

News & Notes



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The Rev. Matt Conrad, Pastor**

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From the Pastor's Desk

Slow Down

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Acts 1:8

Busy, busy, busy. We are a busy people. Places to go, people to see, things to do. I don't know about you, but it never seems as if I have enough time for all the things I have to do. Once my kids started school, it seems as if everything was kicked into overdrive (For most of you, I know I'm not telling you anything you don't already know!) We have a family calendar by the back door, covered with all sorts of scribbles, reminding us what we need to do and when. It's as if we're circus performers, spinning plates on a rod, trying to keep everything moving and in synch, hoping that we don't forget something and let a plate drop (we've got a lot of broken plates in the Conrad household!)

On one hand it feels good to be busy. Being busy gives us a purpose. Being busy makes us feel important. Being busy makes us feel as if we're accomplishing something. We crawl into bed, exhausted, thinking "Wow, today was crazy!" as we close our eyes for sleep.

But there's a problem with being busy - we can be so focused on ourselves and what we think we need to do that we are oblivious to the lives of others around us. We can be so focused on getting our kids from point A to point B, turning in this report and making that conference call, trying to get all of our errands done before we start cooking dinner - that we practically ignore everyone else around us. By trying to accomplish everything on our list for the day, sometimes we miss the joy of life around us! We're simply too busy to enjoy it!

My encouragement to you today is to slow down a little bit - as you are trying to finish whatever monumental task you've put before yourself today, slow down and pay attention. In particular, I want you to notice the people around you as you work so hard to finish your day. With whom do you come in contact each day? Who do you see each week, but you've never really spoken with them before? As you're rushing around taking the kids from this place to that, who are the other parents doing the exact same thing you are doing? On your commute to the city, who's on the train with you? As you stand in line for your Starbucks coffee, who is serving you today? As you pass that homeless guy with your car, what does his sign say? What have you been missing each day?

You see, as we run around each day, being so busy, we could easily miss some people who need to know of Jesus and His love. As we try to finish all the work we've put on our own plates, we might be missing the real work that God has set out for us that day. We've just been too busy to notice! We need to slow down!

Starting November 9th, we're going to have a series of six sermons, leading up to Christmas, to help us be better followers of Christ and sharing our faith in little ways. Sometimes we make pointing someone to Jesus such a scary thing - when all we really might need to do is share a kind word of hope. In fact, it might even be that we need to not say anything at all, but just show that love of Jesus in a tangible way (and then when the opportunities comes to explain why we'd do such a nice thing when we are already so busy, then we can share the hope we have in Christ!)

In particular over these weeks, we're going to individually identify people we know who are far from Christ, and to whom we might have an opportunity to point toward Jesus. Christmas is the perfect opportunity to speak of our Savior and/or invite someone to church with you. In our busy, busy lives, it's easy for us to forget that call of Christ to be His witnesses in the world. God has brought people into our lives and we have an opportunity to share with them, if only we'd slow down long enough to notice!

Between now and November 9th, I'd like you to do two things. First, think about who is in your life that is far from Christ. How could you make a positive difference in the faith life of that person? Additionally, I'd like you to get up each morning and share this little prayer, something along these lines:

"God, connect me to one person today who needs to hear or see You and Your love. Use me to point someone to You today."

And then, after you pray, keep your eyes open. Slow down, look around, be aware of the people around you. You might just be surprised at what you see. But if you're too busy, you might just miss it.

Rev Matt Conrad

CHURCH NEWS

DURING THE PAST YEAR, the following members and friends of St. Paul became members of the Church Triumphant and have gone to be with Jesus forever.

Dolores Meinke
Sophie Ullberg
Ann Kavanaugh
Sybille Schroeder
Janice Young



THANKSGIVING SERVICE **THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE:** Please join us on Wednesday evening, November 26th at 7 pm for our Thanksgiving worship service.

RIDE SHARING PROGRAM

We would love to start a ride sharing program at St. Paul. Do you often need a ride to church on Sundays? Would you consider stopping and picking up someone on your way to church? We would like to match up drivers and riders. Please call Penny Luytgaarden (847) 679-8487 if you need a ride or if you can drive.



L.W.M.L. NEWS

Thank you to everyone who gave a donation to LWML (Lutheran Women's Missionary league) on October 5th in the 10:30 service. I neglected to address the 8 am service, therefore, I apologize.

To those who were unable to take a Mite Box home with them on October 5, deemed as LWML Sunday, there will be a supply of boxes at the back of church for you to do so now. It is amazing how many coins (dollars) that can be put in this **little** box...that can make such a **big** difference to LWML missions. (Also a great way to teach our children about our responsibility of helping those in need). That Sunday's collection brought in \$321...WOW! Since then we have collected another \$128.66. Please continue this fine work here at St. Paul. On a regular basis, I will publish the amounts collected for LWML. Thank you again.

As I addressed the congregation at the 10:30 am service on October 5, I read our mission statement and stated the missions that were chosen this year at the biennial convention in Sandwich, Illinois on September 26 & 27.

"The Mission Statement of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League is to assist each woman of The Lutheran Church— Missouri Synod in affirming her relationship with the Triune God so that she is enabled to use her gifts in ministry to the people of the world."

