

## St. Paul's Lutheran Family

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### **Why 'Holy Communion' is Useless ..unless We Put it Into Practice!**

Every Sunday, in churches the world over, millions of Christians take part in Holy Communion; sometimes it is called the Lord's Supper or the 'Eucharist'—depending on the particular Christian tradition. This hands-on sacrament is rich with imagery and symbolism. Christ's body, shared by his body (the church), sustaining our physical bodies. Emblems of death and of resurrection life. The message in a meal. Tangible and tactile. Earthy and everyday. Ordinary yet sacred. Succulent icons dripping with metaphor.

But have we missed the point of 'Holy Communion'? Jesus wasn't calling us to a religious ritual or a theology lesson. Rather, Jesus is calling us to an everyday, lived-out practice of eating with one another. He gave his command to remember him in the context of a real meal – and it wasn't any ordinary dinner. The Passover 'Seder' meal is the ultimate family storytelling session, discipleship done around the dinner table, story in edible form, where each piece of food and table decoration tells the history of God's deliverance. Around the Seder dinner table, elders share their knowledge, children are allowed to question, and families reflect on faith; "Whenever you do *this*", Jesus said, "remember me."

The early church took Jesus' command to eat together seriously. They committed themselves to breaking bread, to eating in one another's homes, to feeding the poor, and to celebrating the Lord's Table as a shared meal (cf. Acts 2:42-47). In "A Fellowship of Differents", Scot McKnight points out that this scandalous act of eating with one another as equals, with no regard for *race, gender, status or wealth*, was a glorious glimpse of God's kingdom breaking through on earth.

Somewhere along the way, the eucharist has become a ceremony within a ceremony, reduced to a ritualized cracker and a shot glass of wine. God's people no longer gather around a table as equals, sharing their lives and stories and pieces of themselves as they journey through faith together. When communion was reduced to an object lesson, we lost something huge, a central component of our faith expression, a core practice that changed us from isolated individuals into a connected family. The good news is, God's people are rediscovering the centrality of the table in worship. These groups are putting dinner back on the Lord's Table and gathering to share meals, share God's story and share their lives. True community always happens around food and drink. We make memories in the slowing down, preparation, serving, eating, stories, laughter, mess and packing away together. Eating is a rhythm of life, a necessity which turns into an excuse for a party. It connects people and creates community. In "From Tablet to Table", Leonard Sweet talks about life's three tables; the table in the home, the table in the church, and the table in the world. He encourages us to take our table time seriously, whether it is the dinner table, the banquet table, the coffee table, the backyard barbecue or the picnic rug. The eucharist is more than a symbol, it is a lifestyle. If communion remains just a crumb of bread or a cracker and thimbleful of wine, it becomes a dry and tasteless ritual, an unsatisfying obligation where we find ourselves checking out watches, wondering *how much longer will this worship service last*. On the other hand, if communion calls us beyond ourselves and into a life of true communion and community, gathered around tables and storying with one another, it truly becomes the Lord's Table, an invitation to fellowship with God, love his people and live alongside one another!

May the Peace of the Risen Christ be with you all!  
*Pastor Chad*

[Chad.adamik@gmail.com](mailto:Chad.adamik@gmail.com)

## President's Comments (May 2017)

With the arrival of May, in most years we can be pretty sure that the wintery storms are behind us. The flowers and trees are continuing to bud and blossom. In the church, we continue to celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord through most of the month. Ascension Day is Thursday, May 25<sup>th</sup>, which is followed by the sixth and final Sunday of Easter. The first Sunday in June (the 4<sup>th</sup>) will be Pentecost Sunday.

This year Pentecost Sunday will also be the time we have set aside for our annual congregation meeting. There will be one service at 9:00 a.m. The congregation meeting will follow. Several important matters will be on the Agenda: the election of council members—four are needed to replace members whose terms expire; the discussion and decision on the proposed budget for the 2017-2018 fiscal year; the presentation of the annual report of the congregation's activities; and a discussion and vote on an issue relating to the addition of a water line for landscape irrigation (more on this elsewhere in this newsletter).

