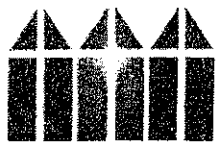


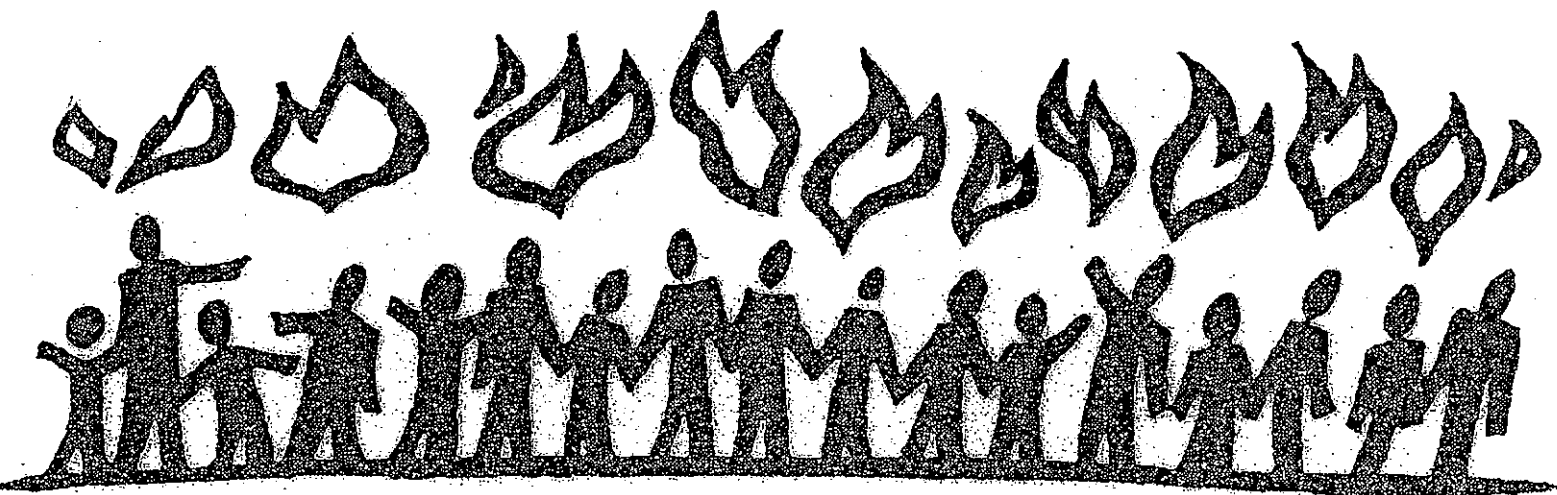
May 2009



St. Paul's Lutheran

MESSENGER

Come
Holy Spirit
Come



PENTECOST

Phone: 952-938-4683

Email: stpauls@saintpaulslutheran.org

Fax: 952-938-1141

Website: www.saintpaulslutheran.org

Our mission: "To be an open and inviting church spreading the good news of Christ."



St. Paul's
Evangelical
Lutheran
Church

MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is "to be an open and inviting church spreading the Good News of Christ."

WORSHIP TIMES

You are invited to join us regularly on Sunday mornings for 9:30 AM worship followed by refreshments and Christian education for all ages. Please check the enclosed calendar for times.

A current weekly calendar is available on our website at www.saintpaulslutheran.org and click on "This Week at St. Paul's".

OFFICE HOURS

The office is lightly staffed. Regularly scheduled office hours are 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM, Monday through Friday, excluding Federal holidays. Please call before coming in case of unexpected closures. Phone: 952-938-4683, Fax: 952-938-1141, email: StPauls@saintpaulslutheran.org, Website: saintpaulslutheran.org.

MAILING LIST

Please notify the church office when you notify the Post Office you will be temporarily away.

St. Paul's congregation is pleased to send you this newsletter. However, if you prefer not to receive it, please call the church office at 952-938-4683 or e-mail us at stpauls@saintpaulslutheran.org.

