The Epistle

September– October 2020

Notes from Pastor Krenz

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith. (Hebrews 12:1-2a)

Friends and members of St. Paul's,

On September 6th, 1995 Cal Ripken Jr. played in his 2,131st game which broke the record, previously held by Lou Gehrig, for consecutive games played by a major league baseball player. It is a record that still stands.

Why the celebration? In this sport where injuries

are never in short supply, day after day and year after year Cal Ripken Jr. showed up and did his job.

For over 45 years Kathy Stechmesser has faithfully made sure that the congregational news has gotten out in a timely manner through this monthly newsletter. Kathy did not desire recognition for this and expressed that to me. However, we would be remiss as a congregation not to thank God for her consistent and faithful work.

There is a larger lesson here. In these uniquely challenging times, putting one foot in front of the other and carrying on with the work God has called us to do, is a good thing. Each of you are called by God to do his will in a variety of stations in life. These callings take place in your family, at work, at church, in school, and within the community. Most of the work done in these various callings is rather mundane and even filled with a good deal of drudgery. The daily steps taken seem small and maybe even insignificant, but when you put them all together, a great deal of distance has been covered.

To God be the glory and to Jesus be all praise!

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Krenz



St. Paul's Lutheran Church 227 Goodhaven Dr. Columbia, IL 62236 618.281.4600

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Preschool News

Due to the ongoing uncertainty related to COVID-19, the Board of Education voted in August not to enroll students for the 2020 Fall semester. As the situation evolves, a decision for the Spring 2021 semester will be made in the November/ December timeframe. In the meantime, we ask for your continued prayer support for our students, families, and staff.



Aluminum Can Recycling

We continue to collect aluminum cans for recycling. Please place cans either inside the vinyl fence by the preschool kitchen or on the concrete beside it.

Church Secretary Mary Lou Oglesby

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Pastor Stephen Krenz

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<u>Website</u> http://stpauls-lcms.org/

<u>Find us on Facebook</u> @stpaulscolumbiail

Member & New Member Highlight

We hope this "Member /New Member Highlight" column will help us as member of the Body of Christ here at St. Paul's to get to know our fellow congregational members better. For this first issue, we are highlighting Kathy Stechmesser as our member and Andrea Mastrantuono as our new member.

Kathy Stechmesser



Tell us about how you got connected to St. Paul's Lutheran Church. How long have you been a member? Kathy's family moved to Columbia from Sugar Loaf near East Carondelet in 1950 or 1951 and transferred from Holy Cross to St. Paul's, making Kathy an "almost a lifetime" member of St Paul's.

What changes in the church/congregation have been most significant over the years? The biggest changes have been moving from the old church on Rapp Street to the Good Haven church shortly after I was confirmed at the Rapp Street address. Then also a big change when the present church was added onto in the late 1990s.

Tell us about your family. Kathy and Roger are blessed with 5 children, 11 grandchildren, and 5 great grandchildren! With the help of her mother, Kathy helped care for 6 of the 11 grandchildren during the week. Kathy & Roger are now helping to care for their twin 2-year old great grandsons and their infant brother especially when their son, Eric, is out of town working.

What committees and groups have you been involved in over the years? Kathy is a member of the Women's Ministry, Ladies League, and our Friday Night Bible Study. In the past she also served as the church secretary, newsletter and is our long-time volunteer bookkeeper.

How has working on this newsletter influenced you and your faith? I have felt a vital part of the church volunteering as the bookkeeper and also by being able to see the newsletter is mailed out each month, using my secretarial skills to God's glory and bringing church news to those who cannot attend church.

What is your favorite hymn and Bible verse? My favorite hymn is Abide with Me and my favorite Bible verse is Proverbs 3: 5, "Trust I the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will direct your paths."



Andrea Mastrantuono

Where are you from and what brought you to Columbia? | am from Red Bud, IL. I lived in Columbia for almost 9 years before moving to Waterloo in 2016. While I was a visitor to St. Paul's from time to time during these years, I continued to be a member of my original home church of St. John's Lutheran in Red Bud.