(L.W.M.L. News, continued on page 6)

Some of the grants voted on by the membership were:

- \$22,000 St. Matthew's Soup Kitchen
- \$10,000 Food & Clothing Co-op, Concordia Theological Seminary Ft. Wayne, Indiana
- \$10,000 Prison Ministry, Voice of Hope Behind the Wall
- \$22,000 Phil's Friends, Cancer Care Packages
- \$22,000 Voice of Care, Serving People with Disabilities in the Church
- \$5,000 Trinity/Hope, Feeding Lutheran School Children

This was my first ever LWML convention and was thoroughly impressed with the dedicated, Christian women who have been inspired to do God's work. The pastors who delivered sermons were so inspirational. I witnessed time and time again examples of charity, love and mission work. **Please join me now at St. Paul in the work of LWML so that we can make a difference in ways we never dreamed possible.** Please call and join us:

Penny Luytgaarden, LWML President - (847) 679-8487
Marie Kamps
Janice Greenwald



OFFICIAL ACTS

Marriage: 10/12 Scott Kreissler & Sara Akre

Funeral: 10/11 Janice Young



ATTENDANCE

8:00 am

10:30 am

October 5	25	65
October 12	27	87
October 19	24	68
October 26	36	90

THE FOLLOWING MEMORIALS WERE RECEIVED IN THE CHURCH OFFICE:

In memory of Sybille Schroeder

Faith & Jess Hundahl

In memory of Janice Young

Rae Ritsch	Stan & Joanie McKinney
Wilma Dolsen	William & Gail Herrmann
Lynn Walsh	Bill & Jill Mueller
John & Edna Witte	Marjorie Schaser
Arnold & Elayne Jacobs	Barbara Uber
David & Jill Hughs	Jeanne Willis
Hal Gibson	Douglas & Carol McQueary
Brian & Donna Tennis	Wendy Fairchild
Wilson & Terese Hunt	Champro Sports

ST. PAUL FOUNDATION FUND HONOR ROLL OF DONORS:

In memory of Richard Snell

Gerry & Mary Bonkoske

In memory of Janice Young

Gerry & Mark Bonkoske

ST. PAUL GIVING & DEBT

Fiscal Year – June 1, 2013 to May 31, 2014
Month Ending – September 2014

Member Contributions + Loose Offerings

Needed total per 2013/2014 budget	\$ 237,000
Needed giving each month	19,750
Giving received this month	15,382
Giving needed so far this year	79,000
Actual giving so far this year	74,089
Variance to need – surplus/(deficit)	(4,911)

<u>Remaining Debts & Pay Down Progress</u>		<u>Pay Down This Month **</u>
Mortgage (parsonage) @ 5.75%	\$ 72,832	\$ (108)
Line of bank credit (LOC) @ 5%	22,981	\$ ()
Bonds 50K @ 6%, 15K @ 6-1/2%	65,000	
Loan from Foundation Fund @ 0% *	25,000	
Loan from Schaefer Bequest @ 0% *	<u>25,000</u>	
Totals	\$ 210,813	\$ (108)

* Pay back promised when borrowed

** Members: To help pay down our debts, please use the Building Fund envelopes in your packet, or use a plain envelope. When using either envelope type, please mark the Envelope and your check: Debt Reduction Only.

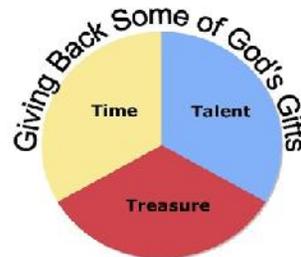
WE COME AND LEAVE WITH NOTHING

In the next month, we'll observe Thanksgiving on Thursday the 27th. It is the perfect time to consider the importance of our stewardship responsibilities; how we use the time, skills, and money we have been blessed with.

A key to understanding stewardship, and I'll say it again, is believing that everything we are and have comes, in some way, from God himself,. We are simply expected to manage these blessings for our own good and for the good of the human family according to God's rules recorded for us in Scripture. We come into and out of this world with nothing. As Christians, we believe God's spirit is everywhere and in everything, including each of us. When we practice stewardship responsibly, we look for ways to use our skills and not only our money for the church. The Volunteering Opportunities booklet distributed one Sunday some while ago describes 44 ways to help at St. Paul. Revisit your copy, or ask for another. St. Paul is not just a Sunday place of worship. Something needs attention on every other day of the week as well. Please check out the opportunities, and volunteer.

Finally, let's make November a time of reflection, not only on our financial responsibility to St. Paul and to other charities, but also on how we use our time and talents (skills, education, experiences) for the good of St. Paul. Your church needs you and your talents and ideas, but mostly you, which includes all members seen and seldom seen. Come, join in the joy of being with your brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus. Come, help, celebrate your blessings.

Gerry Bonkoske, Stewardship Chairman



November Birthdays

11/03 Ben Jaremus
11/05 Betsy Plant
11/06 Cheryl Croll
11/10 Marion Carswell
11/13 James Struck
11/13 Randolph Trettin
11/14 Kimberly Hilliard
11/14 James Schroeder
11/14 Barbara Struck
11/15 Devin McAleer
11/17 Renee Beer
11/18 Vergilio Guiang
11/18 Theresa Landi
11/18 William Virkler
11/19 Steven Giuntoli
11/20 Annaliese Schalk
11/21 Lee Bowman
11/21 Andrew Maggio
11/22 Alexander Sweet
11/23 Kristine Kiesel
11/24 Christine Krier
11/24 Mary Krier
11/24 Roger Remillard
11/25 Lynne Flosi
11/26 Heather Hjelle
11/27 Lauren Hoard
11/27 Christopher Schmidt



November Anniversaries

- 11/04 Jason & Carol Steele
11/08 Kurt and Judy Trettin
11/09 William and Esther Plath
11/10 Ben and Linda Jaremus
11/11 David & Phyllis Johnson
11/19 Karl and Charlotte Billisits
11/28 Charles and Sandra Gillham



