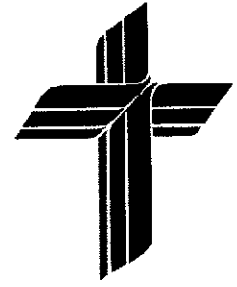


THE MESSENGER



St. Paul's Lutheran Church
511 S. Walnut
Strasburg, Illinois 62465
(217) 644-2661
stpaulsstrasburg@gmail.com

MARCH 2025

Dear Friends in Christ:

How did God's good and just will for sinful humanity become something that causes fear and angst and even causes some to question God's goodness? This is what Article Eleven of the Formula of Concord is all about. Which is why the authors of the Formula wrote in article eleven,

¶ This eternal election or ordination of God to eternal life must not be considered in God's secret, mysterious counsel in a simple-minded way. It is not as though election included nothing further, or nothing more belonged to it, or nothing more were to be considered in it, than that God foresaw who and how many were to be saved and who and how many were to be damned. Nor should we think that He only held a sort of military muster, such as, "This one shall be saved, that one shall be damned; this one shall remain steadfast <in faith to the end>, that one shall not remain steadfast." (Concordia – F of C 11, Page 604 CPH 2006)

Which leads us to point four, "*The Spirit will justify all those who in true repentance receive Christ by a true faith. He will receive them into grace, the adoption of sons, and the inheritance of eternal life [Galatians 3:19].*"

So, this also begs the question who are "*all those who in true repentance receive Christ by a true faith.*" Without a doubt that answer has to be all who believe in Jesus Christ. Can salvation really be that easy? Everything else in our lives seems to be so difficult, how can we be sure that this is true. For me as your Pastor it is maybe a little bit easier, because I have had to make this pronouncement willingly and Lord willing faithfully, four times now in my life as a Pastor. "*I believe and confess the canonical Scriptures to be the inspired Word of God and the only infallible rule of faith and practice.*" Along with, "*I make these Confessions (Book of Concord) my own because they are in accord with the word of God.*" These are vows that I took at my ordination and subsequently every installation as I took a new call. If our faith is our work, then there is reason or cause for concern about our salvation. Notice that in point four everything is God's work, because if Jesus does not die and rise for us then we do not have the ability to know what repentance is, let alone what forgiveness is all about.

Because of the Law we know our sin, if we are truthful with ourselves and with the Lord. There again how do we know that we are of the Lord? Paul tells us in 2 Corinthians 5:17 "*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.*" The Lord is not a scammer, nor does "bait and switch." He says what He says, and He means it. St Paul reminds us of that in 2 Corinthians 12:9-10 "*But he said to me, "My grace is **sufficient** for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. ¹⁰For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.*" (ESV) I emboldened the word sufficient to make the point that the Lord makes, He is the one that brings us to faith and keeps us in faith as we live as His people and if someone does not live as a believer then that is their doing, not God's. I will close this month with these words from Jesus to Nicodemus from John 3:8 "*The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.*" (ESV) Your faith is a gift from the Lord, He strengthens that faith through repentance and the forgiveness of sins, studying His word and believing that you are His because He says so!

Lenten Series - Good News from the Beginning: The Gospel in Genesis

Ash Wednesday: March 5 The Good News of a Savior Who Covers Our Sin, Genesis 3:1-13, 21
Lenten Midweek 2: March 12 The Good News of a Savior Who Conquers Evil, Genesis 3:14-15
Lenten Midweek 3: March 19 The Good News of a Savior Who Gives Us a New Beginning, Genesis 6
Lenten Midweek 4: March 26 The Good News of a Savior Who Gives Himself in Our Place, Genesis 22:1-18
Lenten Midweek 5: April 2 The Good News of a Savior Who Unites Heaven and Earth, Genesis 28:10-22
Lenten Midweek 6: April 9 The Good News of a Savior Who Brings Good from Evil, Genesis 50:15-21

Lenten Services are at 10:30AM at Grace and 6:30PM at St. Paul's.

