



## St. Paul's Lutheran Church May, 2009 "Newsletter"

"Why have you lived so long?" someone asked an elderly gentleman. "Well," he replied, "because I did not stop breathing." There is humor in that reply, and food for thought. His long life did not depend on taking the proper vitamins, nor on taking a long walk every day, but merely on the fact that his lungs kept on breathing. This was not really his doing, but God's doing.

The same is true of spiritual life. We cannot accept credit for the fact that we believe. Nor can the pastor, for he did not make us Christians. Nor can the Church, for it is composed of sinners who are members of God's family only by grace. No Christian who is honest can say, "I felt inclined to be a Christian and thus it was not hard for me to become one." He can only say, "I am what I am by the grace of God."

It was only by God's grace that Paul became a Christian. He had once persecuted the Christian Church. He did not merit it that Jesus appeared to him on the road to Damascus and changed him into a chosen messenger to bring the Gospel to the heathen. But once he was brought to faith, his faith spoke out, beginning in Damascus.

In 2 Corinthians 4:13, it is written: "I believed, and therefore I have spoken."



### "Rogation" Sunday and Mother's Day

On Sunday, May 10 we will celebrate the spring planting season for farmers and gardeners through a special "Rogation" service. Rogation comes from the Latin word "rogare" that means "to beseech." On this Sunday we will beseech or ask God's blessing for the seed that is planted, for the soil in which it grows, and for the farmers and gardeners who labor in planting and caring for the crops and gardens.

Rogation Sunday is usually celebrated in the Easter Season. Our faith, like seeds, are rooted and grounded in the love of Christ. The worship service will be different and special and at the close of the service we will move outside to make a symbolical planting of seeds. May 10 is also Mother's Day, when we say thanks for mothers and remember God's creation and new life. Tell your friends and neighbors about this special service and invite them to come to St. Paul's to experience a creative, warm, and inspiring time.



A quick and easy and inexpensive way to label the plants in your flower garden with variety name or color is to use disposable plastic knives – they make great plant labels. Use a permanent marker to write on the handle. They are weatherproof and last for several years, and the serration on the blades make them easy to stick into the ground. You can also use these knives to mark garden rows. When spring bulbs, like daffodils, tulips, etc., bloom you'll often find a spot where a bulb for reason didn't grow. Mark it and use the knife and just write, "Missing Red Tulip" on the handle and leave in your flower garden until fall.

## April Worship Attendance

April 5	129
12	78
19	39
26	41
April 10	40 G. Friday



## IT'S CLEANUP TIME AGAIN!

The annual Sibley County Thrivent Chapter-sponsored ditch cleanup project is Wednesday, May 13 (alternate date is May 14 in case of inclement weather). Meet at the Winthrop Drive-In at 5:00 pm. Dress accordingly and wear comfortable shoes. Refreshments at the Drive-In will be provided after the work is done.

## **SPRING SALAD LUNCHEON**

**Friday, May 8**

**11:00-1:00**

Delicious salads, desserts, cheese  
ham, rolls, and beverages

Cost: \$6:00

5 & Under \$2.00

## MAY 31 IS PENTECOST SUNDAY

Birthdays mean celebrating, and the birthday of the church is a great reason to celebrate. Red is the traditional color of celebrations and we invite you to wear RED to church on Pentecost Sunday, May 31.

May 31 is also new member Sunday.



For years, a farmer lived on the border of Iowa and Minnesota and never knew what state he actually lived in. Finally, an official surveyor came to the farm to determine his residency, "Sir, it turns out that you live in Iowa."

"Whew," the farmer sighed. "Why are you relieved?" the confused surveyor asked.

"No more Minnesota winters," the farmer replied.

And the two top bowlers from St. Paul's are.....  
Jeremy Bierstedt and Andrew Trout

Sunday, May 10, is Mother's Day. We will be celebrating **MARVELOUS MOTHER'S MARIGOLD SUNDAY** as a part of our worship. The students will be passing out marigolds (grown by themselves) to all ladies in church. They also will be reciting Bible verses that talk about Mothers.

Sunday School comes to an end on Sunday, May 10. A special thank you to all the wonderful volunteers who helped with our Children's Ministry.

## HONOR ROLL



"A" Grade 12 Bethany Trout  
Grade 10 Kathie Bauer

"B" Grade 12 Lance Messner  
Grade 9 Sonja Sprandel

The new Lutheran Study Bibles have arrived and are on the bookshelf in the Fellowship Hall. It will be exciting and challenging to use them at the next Bible Study.

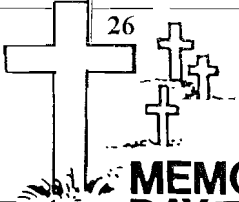
Transfer requested and accepted for Kaylee Sivertsen to Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Mankato. Kaylee is the daughter of Shannon and Tanya (Brinkman) Sivertsen.

As Lutherans, we believe that the Lord's Supper is the true body and blood of Christ "in and under" the bread and wine. It isn't a remembrance meal; it isn't symbolic. It is *real presence*. It is guaranteed "for you" and "for the forgiveness of sins".

We welcome five youth to share with us the Lord's Supper at our May 3 worship service. They are..... Roger Anderson, Nathaniel Frauendienst, Riley Messner, Brooklyn Schuelke and Ryan Schulke

1. Thanks to Darrel Frauendienst for faithfully plowing out the church parking lot after all the snow of this past winter.
2. We also thank Robert and Alan for their faithful efforts to keep the sidewalks ice free. Busy year.
3. Thank you to Robert for putting a very handy and much needed shelf in the furnace room.
4. Erwin Pomplun will be mowing the lawn and keeping the grounds neat and trim. He does a super cool job.

# May

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
					1
3 8:30 am Worship/H. Communion 9:30 am SS <i>Dedication of Font First Communion</i>	4	5	6 7:00 pm Missional Planning Session	7 12 noon Gaylord Ministerium  1:30 pm Oak Terrace Communion	8 11:00-1:00 pm Salad Luncheon
10 8:30 am Rogation Service and Mother's Day 9:30 am SS	11 9:00 am Naomi Circle	12 Church Women's Oak Terrace Birthday Party 6:30 pm Church Council	13 5:00 pm Thrivent's Ditch Clean up at Winthrop	14	15
17 8:30 am Worship & Missional Planning Service 9:30 am Special Cong. Meeting	18 Thrivent Meeting	19 9:00 am MN Valley Conference Pastor's Mtg. @ American Lutheran	20 Pastor Bill & Marge at U.S. Dream Academy Meetings, Washington D.C.	21 Pastor at Meeting	22 Pastor at Meeting
24 8:30 am Worship	25 Memorial Services at Trinity and Veterans Park in Gaylord	26  <b>MEMORIAL DAY</b>	27	28	29
31 8:30 am Worship  <i>Welcome New Members Sunday</i>					