After the June 4<sup>th</sup> meeting the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee will be hosting a barbeque, with the proceeds benefiting the October 7-8 celebration.

The annual Assembly of the Sierra Pacific Synod of the ELCA will meet Thursday, May 4-Saturday, May 6 in Fresno, California. Pastor Chad, by virtue of his position will be an official delegate. The Special Congregation meeting on Sunday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, elected Charlotte LaCombe, Pat Thunder, and myself to be official delegates for St. Paul's. The delegation will be reporting to the Assembly the progress of the using \$5,000 special grant provided to St. Paul's by the Synod a year ago. St. Paul's will also be recognized as one of the congregations celebrating a significant anniversary—our 50<sup>th</sup> in October! We anticipate a report to the congregation as part of the June 4<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Sunday, May 7<sup>th</sup>, will be new members Sunday, three couples have expressed interest in joining with us. We look forward to welcoming Dwight & Susan Holmquist, Jimmy & Sherrie Poncsak, and Gary L. & Kathryn Smith. Another special event will be the Bell Choir Concert which will be held between the services on Sunday, May 28<sup>th</sup>. And, on Mother's Day, May 14<sup>th</sup>, St. Paul's Stitchers, will adorn the church with an annual display of their quilts and other items.

You may have heard about several issues involving exit doors in the Youth Room, the Nursery, and Sorlein Hall. The fire marshal and our insurance inspector have called these issues to our attention. We contacted Robert M. Darney, Architect, asking for his assessment. Concerning the doors in the Youth Room and the Nursery, he verified that the City code requirements are met. For Sorlein Hall, the issue was that a clear aisle had to be maintained to each of the three doors at all times—making the room unusable for most functions. Mr. Darney has indicated that only one exit is needed in Sorlein Hall. He will be sending a report listing his findings. As the result two of the three doors in Sorlein will no longer be official fire exits. Clay Woslum is to be thanked for pursuing this issue to its conclusion.

As noted in my comments last month the \$5,200 goal for the new audio/visual project has been achieved. We expect that the work will soon be started and shortly thereafter completed. The work will be done by Robert McNamara of Innovative Communication Systems, of Sparks, Nevada. A big thank you is extended to all who supported this important improvement.

Continued blessings and good health to you and your loved ones!

--Doug Thunder, Council President



DID YOU KNOW continuing.....

In April of 1985 the pastoral team of Stan Pesis and Ruth Hanusa along with their three children Ben, Rachel and Jono were called by the Call Committee headed by Judy Lowther. St. Paul's Lutheran Church at this time was a LCA congregation. The "Lutheran Family" headed by Pastor Doug Thunder an AELC congregation merged in 1986 and our church then became the "St. Paul's Lutheran Family," a ELCA congregation. There was a lot of hugging during this time.

Pastors Stan and Ruth shared as one full time job. Most of the time they would switch times of preaching, between the 8am and 10:30am services. Because their three children were very young, members of our church would take turns watching the kids while they had other functions within the church and community.

During these years, all the social functions, like dinners, Sunday school, chili cook offs, potlucks, etc were held within the Sanctuary. The kitchen at this time was in Sorlien Hall and the rest rooms were where the counting/ printing room currently is. In the late 90's both services were close to full and we regularly had 165 members worshipping each Sunday.

Some other interesting facts, in these early years there were some years at Christmas when the Christmas tree would actually almost touch the ceiling. One time the WELCA group put on a fashion show, several men of our church were asked to dress up like women, and Pastor Ruth would describe the "fashionable" outfits as the "models" walked down the center aisle. Lots of fun and laughs.

This was when we had a kids service at 8am and the kids would sing "Father Abraham" lead by Pastor Stan during the service. This brought a lot of joy to us older members.

After we paid off the original mortgage our church needed to expand, so in 1995 we put on the new addition. In conjunction with the California Plan of Church Finance, a Baptist organization, we were able to fund our addition by selling bonds at fairly good interest rates. All of the bonds were sold to our members and some others within six months. Ron Morey deserves a great deal of recognition for this accomplishment. This addition was paid off in 2013.

