God's Family

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
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- 10:00 a.m.—Sunday

Inside this Issue:

Happy Anniversary — A Message from Pastor Fisher	1 & 3
Concordia Seminary Food Bank	3
Oktoberfest w/photos	4-10
Ladies Aid Outing w /photos	10
LERT Flood Bucket Project w/photo	11
LWML Sunday w/photo	11
Christmas Giving Tree; Men's Gathering w/photos	12
Bells of Joy Choir w/photos; Adult Bible Study	13
Visitor Gift Bags, Equip, & Service Information	14
Youth Group & FireStarters w/photos	15
Ladies Aid Christmas Party; Decorating Church for Christmas; Poinsettia Order Form	16

Happy Anniversary

It is a special two-year anniversary for me this October. An anniversary that inspires love, dedication, communication, building, and togetherness. An anniversary that melts my heart just like the first time.

That moment… to be able to think back and soak it all in… and to think I get to relive it every October… and smell that sweet sausage!

Happy anniversary Oktoberfest!

Wait… what's that? It's my actual anniversary? With my wife?... oh… uh… I hope she isn't reading this!

Jokes aside, truly both anniversaries fall in October, and both make me think of the Church! And there is nothing wrong with that!

Both are 2 years of building, communicating, listening, trying things, confessing, forgiving, growing, and wearing lederhosen… okay, maybe not the last one so much in my marriage. But you get me point.

While Oktoberfest will never hold a candle to my wedding anniversary, they both are special moments and events that tie me to the most important relationships I have. One, my amazing wife, Janie. And Oktoberfest, to my wonderful Church family, you!

And both of those relationships point me to and encourage me to reflect on my first love…Jesus. Janie, through the grace you show me in both how you love me and forgive me and work with me through all of my brokenness and sin, and how I see you, when most would be spent, share all the more grace with the people around you, I see and feel the love of Jesus. St. Paul's through our ability to struggle and suffer and bear our cross in humility, sharing in the vision, mission and hope, I am surrounded by the body of Jesus.

My mom sent me the picture you see in the article…next to the Oktoberfest picture…and she had this quote: "Never forget the love you felt this moment!"

It reminded me of the Words Jesus speaks to the Church in Revelation 2:4.

Jesus confronts his Church, calling them to repentance with these words…

"However, I have something against you, namely, that you have forgotten your first love."

The Church in question had a lot going for it! They were patient, they toiled and labored, they endured. They rebuffed and refuted heretics

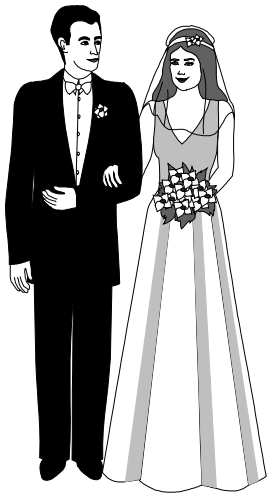
(continued on Page 3)

November Birthdays

11/2 – Carolyn Schwede
11/2 – Roger Sudbrock
11/6 – Fred Luetkemeier
11/8 – Vicki Zuhone
11/9 – Harold Demien
11/10 – Jonathan Erickson
11/11 – Ryan Holladay
11/16—Carol Oberaitis

November Anniversaries

11/5 – William & Jackie Eslinger – 40 years
11/20 – Harold & Sharon Demien – 62 years



November Services

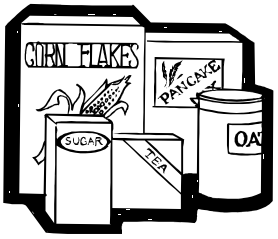
11/6—Sunday Service—10:00 a.m.— Communion
11/13—Sunday Service—10:00 a.m.— Communion
11/20—Sunday Service—10:00 a.m.— Communion
11/23—Thanksgiving Eve Service—Time to be Determined
11/27—Sunday Service—10:00 a.m.— Communion
11/30—Advent Service—Time to be Determined

October Food Pantry Donations

Members of the congregation reported donating 36 food items and $65.00 in cash to the New Melle Food Pantry during the month of October.

In the future, if you donate, please report this to Sherry in the office, so your donations can be included in our tally.

Meal-a-Month Needs for November



The **MEAL-A-MONTH ITEMS** for **November:** Bisquick or pancake mix, pancake syrup, sugar, powdered drinks, fruit juice, cooking oil, tuna helper, Chili beans, spaghetti sauce, canned oranges, canned pears, ketchup, paper towels, shaving cream, men's deodorant, and razors.

