

MAY 2021

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH
610 15TH ST.
AMES, IA 50010
515-232-5838

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.SAINTPAULAMES.ORG
OR OUR FACEBOOK PAGE AT ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH, AMES, IA

REV. DR. TODD JENKS, PASTOR
THOMAS WILSON, DIR. FAMILY LIFE
LORI JENKS, PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR
PRESCHOOL- 515-233-1914

Letter from Pastor

Confirmation Sunday on May 2

"Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have" (1 Peter 3:15).

"Whoever acknowledges me before men, I will also acknowledge him before my Father in heaven" (Matthew 10:32). Confirmation Sunday is a very special occasion when we publicly profess our faith before others as we explain the reason for the hope we have.

This year at St. Paul we will hold the Rite of Confirmation during the 10:00 a.m. service on May 2. Our 8th grade confirmation group consists of four students: Daniel M, Lydia N, Eayon P and Maci V. As is our custom, during the 10:00 service each confirmand will share a personal faith statement, explaining the important role Jesus plays in his or her life. Please pray for our 4 youth as they are confirmed and publicly acknowledge Jesus.

Due to lowered seating capacity with social distancing and mask wearing protocol, there will be limited availability to attend the confirmation service at 10 a.m. on May 2. Preregistration to attend will be required and will be offered on a "first to sign up" system (preregistrations should be emailed or called to the church office).

The confirmation service will be livestreamed, for those wishing to participate and unable to attend in person. **In addition, we will hold an 8:15 a.m. in-person worship service in the sanctuary on May 2.** Please watch your emails and respond to the preregistration survey so we can ensure adequate appropriate seating at each of the worship services on May 2.

In the past, in some congregations, the pastor would be the one who would select a special confirmation passage for each confirmand. My tradition has always been to allow the confirmands to select their own Bible passages, as this will ensure the passage is one that the confirmand personally finds meaningful. Come hear the specific verses chosen by our confirmands to guide them in their faith!

*In Jesus,
Pastor Jenks*



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Our Mission is:

- To Know Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord,
- To Grow in faith through His Sacraments and Word, and
- To Go share His Gospel with love in our community and world.

Worship Services at St. Paul Lutheran Church

Sunday, May 2

Confirmation Sunday

*8:15 a.m. Worship at church
with Holy Communion*

*10:00 a.m. Worship at church
with Rite of Confirmation &
Holy Communion*

And

10:00 a.m. Live Stream

*11:30-12:30 p.m. Walk up
Communion*

*Pre-registration required, Specifying
which Service you will attend.*

Sunday, May 9

10:00 a.m. Worship at church

And

10:00 a.m. Live Stream

*11:10 a.m. Live Stream Bible
study*



As more people are returning to in-person services, watch your emails for Sundays when an 8:15 service is added.

Sunday, May 16

*10:00 a.m. Worship at church
with Holy Communion*

And

10:00 a.m. Live Stream

*11:30-12:30 p.m. Walk up
Communion*

Sunday, May 23

*10:00 a.m. Worship at church
And*

10:00 a.m. Live Stream

*11:10 a.m. Live Stream Bible
study*

Sunday, May 30

*10:00 a.m. Worship at church
with Holy Communion*

And

10:00 a.m. Live Stream

*11:30-12:30 p.m. Walk up
Communion*

Easter Breakfast To Go – THANK YOU!!

WOW!! 55. Can you believe it? 55 Easter Breakfast To Go Meals were ordered, assembled and distributed. First, thank you to our congregation members and those in the community that ordered an Easter Breakfast. We couldn't have done it without you. To those that donated ingredients and supplies, THANK YOU. To those that donated their time and abilities to assemble and distribute the meals, THANK YOU. To those that shared their words of appreciation after enjoying the meals, THANK YOU. We received many great comments about the deliciousness of the meal. Because of your support, we raised \$1,660. That money will be split between the 2021 LWML National Convention Attendees and the 2022 LCMS Youth Gathering Participants. We are grateful to all of you that supported both of these groups. THANK YOU!!



Many, many thanks.