When did you be-

come a member at St. Paul's? What led you to become a member here? After becoming pregnant, I wanted to become a member of a church a little closer to home. I became a member in the Spring of 2019. I want my son to learn and grow in the Christian faith as I did.

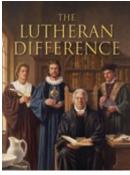
What is your favorite Bible verse or story about Jesus and why? John 15:5: "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in me, and I in him, bears much fruit. For apart from me, you can do nothing." This was not only my confirmation Bible verse, but I chose it because it was also both of my sister's confirmation verses. I like the message and how it easily explains our relationship to Christ.

What do you like to do as a family when you aren't at church? Currently, we mostly hang out at home or with family. My husband Marc and I like to spend time outside and go for walks. We had been looking forward to taking Liam on first outings to places like the zoo or the new St. Louis Aquarium, but unfortunately with the current pandemic, these things will just have to wait a bit.



On August 4th, ten congregational members met on a beautiful evening outside on the front lawn to discuss the core values of this congregation. Prior to our 4-month hiatus, this long range planning committee met to discuss the importance of strategic planning in a congregation, building consensus, and identifying the many gifts and resources God has given the saints here at St. Paul's. This group will continue to meet the first Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. through the end of the year. Locations to be determined.

The Lutheran/Christian Difference — by Pastor Krenz



The purpose of this column is to state clearly what we believe, teach, and confess as Lutheran Christians. By stating "Lutheran" in the title I do not mean to denigrate other Christians, for much of what will be stated finds an "amen" in many Christian circles. Rather, I hope to bring out our Lutheran/Biblical heritage which I pray will bring more depth to your God given Christian faith.

<u>The Law — A gift that diagnoses our problem and prepares</u> us for Christ.

The first commandment says you shall have no other gods. fr In Hebrew, this phrase literally says you shall have no other gods before my face. It is a gift that God makes himself known to us as our creator and the one who keeps us going. What a joy to know that he is our rescuer through Jesus who makes himself known to us through the Holy Spirit. The other gods are idols, and an idol is anything we put in place of God,

Rise Against Hunger

above God, or set in front of his face. The law is like an x-ray machine that reveals previously unseen idols in our lives. Recently I heard someone say that too often we worship our work, work at our play, and we play at our worship. We have the verbs all goofed up. Recognizing this truth is the work of God's law showing us that our priorities are askew. Let us joyfully worship our God, enjoy the freedom of rest and recreation, and use work to glorify God and serve our neighbor. The diagnostic use of the law is not God's final or even most powerful message, rather it is the forgiving work of Christ. Paul writes in Galatians 4 "that He might redeem those who were under the Law, so that we might receive the adoption as sons." Thank goodness the law does not have the final say over us. The one who does has kept the law and rescued us from the sin it uncovers.

Lutheran/Christian Resources to strengthen your faith:

- KFUO Radio 850 AM
 - The God Whisperers Podcast
 - Being Lutheran Podcast
 - Issues Etc. Podcast



Thank you to all who assisted with the Rise Against Hunger Event on August 9th. 30+ volunteers working in 3 shifts made more than 10,000 food packetsenough to feed 50 children for a year! Along with our church members, a number of other members of the community participated. Thanks be to God, we were able to raise the full amount needed (\$3,900) to covered the cost of all of the supplies needed to assemble these packets.

Sunday School News



This summer has certainly been challenging, but our teachers rose to the occasion by providing Sunday School lessons on YouTube. They had lots of creative ideas that we hope the kids enjoyed. Here are a couple of snapshots of our teachers and a few of the students in action. If you missed the videos the first time or want to watch them again, go to www.youtube.com and search for "St. Pauls Lutheran Church."





Until we can meet again in person, we will be implementing CPH's Enduring Faith Curriculum with digital content so parents can do the lessons at home with their kids. Hard copy materials will be delivered to your home or you can pick them up from your mailbox at church. Parents will also receive emails with a link to the bonus content.

Please call or text Karen Mueller at 618-806-4369 to let her know how you would like to receive your materials and to provide an email address to forward links and updates.

