



APRIL EPISTLE

ST. PAUL'S EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH, SCHOOL AND KINDER PLACE

APRIL 2016



From the Pastor

Spring is in the air! (Thank God.)

As I write this it is my twentieth wedding anniversary. For some of you that's "a pretty good start." For others the response is, "Woah!" For others, perhaps, it's cause to turn and run. I hope you don't...

I can say, unequivocally, that next to my Baptism, Catherine Marie (Allen) O'Donnell is the greatest gift I ever received. Our marriage commenced on March 16, 1996, and I still look on that day with the greatest fondness: for the Christ-centered worship service in which our choir sang and our pastor delivered a real wedding *sermon*—a deep and personal reflection on the meaning of marriage—for the nearly 400 people who were there, many of whom told us it was the most beautiful wedding they had ever seen. I remember all those things. Over the years I have come to treasure more and more something that one of our guests said at the reception: "Lance, you want to know why people are so happy here? It's because we all know we'll be back here in 50 years."

That was a great compliment the moment it was said; there was an "Of course!" to it when it entered my ears, but I have a much, much greater appreciation now for what that 50 years would mean. I have a great appreciation for these 20 years...

Just a couple years into our marriage, for some reason that I don't remember, I got so angry that I punched a hole in the drywall of our home. It terrified Carrie, and—truth be told—it terrified me. As part of our pre-marital counseling we signed an agreement that if one of us ever believed we needed counseling of some kind then we would obligate ourselves. After the drywall incident Carrie said, "Lance, you're going to see a counselor." So I did. Later our planned mission vicarage fell apart, and then we moved to Colorado, and then there was the first miscarriage (for which I was absent and then stupidly of no initial support emotionally to my wife), and then we nearly lost a baby (Aidan survived, thank God), then we moved back to Indiana, and then I decided to put us into debt for graduate school, then we lost another baby, and then another, and then we looked at our finances and were near a crippling debt load, so then I took a call and we moved to Ohio, and then we nearly lost our daughter, Failenn (Carrie was on bed rest for 2/3 of the pregnancy), and a year and half later Carrie almost died during pregnancy, and while she was in serious physical peril we listened to the heartbeat of

(continued→)

From the Pastor (continued)

our little boy fade away; then we grappled with the inability to have the size of family for which we had both prayed; then there was the two year roller coaster of international adoption and the glory of receiving Brenainn into our family; then there was the move to Chicago, where my workaholism imperiled the relationships with Carrie and each of my children; and then we moved to Wisconsin, where we are attempting to put to work all that we have learned over the years as a couple, as parents, as individuals, and as servants of the church...

I love it when I get compliments about my marriage: "It's so clear that you and Carrie love each other," or "I like to watch you when Carrie enters the room." I am thankful for those compliments, but it appears to me that there is often an assumption underlying the compliments: "You're just fortunate. You don't have to deal with what I have..." I suppose that's true. There are no "apples-to-apples" comparisons in marriage. Each marriage is unique. *However*, I can say, unequivocally, that my marriage is not sprinkled with some Disney-esque magical dust. Our marriage has been filled with change and disappointment. Research shows that the death of a child and moving are some of the hardest things for people to deal with. On those two issues alone Carrie and I are in select territory: we've lost *six* children and struggled with the unwanted end to biological child-birth; further, we have moved six times, and lived in Michigan, Indiana, Ohio, Colorado, Illinois, and Wisconsin. And those are just the things I'm willing to discuss publicly.

No, we have not had to deal with many, many other things, but we've dealt with a lot. Through it all there has been *one constant*, and this is the thing that has bound us together: the *forgiveness* of Jesus Christ. Carrie doesn't berate me because I failed as a husband and father in Chicago. She doesn't even remind me of it. Carrie doesn't hover over me and say, "Look at all that debt we have from *your* graduate school!" Instead, she sends me away on retreat to see if I can actually complete it. Not only does she *forgive*, she lives—and encourages me—with *hope*.