- 2021 LWML National Convention Attendees
- 2022 LCMS Youth Gathering Participants

Confirmation Sunday

"Whoever confesses Me before men, I will confess before My Father who is in heaven." Matthew 10:32a



The St. Paul Congregation is invited to join the youth and their families on Sunday, May 2nd for the Rite of Confirmation. As a congregation we will help celebrate four of our Confirmands as they come before God and with the Holy Spirit confess their faith in Christ before our church. The Confirmation service will be at 10:00 AM, limited seating (socially distanced) will be available after the families have reserved their seats. We will be livestreaming the confirmation service.

Please lift up the four confirmands in your prayers this month as they make their final preparations for their confirmation: Daniel M, Lydia N, Eayon P, and Maci V.

** A basket for cards, if you would like to wish them blessings, will be available in the Narthex for you to drop off your cards.*

*** A small reception will be set up for after the Confirmation service.*

PLANT SALE

The annual flowers and plants will arrive for pickup at St. Paul on **May 1st under the canopy**. Curbside pickup will take place from 8-2 pm Saturday. **Please note there will be extra plants to purchase that day** if you did not order but are looking for extra plants or need that basket for Mother's Day. We will have a limited assortment of annuals in 6 packs, geraniums, and perennials in 6 inch pots. Questions? Contact Gretchen Zitterich at 515-201-7570.



Thank you for participating. This is our main fundraiser to support the LWML mission grants, projects, and registrations for National LWML convention.

Evangelism

We want to thank all for the Orphan Grain Donations and want to keep collecting them. There is an opportunity for everyone to help, The facility at Clemons can use help every Tuesday from 9 am to noon sorting items they received. They separate items into the groups and place in rooms to be packed for shipment, If you have any questions ask Dick Peterson as he has helped them for several years. You can call 515-231-4730.

Continue bringing the containers and food for Bethesda.

The board has continued supporting missions with cash and material items.

Children attending Camp Okobojo this summer will receive t-shirts with St. Paul on them and there are scholarships available to help defray costs. Please ask Board of Youth or Evangelism.

We thank God everyday for those who help us spread the Word of God here and around the world.

Board of Stewardship

2 Corinthians 9:7: “Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”

Our church is indeed blessed with “cheerful givers”. Throughout the pandemic, many have given their time and treasure to keep our church operating as normally as possible. A year ago, volunteers stepped forward immediately to put new ways to congregate and worship on-line. New electronic options for giving offerings were installed to make it easier to support St. Paul financially. When our budget needed a boost several months ago to overcome a growing deficit, members came forth, cheerfully, to lend a hand in keeping God’s programs and mission at St. Paul on track.

We have decided to delay sending out Time and Talent forms for now. When church attendance appears to be returning closer to normal, members should have a better idea as to how they would like to volunteer to help with weekly worship services. We will solicit help when that time comes.

In the meantime, several of our church boards still have positions to fill for the coming church year. Could you help? We would like to have names on the ballot for our annual voter’s meeting scheduled for May 23. Please pray that God might grant you the time and desire to fill any of the following positions: **Elders:** Vice Chair; **Education:** Chair and Vice Chair; **Preschool:** Vice Chair; **Stewardship:** Vice Chair; **Trustees:** Vice Chair; **Women’s Ministry:** Vice Chair; **Youth:** Chair and Vice Chair. Please let Keith Folkmann or the church office know if you would be willing to serve in any of these positions. Thank you!

Even during these unusual times, St. Paul has weekly financial obligations that must be met. To help guide you with planned giving for the fiscal year beginning July 1, we are including a copy of our financial pledge card below. After prayerfully...and cheerfully...considering how you can help St. Paul financially, we ask that you write down the weekly or monthly pledge you would like to make. Place it in a sealed envelope and drop it in our wooden box in the narthex or in the offering plate, or mail it to the church at 610 15th St., Ames, Iowa 50010. Your pledge will remain confidential as the Stewardship Committee uses them as a guide for supporting next year’s budget. Please return your pledge by May 9. Thank you! ~~**Stewardship Committee**

You may send in your pledge for the coming year by using this form. **Put in a separate envelope with “Stewardship Committee” on the outside of the envelope** and it will be kept completely confidential.