<u>The first two lessons in September are</u>: Sept. 06 - Handmade – Adam and Eve Sept. 13 - A Sign and a Promise – God's Covenant with Abram



Have you heard of the Ice Bucket Challenge? **Here is a** *Bible Verse Challenge!* See if you can memorize the Bible verses from Lessons 1 & 2. They are:

Psalm 139:14 - |

praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; our works are wonderful, I know that full well.

2 Corinthians 1:20 - For all the promises of God find their yes in him. That is why it is him that we utter our Amen to God for his glory.

St. Paul's Lutheran Historic Church and School

The prefect place for your meeting or event!

114 W. Liberty Street

Columbia, IL 62236

Contact: psnider@htc.net or faithg1962@yahoo.com

Facebook: St. Paul's Historic Church and School

LWML/Ladies League

Meeting Schedule: After a 4-month break, we were happy to meet again in August! Please come to any meeting or event to visit, join us, or serve with us. We would love to see you! Call Wanda at 281-4691 if you would like more information.

Our next meeting is scheduled for **September 3rd** at 11:30 a.m. in the Narthex. Everyone should bring her their own lunch, drinks, and masks. We will begin with a devotion and prayer. After lunch, we will assemble fabric kits to be sent to Lutheran World Relief. Thank you to Thrivent Financial for seed money to assemble the kits and purchase fabric for the Comforts of Love group.

Our **October 1st** meeting will be held at the Metter Park (near the library) at 11:30 a.m. Bring your own lunch, drinks, mask, and lawn chair. Pastor Krenz will present the topic.

<u>Convention News:</u> The Southern Illinois District Convention will be held virtually this year. Helen Nowak and Wanda

Gross are our delegates. Parts of the convention will be recorded at our church on Sept. 26th. You will be able to view the convention proceedings at www.sidlwml.org on Oct. 1, 2020.

LWML Sunday will be observed on October 4th. At the service, we will display several of the quilts

that have been made by our Comforts of Love group. On October 12th will deliver just shy of 50 quilts and the fabric kits to St. John's Lutheran Church in Arnold, MO. Thank you to all of the volunteers for assembling, quilting, and delivering the quilts and kits!

Youth News



Our youth sure know how to work hard and play hard! The mission trip to Altenburg and Frohna, MO was successful and we returned with LOTS of new knowledge of our rich Lutheran heritage.

Top photo: The group poses with a statue of C.F. W. Walther. Walther was the first president of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod and its most influential theologian. L to R: Jeannie AuBuchon, Seth Degenhart, Ollie Ramirez, & Christina Schmitt. Kneeling: Loren & Kaitlyn Koenigstein,

Bottom photo: Seth and Ollie repair a fence.

Check out www.lutheranmuseum.com for more about this gem of a historic site!

Youth Bible Study Meetings

We are transitioning our bi-weekly Bible studies from Zoom to the Bolm-Schuhkraft Memorial City Park in Columbia ! Youth are encouraged to attend either the 8AM or 10:30 church service first, then meet up at the park at 11:45 in the pavilion across from the tennis courts for fun and fellowship. The dates for September are listed below. Stay tuned to Facebook and your e-mail for dates, times, and locations in October and beyond. If you are interested or would like more information, please reach out to our Youth Leader, Christina Schmitt, at cschmitt.splcyouth@gmail.com.

September Dates

- September 6, 2020
- September 20, 2020
- October dates TBD

Upcoming Youth Events

September 12th, 2020 - Meramec Float Trip. More details to follow!



Trustee Report

Do you know who your Trustees are and what they do?

The committee currently consists of Terry Aldridge, Mike Arras, Rex Hancock, Steve Lake, Helen Nowak (chairperson), and Don Radenz. They are responsible for the care and maintenance of all church property & major equipment.

This year has been a busy one for this group! They did a ton of work to prepare for and sell the parsonage. Kevin & Steve took care of all of the yard work, Don took care of lighting, Rex cleaned the garage, Terry & his son painted, and Helen handled all business with the realtor. A HUGE thank you to Mitch Essert, Jackie Haberl, Marianne May, Helen & Kendra Nowak, and Sue Stemler for painting the parsonage basement in February. After all that work, we accepted an offer for our FULL asking price of \$249K on the VERY FIRST DAY the house was on the market. After closing costs we received \$288,281.01.

