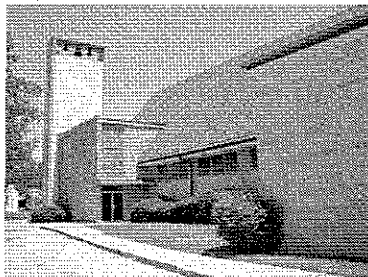


# REPORTER - NOVEMBER 2014

St. Paul Lutheran Church    LC-MS    St. Paul Lutheran School



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Kari Penrose, Principal

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*"It is the mission of St. Paul Lutheran Church to reach the lost with the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ, and to equip the saved for a life of Christian service."*

*"St. Paul Lutheran School is in partnership with parents in providing a Christ-centered education that will equip children in preschool through eighth grade to faithfully serve as witnessing Christians and productive citizens."*

## Worship:

Saturday            6 pm.  
Sunday             9 am.  
Sunday School    10:15 am.  
Adult Bible Class Sunday 10:15 am.

## Midweek Advent Services:

Wednesdays, Dec. 3, 10, 17 7 pm.

## School Programs:

Little Lambs  
Pre-School  
Transitional Kindergarten  
Grades: Kindergarten through eight  
Kingdom Kids after school program

## Radio Broadcasts

Sundays on AM 84 and FM 108

11 am: The Lutheran Hour

11:30 am: St. Paul Lutheran Church Broadcast

Daily Chapel: Sunday through Saturday

9:45 am on AM 84 and 11:50 am on FM 108

Our Sunday morning service is broadcast  
each Monday morning, 10 am.  
on cable channel 11.

# From The Pastor

## **“NOT NORMAL!”**

I recently was delighted to be able to accompany our St. Paul Lutheran School children on a trip to Mission Central in Mapleton, Iowa. (You can read Principal Penrose’s article about the trip in this edition of the Reporter.) I won’t repeat the details that she shares, but I’ve been reflecting on a few things that Gary Thies said as he took us on a visual tour of what’s currently happening on the mission field.

In various ways, he illustrated to us, in his own engaging and humorous way, how God does great things through people who are, in his words, “not normal!” He meant that in a good way. It’s not normal, for example, for someone to leave behind all that is familiar and comfortable, and take his or her family to a foreign land and into a completely different culture. But that’s what missionaries do.

It’s “not normal” for people to be so moved by God’s call to make disciples of all nations, that they give generously and sacrificially to support the mission of the Church. But that’s what so many Christians do!

It’s “not normal” for a person to risk his freedom and his life by sharing the life-changing power of the Gospel message in countries which forbid people to speak about Jesus as the true and living Lord. But that’s what so many brave Christians are doing, all over the world.

Gary Thies gave many examples of how the Gospel is “breaking out” in powerful ways among people who show a hunger for its unique message. He spoke of people who have only heard of a demanding god, (or gods) who expect you to somehow earn or merit their favor. They are left with uncertainty, as to what will happen to them when they die, as they never know if they’ve done enough to please these demanding gods.

Then, the word reaches them that there is a completely different message—one that inspires hope, and that offers real power and help from a gracious and loving God who loves us so much that he became one of us, and took our punishment for sin upon Himself... and that his name is Jesus! That message at first seems, “Not normal!” But it sounds wonderful! And it is.

Gary shared his observation that in some parts of the world, people have reached a point where they are sick and tired of the burden of living under a demanding, harsh religion, or of some vague spirituality that puts all the burden on oneself. These people are open to the Gospel message, and we can’t get missionaries to them fast enough to fill the need!

Perhaps one application we can draw from all of this is to thank God that what he did to save us was not the “normal” thing, which demands that we earn our salvation. Jesus wasn’t “normal.”

And likewise, we are called to be different. We believe in what we cannot see. We believe in miracles. We believe that for Christians, life continues forever, in heaven.

In this upcoming season of Thanksgiving and into the celebration of Christ’s birth, let’s be open to Christ and his calling on our life. Let’s not settle for being “ordinary” or “normal” in our response to God’s grace. Let’s seek to excel in the things which please our Heavenly Father.