PARTNER CONGREGATION

Iglesia Vida Abundante en Cristo, (Abundant Life in Christ or VAEC), provides a worship service in Spanish at St. Paul's on Sundays 1:00 – 3:00 pm, and Fridays from 7:00 – 9:00 pm. All are welcome.

MISSION AFFILIATES

Agora Ministries
Augustana Chapel View Care Center
Bet Shalom Reform Congregation Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Intercongregation Communities Association (ICA)
Hopkins - Minnetonka Family Resource Center
Hopkins United Methodist Church
Lutheran Social Services
Meals on Wheels
Minneapolis Area Synod
Mizpah United Church of Christ
Oak Knoll Lutheran Church
Our Saviours Housing
West Metro Grief Support

PUBLICATION

The Messenger is a monthly newsletter published by St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, 13207 Lake St. Extension, Minnetonka, MN 55305. Phone: 952-938-4683, Fax: 952-938-1141. Website: saintpaulslutheran.org.

Please submit articles as Word attachments with your clip art to stpauls@saintpaulslutheran.org. Include your name and contact information. Indicate whether what you are submitting is optional "filler" material or something you definitely want included in the next newsletter. For pre-printed fliers or brochures, provide a condensed version that can be directly inserted in the newsletter. If needed, include the name of a contact person or phone number that readers may call for more information. Submission deadline is the fifteenth of the month. All submissions are subject to editing for space and content. All rights reserved by St. Paul's Lutheran Church.

A HUGE THANK YOU to those who continue to keep us informed and provide food for thought with regular articles for *The Messenger*. Please consider becoming a provider too.

ST. PAUL'S CHURCH COUNCIL & ASSISTING ADMINISTRATORS

Vince Jacobson
President

Mary Hromatka
Vice President

Carolyn Carpenter
Council Secretary

Phil Eckhart/Mike Mikulay
Treasurer

Rev. Louise Mollick
Pastor

Kristen Campbell
Council Member

Connie Hessevick
Council Member

Jeanne Moe
Council Member

Kathy Powers
Council Member

Bernie Johnson
Associate Treasurer

Shirley Schaller
Financial Secretary

Cindi Paulsen
Music Director

Linda McGee
Accompanist

Linda Dundas
Administrative Assistant

Lisa Foss
Webmaster

AUXILIARY BUILDING USE

St. Paul's encourages use of it's facility by outside entities such that it will support our mission statement. Examples would be the 12 Step anonymous programs, local neighborhood organizations, and other congregations. Please contact us at 952-938-4683 for more information if interested.

COUNCIL NEWS

St. Paul's Church Council meets at 7:00 p.m. the second Tuesday of each month. Congregation members are welcome to attend and/or submit items for the agenda by contacting one of the council members.

Council Meeting Highlights

April 14, 2009

Gathering

Council President Vince Jacobson called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. with a prayer. Present were Vince Jacobson, Pr. Louise Mollick, Carolyn Carpenter, Phil Eckhert, Kathy Powers, Jeanne Moe, Kristin Campbell, Connie Hessevick, Mike Mikulay and Mary Hromatka.

There was discussion regarding preparation for discussion topics for the Congregational Gathering and Potluck Brunch on April 26. It was decided that the two primary topics would be the *Reconciling in Christ Statement of Welcome* (led by the Transformational Ministry Team), and discussion regarding what we should do with our music program after Cindi Paulsen, our Music Director, leaves us in July (led by the Worship and Music Team). A financial update and spiritual gifts discussion was postponed until a later date.

The minutes from the March meeting were approved.

Reports

Pastor Louise presented the Pastor's report. Vida Abundante en Cristo may join with us for a weekday service during the summer. The Russian Baptists congregation has grown to about 120 and has been using our building occasionally as needed. There were no ministry team reports.

Phil presented the Financial Secretary's report and the Treasurer's report.