In the near term, the Trustees will be focusing on cleaning out neglected areas of the bilding, refocusing on general care and maintenance, and replacing AC units and other major equipment as needed.

Questions? Call Helen Nowak at 618.281.4875 (home) or 618.980.6549 (cell).

Updates from the Elders

- The Elder lists have been updated and all members are now assigned an elder. A master list is in the church office. Please call the church secretary at 618.281.4700 for more information.
- Elder and Pastor visits have been going well and will continue on Sundays.
- Through September, we will continue to offer two devotional services on Wednesdays (9:30 am & 5:30 pm), one on Saturdays (11 am), and two on Sundays (8 am & 10:30 am). There will be no "church in the park" this year. A schedule for October is forthcoming.
- Thee Elders are planning a memorial for Mike Maske. It will to be a TV screen in the balcony so Pastor can see the same screen as the congregation. This will help the services run more smoothly.

Wedding Anniversaries

<u>September</u>

- 6 Christopher & Brittany Mitchel I
- 7 Gene & Jackie Haberl Ray & Alberta Spradling
- 8 Gennifer & Joseph Luberda
- 10 Jeff & Robin Phelps Dane & Heather Schickedanz John & Rebecca Wallace
- 11 David & Connie Gummersheimer
- 12 Robert & Jan Glaenzer
- 18 Aaron & Callie Frazier Neil & Jane Hunt
- 19 Franklin & Karen McCann
- 20 John & Aimee Ebersohl Derek & Bethany Niehaus
- 21 Ryan Degenhardt & Jeanne AuBuchon Gregory & Terri Grohman
- 28 Charles & Leah Farris Edward & Tami Williams



<u>October</u>

- 5 Kent & Pam Haberl
- 8 Kenneth & Michelle Mathews
- 18 Tobin & Gina Search
- 20 Michael & Carol Essesrt
- 28 Rex & Carole Hancock Robert & Penny Rauh
- 31 Dallas & Jana Eytchison

September

- 1 Hailey Frazer Xander Heck Judith Schwartz
- 2 Caitlyn Bradley Jake Dinkelman Liam Mastrantuono Mark Vieregge
- 3 Mitch Essert Catherine Guebert
- 5 Dan Adams Carl Bierman Sharon Garfield Austin McCann Krista Thompson
- 6 Jeremy Reichert
- 7 John Garfield Garrett Potts
- 8 Matt Clyde Dalton Kritz Beverly Pulcher
- 9 Henry Jacobs Terry Kempf
- 10 Brady Luther Paige Farris Ryan Murray
- 11 Collin Schmidt
- 13 Allison Ford
- 14 Darryl Byerley Aiden Colyer Carrie Fransson Mikaela Thompson

Altar Flowers



If you would like to provide altar flowers, sign up on the Flower Chart posted on the bulletin board near the steps going down to the basement. You may also call the church office to sign up or to check for available dates. For all other questions, please contact Kathy Stechmesser at 618.281.4670.

15 Harper Herbeck Sydney Leudeman

B

- 18 Doc Kleinschmidt19 Laura Homan
- 20 Eric Hofstetter Kevin Martens Doris Mathews
- 21 Karen McCann
- 22 Mary Schmidt Elvera Schuchert*
- 23 Sylvia Ebersohl Carter Wallace
- 25 Alan Colbert Charles Ford Phyllis Peters
- 26 Molly Gvozdich Michelle Magnuson
- 27 Gary Camp, Jr.
- 28 Ashton Haskel Heather Schickedanz Michael Heise Sue Pidgeon
- 29 Tami Williams
- 30 Joseph Dinkleman Joydean Beatty Shirley Kramer Adysen Lyon