The clergy of St. Peters, St. Teresa's and St. Paul's were so bonded, they were called "The God Squad"

In October, 1990, Pastor Ruth Hanusa accepted a position as Associate Pastor at Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd in Reno, and Pastor Stan Pesis became our full-time pastor of St. Paul's. Pastor Stan retired after 29 years of service to St. Paul's on June 30, 2014.





**WELCA**  
WOMEN OF THE ELCA  
St. Paul's Lutheran Family

Thanks to everyone who helped in any way with the Rummage Sale. It was a huge success due to the outpouring of donations of items to sell, hours spent preparing those items for sale, etc. It was truly a team effort. See details in a separate article.

**Saturday, May 13<sup>th</sup> - Mother's Day Tea.** Traci and the Youth Group will again host this event for the mother's and daughters of St. Paul's. We are excited that Thrivent has given us a grant to support it!! Mark your calendar and plan to attend! There is sign up sheet on the WELCA bulletin board. All women and girls of St. Paul's and guests are welcome.



**MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR MONDAY, JUNE 5<sup>TH</sup> AT 5:30!!** This is the final meeting of WELCA until September. It is an important meeting as not only will there be a pizza party but it is the time that we decide on the various places that we should support with the \$\$ we have raised over the course of the year. Then, in addition to that, there is the exciting time of electing new officers! You won't want to miss this meeting!! Keep your eye on this space next month for more details!! *In the meantime, keep an open mind (and pray) about your willingness to be involved in WELCA as an officer. It is something that takes very little time and effort but is important to the life of St. Paul's.*

**FANTASTIC VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY**  
**Rummage SALE Coordinator**

There is a golden opportunity for someone who wants to work with a terrific team of volunteers to create an amazing marketplace— or rummage sale. There are lots of notes and pictures from the past few years to give you ideas and many experienced volunteers to make up your staff! If you are interested in this opportunity let Carol Kalleras know. Andrea Knudson will provide documents and notes from past successful sales.

**NEWS AROUND THE CONGREGATION!**

1. Groups are winding down for the summer months. Sunday School's last day for the summer will be Sunday, May 21, 2017.
2. Vicki's Bible Study has ended early this year and will start again in September.
3. The Vacation Bible School group is working on their program which will be held June 26-30. Please help us spread the word in your neighborhoods. We will have publicity materials soon to hand out.



DON'T BE LATE.....  
DON'T BE LATE.....



For A VERY IMPORTANT DATE

The pleasure of your company  
is requested at the

## Mad Hatter Tea Party

Saturday May 13<sup>th</sup> 11:00am

St. Paul's Lutheran Family

In Celebration of Very Merry Mothers,  
Grandmothers, Aunts and all Special Ladies



Come meet us in wonder-  
land.....

Please don't forget to come in  
your BEST HAT!



## THE LEE GROUP

**THE LEE GROUP's** next meeting will be Wednesday May 3rd, 2017, 11:30 a.m. in St. Paul's Friendship Hall. **Note the change in days & dates—this month only.**

“LEE” is the nickname for “**Life Enrichment for Everyone,**” or more commonly, “**Lutheran Eager Eaters.**” All retired and/or grandparents' generation people are invited.

The meeting will be celebrating the Resurrection, during the third week of Easter. The luncheon will be **baked ham**, which will be provided. Please bring a complementary dish to share of your own choosing: potatoes, casseroles, vegetables, salads, breads, desserts, etc. The meeting will include a sing-a-long of Easter songs, accompanied by Vicky Hamilton. The hosts will be the McPhail Family.

If you have questions, please call Bev Steinert (883-6096) or Doug Thunder (883-1548).