With you, in service to Christ,  
Pastor Bringewatt

## **From The Principal**

I had the privilege of learning from several of our greatest educational and mission leaders in our LCMS system in the past couple months. St. Paul Lutheran Ministries is part of larger system that supports and encourages our mission. Each presenter inspired me to continue to focus on spreading the gospel to more and more people through the Christ-centered Lutheran education we provide at St. Paul Lutheran School.

### **Fall LCMS Nebraska District Administrator's Conference**

The Fall Administrator's Conference for the LCMS District was at Concordia Jr/Sr High School in Omaha. Rob Cooksey, head of Concordia Schools in Omaha, led a session entitled, "Starbucks Lutheran School". The theory behind this interesting title is that our Lutheran Schools can become a third place for many of our families. Ray Oldenburg, an American Sociologist, first coined the term of third place concept as "...distinctive informal gathering areas that make one feel at home and allow people to relax and unwind after a long day at work." Third place environments nourish relationships, promote companionships and help create a sense of place and community. I believe St. Paul Lutheran Ministries is providing and maintaining a place for our families as we foster and build relationships among our church members, school families, the community, and most importantly with our Lord Jesus Christ. I am reminded through this concept, the words of the Great Commission in Matthew 28:16-20: "Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." I have never been so proud of our ministry as I was during our Oktoberfest celebration held early in October. What an amazing turn out of people to worship with. The talents of our church were showcased and given to glorify God. This truly was a community of believers gathering together to carry out the Great Commission set forth for us in the book of Matthew. I am excited to see how we continue the third place initiative in our church and school in the months and years to come.

### **LCMS Nebraska District Educator's Conference**

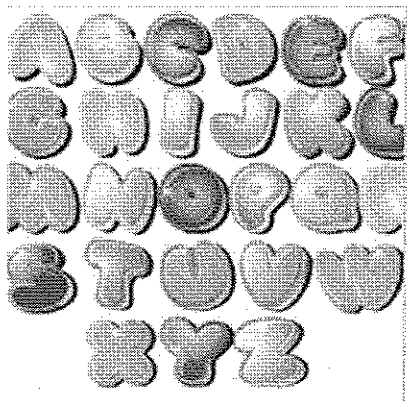
Terry Schmidt, head of our LCMS Lutheran School system, was keynote speaker for this year's LCMS NE Lutheran Educator's Conference, held at Trinity Lutheran Church and School in Grand Island. Terry spoke on how Lutheran Schools are "Raising the Bar" by engaging in the pursuit of witness, mercy and life together. Our schools need to feel empowered to share the life-changing message of Jesus' love with more and more people. Lutheran schools need to partner with Christian families in the task of raising up the next generation of faithful disciples as well as partnering with community families in the task of providing excellent academic preparation for their children. Every schools' success and failure is directly related to a sustainable future for the LCMS. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, Lutheran Schools transform lives. Lutheran schools connect our congregations with their communities. Terry noted that we have a well developed system of schools already in place with a rich history of serving families and children. Investing in our staff through leadership development opportunities and intentional administrator training will create quality instruction and ministry enhancement within our schools. In order to serve our students better we must provide authentic assessment, accommodations, service learning, professional learning communities, life skills, critical thinking, applied learning, and differentiation within our classrooms and our schools. The LCMS NE District is at the forefront of this educational age through Project Compass. Project Compass is comprised of 4 areas: Concordia Curriculum Guide, Curriculum Mapping, MAPS Testing, and Accreditation with NLSA. 38 elementary schools and 4 high schools in the Nebraska District are eligible to participate in Project Compass. St. Paul Lutheran School, West Point is currently one of seven schools that are participating in all 4 areas.

# Remember to Save & Send to school:

Grocery receipts from Graybeal's & Lincoln Street Market (dated after Sept 1, 2014), Campbell's Soup labels, Box Tops, used printer cartridges, old cell phones (mp3 players, etc), and Pizza Ranch Wagon Wheels. Sunny D labels are being accepted until 11/30/14. The school can receive 20 books for 20 labels. There are collection boxes for these items in the school entryway and the church narthex.

