it can all be summed up by this: "They show up."

They show up at worship, regardless of how busy they are. They show up when a particular task needs leadership. They show up in that they can be counted on to fulfill their commitments. We're grateful for the service, leadership, and commitment of both Jen and Travis both within and beyond the congregation, and proud to count them among our worshipping community!



## **CAN'T ATTEND WORSHIP SUNDAY?**

Come to Evening Worship at the Foot of the Bridge every Thursday at 7:00pm in the Chapel. Worship is simple, interactive, and intimate with treats after.

## **PRAYER CHAIN INFORMATION:**

If you have a family member or friend who is ill or in distress and you would like for the members of this group to pray for them, call or email the office 242-4102 | [office@saintpaulclinton.org](mailto:office@saintpaulclinton.org)



PRAYER REQUEST CARDS found in the pew racks may be filled out and put in the offering plate. These requests will be passed on to the Prayer Chain.

Please call the church office when your family member or friend has recovered. For more information about the PRAYER CHAIN call Ardena Zirbes, 243-1098 or Barb Larson, 242-8130.

## **Congratulations to Amy and Aaron Meyers**

*on the birth of their son, Hudson Meyers.*

*Hudson was born Easter morning.*

*Grandparents are Dave and Ruth Meyers and David and Diana Forsythe.*





**CHILDREN  
are our  
HOPE**

**Rachel's Day**

On this day, as we recognize the violence, harm, and hunger that many children suffer; we pray for children—all children—and the adults who care for them. And remember to be positive with all the children in your life. Check your bulletin on May 1st and the Women of the ELCA area of the Hall Bulletin Board for more information. Blue represents hope (and so is also the color for Advent).

Saint Paul Women of the ELCA

*"I wanted to thank the generous people of Saint Paul for the food basket given to me."  
..telephone message left April 25, 2011*

**SUMMER WORSHIP**  
**SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE BEGINS JUNE 5!**  
Beginning June 5, we will have one worship service at 9:15 a.m. If you can't come Sunday, please attend our alternative service, which stays at 7:00 on Thursday!

**Packaging Food for Tanzania  
Are You Interested?**

Seven women from Saint Paul attended the Cluster V Spring Gathering on **April 9th** at Chancy Lutheran Church in Clinton. The program presented by Kids Care: "Outreach International" co-founder Kathy Hamilton, also included time to package about 200 food packets which are distributed mainly in Tanzania, Singida Region, but other areas, as well. Composed mainly of dried rice and vegetables, which when prepared can serve 6 people, the Cluster women put together about 200 packets. Response to the idea of making the Fall Gathering a workday to put together 1,000 to 2,000 packets was met with an enthusiastic yes. So the **September 17th** gathering at First Lutheran Church in Maquoketa will consist of a workday; allowing for a short business meeting and Bible study, the rest of the gathering will be in assembling the food packets. This is a project some of our younger women and teens might wish to take part in. There will be a sign-up sheet put on the Small Group Sign-Up board in the lounge in August for those interested in participating. For more information please speak to Roberta Jurgensen, Evelyn J. Dymkowski, Laura J. Dymkowski, Barb Larson, Darlene Clausen, Ruth Nelson, or Donna Jean Holste.



**A Very Big Thank You!**  
To everyone who purchased food items, and/or donated money or labor for the Easter Food Baskets! **Thanks to your generosity, on Saturday April 23rd, 29 families received enough food for an Easter meal, and additional meals.** They expressed their gratitude, as do we on Service Committee.  
**You are most appreciated!**

**Thank You!**  
**THANK YOU!**

Our closet is "lighter," thanks to Marilyn Rasmussen, Flora Stralow (for sorting and cleaning), and Gregg Petersen, Jean and Marv Grager and Marilyn for taking *decades* of old documents to the good folks at Citizens First Bank for shredding!

