

Lean on me when you're not strong...

...and I'll be your friend, I'll help you carry on. For it won't be long 'til I'm gonna need somebody to lean on." Bill Withers' lyrics came to my mind these past four weeks while healing from my fall on the ice in the church parking lot. These words and the fractured shoulder have helped me to realize how a person's life can change in seconds, and how important it is to be able to "lean on others." Believe me, I have had to learn to lean on others – my wife, family, and our church staff!

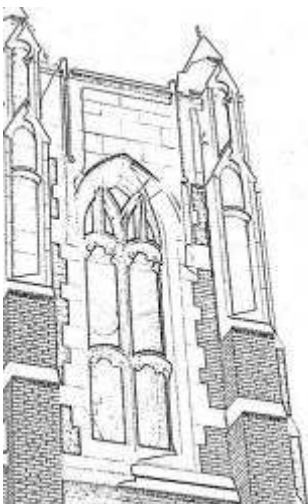
During Lent we learn that we all have to lean on the grace and love of God. There is not one person who doesn't need to lean on God and that God is ready for us to realize this. As we respond to the grace and love of God we experience relief and celebrate! Just like we do at Easter!

We share the joy, relief, and love of God throughout life by being ready to "lean on each other." This is the strength of the church, being a caring community that is willing to be there for each other—AND those we don't even know! The Easter experience is remembered and shared every time we allow others to lean on us, and we allow ourselves to lean on others when we need. After all, Jesus died and rose from the tomb because we all have to realize we need God's healing grace and love. How has the love of God touched your life? When have you seen someone else experience the healing grace of God and their lives changed? May we continue to be the church that says, "Lean on me, I'll help you carry on!"

Have a meaningful Lenten journey!
Dr. Keith W. Johnson

Important Dates in April

April 12	United Methodist Women's Luncheon
April 13	Palm Sunday Worship Palm Sunday Brunch
April 16	Seder Meal (RSVP)
April 17	Maundy Thursday Worship Service
April 18	Good Friday Worship Service
April 19	Holy Saturday Worship Service
April 20	Easter Worship Services
April 26	Dinner Group
April 27	Confirmation Sunday with Saint Paul combined choir & Temple Israel choir



Saint Paul Church

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Rev. Jerry Brabec
Minister of Worship

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Director of Children's Ministries

Kristin Malone
Director of Youth Ministries

Kathy Rice
Director of Stephen Ministry

Doug Olson
Adult Ministry Coordinator

Sue Bobek,
*Membership Secretary &
Administrative Assistant to the
Lead Pastor*

Connie Almgren
Financial Secretary

Sue Bacon
Communications Coordinator

Derek Wolfe
Building Engineer

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Basic Lay Servant Training

God calls every Christian to a life of servanthood as a disciple of Jesus Christ. A Basic Lay Servant Training course will be held at Bellevue Aldersgate UMC, 3617 Greene Ave., Bellevue, on Friday, May 2, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. and Saturday, May 3, from 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The registration deadline for this course is Friday, April 25.

In the Lay Servant Ministries Basic Course, Sandy and Brian Jackson discuss processes to help individuals discern and respond to God's particular call on their lives. They encourage each person to recognize and employ his or her spiritual gifts for the church to become what God intended it to be. This course invites participants to consider the importance of exercising servant leadership, developing future leaders, remaining rooted in consistent spiritual practices, and being part of a group that holds members accountable in discipleship. It offers guidelines for optimal communication in leadership and presents numerous types of ministries in which lay servants may assume roles. Throughout the study, thoughtful questions provide excellent opportunities for individual consideration and group discussion.

If you are interested in learning more about this training, please contact Doug Olson.



Stephen Caregivers

A group of four dedicated people is now 3/5 of the way through the first facet of the training program. We are all working hard to develop our listening skills. We have two more sessions in this module. Please keep these committed persons in your prayers: Elizabeth Elsasser, Jan Tuttle, El Siebert and Charlene Wilcox. The second module of the training will begin after Easter.

inConcert

On Saturday, April 12, over 350 students will be adjudicated as part of the annual Omaha Music Teacher's Association Trophy Festival. The judges in six piano centers will hear the students who are arranged by level of proficiency as determined by their private instructor. Trophies will be awarded to each student, regardless of their final rating.