From grocery labels last year, our school was able to purchase a water table (for preschool & TK), a rolling laptop cart, two art drying racks, many glue sticks and other little items that the school can use.

Thank you for your support of our school, in both big and small ways.



## Transitional Kindergarten

Transitional Kindergarten is keeping busy at St. Paul Lutheran school! Students are working on their ABC's and are currently on the letter J. They will soon begin reading short stories and sight words. They also are doing a unit on fall, complete with leaves, pumpkins, apples and scarecrows!

## What you can hear if you listen..

Any good listener will tell you that if you are quiet you can really find out some interesting things... Tops on my list this week was learning what two 4th graders thought about the red arm chairs in the school office. I about couldn't contain myself when I heard these two discuss whether or not it was worth the risk to sit in the "sick kid" chairs. Haha. That's pretty true. Those are the chairs that sick kids have to sit in while they wait for mom or dad to come take them home from school. With all the coughing and colds going around I can't say that I really blame them. Would you risk it??? Speaking of that I think I will at least wipe those chairs with a Lysol disinfecting wipe or 17.....

### St. Paul Lutheran Church Membership Changes

**Transfers In:** Justin and Melissa Redding, Savannah and Kobay  
**Received:** Antonia Reimers, Mayda and Mara  
**Adult Confirmations:** Danielle Kreikemeier, Dana Miserez  
**Released:** Paige Gatzemeyer, Lisa, Davin, Alexis and Mitchell  
**Deaths:** Richard Lindberg, Edna Wiechman, Paul Beckenhauer  
**Marriage:** T.J. Daberkow and Nicole Harder

## **Mission Central Field Trip**

As an educator I realize the importance of recognizing and teaching our students to be 21<sup>st</sup> century learners. As a Christian I realize again the Great Commission in the book of Matthew to preach the Gospel to all nations. After visiting Mission Central with our 3-8 grade students in late October I was reassured that we are equipping our students with the knowledge and skills to think beyond the comforts of our home and extend our mission field to other demographics of people on this earth. Gary Thies held the attention of our 3-8 grade students for hours as he showed artifacts from around the world, shared photographs and told of his mission trips. Our students were engaged, motivated and understood through Gary's words, about the sacrifice it takes to be a Christian in today's world, and a missionary to many different groups of people. A definite highlight of the trip was to commission a young family in Gary's mission chapel as they travel to Uruguay to begin their mission work. We are blessed to have people like Gary Thies teaching our young people about the work of being a missionary and what it means to carry out the great commission in the book of Matthew on a daily basis.

Mrs. Penrose

## **New activity at Concordia University, Seward.**

Aubrey Schulz is one of five students taking part in a new activity this year at Concordia University. Three boys and two girls make up the first trap and skeet team. They shoot trap, skeet and sporting clays. The team competes collegiately at Wyoming, Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska and Texas. This team is also active in recruitment of future teams.

Concordia received a grant from the National Shooting Sports Foundation. Dr. Joel Helmer wrote the grant proposal and serves as the outdoor club advisor and coach along with Dr. Tim Huntington.

Aubrey received a \$500 scholarship for trap shooting. She is a Junior with Senior standing. (Will graduate a 5 year course in 4 years)

Aubrey is the daughter of Lonnie and Twila Schulz.

## **Ladies Aid**

St Paul Ladies Aid did not meet in August due to the kitchen and social room busy with the preparations for the fair stand. Hope you all enjoyed the efforts put forth by the cooks.

Our September meeting was our annual Birthday-Potluck at which we celebrate the birthdays of all our members attending. This year, members were asked to bring a guest and also a baby picture for a guessing game. St. Paul third and fourth grade students sang for us. What a great group of talented children.

Pastor's topic for the day was "Don't play the blame game". Accountability and integrity-these help bring us solutions. Pastor also explained the "Holding up the food bank" contest that the youth groups of St. Paul and Grace Lutheran participate in. The aid voted to help our youth by giving a donation to the project.

Pastor's topic for October meeting was the explanation of some of the history of the hymn "A Mighty Fortress is Our God" written by Martin Luther. Did you know he wrote both the verse and the music, and it took him five years to write it? It is based on Psalms 46 verses 1, 7 and 11. God is our Mighty Fortress in our battle against Satan. Come join us and learn many interesting things.