### **SERVING IN THE ARMED FORCES:**

Jerry, Brandon (Luterick), Ike (Moellendorf), Heather Joyner (Johnson), Samuel (Weirton and Osterhold), Peter (Elverum), Tim (Gridley), Sarah (McGee), Olivia (Lesperance), Jason (Coleman), Tom, Michael, Justin, Carlos Armando (Cortes)

### **FIREFIIGHTERS/PEACE OFFICERS:**

Andy (Steyn), Brian (Hillenbrand), Tina (Sherman), Mark (Dickens), John (Gould)

**CONTINUING PRAYERS FOR: John, Roy T., Michael, Julie, Eileen, James, Harold, Jane, Betty Ray, Frank, Peggy S., Carol M., Nellie.**

**THOSE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS:** Stan Bernette (Joan Yeskie's brother-in-law, with leukemia); Angelo DeFelice ; Alice Bloyd & her son (recovering from surgery); Peggy Saville (hospice care); Sara Pavell (hospice care) ; Greta O'Kelley's sister Gaylene (early diagnosis cancer); & Greta O'Kelley's grandson Micheal (early diagnosis blood disease); Doris Howell (recovering from surgery).



This is a picture of the team that kicked off the Rummage Sale Saturday-when we started. As the day went on, many others joined us to make our event the best yet!

We hope you were able to be here and enjoyed the variety of any features we offered. The team and WELCA would like to thank the congregation for all the fantastic donations. Our profit for the day was \$4716.



Download from [Dreamstime.com](https://www.dreamstime.com)

*Miss.*

*To*

*Mrs.*

*Please join us for a Bridal Shower  
in honor of*

*Ashle Overlock*

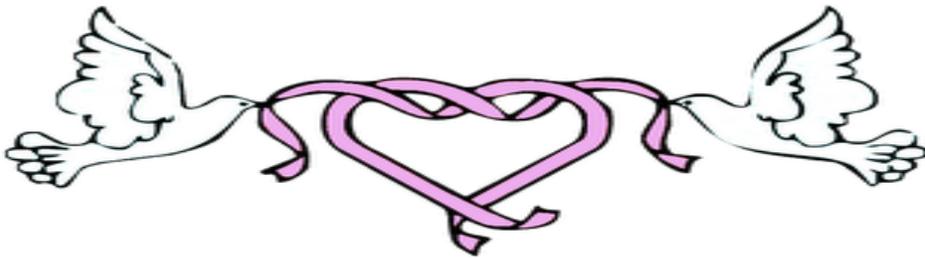
*Saturday May 20<sup>th</sup> at 11:00am*

*St. Paul's Lutheran Family*

*Kindly RSVP to Traci by May 12<sup>th</sup> at 775-721-5495*

*The happy couple is registered*

at Target & [www.zola.com/registry/dorandoran17](http://www.zola.com/registry/dorandoran17)



## WELLNESS COMMITTEE NOTES—By Betty Razor

Update your Medicine Cabinet

Did you know that the bathroom is a poor place to store your medications; because steam and heat can cause them to degrade or lose potency.

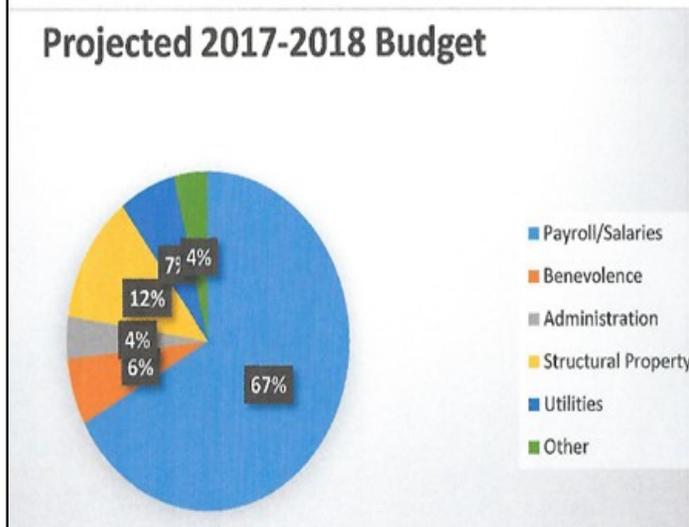
Also storing drugs you no longer use- especially pain medication - can increase the potential that they will be misused by others.

So, what do you do...