Please bring items directly to the Immaculate Heart of Mary Church. If you donating money, please make checks payable to: St. Vincent De Paul Society. You may hand deliver your monetary (cash or check) donation or mail a check to Immaculate Heart of Mary, PO Box 100, New Melle, MO 63365. Please report your donation to Sherry Brandes in the office for Voters Assembly and Ladies Aid records. You only need to report number of items (or boxes or bags) and dollar amount. No names will be attached to the donations; just a monthly tally of the number of food items and dollars donated will be recorded.

NOTE: Food Pantry hours are: The 1st and 3rd Saturdays of each month from 9:00 to 10:30 a.m. AND for NOVEMBER, DECEMBER, and JANUARY, they are adding the 3rd TUESDAY of each month from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. Please tell anyone who might benefit from this service!

Oktoberfest *(continued from page 1)*

and false preachers! Whoa! What a church!

But was it without love? And what love had they forgotten? The love of the Father given to them as Children, Jesus himself, his sacrifce, his death, his mercy, his amazing grace. His love.

And without the love of Jesus, they were without the love that overflows from those who have been saved by Christ. The overflowing of grace, works of mercy, acts of forgiveness and reconciliation, sacrifice, care and sincere sharing of joys and burdens, the loving act of love.

Church (I am referring to you by the way)! I will confess, in my marriage I have often forgotten my first love, Janie. I have taken her for granted, I have put other things first when it should have been her. I have not sacrificed and loved her as I should.

Church (still talking to you), I will confess in my life in the Church, I have forgotten my first love, the love Jesus has had for me. I have judged, I have been quick to anger, I have displayed lack of empathy, and embodied self-security and self-appeasement before the love Jesus wants me to overflow with for others.

Forgive me Jesus…in your love forgive my lack of love.

Are you like me? There is love for you, too. Jesus forgives you.

And that is why he speaks to the Church this way. To bring about their repentance. To have them stop and think. To tear down the walls that come over the days, weeks, months and years of us striving, toiling, and doing and not being, receiving and letting go.

Jesus wants us, before anniversaries become just another date on the calendar, another hoop to jump through, another obligation, another must, another talking point, to remember our first love, the love of Him on the cross to us.

For me, my marriage is a constant reminder of that love of Jesus.

And so is Oktoberfest. Because there, I saw his love pour out through you.

But the Church is more like marriage in this regard. Oktoberfest is over. Yet, we still are the Church.

Those people who came to our campus, the hundreds of faces, the hundreds of souls, the hundreds of lives with joys and sorrows still yet unknown, of pain and brokenness, of hopes and dreams.

The event is over, their lives are not. St. Paul's, Jesus loves them. His love pours out for them.

Church, St. Paul's, we must not forget our first love, that is Christ and His love.

October 24th will forever be a sacred day for me. A witness of the great grace and love for Jesus.

May the third weekend of October hold some weight for us, too. A day in which we remembered our first love. So that the work that we saw God do that day, the welcome, the fellowship, the love, the joy, the hope, the building, the sharing, the working, the sacrifice…will inspire us every day.

And may every Sunday, be your home, your grand event, your wedding feast, your Oktoberfest, your chance, to sit, go out to supper, communicate with, share with, and be loved by your first love.

Jesus, St. Paul's. Always Jesus.

And truly what love he has shown us. What love we are still to see.

Happy Anniversary,
Pastor Maxx

Concordia Seminary Christmas Food Bank Monetary Collection

This year our special collection for the Concordia Seminary Food Bank will be **MONEY.** There will be no shopping or delivery trip to St. Louis.

You may contribute by cash or check. Checks should be made payable to "Concordia Seminary St. Louis", and designated for the Concordia Seminary "Food Bank" on the memo line. One check will be sent to cover all cash donations. Please give your donations to Sherry Brandes by ***Sunday, November 27.***

This will make it possible to provide ***perishable*** foods, such as meet and dairy products to our future pastors and their families, while in preparation for the Holy ministry.

Once or twice each month, single and married students and their families are given the opportunity to select items they need from the Seminary Food Bank.

The food bank is a tremendous blessing to student families who diligently try to make ends meet.

St. Paul's 2nd Annual Oktoberfest — What an Incredibly Perfect Day!