# MAY 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8:30 Worship 9:15 Sr. Choir, Sunday School, Lazarus Group 10:30 Worship 2:30 Purpose Team	2 10:00 Prayer Group	3 8:30 Men's Breakfast 6:00 WELCA 6:00 Trust Committee 7:00 Committees Meet	4 5:00 Luther Choir/ Youth Bells/Tone Chimes 6:30 Adult Bells 6:45 Confirmation	5 7:00 Worship	6	7 1:00 Bike Ride to the Dam
8 8:30 Worship - Church Music Sunday 9:15 Sr. Choir, Sunday School, Lazarus Group 10:30 Worship Church Music Sunday Baptism of Lindsay Stonestreet	9 10:00 Prayer Group 1:00 Ruth/Deborah Circle	10 7:00 Lydia Circle	11 5:00 Luther Choir/ Youth Bells/Tone Chimes 6:30 Adult Bells 6:45 Confirmation	12 10:30 Virginia Schreiner's Memorial Service 5:00 Executive Meeting 5:00 ARCH in FH 7:00 Worship	13	14
15 8:30 Worship 9:15 Sr. Choir, Sunday School, Lazarus Group 10:30 Worship	16 10:00 Prayer Group	17 7:00 Council Meeting	18 5:00 Luther Choir/ Youth Bells/Tone Chimes 6:30 Adult Bells 6:45 Confirmation	19 1:30 Hannah Circle 7:00 Worship	20 Synod Assembly	21 Synod Assembly
22 8:30 Worship—Spring Musical 9:15 Sr. Choir, Sunday School, Lazarus Group 10:30 Worship—Spring Musical 3:00 Piano Recital, students of Audrey Owen, Congregation is Invited Epistle Deadline	23 10:00 Prayer Group	24	25 5:00 Luther Choir/ Youth Bells/Tone Chimes 6:30 Adult Bells 6:45 Confirmation Epistle Mailing	26 7:00 Worship	27	28
29 8:30 Worship 9:15 Sr. Choir, Sunday School, Lazarus Group 10:30 Worship 5:30 Community Meal	30 Memorial Day OFFICE CLOSED	31 6:00 Watanye Dinner				

# SERVER SCHEDULE

		MAY 1	MAY 8	MAY 15	MAY 22	MAY 29
ACOLYTE	EARLY	Kory K.   Avan C.	Marisa H.	Katie P.   Avan C.	Marisa H.	Kory K.   Avan C.
	LATE	Elley H.   Kiersten H.	Haley V.	Hannah B.   Anna B.	Elley H.	Haley V.   Anna B.
ALTAR GUILD	EARLY	Roberta Gee Evelyn Hubbart	Roberta Gee Evelyn Hubbart	Roberta Gee Evelyn Hubbart	Roberta Gee Evelyn Hubbart	Roberta Gee Evelyn Hubbart
	LATE	Tom & Bev Havens	Tom & Bev Havens	Tom & Bev Havens	Tom & Bev Havens	Tom & Bev Havens
COMMUNION ASSISTANT	EARLY	Roberta Gee Teresa Donanue	Travis Flatten Lisa Clarke	Brian Johnson Lisa Clarke	Brian Johnson	
	LATE	Judy Doughty Jule Luckritz			Barb Reber Bruce Reber	
LECTORS	EARLY	Barb Larson	Travis Flatten	Ardena Zirbes		
	LATE	Judy Doughty	Jule Luckritz			
GREETERS	EARLY	Jim & Ruth Nelson	Ardena Zirbes	Obermillers	Phyllis Edwards	Sandy Bousman
	LATE					
ASSISTING MINISTER	EARLY	Lisa Clarke	Jean Grager			
	LATE					
USHERS	EARLY	Bob Wright	Bob Wright	Bob Wright	Bob Wright	Bob Wright
	LATE	W. Schilling	W. Schilling	W. Schilling	W. Schilling	W. Schilling
FLOWERS	BOTH	Darlene Clausen	Jen Heine			



## SERVERS ARE NEEDED

PLEASE SIGN UP to help as Lector, Communion Assistant, Altar Guild or Assisting Minister. Clipboards to sign up can be found under the bulletin boards in the hallway.

### PEW CARE

MAY 2 Dixielee S.

MAY 9 Elayne G.