The death and resurrection of Jesus Christ is the seminal event in history. The resurrection is the victory over our great enemies: sin, death, and the devil. These three assault my marriage and family every day. It is only through Christ's forgiveness—forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead—that enables any struggling man, woman, or family to truly live.

That's my message to you on my twentieth wedding anniversary: CLING TO CHRIST'S FORGIVENESS; FORGIVE AS YOU HAVE BEEN FORGIVEN! LIVE IN CHRIST'S HOPE!

Yours in Christ,



Rev. Lance O'Donnell
16 March, A.D. 2016

“EVER-READY MINISTRY” (50+ years)

Game Day!

Come and just have some fun and fellowship. If you have a special game you enjoy, please feel free to bring it with you. Pastor Kelling will also be bringing in some games. Join us on Tuesday, April 5th at 10:30 am in Room 219 at St. Paul's School. Snacks and beverages will be provided. We hope to see you there! God bless!

St. Paul's Ladies Aid

Jesus is RISEN indeed - ALLELUIA! What a wonder feeling that gives us!

Thank you to Pastor Schamell for being our speaker at our March Meeting. A very, very special thank you to all who came and helped *really* clean our church. Also, thank you to those of you who donated any cleaning supply items. You are all very much appreciated.

Coming soon - another one of our big events - the Mother ~ Daughter ~ Friend Banquet on Tuesday, May 3, 2016 at the Oconomowoc Golf Club. Tickets are now available from any one of our officers: Mary Lou Pagenkopf (262-567-7905), Judy Braatz (262-567-7787), Sharon Peterson (262-490-8671), Sue Lindemann (262-567-8985) or in the church office (262-567-5001). Adults 12 and up are \$20, 3-11 year-olds are \$10 and children under age 3 are free. Watch the bulletins for more information. The theme this year will be “Pursuing Christlike Character.” You will need to remember to bring your purse.

We will also be helping “Tricia's Troops” by asking you to please bring a bag of hard candy to the banquet. Flavors requested are rootbeer, ginger, peppermint or lemon. The *Lake Country Lutheran High School Vocal Ensemble* will provide our entertainment for the evening.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, April 7th, at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Pastor Kelling will be our guest speaker. Come and join us! Visitors are always welcome. Please remember to bring peanut butter and jelly for our Lord's Cupboard. Blessings to everyone!

“Living as a Minority”

In modern America, Biblically faithful Christians and congregations are being viewed skeptically, marginalized, or even considered enemies of the state. Being a Biblically faithful Christian is increasingly a “minority position.” How do we live faithfully in this environment? The book of *Acts* has a lot to say to us in this regard, for it records the beginning of the Church in the midst of the Roman Empire.

All early Christians left a “cultural majority” (whether Judaism or some form of paganism) because they were convinced that “Jesus is Lord.” (Philippians 2:11) As Christians, they and their congregations had to learn to live faithfully as a minority in the midst of a sometimes hostile majority. That was their reality. From May 8 through November 20, 2016, St. Paul's will explore the book of *Acts* under the theme, “Living as a Minority,” with a strong emphasis on applying the Christian faith to life in our culture.

Each week during this extended series we will have:

1. Sermon
2. Small Group Bible Study
3. Daily Devotion

Please prayerfully prepare to participate: in weekly worship, in Bible study, and in daily devotion. If you are interested in leading—or learning to lead—a small group Bible study please contact Pastor Lance O'Donnell at podonnell@splco.org or call 262-567-5001.

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

April 1st
LaVerne Krueger

April 18th
Albert Falstad
Kenneth Runyard

April 3rd
Ed Krelwitz

April 19th
Ruth Kern

April 5th
Richard Fredrick
Delores Schultz

April 21st
Lee Corneliuson

April 7th
Jonell Klee

April 23rd
Virginia Meintz

April 12th
Jim Steinberg

April 26th
Arthur Schuck

April 15th
Grace Olson
Keith Williams

April 27th
Robert Tetzlaff

For our members 70+ years

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Hot Lunch Program needs a helper Mondays and Wednesdays, April 4th until the end of the school year. The hours are 8:30-1:00. If interested please stop in the kitchen or school office. This is a paid position.