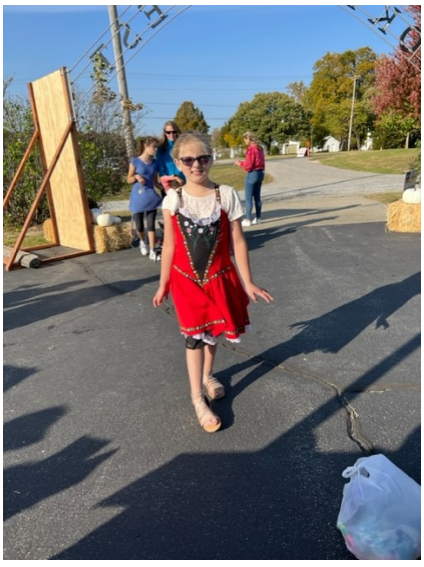
We waited for Our Guests to Arrive...

...and they came from all around the New Melle community and beyond...

...and they ate, drank, danced, played games...and had fun!

Barb Auping was named St. Paul's "Meisterin des Erbes" (or Mistress of Heritage") for all of the work she has done over the years to preserve the history of our church, including documents, photographs, other memorabilia, as well as the church itself.

Congratulations, Barb. St. Paul's appreciates all you have done and still do for us.



There were four raffles available. Two quilts in the Country Market quilted by St. Paul's Quilting Class and a Birdhouse Mansion and Butterfly House/Bluebird House located at the Welcome Booth, which were made by Larry Shanley and decorated by Margo Hoffmann. Winners were drawn at the end of the day and were notified on Monday following the Oktoberfest.

The awesome music was provided by "Rhythm of the Nite", a group led by Greg Worzel from Messiah Lutheran Church. Good News Brewery sold their craft beer products. Ramblin' Rounds sold their donut treats and Stir Up Coffee Cake sold coffee and other non-alcoholic beverages.

Thank you to Jeff Schneider for chairing the Oktoberfest committee to prepare for the entire event.

Thank you to Mike & Missy Motz and their family for creating our FABULOUS Oktoberfest entrance display and welcome booth!

A special thanks to Larry Zuhone for setting up the parking area prior to the event and to Mike Schmidt, Mike Vossen, and Jonathan Erickson who worked with parking during the event and made sure everyone could cross the road safely.

Thanks also to Becky Murphy and Missy Motz for their work with the Country Market crafts and food preparation. They were helped by many others, as well!

Check the names on the next page!

A Toast to All Who Worked to Make Oktoberfest a Success!

St. Paul's Volunteer List Continues:

Thank you to Barb Auping for playing the organ and talking to people about our church, and thanks also to JoAnn Hammel for her history tours.

Thank you to Larry Zuhone for the loan of his Volkswagon. It was a great nod to German technology and a wonderful backdrop for pictures!

Thank you to our unsung heroes in the fry shed and the kitchen: Annie Schneider, Jackie Eslinger, Dorothy Caswell, Diana Eschenbrenner, Sally Goth, Mason Jennings, Amy Jennings, Diana Eschenbrenner, Tina Janitch, Debbie Pohlmann, Rhonda DeGeal, Maelyn Joerling, Jim Chervek, Tina Janitch, Mark Wehmeier, Harold Demien, Allen & Pam Schwede, Dennis & Joan Schwede.

Thank you to those who worked in the Food Checkout Stand: Melanie Kane, Joyce Schiermeier, Vicki Zuhone, Amber Vossen, and Evyn Humphrey.

Thank you to those who worked in the Country Market or helped set it up and clean it up: Jane Nadler, Jackie Eslinger, Carolyn Schwede, Mary Bethel, Sandy Schmidt, Carol Oberaitis, Evyn Humphrey, and Delaney Schmidt.

Thank you to those who worked in the Welcome Booth: Margo Hoffmann, Larry Shanley, Carol Oberaitis, Darrell Clark, and Sherry Brandes.

Thank you to those who made pretzel necklaces: Carol Oberaitis, Mary & Terry Bethel, Sandy Schmidt, Jackie Diederich, Delaney Schmidt, Georgia Diederich, Annie Schneider, Missy Motz, Sherry Brandes, and Jane Nadler.

Thank you to Pastor Maxx for working the crowd and wearing your lederhosen.

Thank you to Janie Fisher for wearing your dirndl dress and taking marvelous photos.

Thank you to Rick Pohlmann, Terry Bethel, and all those who worked anywhere and everywhere (who might have unintentionally gone unnamed!) —from set-up to cleanup and beyond! THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

ONE FINAL NOTE: If you or someone you served with has not received their thank you gift, please contact the church office, so we can get it to whomever has yet to receive one.

St. Paul's Ladies Aid Lyceum Theater Outing

The Ladies Aid organized a trip to Arrow Rock, Missouri to attend "A Grand Night for Singing". This was a compilation of some of the best songs written and produced by Rogers and Hammerstein and performed by five phenomenal actors and actresses and an ensemble of very talented musicians.