MAY 16 Evelyn H.

MAY 23 Darlene C.

MAY 31  
(TUE)

### TELLERS

MAY 2 Elayne G  
Lois S.  
Judy D.

MAY 9 Elayne G.  
Lois S.  
Judy D.

MAY 16 Darlene C.  
Judie C.  
Lois S.

MAY 23 Darlene C.  
Irene N.  
Judy C.

MAY 31 Darlene C  
(TUE) Irene N.  
Judie C.

# CONGRATS

## anniversaries

Curtis and Roxanne Adams	05/28/1982
Jennifer and Travis Baker	05/29/1999
Joy and Jon Clement	05/27/1995
Clayton and Helen Cook	05/31/1986
Lori and Kevin Koch	05/04/1996
David and Ruth Meyers	05/11/1974
Mike and Bonnie Meyers	05/10/1980



## birthdays

Cannon, Jared	05/14
Christensen, Doris	05/17
Colah, Avan	05/06
Colah, Cyrus	05/06
Dymkowski, Evelyn	05/24
Echelbarger, Barbara	05/11
Grager, Rachel	05/29
Guidebeck, Laurie	05/19
Henschel, Christopher	05/08
Johnson, Debra	05/01
Jurgensen, Louis	05/30
Kennedy, Sheryl	05/19
Ketelsen, Richard	05/24
Koch, Lori	05/30
Merten, Jack	05/20
Meyers, Michael	05/07
Pillers, James	05/28
Pollpeter, Randall	05/02
Pollpeter, Katherine	05/13
Richardson, Julie	05/11
Sanderson, Arthur	05/21
Schabillion, Katherine	05/13
Skiff, Dennis	05/18
Snyder, Nathan	05/25
Snyder, Ethan	05/27
Stamp, Dixielee	05/12
Stumbaugh, Garrett	05/15
Thompson, Gail	05/03
Wilcox, Joan	05/31
Winter, Donna	05/01
Witte, Steven	05/25

Jerry Hoffman, former director of the Center for Stewardship Leaders, shared this powerful quote with me.

"A hardship mentality can make us narrow and defensive. A success and prosperity mentality can make us selfish. An attitude of thankfulness to God, for what He gives us, can make us truly generous."

From "Seize the Day with Dietrich Bonhoeffer"  
by Charles Ringma



"Dad, can you make dinner for me and my entire Sunday school class?"

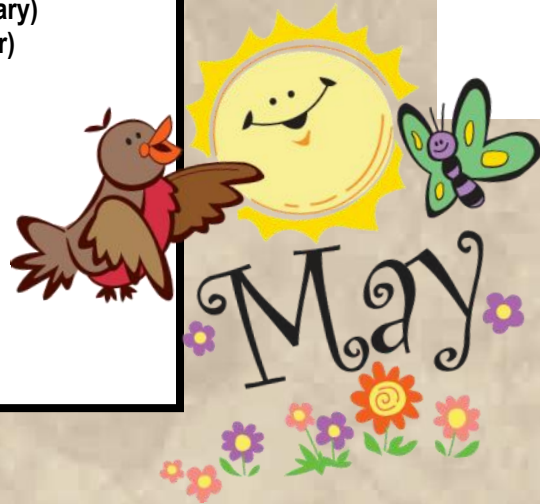
**You are witnesses of these things. Luke 24:48**  
**Belief enables us to express our faith to others.**  
from "Inspirations for Daily Life" AAL

Newsletter  
**DEADLINE**  
MAY 22

# LAUGHS

2011 Congregation Council:

Brian Johnson (President)  
Jim Nelson (Vice President)  
Lisa Clarke (Secretary)  
Al Rathje (Treasurer)  
Sandra Wiper  
Evelyn Dymkowski  
Mert Schmidt  
Justin Grager  
Jule Luckritz  
Joan Guidebeck  
Ted Eilders  
Jean Grager



MAY 2011  
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SHARING GOD'S UNCONDITIONAL LOVE AND PROMISE IN JESUS CHRIST WITH ALL PEOPLE

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