The ballot is being prepared for election of Ladies Aid officers in November. Officers being elected are Vice President and Treasurer. The visiting committee will also be decided. Approximately 450 people were served at three memorial service lunches and we thank all the ladies that help serve these event.

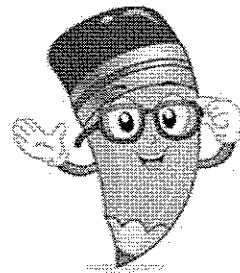
The showcase of all occasion cards is always there for you use. This month you may put in an order for Christmas supplies if you so desire. If you need assistance in this area, please call Betty Bettenhausen at 402-372-2655.



## OKTOBERFEST 2014

What a great day it was! Wonderful music and worship, terrific German buffet, beautiful mums, an abundant selection of items at the Farmer's Market, lots of activities for all ages including carnival games and bounce houses for the kids. St. Paul school children sang during the worship service and again following the auction. Such a wonderful group of children filling the stage. JoDene Stalp's solo and Makenzie Deutschmann's violin music were awesome. The amount of time and effort put in by the committee, Pastor Bringewatt, musicians and choirs, Church Elders, the cooks, children and parents, teachers, decorators, and all the helpers was evident in everything during the day. A huge thank you goes to everyone that helped and to all who made donations of any kind. Special thanks to everyone who attended and helped make this day such a success. Net proceeds were \$22,531. Of this, \$1,500 will go to the Board of Stewardship for scholarships and other projects. \$15,000 will be applied to church and school debt. The remaining funds will be put into Oktoberfest special fund for future funding.

### Mark Your Calendar for these Upcoming Events!!!



#### \*\*\*Pizza Ranch Fundraiser

Thursday, November 6, 5-8 pm, support our school by eating at Pizza Ranch. Fifth through eighth grade students will be greeting and bussing tables. Proceeds go to St. Paul athletic fund. Last year's proceeds were used to purchase new rims and guards for basketball hoops, a new volleyball cart, new volleyballs and equipment for PE.

\*\*\***Veteran's Day Program:** November 11, St. Paul School students will sing with West Point-Beemer Public School students and GACC students at the Veteran's Day Program, held at West Point-Beemer Gym.

\*\*\***St. Paul Soup and Sloppy Joe Lunch:** Friday, January 16 at the Nielsen Center. Included will be a bake sale and Scholastic Book Fair.

\*\*\***Boy's Roundball Tournament:** This year's Boys Roundball Tournament is hosted by St. Paul, Saturday, January 24 and Sunday January 25. Host families are needed for Saturday, January 24. If you can help, please contact St. Paul school office or teacher, Mike Shively. Watch the bulletin for more information on the weekend activities.

\*\*\***Girl's Roundball Tournament:** This year's Girls Roundball Tournament is at Kearney, Saturday, January 31 and Sunday, February 1.

\*\*\***EAGLE Banquet:** Saturday, February 7, 2015 at the Nielsen Community Center. Come enjoy "Game Show Night" with interactive games, trivia, food stations and a DJ. Tickets are \$125 each and are available at St. Paul Lutheran School, the church office, F&M, Citizens and Charter West Banks. Early bird deadline is December 25.

\*\*\***Pictorial Directory:** Plans are underway for a new pictorial directory. Watch the bulletin and website for information coming soon.

## Youth for Christ

Youth for Christ meets Wednesday evenings (as schedules permit) at St. Paul Lutheran School. The group has eighteen active members. All confirmed high school students are welcome to attend and can contact leaders Sheri Bettenhausen or Julia Eckmann for meeting dates. Devotions and Bible Study are led by Pastor Bringewatt or a Youth Leader, followed by meeting and activities.

This fall, Youth for Christ helped at the St. Paul Lutheran Fair Stand at the Cuming County Fair, held a Pizza Ranch fundraiser at the annual car show, and helped with Oktoberfest activities.

During Oktoberfest, Youth for Christ and St. Paul Lutheran School students presented Pastor Bringewatt with a gift certificate for a St. Paul jacket in appreciation for all he does.