The Burundian's Choir of Omaha, which rehearses twice weekly in our Wesley Hall, will present a "hear the Gospel call" concert on Sunday, March 13, from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. The music and cuisine of East Africa will be featured during this open time of partnership with the African National Ministry that meets at St. Paul Church for worship each week. A free will offering will be received for the mission of the choir.

Attention All Graduating Seniors

Applications for the Clarence Schoenhair Scholarship are now available in the church office. To be eligible for this award, you must have participated either in Youth group activities or served elsewhere in the church during your high school years. The deadline for submitting completed applications is April 15, 2014.

The Scholarship Committee

Holy Week Begins

Palm Sunday, April 13: To the faithful Jew, a mecca to Jerusalem to celebrate Passover in the Temple was the epitome of worship. Jesus knew this and went himself to proclaim God's kingdom being at hand. We remember the excitement of the crowd with brass at 8:15/11:05 and waving palms at all services. David Schack serves as guest organist at 11:05.

Seder Wednesday, April 16: The Seder is one part of the present-day Jewish seven day Passover (Pesach) celebration. The name Passover harks back to the time when God, through Moses, led the Israelites out of their slavery in Egypt. Christians are particularly interested in the ritual Seder meal because it was during a Passover celebration that Jesus instituted Holy Communion. Join in this moving observance for the whole family at 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Please RSVP to the church office for the dinner, which will include beef stew, rolls, and dessert.

Maundy Thursday, April 17: Holy Thursday is the Christian reenactment of the Passover feast that Jesus himself celebrated with the Twelve Disciples the eve of his arrest. As part of our Holy Communion celebration, we will observe a ritual of hand washing, following Christ's command to, "do this in remembrance of me." The Joy Bell Ringers will offer special music during this service which begins @ 7 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

Good Friday, April 18: For Protestants the observance of Good Friday is a most somber and solemn occasion. This powerful retelling of Christ's last hours will begin @ 7 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Our worship will center round the power of the cross as we hear the words of Christ's lament against his faithless church. David Schack will serve as guest organist.

Prayer Vigil, April 18-19: This time of holy waiting symbolizes the Church waiting at the Lord's tomb in prayer and fasting, meditating on his Passion and Death and on his Descent into Hell, and awaiting his Resurrection. The vigil, held in Roth Chapel, runs from the conclusion of Good Friday's service until the beginning of the Holy Saturday service (8 p.m. until 4 p.m.) We ask that you sign up for the vigil on the board located in the gathering area.

Holy Saturday, April 19: We begin our time of worship with a reminder that Christ has not yet risen through the last of the first person visitations that tell the story of God's people awaiting the Messiah. The sacrament of Holy Communion offers us the chance to start anew in God's love for us as Christ's resurrection is announced. The service will begin at 5:00 p.m. in Roth Chapel.

Easter Day, April 20: Easter Sunday is the main reason why Christians keep Sunday, the first day of the week, as the primary day of religious observance. Easter serves as the great feast day and pinnacle of the Christian liturgical year. It is also the first day of the new season of the Great Fifty Days, or [Eastertide](#), which runs from Easter Sunday to [Pentecost](#) Sunday. Our celebration of the resurrection will include communion observances at 6:30, 8:15, 9:35 & 11:05 a.m. Bring your family and friends to worship at St. Paul. An extended organ prelude time at 11:05 by David Schack, guest organist.

Confirmation Sunday, April 27: Join with the Family of God as we receive the newest members to St. Paul Church. The confirmands have been preparing throughout the Lenten season for this Christian ritual. As part of the service we welcome the Kol Rina Choir from Temple Israel and Cantor Wendy Shermet together with singers from the Chancel and Folk Gospel Choirs during the 11:05 worship hour. One of the experiences of the confirmation students was their participation in a festive Shabbat evening service at the Temple on March 07. The combined choirs will offer their special music during Shabbat evening worship on Friday, May 02 at 6:00 p.m. at the new facility located off of 132nd Street, just south of Pacific, in Sterling Ridge.

A New Refugee Family?

The Saint Paul Mission Team has begun the process of study toward the resettlement of a refugee family sometime during 2014. As part of the new business of the March 31 Church Council meeting, Lacey Studnicka of Lutheran Family Services will present a brief synopsis of the refugee resettlement process in Omaha and how that process is changing to meet the needs of an ever expanding community. Working with LFS the Missions and Social Justice Teams will be in dialog with others in the church in the upcoming months about how we might best approach the possibility of offering our support.