Dispose of unused medication the safest way:

1. First: Check with your Pharmacist- ask if they accept returned, unused medication.
2. Take them to the sheriff's office - there is a disposal unit just to the right of the entrance
3. If you are unable to do either of these, then as a last resort...
  - a. FDA recommend flushing narcotics painkiller- that you cannot return - down the toilet
  - b. Mix the medication with dirt or kitty litter in a plastic bag and toss into the trash

Note: It is wise to store your medications away from heat in a cool dry location.



## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

The Pastor's Forum will continue to meet for the next few weeks, May 7, 14, & 21, 2017. Pastor Chad will then determine if he would like to continue the Forum through the summer months.

The Sunday School is planning to have their last day of instruction on Sunday, May 21, 2017. The children will then be able to look forward to Vacation Bible School in June, the week of June 26-June 30 from 6:00 pm thru 8:00 pm in the evening.

I would like to thank everyone involved in our Sunday School as they are always available from year to year. The children have formed some great relationships with this great group of people and we are very thankful for their helpfulness. The teachers are Shelley Stevens, Sandy Tucker, Linda Wilson, Kristine Sandmeier. Helpers are Doris Howell, Penny Cotsonis, & Hope Chowanski

*Renee Woslum-Superintendent*

**Please mark your calendars!**

### Youth Sunday School

Next class will be held on

Sunday, May 21<sup>st</sup>

9:00 am - 11:30 am

Breakfast will be served

We will be talking about Forgiveness

Hope to see everyone there!

Thank for everyone's help with the Bake Sale, we couldn't have done it without you!



The 50th Anniversary committee will be meeting on May 15th at 11:00 am at the church. Plans are being worked on for their final fundraiser that will be held at the Congregation Annual Meeting. June 4th This will be a BBQ Hamburger, Hot Dogs, salads and the trimmings for lunch. We hope you will plan to come for this Yummy lunch and support the efforts of our group.

***Be a part of our upcoming Lifetime photo event!***

On Sunday, May 7, 2017 we will begin to schedule photo appointments for our new directory that will be published this summer. So you can make this a very special picture or Share your story in the picture if you wish by adding a favorite pet or flower bouquet. A Classic picture will work just fine as you get 1 8 x 10 picture free just for participating. Then of course your directory is complimentary too. We are hoping to have maximum participation as we will be having a smaller size directory this time.

The photo dates are June 8, 9 & 10 and will be taken in Friendship Hall. Please mark your calendars! The committee can still use some extra hands if you wish to help, please let Renee know at the office or Linda Wilson.



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***MAY BIRTHDAYS***

- 2 Rodger Steyn
- 2 Kathy Edwards
- 4 Marilou Martineau
- 5 Eileen Scarbrough
- 6 Mary DeFelice
- 8 Audrey Stroub
- 12 Jane Antila
- 13 David Harrell
- 14 Jean Opperman
- 15 Ellen Boone
- 18 Tom Snodgrass
- 19 Dottie Foster
- 19 Pat Fowler
- 19 Susan Goetz
- 20 Angelo DeFelice
- 20 Lykira Fuentes
- 23 Austin York
- 24 Marlene Larson
- 25 Jessica McComas
- 29 Chuck Bailey
- 30 Daniel Neiman

May all your dreams  
and wishes  
come true.  
Happy Birthday!



**WORSHIP LEADERS**

**COMMUNION ASSISTANT**

*May 7 8 am—Gloria Randle  
10:30 am-Heidi Jones &  
Nakita Jones*

*(Mother's Day)*

*May 14 8 am -  
10:30 am-*

*May 21 8 am  
10:30 am-Judy McPhail &  
Sytrena Chowanski*

*May 28 8 am-Joan Schultz  
10:30 am-*

**GREETERS**

*May 7- Judy McPhail*

*May 14-Mary Neumann*

*May 21-Betty Thoreson*

*May 28-Mary Neumann*

**READERS-8:00 A.M.**

*May 7-Gloria Randle*

*Mau 14-Vera Logie*

*May 21 -Louise Griffith*

*May 28-Caroll Massie*

**READERS 10:30A.M.**

*May 7-Holly McPhail*

*May 14-Linda Wilson*

*May 21 -Judy McPhail*

*May 28-Richard Armhein*

**USHERS-10:30 service**

*May 7-Dave Harrell, Roy Eisentrager.  
Mary Neumann. Greta O'Kelley*

*May 14-Dave Harrell, Mary Neumann.  
Greta O'Kelley*

*May 21-Dave Harrell, Mary Neumann.  
Greta O'Kelley*

*May 28-Dave Harrell, Roy Eisentrager.  
Mary Neumann. Greta O'Kelley*

**COUNTERS**

May 7-8:00 am

10:30 am -Heidi Jones

May 14- 8:00 am - Jerry S.