- 1 Brody Blind Patricia Gruber Dean Lyon
- 2 Diane Busch Matthew Louis Sierra Russell
- 4 Keaton Schmitt
- 5 Steven Howell Kendra Nowak Robyn Woolley
- 6 Terry Aldridge Gary Camp
- 7 Reed Greatting
- 8 Josh Colyer Neil Hunt
- 10 Rick Gulin Michael Roediger Payton Roland
- 11 Denise Grider John Kirk Karl Nowak Joseph Rahn
- 12 Brett Luther Brooke Quevreaux
- 13 Kaitlyn Koenigstein Kevin Koenigstein Zachary Mathews Daniel Schwartz
- 14 Stephanie Althoff-Lammert Adeline Chandler Terri Grohman

- 15 Courtney Elbrecht Judith Kellenberger Craig Story
- 16 Raymond Bense Lloyd Dindelman Brock Kleinschmidt Brittany Russell
- 17 Lori Camp

October

- 18 Madeline Nowak Andrew Watts
- 20 Phyllis Story
- 21 Robert Glaenzer George Hand
- 22 Nancy Bennett Dennis Everding Robert Henerfauth Brynlee Rule Heinrich Theiss
- 23 Delbert Veiregge
- 24 Darby Boland
- 25 Evelyn Gross
- 26 Andrew Colyer Dallas Eytchison Jacqueline Haberl Victoria Lock Mackenzie Offermann Jessica Womack
- 28 Ty Camp
- 29 Ashlynn Magnuson

Board of Finance

Thanks be to God! Our weekly offerings have been coming in regularly, so along with the sizeable gifts from the Schneider estate and proceeds from the parsonage sale, our coffers are overflowing. The Finance Board and the Board of Elders plan to establish a strategy to identify and prioritize the needs of the physical church and the congregation and are also considering the possibility of forming a committee to assist with these processes. More information to come!

Board of Christian Caring (Food Pantry)

The Food Pantry sure had its share of challenges when Columbia and surrounding areas effectively "shut down" in mid-March. Most members of our community nourished in body and spirit: of our regular volunteers were no longer able to help because of age &/or health conditions. A whole new group of folks from our congregation and community joined in to keep our operation going. Besides needing a new cadre of volunteers, we also had to change how we operate. We now pre-pack food boxes and toiletry bags and offer drive-thru pick-up outside in the lower level parking lot. Previously, our patrons came into the building and waited while we filled their orders.

In addition to our new volunteers, we also received a tremendous number of donations in our collection bins from many unnamed angels as well as larger food and monetary donations from congregation and community members, local businesses, various civic organizations, and local churches. We received so much support that we don't have enough room to list all of our benefactors here!

As the COVID epidemic evolves, so does our operation. For example, we are looking at how we can modify the drive-through pick up in anticipation of winter weather. And now that school is starting, we need yet a THIRD group of volunteers as most of our summer help has been from school employees and students.

A HUGE thank-you to our "new" spring/summer volunteers: Dianne Bierman, Charlie Consolino, Carol Erickson, Carole Hancock, Ellen Heise, Cyndi Kelly, Anna Krenz, Robyn Lacefield, Stefanie Newbill, Helen Nowak, Karl, Donna, Levi, Hannah, Sophia, Grace, & Maddie Nowak, Heather, Dane, & Brooke Quevreaux, Christina, Keaton, and Remi Schmitt, & Marilyn Ziegler. If I missed anyone, please let me know. It has been a long, busy summer and I'm often a bit forgetful.

Here is how YOU can help keep some of the most vulnerable

- Food distribution days (1st & 3rd Wednesdays of each 1. month). We set up 30 minutes prior to our official 1:30 pm start time and we leave after tidying up after our closing time of 3 pm. At least 2 volunteers should be able to lift somewhat large/heavy boxes of food. Standing, walking required.
- 2. Sorting, marking, and crating donations as needed. No special skills/abilities needed. Most work can be done while seated. Can be done on a flexible schedule.
- 3. Pre-packing boxes of non-perishable food items. Must be able to walk and place cans & bags of food into boxes. Can be done on a flexible schedule.
- 4. Shopping. We often need to purchase items in bulk quantities to fill in gaps in donations. We need people who are willing to buy flats/cases of food or hygiene items at places like Aldi's, Walmart, Ruler Foods, Dollar Tree, etc. We will provide you with shopping lists, tax exempt certificates, and reimbursement paperwork. Can be done on a flexible schedule.
- 5. Temperature checks. Our refrigerators/freezers need to have temperatures checked and recorded weekly. Can be done on your schedule.
- 6. Pray.