MARCH

Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 2 – Zachary Shelton;
- 3 – Dixie Stremming; Wayne Wirth;
Wayne & Connie Wirth (68)
- 4- Gary Kull; Darrell & Laurie Wirth (36)
- 5- Otis Rincker
- 6 – Adrienne Bushue; Jaxon* Doehring;
Nick Esslinger
- 7 – Jillian* Merriman; Sharon Rincker;
Cassie Schultheis; Greta* York
- 8 – Bryson Batson; Roger Kull; Kiefer Reel
- 9- Virginia Vogel
- 10- Steven Polk; Jacob* & Shalyn
Tabbert (7)
- 11- Ross McCormick;
Yvonne Pfeiffer; Johnna Schultz
- 13- Barrett Beltz; Rusty* Clifton;
- 14- Janice Moomaw; Veronica Prosser
- 15- Will* Eckstein; Kirtis Stodden
- 17- Weslyn Long; Theron* Newell;
Don Telgmann; Suttyn Wallin
- 18- Stephani Petri; Merle Ragan;
Jesse Williams
- 19- Claire Hortenstine; Karen Wirth;
John & Lisa Cress (37)
- 20- Bob Sporleder
- 21- Madilyn Rincker
- 22- Grayson Gilbert
- 25- Tara Blank; Rick Stodden; Kenny* &
Sara Hayes (25)
- 26- Gary & Sheryl Duncan (42);
Deanna Uphoff
- 27- Deanna Foelsing; Tasha Pieper
- 28- Darrell Cress
- 29- Nicholas Oller; Doris Supan;
Mary Tabbert; Natalie Hayes
- 30- Brody Bence
- 31- Carol Camilotto; Jenna Layton;
Steve & Jill Layton (41);
Stacey* Rincker; Callie Clifton



Music Notes

- Sun. Mar. 9- Choir Rehearsal- 6:30PM
- Sun. Mar. 16- Choir sings
- Tue. Mar. 18- Choir Rehearsal-7:00PM
- Sun. Mar. 30- Choir Sings

*** If you would like to become a part of our Adult Choir, please come to any rehearsal. If you have questions, ask a choir member or the choir director.

LOCAL LINKS

Pastor Whybrew: chebrev@yahoo.com
 Church: stpaulsstrasburg@gmail.com
 Website: stpaul-strasburg.com
 YouTube: St. Paul's Lutheran Church Strasburg Illinois
 Facebook: St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Articles for Newsletter & Guide

Information for the Guide needs to be in the office by 8:00AM on **Wednesday morning**.
 Articles for the Newsletter should be in the office by the **15th** of the month.



- Wed. Mar. 5 7-8PM WDS
- Wed. Mar. 12 7-8 PM WDS
- Wed. Mar. 19 7-8PM WDS
- Wed. Mar. 26 7-8PM WDS

Would you like to provide WDS treats one week?

The weekday School children and helpers enjoy snacks or cookies provided monthly by the Education team. If you would be interested in providing treats one week during March or April, please contact Karen Kull, 217.549.3141

Pause for Peace

As your day draws to a close, spend a few moments with God, reflecting on His love and care for you throughout the day. Just dial 644-3124 to hear His message.





Thank you Thank you to Mike Pfeiffer for all his help in the transition of the new church software and also with his help with the year end. Mike has spent a lot of time making the transition go smooth. All of your time and hard work has not gone unnoticed. Thank you Mike! Sue

Thank you LYF would like to thank all who supported us at the Soup Luncheon. Thanks to your generous donations, we had a great fundraiser raising around \$1000 and serving 120 people! We enjoyed serving you lunch and appreciate your continued support!

Thank you We want to thank all for the beautiful cards, birthday wishes, visits and gifts. Bob had a wonderful birthday. Thanks for letting him have a wonderful celebration. The Pfeiffer's



** 10:30 AM Services @ Grace **
 ** 6:30 PM Services @ St. Paul's**

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- Lenten Series** - Good News from the Beginning: The Gospel in Genesis
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Dear friends in Christ,

Thank you so much for your continued financial support and your prayers for Naomi and I. I finish my winter quarter at the end of February and will have a two week break. On my first week of break I will go on choir tour with Kantorei (the seminary men's touring choir) in California. If you know anyone in California, check out our schedule on the seminary website and invite them to come and hear us!

This Lent I have a wonderful opportunity to preach for every midweek service at a congregation in Hartford City, Indiana. I look forward to the rigor of preparing sermons while in classes and I look forward to the experience that I will gain from preparing and preaching so many sermons during that time.

Vicarage assignments at CTSFW will be given out on April 28th and I am excitedly awaiting that day to come! Please continue to keep us in your prayers as I continue in my studies and we wait to find out where we will be assigned for my vicarage!