Continuing Business

- Kathy reported that "Dreamweaver" has been ordered.
- Bernie hasn't been tracking the coffee money but he can do that in the future.
- Year end special offerings designated for music have been spent on music.

- The new treasurer can help us improve designation tracking in the future.
- We need documentation of all of our minutes in hardcopy form. It could be on a disk as well.

New Business

- The Synod Assembly will be May 29-30 and there's still space for another delegate.
- Vince will present some alternative dates for a Council Workshop this summer.
- The potential of changing council terms to include January through March and to correlate better with the January annual meeting date was deferred until later.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m. with a closing prayer by Vince.

Disclaimer: Highlights are provided for advance information purposes only. The above is not official meeting minutes and is subject to change.

WISH LIST

With input from the council and others, we have developed a list of things that we could use here at St. Paul's. We consider it to be a "wish list" because none of these things are a necessity or urgent, but sure would be nice to have. If you have any ideas to add to the list please either call or e-mail the church office and we will add them to the list. Thanks!!!

- Tables and chairs for patio
- Special fund for new sign or banner
- Digital camera to be kept at church
- Video camera
- Paper shredder
- Fire pit and grill

Our Synod in Mission

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Minnetonka, Is Transfigured

by Pastor Louise Mollick

The word transfigure has a couple different definitions. First, it means to change the appearance of, and second, it means "to transform so as to exalt or glorify."

The people of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Minnetonka have experienced both definitions of transfiguration through a new partnership with Iglesia Vida Abundante en Cristo. The leadership of the congregation went through a six-week Agora Mission Awareness Training. The training prepared the congregation for a bold and sincere decision for establishing a partnership with a neighborhood worshipping community.

The Mission Awareness Training and the partnership with Iglesia Vida Abundante have changed the face and attitude of the congregation. We no longer look like the predominantly northern European collection of people who walk through the doors on Sunday morning and speak only in English. Now people come into our building who are from the southern part of our globe and speak Spanish! And transformed, these two groups of people have had the blessing of being able to come together to worship and celebrate, exalting and glorifying our Lord.

Most recently we came together to celebrate the Transfiguration of Our Lord. And what a celebration it was! The music provided by Juan and Landy Tuz, the leaders of Vida Abundante, and Emmanuel, a Ghanaian from Agora Ministries, was full of energy and spirit. The Scriptures were read in three different languages, stories from the heart were shared, Pastor Cherian preached a powerful sermon proclaiming the work of Christ in the transfiguration of his people, and we shared the supper of our Lord declaring to all that there's always room at the table.

After the liturgy the celebration continued with Mardi Gras, a feast of delectable food and fellowship.



Members of St. Paul's Lutheran Church celebrate completion of Mission Awareness Training along with Pastor Cherian and Emmanuel from Agora Ministries.

How good, Lord, to be here! How good, Lord, to be transfigured! May we continue to be transformed and empowered to be the kingdom of God in this place and in our world. May we continue to widen the circle and welcome all, always reflecting the face of the one who shines like the sun! Let us hope for the experience of transfiguration in all our congregations.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Can it really be this hard?

One of the things I frequently do in preparation for research projects is assess feasibility, risk, and generally how hard it will be to achieve the intended outcome. An important part of this task is to determine whether the prerequisites required for the project actually exist. As a research project, the technically challenging part usually has to do with validating a hypothesis and implementing a system prototype that can demonstrate it. There is always a temptation to dismiss much of the risk of the really hard part because that is also the really fun part.

The phases of a successful research project (usually muttered under the breath) often go something like this:

This is going to be an interesting challenge ...

This is not working like I thought it would ...

Can it really be this hard?

... a miracle happens here ...

This worked out pretty well after all.

When the project goes as planned and the discoveries are exactly as expected, the project only needs the first and last phases. That situation is rare. If the path from beginning to end was well known, it wouldn't be research. The miracle typically takes the form of an unexpected discovery or validation of an unanticipated technique, and can easily be missed, especially if it is not exactly what one is prepared to see. Some projects end before the "miracle happens". In those cases, it may be that the miracle never occurs, or that it does occur but is not observed.