SAVE THE DATE!

There will be a **Special Voters' Meeting on Sunday, April 10th following the 10:30 am service** to vote to approve the changes to our Constitution and Bylaws. There are copies of the new Constitution & Bylaws along with a summary of the changes on the bookshelf in the back of church or by contacting the office.



MEMORIALS

Logan Rankin \$2725.00

ST. PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN
CHURCH AND SCHOOL
(The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod)
210 E. Pleasant Street
Oconomowoc, WI 53066-3050
262-567-5001

WORSHIP & STUDY

Saturday	5:30 pm
Sunday (Traditional)	8:00 am
Sunday (Contemporary)	10:30 am
Bible Class	9:15 am
Time to Grow (Sunday School)	9:15 am
LIFE Together on Wednesdays	6:30 pm

Pastor Lance Armstrong O'Donnell 567.5001 x217
Pastor Steven Schamell 567.5001 x216
Pastor Emeritus Dr. Paul Borgman 567.5001
Organist/Choir Director- Diane Bleke 567.5001 x242
Principal - Jon Pickelmann 567.5001 x213
FAX 567.1207
Website: www.splco.org

RADIO BROADCASTS:

8:00 am Sunday Worship
Live on WTKM 104.9 FM/1540 AM
& www.wtkm.com

DEVOTION LINE
567-1001

THE KINDER PLACE
Christian Pre-School & Day Care
Director Christine Flores 567-4881

Epistle Editor-Heather Scheuer

Newsletter dead line for articles,
announcements and features is the
2nd Wednesday of the month

PLEASE ADVISE THE CHURCH OFFICE OF
ANY ADDRESS CHANGES

APRIL 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
8:00 am Traditional Worship 9:15 am Bible Study 9:15 am Time to Grow (Sun Sch) 9:15 am Public School Confirmation 9:20 am Blood Pressure Screening 10:30 am Contemporary Worship	5:30 pm Lord's Cupboard Open Pantry 7:00 pm Stephen Ministry Continuing Ed.	10:30 am Ever-Ready Ministry (50+) 7:00 pm LWML	8:20 pm Parish Choir 8:30 pm Life Together 7:20 pm Adult Choir Practice 8:45 pm Praise Team Practice	6:00 pm Ladies Aid 7:00 pm Praise Team Practice	5:00 pm 5th-8th Grade Lock-in	5:30 pm Traditional Worship 8:30 pm AA Meeting
8:00 am Traditional Worship 9:15 am Bible Study 9:15 am Time to Grow (Sun Sch) 9:15 am Public School Confirmation 10:30 am Contemporary Worship 11:45 am Special Voters Meeting	5:30 pm Lord's Cupboard Meal	7:00 pm All Boards	8:20 pm Parish Choir 8:30 pm Life Together 7:20 pm Adult Choir Practice 8:45 pm Praise Team Practice	7:00 pm Praise Team Practice		5:30 pm Traditional Worship 8:30 pm AA Meeting
8:00 am Traditional Worship 9:15 am Bible Study 9:15 am Time to Grow (Sun Sch) 9:15 am Public School Confirmation 10:30 am Contemporary Worship 8:00 pm Sunday Night Alive (5th-8th)	5:30 pm Lord's Cupboard Meal		8:20 pm Parish Choir 8:30 pm Life Together 7:20 pm Adult Choir Practice 8:45 pm Praise Team Practice	7:00 pm Praise Team Practice		7:30 am Journey Men 5:30 pm Traditional Worship 8:30 pm AA Meeting
8:00 am Traditional Worship 9:15 am Bible Study 9:15 am Time to Grow (Sun Sch) 9:15 am Public School Confirmation 10:30 am Contemporary Worship 8:00 pm Sunday Night Alive (9th-12th)	6:00 pm Stephen Leaders 7:00 pm Stephen Ministry Supervision	7:00 pm PPC	8:20 pm Parish Choir 8:30 pm Life Together 7:20 pm Adult Choir Practice 8:45 pm Praise Team Practice	7:00 pm Praise Team Practice		5:30 pm Traditional Worship 8:30 pm AA Meeting

LWML SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarship applications are being accepted for women preparing for church work in the LCMS. Active female members of South Wisconsin District congregations who are preparing for “full time service” * and are an undergraduate at one of the Synod’s educational institutions are eligible to apply. *(Full-time service in the church is any position available through the Board of Assignments of the Synod). Forms are available at the SWD LWML website: www.swd-lwml.org. Deadline is April 30, 2016.