With His blessings, I/We will strive to manage better for the Lord’s work my/our material resources. I/We have prayerfully considered an increase in my/our planned portion. Trusting in Him, I/we will now give for His work through the congregation:

\$_____weekly

\$_____monthly

Wellness Team



Wellness: May is Mental Health Awareness Month

By Thomas Wilson

This past year has presented so many difficulties and challenges that have tested our strength and resiliency. The pandemic forced many of us to cope with situations we never even imagined, and a lot of us struggled, and may still struggle, with our mental health as a result. The good news is that there are tools and resources available that can support the well-being of individuals and communities.

Now, more than ever, we need to combat the stigma surrounding mental health concerns. That's why this month the St. Paul Wellness Team is highlighting "Mental Health Awareness" and #Tools2Thrive – what individuals can do throughout their daily lives to prioritize mental health, build resiliency, and continue to cope with their obstacles.

Our mental health can be affected by multiple things: from the aftermath of a trauma or stress, from processing big life changes, from falling into "thinking traps", from not being able to find acceptance, and dealing with anger and frustration. This month we turn our focus to: Taking Time for Yourself.

There are always a handful of roles that each of us juggles. Being a parent, a student, an employee, a caretaker, someone struggling with a mental health concern, or just feeling overwhelmed with the responsibilities of day-to-day life, the idea of taking time for yourself may seem unimaginable. Sometimes it can be difficult to even take basic care of ourselves. But here are a few tips from Mental Health America (MHA).

Accept Yourself as You Are: Remember that you are running your own race. Try not to compare your life and what it looks like right now to anyone else's.

Focus on the Basics: One of the most important things you can do is focus on steps to ensure you're living a healthy lifestyle. Showering and brushing your teeth every day, eating nutrient-rich foods, moving your body.

Make Small Goals: Taking time for yourself doesn't just happen overnight. Try to be patient, instead of putting pressure on yourself to immediately have the perfect self-care routine, set small goals that you want to accomplish.

Set Some Boundaries: Sometimes, the only way to really be able to make time for self-care is to lessen the amount of time or energy that you are giving away to others.

Remember You Are Not Alone: Everyone struggles to take time for themselves, so try to not get down on yourself for not having everything perfectly balanced all of the time.

It's important to remember that working on your mental health and finding tools that help takes time. Change will not happen overnight. Instead, by focusing on small changes, you can move through the stressors of the past and develop long-term strategies to support yourself.

A great starting point for anyone who is ready to start prioritizing their mental health is to take a mental health screening at [MHAscreening.org](https://mhascreening.org). It's FREE, quick, and confidential. A great way for someone to assess their mental health and begin finding hope and healing.

TOOLS 2 THRIVE

Screening is a tool you can use as you work on your mental health.

Visit mhascreening.org to check your symptoms. It's free, confidential, and anonymous.

Take a Mental Health Test

Take a quick, confidential, and anonymous mental health screening. It's free, confidential, and anonymous.

MHA
Mental Health America

LEARN MORE
mhanational.org/may

Family Life

We are half way there. Through this series we have touched on five fruits of the Spirit. So far, we have covered: Love, Joy, Peace, Patience and Kindness. This month we look at Goodness. What is Goodness?

GOT A LITTLE
GOODNESS
IN YA?

It takes time. It takes time to watch trees grow, just as it takes time to watch goodness grow in others. We can measure someone's physical growth over time, but we cannot sit and watch them grow. As much as we would like to see others become embodiments of goodness, true goodness birthed from the Spirit of God happens in time.

In Mark 10:17–22 (read if you have time) we read about the rich man asking Jesus what he must do to inherit eternal life. Jesus' reply to the rich man is fascinating: "Why do you call me good?"

Jesus asked him. "No one is good except God alone" (Mark 10:18). The rich man had followed all of God's commandments, yet it wasn't enough, Jesus told him, "Go, sell all you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." (Mark 10:21) Jesus tells him to follow the commandments, and then tells him that the one thing this man lacks and that he must go and sell everything! Maybe we are not as rich with great wealth as this man was, but how would you react if you were told to sell everything you had and give it to the poor? What about Jesus' response in these verses to the man surprises you?