This reminds me of humankind's relationship with God. In Old Testament times, there was the law. Well, OK, there was the blessing and the promise and the covenant, and all God really expected was to be put first. There were instances where people heard God's call, and went directly from "this is going to be interesting" to "this worked out pretty well after all". That situation was rare. Most of God's people preferred to rely on their own will and quickly reached "this is not working like I thought it would". Then they tried to address this by begging

for specific detailed instructions and recorded hundreds of laws, and they looked at the laws and said "can it really be this hard?" Of course, in Old Testament times, the only option was to slog through it, continuing to work at perfecting life-by-the-law.

Christianity has always existed in the "miracle happens here" phase. Indeed, Jesus' life and death, and resurrection are that miracle. In the really rare situations when we "get it", we don't need the miracle and our relationship with God the Father serves us well. In the far majority of situations, we rely on our own abilities and eventually work our way to "can it really be this hard?", and the miracle of God the Son is the only path to "work out pretty well". I think of Matthew 11:30, "For my yoke is easy and my burden is light". As with the research project, it is easy to miss the miracle if we are not prepared for it. We must continually endeavor to become practiced at intentionally listening for what Jesus is telling us.

So, can it really be this hard? Yes, it can if we make it that way, but that is the result of our choices. Christ is always with us, trying to get our attention, offering His miracle to help things "work out pretty well after all".

Pray for the inspiration and motivation to practice intentionally listening for signs of Christ working miracle in your life and in the lives of our congregation, our community and the world.

Blessings,
Vince Jacobson

PENTECOST

On the 50th day of Easter we celebrate the Spirit, through whom and in whom the people of God are created and re-created. Pentecost is sometimes called the church's birthday, but might more appropriately be called its baptism day, since the gift of the Spirit is the fullness of baptism. Ezekiel's vision shows the Spirit resurrecting and re-creating not just individuals but a whole people. Romans makes it clear that God is in the process of re-creating the entire cosmos; yet the Spirit is also at work in the most intimate and personal way, praying in us "with signs too deep for words when we do not know how to pray".

Sundays & Seasons 2009, page 201



KIDS: Cost vs Value



Do you focus on the "value" of your children, or do you spend most of your time considering how much they "cost?"

One woman had a table worth \$600. She valued the table but decided to sell it and set the price at \$400. A man came to purchase the table and liked it very much. He offered her \$300. The woman explained to the man that the table was worth \$600 and that she couldn't reduce the price any more. The woman felt as if she had reduced the price too much already.

The man thought about it and said, "Lady, we would both be happy if you would just change the price." The woman knew the man was right. She went back to the price tag and crossed out \$400 and wrote \$600. The man was shocked. The woman said, "The table is worth \$600."

"But it costs so much."

The woman was focusing on the table's value; the man was looking at the cost.

Parents often do this with their children. Raising children has a high price tag that includes loss of sleep and fewer choices for your free time and money. You transport them from here to there and back here again. Children cost much more than parents ever imagined. If you focus too much on the cost, you miss the value. Parents who realize the value of their children conduct themselves differently and closeness is the result.

The man valued the table so he bought it. He took it home and put it in a special place. If anyone put a drink down on it, he quickly offered a coaster, wanting to protect that table. Why? He knew its value. It was worth a lot to him.

Children aren't possessions, they're treasures. Most parents don't realize what they're getting into when they bring that little bundle of cuteness home from the hospital. They may get irritated or lose some of the joy of parenting over the years. Part of

the solution is to get your mind off the cost and onto the value of your children. They won't be around too long. When you recognize a child's value it's easier to show honor.

[Say Goodbye to Whining, Complaining, and Bad Attitudes, In You and Your Kids](#), by Dr. Scott Turansky and Joanne Miller, RN, BSN.