Following the show, the group went to dinner together before traveling home. Those attending were Ladies Aid members and their spouses and friends: (Upper Right: Bill Eslinger, Bob and Wanda Greiwe, Jackie Eslinger, Carolyn Schwede, Star Cox, and Lois Boeger. Lower Right: Jeff Demien, Harold and Sharon Demien, Diana Eschenbrenner, Wilma Larson, JoAnn Hammel, and (not pictured) Sherry Brandes.

St. Paul's Flood Bucket Project for LERT (Lutheran Early Response Team)

Due to the recent flooding in the St. Louis area and other disasters in the southern part of the United States, the LERT team based at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Wentzville, as well as other teams in the area, has experiences an overwhelming need for additional LERT Buckets. In early October our Ladies Aid contributed eight buckets, but that is truly just a "drop in the bucket" of the need facing many people suffering damage to their homes.

Therefore it has been decided to ask our congregation to open their hearts and their wallets to help our neighbors replenish their bucket supply.

Each bucket costs approximately $20. The buckets must be filled with a uniform set of items, making it difficult for people to just donate items, so if you can donate MONEY to this cause, the LERT teams will purchase the items and fill the buckets.

Your donations will be received throughout the month of November ***in the church narthex or in the church office. PLEASE DO NOT PUT THEM IN THE OFFERING PLATE.***

Checks should be made payable to St. Paul's Lutheran Church with "LERT" on the memo line, and one check will be sent to Immanuel's LERT team.

LWML Sunday

During the church service on Sunday, October 2, the Ladies Aid members celebrated LWML Sunday by sitting together and singing "Serve the Lord with Gladness" and the congregation joined in on the third verse. They also were joined by the congregation in reciting the LWML Pledge. **PICTURED ABOVE:** (Front Row) Sherry Brandes, Marian Wildschuetz, Sharon Demien, Mary Bethel, Georgia Diederich, Carol Oberaitis, Diana Eschenbrenner, Wanda Greiwe, Jackie Eslinger, Carolyn Schwede, and Joyce Schiermeier. (Back Row) Pastor Maxx Fisher, Barb Auping, Vicki Zuhone, Jane Nadler, and Becky Murphy.

It's Almost Time for Our Christmas Giving Tree

When the Christmas Giving Tree appears in our narthex, the tree will still have tags with names on them for three Concordia Seminary students and their families. HOWEVER, there will be NO stress in choosing gifts to buy or wrap...only GIFT CARDS and a CHRISTMAS CARD. There WILL be a sign-up sheet and a set of printed directions, so you will know what to do and the committee will know whose cards still need to be turned in to the office.

Steps: 1) Please take the tag(s) and sign your name on the sheet by the Giving Tree. 2) Purchase the gift card(s) you would like to give. 3) Put the dollar amount of your gift card either on the gift card itself or on the inside of the Christmas card. 4) Place the gift card(s) inside the Christmas card and sign the card or write a note inside. Include your address, because most seminary students want to send thank you notes. 5) Put the name of the person on the outside of the envelope. 6) Give the Christmas cards with the gift cards inside to Sherry ***NO LATER THAN Sunday, November 27.***

All of the cards will be bundled by Sherry in the office and *mailed on Thursday, December 1*, to arrive at the seminary in time for the families to receive them prior to leaving for their Christmas break.

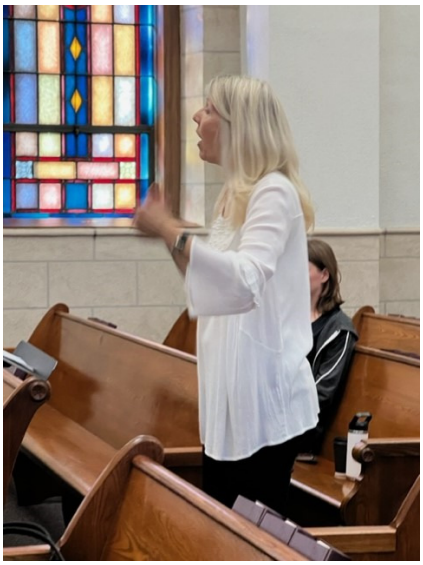
If you wish to contribute, but don't wish to go to the store to buy the gift card, you can still participate. **TO DO THIS:** Take a tag and give it, a Christmas card, and the CASH to purchase the gift card to Sherry Brandes ***NO LATER THAN Sunday, November 20,*** in time for the gift card to be purchased and mailed with the others.

We would appreciate your help in making this Christmas holiday a happy and memorable one for these Seminary students and their families!