In his question the rich man asked how to do good. However, the goodness described as a fruit of the Spirit means much more. The fruit of goodness is excellence of character. It is given to us by the Holy Spirit. Being taught to just "do good" can look very much like legalism – especially when we are only rewarded for good behavior. The rich man was trying to do good to earn his way into heaven, yet he was lacking the most important thing – an underlying love for the Rule Maker. This love is what "compels us" to follow the rules in the first place (2 Cor. 5:14).

Without love you can do good, but the goodness is not complete. Like the rich man, goodness is based on what one can get out of it. But Jesus told the rich man that he couldn't have it his way and still gain eternal life without an underlying love for Him.

Goodness doesn't come by our strength alone – only God's. As you seek goodness, pray that God gives you the strength to choose goodness – to the poor, the hurting, and especially to each other. Not merely because it's what you are supposed to do, but because God loves you enough that He already shows the same goodness toward you.

APPLICATION: Read 2 Peter 1:3-11

How do we obtain what is necessary for life and godliness?

What are we told to "supplement" our faith with?

Based on Peter's words, how do we maintain this goodness over time?

Moring Prayer: Dear God, help my family supplement their faith with goodness. (2 Peter 1:5)



Education and Youth



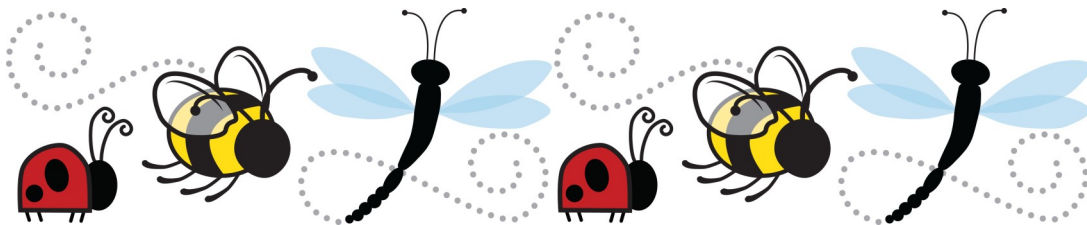
Members of St. Paul –

As we continue to work through the time of COVID our ministry to youth, families and church members continue to move forward. Events such as: LYF, Family Easter Event, Trunk-or-Treat, and VBS are still happening. We have currently been looking at our financial budgetary needs for 2021-2022 and part of our decision to cut back on some financial needs for our ministries is in hope that we could use some Thrivent Action Team grants.

If you are not aware of what Thrivent Action Teams are, they are a way for individuals (Thrivent Members) to apply for seed money of \$250 (in the form of a Visa Card) to assist with fundraisers and events for the church and community.

Many ministries of St. Paul use these for multiple events and activities. However, we are in need of setting up more Thrivent Action Teams. If you are willing and able to apply for an Action Team, we would like to start a list of members that we can call upon to work with and assist us. If you would be willing to add your name to our list, please contact Thomas Wilson, DCE – Director of Family Life Ministry. Please note: If you already apply for an Action Team for an annual event or use them in another way outside of St. Paul – that is great! No need to contact us.

If you have questions, please feel free to contact Thomas Wilson, DCE – Director of Family Life Ministry.



Planning for the Fall!

The Board of Education is currently making plans for the educational opportunities for Fall 2021. We are in need of some energetic and willing Christians to serve our congregation as teachers of faith. We have the current positions to fill starting in September:

3rd/4th grade Midweek (Wednesday night's 5-6 PM)

3rd/4th grade Sunday School (Sunday mornings 9:45-10:45 AM)

5th/6th grade Midweek/ Confirmation (Wednesday night's 5-6PM)

7th/8th grade Sunday School (Sunday mornings 9:45 – 10:45 AM)



Education and Youth



Let's Celebrate the Seniors of 2021!

Through all the changes in High School the past few years, the lost opportunities, the cancelled activities and sports, the seniors of 2021 have excelled! At St. Paul we are excited and honored to celebrate with four of our High School students as they complete their studies and prepare for their future endeavors.

Join us on Sunday, May 23rd during worship service as we recognize our Graduating Seniors with our St. Paul tradition of gifting them a senior quilt. A small walk-through reception will be held after service.

Graduating Seniors of 2021: Katie B, Hannah F, Erin M and Rori O.