If you are willing to help with any of these items, please contact board chairperson Barb Ries at loubar@frontier.net or 618.476.1065 or Kendra Nowak at kendranowak@hotmail.com, 618.281.4875 (home), or 240.413.0014 (cell).



Meet Our Seminary Students

Welcome back, Aaron Beckman! Aaron is a 2nd year as our field worker and as a "second career" student in Concordia Seminary's Residential Alternate Route program.

Aaron and his wife Nicole grew up just outside the Twin Cities, MN. Aaron saw Nicole the first day of school of their freshman year of high school and it was love at first sight! They started dating and have been together ever since. Nicole has worked in the construction industry since high school and currently works for Scherer Bros. Lumber Company as a Sales Manager. They have two children: Samantha, 23, recently graduated from Concordia College – Moorhead with a degree in biochemistry. She is now working for Medtronic in Fridley, MN as a Chemist in the Cardiac, Rhythm, and Heart Care group. Jacob, 19, graduated a year ago from Buffalo High School, enlisted in the Minnesota Army National Guard and is currently a Horizontal Engineer (he operates large earth moving equipment to construct roads, runways, barricades, etc). Outside of the MN National Guard he works for an excavating company in the Twin Cities.

Prior to the seminary, Aaron spent many years working in the business sector. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Law Enforcement from Metropolitan State University and a Master of Arts in Theological Studies from the University of Northwestern – St. Paul. In addition, he worked part-time at his home congregation of St. John's Lutheran Church in Buffalo where he led Bible studies, small groups, liturgy, visited shut-ins and performed hospital visitations. When not working, commuting from Minnesota, or studying, Aaron

Ing, Aaron and Nicole enjoy spending family time with their children, BBQing, and traveling up to MN's North Shore.



Vacation Bible School

We also welcome back Alicia Benning! Alicia is a second year Concordia Seminary Deaconess student. You may have seen her in church this past spring before COVID descended upon us. We hope that Alicia can begin assisting us here at St. Paul's in the next few weeks.

Alicia is from Raymond, Illinois and grew up attending Trinity Lutheran Church in Harvel, II. Thanks to her mother Carol, Alicia was active in LWML from a young age. Together with her father Loren and brother Joel, the four of them have attended multiple national LWML conventions all over the country. Alicia represented the LWML-SID as the Young Women's Representative(YWR) at the 2015 convention in Des Moines, IA.



Upon graduating high school, Alicia became a part-time Minnesotan while attaining her undergraduate degree from Concordia University Saint Paul. She graduated with a Church Music major and two minors in Education and Lutheran Theology in May 2019.

Although she is grateful to be back in her home district, Alicia enjoys traveling, particularly back up the Mississippi River to visit friends in Minnesota. When she is not traveling, Alicia enjoys being creative in both sewing and baking.

It was our great privilege as a congregation to be one of the first in the area to host a virtual VBS! This year's theme was Rainforest Explorers. We appreciate all the help and support of the members of St. Paul's, Pastor Krenz and his daughter Anna, VBS director Carleigh Ottwell, and our tech guru Josh Colyer for helping to ensure families would get to participate in this week long program. Here are some photos of a few of our participants learning about our loving God who leads the way!





September 2020 Mon

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St. Paul's Lutheran Church

227 N. Goodhaven Drive Columbia, IL 62236

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



The Board of Communications would like to thank Kathy Stechmesser for her many years of service to the congregation as the newsletter editor. We look forward to continuing to support the congregation and its mission as we assume this role from her. If you have ideas for the newsletter or would like to submit something for publication, please let us know! You can find our contact information in the church directory or by calling the church office.

> Sincerely, Josh Colyer Julie Greatting Jennifer Krick Kendra Nowak Levi Ottwell (Elder Representative)

If you would like to receive your newsletter electronically in the future, please send Kendra an e-mail. Her contact information is available in the "Board of Christian Caring" section inside.

Have a great idea for the newsletter? Let us know!

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