Men's Gathering

St. Paul's recently played host to the Messiah Elders, as well as Pastors and the Bishop of the Lutheran Church Uganda!

Fellowship, encouragement, and great food followed a devotion by Pastor Maxx reminding men that our best building project is when we build each other up and love each other.



Inspirational Musical Offering

We want to thank the full Bells of Joy choir from Messiah Lutheran Church, Weldon Spring, for joining us on Sunday, October 9, and blessing our congregation with their beautiful musical presentation.

Adult Bible Study

SUNDAYS:
November 6
November 13
November 27
December 4
December 11

START TIME:
8:45 a.m. in the church hall

Those attending will be walking through the Biblical words of the prophet Habakkuk, an ancient voice for the present Christian.

Visitor Bags & Connect Cards

If you bring a guest or visitor, please alert our welcomers to give them a gift bag and please encourage your guests/visitors to use the Connect Card if they are interested in learning more.

Remember: No need to force anything on anyone; the bags and cards are all invitations to be used, if desired.

Sometimes the best gift is a welcome place to hear the gospel of Jesus with family and friends.

Equip

Come round out our Equip small group study as we learn about how to JOIN JESUS ON HIS MISSION! The first step is joining one another along the way in support and encouragement. Come join your fellow Christians and get equipped with the Word of God with us at 6:00 p.m. on scheduled Wednesdays.

November 2nd
November 16th

It is never too late to jump in!

Service of Silence & Prayer

Friday Mornings

9:00-9:30 a.m.

DATES

November 4, 11, 18 & 25

December 2, 9 & 16

Confession & Absolution

Friday Mornings

9:30 a.m.—12:00 noon

Following the Service of Silence & Prayer

Pastor will be in his office for this reason. People are free to schedule with him via email, text, or stop by the office with full confidentiality.

Thanksgiving Eve & Advent Services

There will be a Thanksgiving Eve service, as well as Advent Services. Times for these have not yet been finalized, but they will occur.

Thanksgiving Eve
November 23rd

1st Wednesday Advent Service
November 30

Stay tuned for announcements of the start times for these services and make plans to attend!

Youth Group Activities & Future Possibilities

Pastor's backyard recently became host to the Immanuel Wentzville Youth. Do you have teenage youth interested in deeper discipleship? Meeting other Christians in fellowship and service? Or curious about God's Word?

Consider reaching out to Deaconess Janie Fisher for more info on Immanuel Youth!

This past Sunday we enjoyed small group time, hanging out, diving into God's Word and surviving a near forest fire!

We have also had our service project where we worked with LERT to bring recovery and hope to a local community affected by the recent flooding activity.

FireStarters

Do you have a friend, acquaintance or loved one who is interested in learning more about the church? Are you looking to get your own love for Christ and his Word rekindled?

Don't be like Pastor Maxx and start random fires (and thus burning all your burgers) ...get the fire started with FireStarters!

While our next class sessions won't be un til winter, if we have enough interest and participation, we could schedule one sooner.

If you are interested in FireStarters or some of our discipleship materials,
contact Pastor Maxx
812-216-5891
or
maxxjofish@gmail.com

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

P.O. Box 70
New Melle, MO 63365

"A new command I give you: Love one another." John 13:34

St. Paul's Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

Ladies Aid Christmas Party

All ladies of the congregation are invited to the Ladies Aid Christmas Party on Saturday, December 10, beginning at 11:30 a.m. Ladies Aid members, are asked to bring two dozen cookies for a cookie exchange.

More details will become available following the November Ladies Aid Meeting.

The recommended price range for Secret Pal gifts is between $10 and $15. If you do not have a Secret Pal, you may bring an exchange gift to trade with others who do not have a Secret Pal.

A free-will Ingathering will be taken. Proceeds will go to a family in the area.

An RSVP to Sherry Brandes is needed by Sunday, November 27, so that the committee may plan for the meal, table decorations, games, and other surprises.

'Tis the Season!

Our Church Christmas Tree and other Christmas Decorations will be put up on Saturday, November 26, beginning at 10:00 a.m.

All help will be appreciated.

Help Decorate our Church

This year, we will again have **POINSETTIAS** for Christmas. Please fill out the form below and turn it in to the church office by **SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27.**

Make checks payable to: **St. Paul's Lutheran Church**. The cost is $12.00 per 6-1/2" pot.

NAME _____

IN MEMORY OF _____

BIRTHDAY OF _____

OTHER _____

NUMBER: _____ @ $12.00 each = _____

COLOR CHOICE: ___Red ___White ___Pink

Please keep poinsettia at church _____

I/We will pick up poinsettia after December 25 _____