Yours in Christ,
 Seminarian Hunter Kinnison

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March Greeters

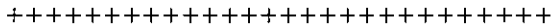
Greeters-

- Mar 2- Dennis & Kenna Wirth
- Mar 9- Brandon & Shelby Beltz
- Mar 16-Jim & Phyliss Weiss
- Mar 23-Bob & Yvonne Pfeiffer
- Mar 30-Mark & Melissa Luce

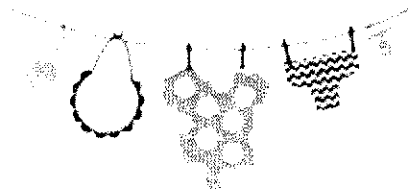


April Greeters

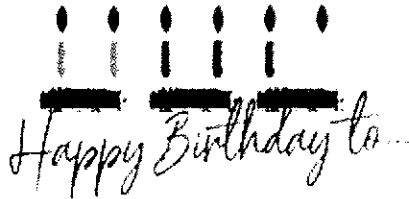
- April 6- John & Judy Wittenberg
- April 13- Bob & Rohnda Schlechte
- April 20- Gerry & Dawn Schlechte
- April 27- Otto & Lisa Rincker



LYF The March LYF meeting will be held on Sunday, March 2nd at Trinity at 6:30 pm.



Congratulations Rejoicing with Justin and Kendall Fulk on the birth of their daughter, Ella Kyel, born January 25, 2025. Grandparents are Kyle and Michelle Knop, Lynie Fulk and the late Lester Fulk. Blessings to Ella and her family.

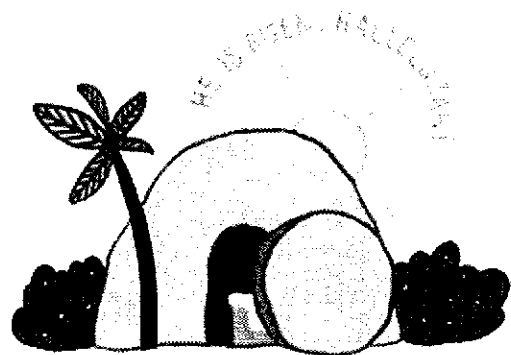


The Following Members will be celebrating 90 YEARS

90 Years Bob Pfeiffer will be celebrating his 90th birthday on February 5th. If you would like to send him a card, his address is: Bob Pfeiffer, 1174 N 2900 East Rd, Windsor, IL 61957.

Card Shower Beulah Ulmer will be celebrating her 90th birthday on February 25th. If you would like to send her a card, her address is: Beulah Ulmer, 956 N 2700 E RD, Strasburg, IL 62465.

Really? You won't believe this, but Virginia Vogel will turn 90 on March 9. If you would like to send Virginia a card, her address is: 14 Woolery Dr, Neoga IL 62447.





IN HIS HANDS

WINTER 2025

WWW.INHISHANDS.ORG

Learning a Trade in Haiti

In addition to attending school during the week, five of our Haiti children are currently attending vocational classes on Saturdays. Samuel is training to be an electrician, Jeanberto, Mara and Sania have been learning to lay tile, and Gardine is training as a seamstress. All of the children have the opportunity to learn gardening and animal husbandry by assisting In His Hands farm manager Jackson. The boys and girls are also learning to cook by working with our kitchen staff. Having a variety of skills will help prepare our Haiti children for their future.



Above left: Sania is learning to be a tile layer at vocational school. Above right: Liline and MarkenLouise help prepare supper. Below: Our Haiti children are learning animal husbandry. They especially enjoy the rabbits.

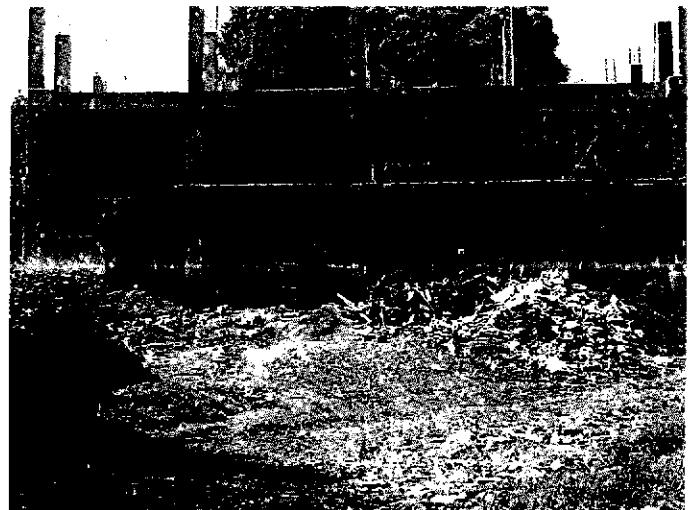


Thank You!

Thank you to all who gave to the Christmas campaign "Finish It!" When Peter Sadlo and Rob Funke of The Market Street Group RBC Wealth Management offered a \$20,000 matching grant, you responded and gave \$56,100, bringing the campaign amount raised to \$76,100! Because of your generosity, construction of the home is able to continue without interruption. This leaves a need of only \$31,900 remaining to finish the home.