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

Received by baptism

Carter James, son of Brett & Danielle (Kilts) Zielski
Kaitlyn Marie, daughter of Todd & Amy (Willoubhy) Blair

Peaceful release

Cheri Ware
Nathan & Sarah Jump, Lucas – WELS congregation

Transferred to another LCMS church

Jesse Tesch – Pilgrim Lutheran Church, Green Bay, WI

Death

Logan Rankin

Baptized 1790 Confirmed 1055

ST. PAUL’S GRADUATING & CONFIRMATION CLASS OF 1986 - 30th REUNION!

The St. Paul’s Graduating Class **and** Confirmation Class of 1986 will be having their 30 year reunion on Saturday July 30th. We will be attending the church service at 5:30 and following will be going to Fiesta Cancun. \$15 per person includes taco/fajita bar, chips and salsa. Cash bar. RSVP by 7/15/16 on Facebook (St. Paul’s Class of 1986 30th Reunion) or call Michelle Pagenkopf at 262-370-4611 or email at kraft225@gmail.com. Thanks - Michelle Pagenkopf, Carey Meyer, and Nicole Goeman Britten.

LWML

Lutheran Women’s Missionary League Lutheran Women in Mission

April 26th is the Zone 17th Spring Rally to be held at St. John’s, Ashippun. Everyone is welcome to hear speaker Dale Christian tell of his life experiences and how his faith has carried him through. Registration and refreshments begin at 6:00 p.m. followed by our program at 6:30. If you are interested in carpooling, contact Kathy Mueller at 262-468-6926. An Ingathering will be collected for HOPE Center in Waukesha. Items needed are: **men’s deodorant, sunscreen, insect repellent and disposable razors**. Items can be placed in bin across from THEE bookstore.

LWML will meet Tuesday, April 5th, at 7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Dr. Peter J. Sheild
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Maxim's in Oconomowoc

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THANK YOUs

- ✠ Thank you to the Ladies Aid and all of the helpers for cleaning our church and getting it in "tip-top" shape, just in time to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord! Your hard work is very appreciated!
- ✠ Thank you everyone who brings treats and makes coffee for the Sunday morning Adult Bible Study class in the Fellowship Hall.
- ✠ Thank you to Sheila Rams for heading up our Meals Ministry. This ministry is available to those who have a short-term need for meals due to illness, surgery, family emergency and the like. If you are interested in helping with this ministry, please call Sheila at 262-506-4210.
- ✠ Thank you to the leadership of our congregation for all of the hard work and dedication they have put in to creating a new and more efficient governance model for St. Paul's. Our new Constitution and Bylaws have been approved by the South Wisconsin District. Join us for our Special Voters' Meeting on Sunday, April 10th, to approve the changes.
- ✠ Thank you to St. Paul's School for preparing to offer another summer of excellent classes for our children. If you are interesting in checking out our Summer School options (open to *all*), please contact Chris Hesse in the school office.
- ✠ Thank you to all of our helpers during the Lent & Easter seasons—Altar Guild, Elders, Choirs, Praise Teams, Ushers, Pastors, Greeters...the list goes on and on. Each of you are an intricate part in making our worship services run smoothly.
- ✠ Thanks to everyone who helped pack the Easter food bags, those who helped with the distribution of the bags on March 21st, and those who helped with serving the meal. Our Lord's Cupboard has been so blessed and is such a wonderful opportunity for St. Paul's to reach out to those in our community in need. Thank you to everyone who supports this ministry!