Discounted Adventureland Tickets



Share the Fun at Adventureland this year during one of their substance free days May 1, 2, 8, or 9. Discounted tickets are available for \$30 per person (\$20 discount). Children ages 3 years and under are admitted free. If interested please see the sign up sheet on the bulletin board at church or contact Carla Murphy.



Get PAID in Six Figures....S-M-I-L-E-S !

Youth are the future of our church. We need to embrace them and show them that you can have fun with peers while also learning and growing in faith. There's nothing more rewarding than seeing a great group of youth gather for a meal and activities once a month. Although we're there to guide them, many times they help enlighten us adults too!



We are looking for people to join our board as well as have an opening for a Vice chair to start in July. Time commitment is what you are willing to do, but our meetings are once a month and we have meals/activities once a month for 7-8 months.

For more information, please contact Carla Murphy.

Education and Youth

SMALL ACTIONS
× LOTS OF PEOPLE
= BIG CHANGE

Want to make a HUGE IMPACT????

Ever thought about making a huge impact on others? You have the opportunity right now to make some HUGE impacts on the lives of the youth of St. Paul! Both the Boards of Youth and Education are looking for a few new members to come aboard and walk alongside the youth as they grow their faith through our educational opportunities (Sunday School, Midweek, Confirmation, and special events!) and our youth activities (district gatherings, lock-ins, monthly LYF events, Youth Sunday). What better way to serve God than to serve our congregation and the youth!

“He called a little child to him, and placed the child among them. And he said: “Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, whoever takes the lowly position of this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.” Matthew 18:2-4, NIV

Save the dates for summer camp at Camp Okoboji

Registration is open! Don't Wait - Register Today!

Kids' Kamp - June 4-6 (completed Kindergarten-2nd grade and family member) Great way to introduce youth to camp before they go on their own! \$85/child, \$135/adult.

Cub Week #1 - June 13-19 (completed grades 3-5) Bible studies, crafts, games, music and more. \$365.

Junior High Week - July 11-17 (completed grades 6-8) Bible studies, special highlights cooking a meal over an open fire, games, talent show, crafts, worship and more. \$365.

Cub Week #2 - July 18-24 (completed grades 3-5) Bible studies, crafts, games, music and more. \$365.

Youth Week - July 25-31 (completed grades 8-12). Worship, campfire devotions, small group sessions, service projects, games, a dance, talent show and crafts. \$365.

Check out the camp website for more details on COVID-19 policies. The Board of Youth, the IDW and Camp itself have funds available to help pay for registration costs. If interested for more information or have questions please contact Carla Murphy.



Women's Ministry

LWML National 2019–2021 Mission Grant #21 — \$39,523 LCMS Deaconess Ministry

LCMS Deaconesses are women who are full time professional church workers, trained to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ through a ministry of works of mercy, spiritual care, and teaching the Christian faith. The LCMS Deaconess Ministry program will provide LCMS students the opportunity to become a church professional, learning and training to understand the diaconal leadership, the work of deaconesses as applied to body and soul ministry. This grant will provide educational and financial support to our partner churches who introduced deaconess training programs within their church bodies like the Philippines, Latvia, Liberia, Indonesia, Malaysia, and India.



Students in Philippines with resources purchased by LWML

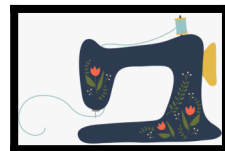
LWML Mite Update: as of 2/28/21

2019-2021 National Mission goal: \$2,100,000.00

The Mite goal has been met! All mites collected now will go toward the next Mite Goal.

We normally collect mites for missions on the 1st Sunday of each month. For more information about LWML go to www.lwml.org.

FAMILY SERVICE ~ We plan to meet in May to quilt. Watch the mid-week news for dates and times. We will wear masks and social distance. Please join us if you are comfortable doing so. Thank you.



LWML National Convention, June 24-27, 2021

As of April 9, Registrations Temporarily Shut Down

All women of St. Paul are invited to attend the LWML National Convention in Lexington, Kentucky on June 24-27, 2021. Join your LWML sisters who are "Running the Race ... Looking to Jesus," the convention theme based on Hebrews 12:1–

2. Attendees will be inspired by the convention goal, "Looking to Jesus, we run the race set before us and proclaim the joy of the Lord."