Parent's Morning Out

September 9 - May 19

2009 - 2010

Provided by Faith Presbyterian Church
12007 Excelsior Blvd, Minnetonka 55343
Director: Kathy terSteege
Kathy@faithpres.org
952-935-4481 ext. 14

PMO is a strong program bridging childcare and preschool for children 8 months to 5 years of age. Music, gym, snack, and story time is offered. Staffed with loving adults who enjoy teaching and inter-acting with children, even the infant/toddler classes enjoy music and gym!

When: Wednesday mornings
9:15 am to 12:15

Cost: \$60/month – 8 months to 2 years
\$55/month – 2 to 3 years
\$50/month – 3 to 5 years

A Lunch Bunch program is an option for families that need to streeeeetch the morning out. Available November 4 through May 12 from 12:15 to 2:00 pm. Please contact Kathy for details.

The Funny Side of Parenting

Our neighbors were going on vacation and asked my ten-year-old daughter, Sara, to take care of their dog. She would have to feed and walk the dog every day and especially give him lots of love. Then my neighbor asked Sara what the job would be worth to her. Sara thought for a moment and said, "I'd really like that job. I could give you five dollars."

Comming Soon

1.) Technology Ministry Team

Have you ever thought about the role technology plays in our congregation? There is technology all around and it continues to grow. We are in the process of organizing a group to sort of oversee all things technical in the congregation. **We intend to organize this multi-faceted group in May to start addressing technology in general.** Technology in our congregation includes, but is not limited to, computers, phone system, web site, the sound system, our organ, even our thermostats, and the list goes on. **So we are calling all** who: • know about phone systems and would like to help, • know how to maintain web sites, • would like to learn how to maintain web sites, • have artistic opinions about web sites and want to offer critiques, • like technology and want to be involved with it, • want to help our congregation save money and provide better service through technology, • want to be more comfortable around computers but may be afraid to ask. And the list goes on. If you would like to be involved in our congregation's technology, please contact Vince Jacobson.



Congregational Gathering Discussion & Potluck Sunday, May 31 The Day of Pentecost

The Transformational Ministry Team and Church Council have scheduled the next get together for brunch and discussion on May 31st. Everyone in encouraged to wear red for Pentecost.

Each family is asked to bring a dish to share. Coffee, juice, and milk will be provided. Please contact Mary Hromatka, Carolyn Carpenter, or any member of the Transformational Ministry Team with questions. Please **mark your calendar and plan to be there!** Thank you for your participation!

3.)



on the Patio, Wednesday nights

Plans are in the making to repeat "Summer At St. Paul's" Wednesday night fun gatherings but with a different twist. Keep an eye out for upcoming announcements and plan to come join us **June 3 – August 26 from 6:30 – 8:00 PM** for good food, good music and neighborhood fun & fellowship.

4.) Vacation Bible School Day Camp **June 22 – 26, 2009**

*Led by energetic counselors from
Luther Point Bible Camp*

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, together with Mizpah United Church of Christ and Hopkins United Methodist Church, is excited to announce the theme of this year's Day Camp Vacation Bible School "**Love to Serve!**"

A half-day of day camp is offered for children who will be four at the start of camp through children going into first through sixth grades in the fall of 2009. The cost of the week long program including breakfast, snack and lunch every day is \$30 per child and is due upon registration. Camperships are available. **NO ONE WILL BE TURNED AWAY DUE TO FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES.** Day Camp will be held at St. Paul's, 13207 Lake St. Extension from 8:00 AM until 12:30 PM, Monday – Friday.

Counselors from Luther Point Bible Camp will lead the morning session fro first through sixth graders with church volunteers leading the 4/5 year olds.

To register for either program, fill out the "Health, Emergency and Authorization Form" on the reverse side and remit with payment to: St. Paul's Lutheran Church, ATTN: Darcie Rodman, 13207 Lake St. Extension, Minnetonka, MN 55305. Please make payment to: St. Paul's Lutheran Church with "VBS Day Camp" on the memo line. For more information, contact St. Paul's at 952-938-4683.