10:30 am -

May 21- -8:00 am .

10:30 am-Judy McPhail

May 28- -8:00 am

10:30 am -Roy Eisentrager

**ACOLYTES-10:30 service**

*May 7-Hailey Jones &  
Nicholas Cotsonis*

*May 14-*

*May 21-*

*May 28-Caroll Massie-  
( 8:00 am )*

## Water Usage

### Call to Action

#### ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN FAMILY - SEWER CHARGES AND NEED FOR A SEPARATE IRRIGATION WATER METER

Additional information in response to April 2 meeting comments:

SPLF high water/sewer bills for the last several summers have been due to the sewer charges side, not excess water use.

As a "Low-Strength Commercial User" with only one meter, SPLF is charged for sewage treatment on every gallon of water that passes through the meter, whether used in the building, or for landscape irrigation, or for the Kindness Garden, or for car wash fundraisers .....

Under the 5-year rate plan approved by the Carson City Board of Supervisors in 2013, the applicable sewer charge per thousand gallons has gone from \$3.92 in fiscal year 2014 to \$5.82 currently and will increase to \$6.78 July 1, 2017.

If a typical household with modest landscaping were charged using this formula, its summer sewer bills would be almost twice its water bills.

Water conservation should always be a part of SPLF cost control, but it will not significantly reduce these sewer charges and they will likely continue to increase into the future.

The current situation limits the use of SPLF property and facilities.

The proposed separate irrigation meter will eliminate sewer charges on water used outside of the building. It has been estimated that, within four years, the reduction in sewer charges will exceed the costs of permitting and installing the proposed irrigation water meter.

The reduction in outside water costs will continue into the future, and lower water costs associated with the irrigation meter will provide SPLF with flexibility in the use of its property.

Your vote in support of the proposal to have an irrigation meter installed is requested.

Respectfully

Tom Gesick

## ST. PAUL'S WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS!!!

**On Sunday, May 7 at the 10:30 am service the following people who have indicated their willingness to join St Paul's will be accepted into membership. We welcome this wonderful group into our family!**

**Heidi Jones, Sean Jones, Nakita Jones, Hailey Jones, Gary L. Smith , Kathryn Smith, Jimmy Poncsak, Sherrie Poncsak, Dwight Holmquist, Susan Holmquist, Jila, Kristin Turro, and Anna Silver.**

**A New member/Welcome potluck is being planned in their honor for the evening of May 16 at 6:30 pm. Please mark your calendars and join us for this fun-filled evening**

## ST. PAUL'S STITCHER'S

*On Mother's Day, May 14, as we remember and honor our mothers , please take a moment to look at the quilts, lap robes, bonnets and booties made by the women of St. Paul's Stitchers for the Advocates to End Domestic Violence Shelter, residents of area nursing homes and newborns in need in our community.*

*This is also a time to thank our known and unknown donors of materials and yarn for our projects. We have a dedicated group of women who sew, tie, knit and crochet the items. We started these projects in 1997 and are celebrating our 20th year in 2017.*

*If you would like to join us, we meet the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month in Friendship Hall from 9 am to noon. Three or four times a year we have a Quilt Marathon from 9 am to 3 pm. You are welcome to join us for an hour or two or all day. If you don't know much about making quilts, we will be happy to teach you.*

*For further information, call Sarah Jevne at 882-3240 or 315-7510.*



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.com



My Mother,  
my friend so dear,  
Throughout my life  
you're always near,  
A tender smile  
to guide my way,  
You're the sunshine  
to light my day.  
Happy Mom's Day!  
I Love You!