Above: Thanks to you, the Children's Home/Rescue Center is progressing in Kenya! Below: The Kitchen and Pavilion are on the 1st floor. Missionary housing is on the 2nd floor and construction is really progressing.



Wealth Management

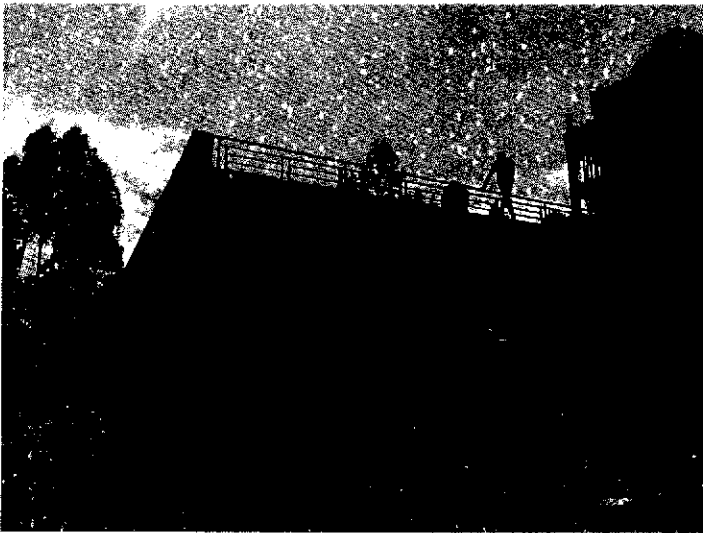
The Market Street Group

Kenya Construction Update

Thanks to donors like YOU, so much construction has happened during the past year at In His Hands Kenya! In July, only the first floor of the children's home was under construction. Since that time, the second and third stories have been built and construction of the fourth floor has started.

You provided all the funding for the bathhouse in September and finishing work is now happening. Finishing work is also being completed on the kitchen and pavilion. Construction on the missionary housing is continuing as well.

Thanks to the funding provided by Revival Culture Church of Decatur, Illinois, footings will soon be dug for the security wall and the wall surrounding the property will be built. This will keep the In His Hands children safe and secure.



Pictured above: The bathhouse is nearing completion. The roof will be used to hang clothing out to dry, as well as to grow vegetables in raised beds.

Myanmar Outreach

Our children and leaders remain safe in Myanmar, but the communist government continues to cause problems for the people including restrictions of power usage to only 4 hours a day. A donor decided to bless Lin's orphan home with a generator so that they will be able to have electricity as needed and to be able to cook and study.

A donor learned that many people in Myanmar lack clean water and decided to fund a fresh water well that will provide clean water for 50 people. This is life-changing!

Pastor Lin's church continues to hold outreach programs to Buddhists and Muslims and many people have been interested in hearing the Gospel. A donor also funded a keyboard for Lin's church, so the church congregation is excited to have music as part of their outreach program.

Want to Go to Kenya This Summer?

Join In His Hands for a mission trip to Kenya May 31-June 13! Our children's home will be opened and you will get to teach orphans and vulnerable children, put on a Vacation Bible School for local boys and girls, work with widows on starting/improving their small businesses, share the Gospel, visit the local market and have other cultural experiences. This will be a small team and spots are limited. To learn more, please contact michelle@InHisHands.org.

Urgent Foster Care Need

Do you know that there is a nationwide urgent need for foster parents to provide safe, loving homes for children? Boys and girls in foster care may be waiting to be reunited with their birth families or they may need to be adopted. Many biological families are unable to meet their children's needs due to substance abuse, mental illness, homelessness, or other factors. Some children in foster care have special medical needs, or they may be siblings who need to stay together.

Guidelines to become a foster parent include:

- You must be at least 21 years old
- Complete a criminal background check
- Complete a health screening
- Participate in a home inspection and social assessment
- Complete 27 hours of foster care training
- You must be financially stable

In His Hands is not an adoption or foster placement agency, but is available to offer resources and emotional support. For more information, email Ann@inhishands.org.

Upcoming Events

April 26 - Effingham In His Hands Benefit

We are working on scheduling other events as well. If you would like to help with any events or volunteer in another way, please contact michelle@InHisHands.org.

Internship Opportunities

In His Hands currently has several internship opportunities available. For more information, please contact michelle@InHisHands.org.

In His Hands
P.O. Box 3
Beecher City, IL 62414
Phone (217)381-6006