For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.
Mark 10:45



**LPBC DAY CAMP
HEALTH, EMERGENCY, AND
AUTHORIZATION INFORMATION FORM**

THIS BOX MUST BE COMPLETED FOR ATTENDANCE

Church where Day Camp is being held St. Paul's Lutheran Church
 Town/ST Minnetonka, MN Date June 22 - 26, 2009

I understand and certify that my child's participation in Luther Point Bible Camp's (LPBC) Day Camp program held at the church and its activities is completely voluntary. I recognize that certain hazards and dangers are inherent in Day Camp events and programs and I acknowledge that although LPBC and the church have taken safety measures to minimize the risk of injury, LPBC and the church cannot insure nor guarantee that the participants', equipment, premises and/or activities will be free of hazards, accidents, and/or injuries. I further recognize and have instructed my child in the importance of knowing and abiding by LPBC and the church's rules, regulations and procedures for the safety of participants. I waive any claim against LPBC and the church and/or its personnel for any lost articles; for any injury to my minor child; and/or any injury to myself. The church assumes secondary insurance coverage. I assume primary coverage.

This health history is correct so far as I know, and the person named on this form has permission to engage in all camp activities except as noted.

AUTHORIZATION FOR TREATMENT: In case of emergency, I understand that every effort will be made to contact the parent(s) or guardian(s) of the Day Camper. In the event I cannot be reached, I hereby give permission to the medical personnel selected by the church to order x-rays, routine tests, treatment, and necessary transportation for my child. I give permission to the physician selected by the church to secure and administer treatment, including hospitalization, for my child as named on this form.

AUTHORIZATION FOR TRANSPORTATION: I hereby give permission for my child to be transported for off-site outings.

AUTHORIZATION FOR USING LIKENESS: I hereby give permission for photographs/ video including my child and/or myself to be used in the promotion of LPBC and/or the ELCA.

 Signature of Camper's Parent/Guardian _____ Date _____
 _____ (Print name of Parent/Guardian)

Please return to: St. Paul's Lutheran Church, ATT: Darcie Rodman, 13207 Lake St. Ext., Minnetonka, MN 55305. Please make payment to: St. Paul's Church noting "VBS Day Camp" in the memo line

The information on this form is gathered to assist us in identifying appropriate care and will only be shared with medical personnel. This form is to be completed by the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of minors.

Camper's Name _____
 Last First MI

Preferred Name _____ Female Male

Telephone _____ Birth Date _____

Grade Completed in 2009 _____

Home Address _____
 Street City State Zip

Email _____

Parent/Guardian—In an emergency, notify:

Name _____ Telephone _____

Relationship _____

Location while camper is at Day Camp _____

Who will be picking your child up? _____

HEALTH HISTORY

Does the camper have any physical condition requiring special care? Please explain.

Does the camper have any allergies, i.e.: food, meds, etc? If so, describe reaction and treatment.

Explain any activity restrictions:

Do you carry family medical/hospital insurance? ____ Yes ____ No

If so, indicate: Carrier _____

Policy or Group # _____

Sunday Bible Readings

May 3 – 4th Sunday of Easter

Act 4:5-12

Psalm 23

1 John 3:16-24

John 10:11-18

May 10 – 5th Sunday of Easter

Acts 8:26-40

Psalm 22:25-31

1 John 4:7-21

John 15:1-8

May 17 – 6th Sunday of Easter

Acts 10:44-48

Psalm 98

1 John 5:1-6

John 15:9-17

May 24 – 7th Sunday of Easter

Acts 1:15-17, 21-26

Psalm 1

1 John 5:9-13

John 17:6-19

May 31 – Day of Pentecost

Acts 2:1-21 *or* Ezekiel 37:1-14

Psalm 104:24-34, 35b

Romans 8:22-27 *or* Acts 2:1-21

John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

Prayer & Bible Study

- † **St. Paul's Prayer Line** is activated by calling the coordinator, Maxine Rieman at 952-238-8516, cell 763-807-7682, or calling the church office when she cannot be reached.
- † **ELCA radio ministry**, *Grace Matters*, is on Sundays at 6:30 a.m. KSTP 1500 AM and 10:30 p.m. WFMP 107.1 FM.
- † **Daily devotional booklet**, *Christ in Our Home*, is available on the entryway table.
- † **ELCA online Bible study**, *Daily Discipleship* is based on the lectionary and online at www.elca.org/evangelism/daily-discipleship.
- † **Other prayer resources** are available at www.elca.org/prayer.