Due to COVID-19 restrictions the Rupp Arena at Central Bank Center, where the LWML Convention will be held, can only allow a limited number of people to attend at this time.

This restriction caused LWML to shut down convention registrations temporarily.

When/if capacity is increased LWML will supply a link to registration and honor the early registration price for a limited time.

Additional information can be found at <https://www.lwml.org/2021-convention>. If you have specific questions or would like additional information, please contact Lisa Wilson at lisawilsonlwml@gmail.com or 515-570-4201

Women's Ministry

DRESS A GIRL AROUND THE WORLD

We have another **THRIVENT EVENT** starting again and have packets of dresses ready to sew.



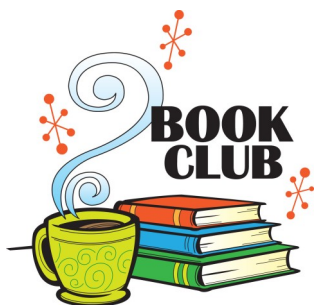
Everyone did such a great job sewing dresses we would like to “do it again-put MORE smiles on little girls faces!” You can still finish the packets that you have in your home and turn them into the office. Then pick up more from the St. Paul Lutheran Church office. **Please contact Linda Peterson at 515-231-4730 if you have any questions.**

We are in need of more seamstresses!

The sewing instructions are very easy and complete. They are easy to follow and they make dresses that look similar to the picture shown.

We have some packets made up. They are all cut out and waiting to be sewn with the instructions inside the packet and all you need to finish a dress.

“Book to Know to Help You Grow”



The next book for our book club is “Bread of Angels” by Tessa Afshar. We will meet Thursday, May 13 at 7:00 pm. We hope we will be able to meet in person, but watch your emails and the church mid-week news for the format and location.

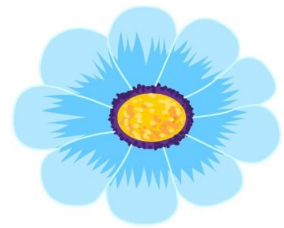
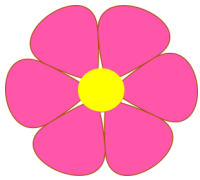
Barnes and Noble review of “Bread of Angels”: *Purple*. The foundation of an influential trade in a Roman world dominated by men. One woman rises up to take the reins of success in an incredible journey of courage, grit, and friendship. And along the way, she changes the world.

But before she was Lydia, the seller of purple, she was simply a merchant's daughter who loved three things: her father, her ancestral home, and making dye. Then unbearable betrayal robs her of nearly everything.

With only her father's secret formulas left, Lydia flees to Philippi and struggles to establish her business on her own. Determination and serendipitous acquaintances—along with her father's precious dye—help her become one of the city's preeminent merchants. But fear lingers in every shadow, until Lydia meets the apostle Paul and hears his message of hope, becoming his first European convert. Still, Lydia can't outrun her secrets forever, and when past and present collide, she must either stand firm and trust in her fledgling faith or succumb to the fear that has ruled her life.

Date	Location	Book
May 13, 2021, 7 pm	TBA	“Bread of Angels” by Tessa Afshar

May 2021 News from St. Paul Lutheran Preschool



As we end our 2020-2021 school year we look at all the blessings that God showered upon us during this challenging year.

We thank God for:

- 65 precious students and their loving families
- 8 caring teachers who nurtured their students' faith to grow
- 1 pastor who shared Bible truths with the students during weekly chapels
- 1 hard-working and loving preschool board and
- A giving and helpful congregation

Thank you God!

Some of the preschoolers from this year

- will return to St. Paul Lutheran Preschool to enter another class and
- other preschoolers will head on off to kindergarten.

We remind all the preschoolers the words God tells us from His word,

[Jesus said,] "I am with you always." Matthew 28:20

If the preschoolers are here, at home, on vacation, at kindergarten, at the store, at a friend's home, or anywhere they go, Jesus will always be with them. We thank God for being with us always.