Ten Youth will attend the NE Youth Group Gathering in Omaha, November 21-23, along with three adults.

Youth for Christ will also host Advent Dinners this year. Please watch the weekly bulletin for when dinners will be held. Christmas Goodie Bags will be assembled and distributed again this year at the Sunday School Christmas Program. Thank you to everyone for your support of St. Paul Youth for Christ.

## Salvation Army Bell Campaign

St. Paul Lutheran Church volunteers ring Salvation Army Bells Friday, Dec. 19 and Saturday Dec. 20.

Please consider being a volunteer this year.

Money collected in the red kettles is used to help people in the West Point area who have run on hard times.

Sign up sheets are in the back of church, or call the church office to volunteer.

## Orphan Grain Train

In disasters large and small, Orphan Grain Train responds as able. OGT has received a \$100,000 matching challenge. All donations given by November 30, 2014, will be doubled, up to \$100,000. Please respond as God moves you.

Donations can be sent to Orphan Grain Train, PO Box 1466, Norfolk, NE 68702.

## LHM'S ADVENT DEVOTIONS NOW AVAILABLE

This year's devotions, *Home for the Holidays*, from Lutheran Hour Ministries, are now available to be downloaded and printed at [www.lhm.org/advent](http://www.lhm.org/advent).

## CHRISTMAS AT CONCORDIA

Concordia University, **Christmas at Concordia**, December 5-7, 2014. Be filled with joy as more than 250 student musicians share the Good News of Christmas with music from across the ages. Concerts will be held at St. John Lutheran Church in Seward on Friday, Dec. 5 at 7:00 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 6 at 3:00 and 7:00 p.m.; and Sunday, Dec. 7 at 3:00 p.m. Admission is free, but tickets are required. General registration is limited to no more than 10 tickets per order, per concert. Registration opens online at 11:00 a.m. on November 3rd at [www.christmasatconcordia.net](http://www.christmasatconcordia.net) or 402-643-7171. For more information about Christmas at Concordia Weekend, please visit the website.

### *Simply Giving*

St. Paul Lutheran Church offers *Simply Giving*.

It's convenient for you and more consistent for church budgeting.

Your offering can be given directly from your bank account to the church through automatic withdrawal, weekly, semi-monthly or monthly.

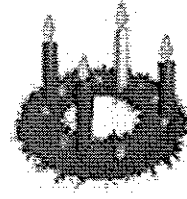
Please contact the church office if interested.

## Holiday Worship Services



### **Thanksgiving Worship and Communion**

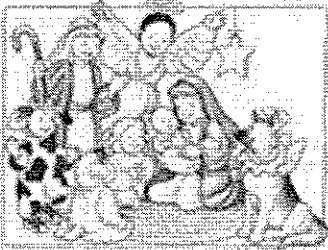
Thursday, November 27, 9 am.



### **Midweek Advent Services**

Wednesdays, December 3, 10 & 17, 7 pm.

### **Children's Christmas Services**



### **St. Paul Lutheran School Children**

Sunday, December 14, 1 pm.

At the Nielsen Community Center

*"The Night Shift Before Christmas."*

Come visit a diner in Bethlehem, where the shepherds eat their usual late night meals and share the news that the Messiah has been born in a stable nearby! This fun musical is jam packed with great music, funny characters, and the wonderful story of our Savior!

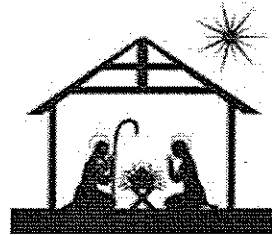
*Program followed by our Annual Cookie Walk*

### **St. Paul Lutheran Church**

#### **Sunday School Service**

Saturday, December 6, 6 pm.

Join us for worship and a traditional Children's Christmas Service.



### **Christmas Eve**

Worship and Communion

Wednesday, December 24

4:30 pm and 7 pm.

### **Christmas Day**

Worship and Communion

Thursday, December 25, 9 am.

### **New Year's Eve**

Wednesday, December 31, 6 pm.