West Metro Grief Support Group

West Metro Grief Support Coalition invites all persons experiencing grief due to a death. Grief support groups offer hope and healing through education, listening, sharing, prayer and fellowship.

Tuesdays 4:30 – 6 :30 p.m.

Minnetonka United Methodist Church

17611 Lake St. Extension

Minnetonka, MN 55345

www.minnetonkaumc.org

(952) 474 - 4114



DATE	SPEAKER	TOPIC
May 5	Char Jensen	Personal Story
May 12	Susan Obremski, MA	Healing Dreams
May 19	Heather Rykhus	Personal Story
May 26	Audrey Grossman, MA, LADC	How to Love Yourself during Grief & Loss

For more information, please call our coalition co-coordinator,
Darcie Rodman at (763) 546-4404

MEMBER NEWS

Thank you to all who contributed to the Easter flowers that adorned the sanctuary and cross Easter morning as well as for Palms on Palm Sunday. It would have been very bare without you! **Additional thanks** to the hardy workers and providers of the Continental Breakfast (Yum!) and **special thanks** to Ruth and Bernie Johnson for their many resources and gift of talent.



May Service Team

★church council member

Campbell – Eric, Deb, Kristen★
Eckhert/Brenden – Phil★, Sheri, Emma
& Carl Peaslee, Sarah Eckhert
Gilbertson - Roger, Darla
Hanning – Elsie
Johnson – Regina
Larson – Tom, Rachel
Madson – Annette, John
Mikulay – Mike, Beth
Pfaendtner - Kathy, Olivia, Helene, &
Luke
Powers – Tom, Kathy★, Jack, Nick
Riggle – John, Shirley
Schwitzer – Bill
Streater – Kim, Dylan, John

Thompson – Ruth

June Service Team

★church council member

Anderson – Doug, Terri, Cory, Sammi
Bonner/Hromatka - Dean, Mary★, Nora
Eggert – Laura
Erickson – Muriel
Falk – Grace, Ron
Hanson – Darold, Diane
Jacobson – Vince★, Kris
Lindquist – Rey, Lois
Ramsden – Roger, Joyce
Rieman – Maxine
Schaller – Shirley
Schmitz – Matt, Shari, Maggie, Heidi,
Haily, Kelsey, Riley
Smith – Lorraine
Tollefson – Paul, Pat
Uden – Jim, Nancy



1 Katie Brenk
3 Muriel Erickson
7 Riley Schmitz
8 Richard Moe
10 Dick Werner
11 Will Skrogstad
13 Ryan Foss
15 Alex Johnson
22 Nora Bonner
24 Becky Mikulay
25 Jan Guetschow
27 Jon Tollefson
28 Sawyer Foss
30 Nancy MacNaughton
31 Carol Hoyhtya

April showers bring May flowers.



St. Paul's Lutheran Church
13207 Lake Street Extension
Minnetonka, MN 55305

Non-Profit Org.
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Hopkins, MN 55343

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**Please deliver within 5 days
of May 1, 2009**



"SUMMER AT ST. PAUL'S"

ALL OUR NEIGHBORS

(new and known, young and old, from near and far)

ARE INVITED

Wednesday evenings

June 3 - August 26, 2009

6:30 - 8:00 p.m. Picnic on the Patio!

**Come to enjoy good food, music,
and to get to know your neighbors better.**

EVERYONE IS JOYFULLY EXPECTED!!!