Missionaries to pray for in May 2021

Rev. Christian and Gudula Tiews- These **NEW** missionaries drove all the way from Tulsa, Oklahoma to visit Mission Central on March 6, 2021! The Tiews are called to one of the darkest countries in Europe....GERMANY! Yes, this country finds on Sunday morning that less than 2% of their people are attending church services there! Germany now has over 3000 Mosques and over 5 million Muslim people living there. The Lutheran Church of Germany is actually "begging" our church to send missionaries to help with their outreach to the people in darkness. The Tiews family is fluent in German, as BOTH Christian and Lula were born and raised in Germany. Lula was born in Telgte, Germany. She earned a bachelor's degree in library science from the Technical University of Cologne, Germany. Prior to serving as a missionary, Lula worked as an IT consultant and enterprise architect. She and Christian have six children—one of whom, Lillian—will move with them to Germany. **PLEASE PRAY** for the Tiews family as they engage in mission and ministry in Germany. **ASK** The Lord to give courage and confidence to all three of them as they share the Good News of Jesus Christ with the people they meet. **GIVE THANKS** that Christian, Lula and daughters, Lillian and Mariam are serving God's children in this part of the world.

Rev. David and Jennifer Preus- Rev. David and Jennifer Preus serve the Lord through The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) in the Dominican Republic, based in Santiago de los Caballeros. In this role, David serves the church through Word and Sacrament ministry in the village of Palmar Arriba. He also is on the teaching faculty of Seminario Concordia el Reformador. David was born in Fort Wayne, Ind. He received his Master of Divinity from Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind., and his Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degree from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. Before heading to the Dominican Republic, David served as a pastor at Mount Olive Lutheran Church, Billings, Mont. (2011-2015). The Prues family will be visiting **Mission Central April 17, 2021**

Pray for the Preus family as they serve in the Dominican Republic. **Pray** for the church in the Dominican Republic, its pastors and seminarians. **Ask** God to give His wisdom to the LCMS missionary team in this region as they share the Gospel with and minister to the local people. **Ask** God to guide this team as they network and centralize mission efforts in this region. **Pray** the hearts of people here in the United States are moved to pray for and to financially support the Preuses. **Give thanks** to God that the Preus family is serving His children in this part of the world.

Rev. Dr. Michael and Jen-Yi "Irene" Paul- Rev. Dr. Michael and Jen-Yi "Irene" Paul serve the Lord as missionaries in Taiwan. In this role, Michael serves as a theological educator for the China Evangelical Lutheran Church. He teaches in congregations and at China Lutheran Seminary, Hsinchu. He also writes and translates Lutheran Chinese resources and helps mentor new church workers. Michael was born in Cotabato City, the Philippines, where his parents were LCMS missionaries. Michael served six years in Macau and one year in Taiwan as an LCMS missionary. He also served as an associate pastor at his home congregation, St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Evansville, Ind., where he planted and led the Chinese Mission that began at this church in 2011. The Paul family will be at **Mission Central June 19, 2021**, **Pray** for the Paul family as they serve in Taiwan. **Ask** God to give them wisdom to use their time wisely with the many opportunities to teach God's Word and share His love with the people in Taiwan. **Ask** God to give strength to Jonathan as he begins college studies in the fall. **Pray** also for Rachel during her continued college studies, and for Elizabeth, who will continue her homeschooling without her siblings in Taiwan. Let's **give God thanks** that the Pauls serve His children in this part of the world.

Erin Mackenzie- Erin Mackenzie serves the Lord as a missionary in the Latin America and Caribbean region, based in the Dominican Republic. As the regional volunteer coordinator, she connects LCMS members with the day-to-day activities of foreign missionaries and local leaders, with the goal of educating and inspiring them to become advocates, long-term supporters and servants in their own churches and communities. When volunteers serve on-field anywhere from one week to six months — always at the invitation of missionaries and partner church leaders — Erin is involved in every step of the process. Erin was born in St. Louis, where her home congregation of St. Paul's Lutheran Church (Des Peres) is located. Erin will be at **Mission Central September 25, 2021**. **Pray** for Erin as she serves in the Latin America and Caribbean region. **Pray** that she is effective in building relationships with local members and partners so that Christ might be made known more widely and effectively. **Give thanks** to God for the faithful service of those who volunteer their time, talents and treasures in support of LCMS mission efforts in this part of the world, and **ask** Him to give discernment to those considering this option. **Let us give thanks** for Erin and her service to God's children.