Refugee Clothes Closet

The Benson Area Refugee Taskforce will be hosting their first refugee clothes closet of 2014 on Saturday, April 26 from 9:00 – 10:00 a.m. at Immanuel Lutheran Church, just south of 60th Avenue & Maple. The refugee families in the area will be invited to “shop” (all of the clothes are free) for much needed clothing items. Many of our refugee brothers and sisters come to the United States with only the clothes they are wearing.

Your gifts of men’s small – medium sizes and all sizes of children’s clean and gently used clothing and shoes are so very much appreciated. No women’s clothes are needed at this time. As always, packages of socks and underwear are a staple of the event. The BART volunteers ask that clothing be dropped off at Immanuel Church on Thursday, April 24 between the hours of noon and 5:00 p.m.

Siena/Francis House

The Worship Team will be serving dinner at the Siena/Francis House on Tuesday, April 1, and you are invited to join them. Please let the church office know if you can serve from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

If you would like to carpool, you can meet the group in Saint Paul UMC’s north parking lot at 4:15. If you go to the Siena/Francis House on your own, you will need to be there by 5:00.



**World Service Fund
Communal Offering
March 1 & 2 ~ \$327.00**



For more than 50 years, United Methodist congregations have been taking part in a special One Great Hour of Sharing offering, laying the foundation for United Methodist Committee on Relief’s ministry of relief and hope.

Donations UMCOR receives through this offering, along with other undesignated gifts made throughout the year, cover the costs of doing business. They make it possible for UMCOR to use 100% of all other contributions on the projects our donors specify, instead of on administrative or fundraising costs.

Please be generous on April 5 & 6 during our communal offering for One Great Hour of Sharing, so when disaster strikes, UMCOR will be in the lead to ease the pain.



Tubs for Refugee Neighbors

On the blowy, snowy Saturday morning of March 01, sixty 20/22 gallon tubs in a variety of colors were being delivered by the Saint Paul UM Church van to our neighbors in the apartments located at 52nd & NW Radial Highway. As part of the Mission Team’s 2014 Refugee Project, the request of the Benson Area Refugee Task Force for the storage tubs was a fitting way to be in mission with our ever changing Benson community.

The containers were needed to keep large quantities of rice, a cooking staple for those coming from Southeast Asian countries, safe from the pests common to apartment living in the US Midwest. Imagine the learning curve coming from a dirt floor refugee camp to living quarters where rooms are carpeted!

If you would like to help replenish the team’s project fund, simply drop of your donation of \$10 appropriately designated to the church office. “Wouldn’t you like to be a tubby, too?”



Youth Moment



Sunday March 30th 5 – 10pm Winter Jam

Civic Auditorium - \$10



April 4 – 6th Middle School Retreat, Camp Rivercrest, Fremont

\$99 – Youth fund covers \$50. Register with Kristin



Saturday April 12th 9am – 3pm Global Youth Service Day, Hanscom Park UMC.

Cost is \$15/youth (covers T-shirt, lunch and transportation to service sites)



Sunday April 13th 9 – 11:30am Palm Sunday Brunch, Wesley Hall

Mission Trip Fundraiser—Be sure to come hungry!



April 17th – 19th Prayer Path, Wesley Hall. This is an all-church event provided by the Youth. Please come and walk our Prayer Path. Expect to take about 30-45 minutes before or after service.



April 20th Easter Sunday

No Sunday School or Youth Group



DEVOS

Every Wednesday at 7pm. Youth talk about issues that interest them



Confirmation Class

Every Sunday afternoon starting February 2nd

Please contact Kristin Malone at 402-598-5188 or kmalone@stpaulomaha.org if you have any Youth questions or suggestions.



**ANNUAL USED BOOKSALE
MAY 18 & 25**

**WE NEED YOUR BOOKS.....
CLEAN OUT YOUR SHELVES AND BRING THEM
TO CHURCH BEGINNING MAY 5.**



Saint Paul United Methodist Women
invite you to attend our annual

Spring Luncheon

Join Us for a Tropical

Luau

Saturday, April 12

beginning at 11:30 in the morning

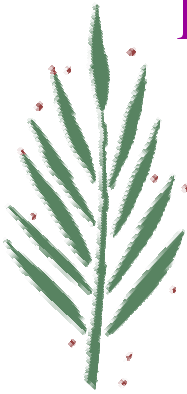
Saint Paul United Methodist Church
Fellowship Hall 54th & Corby

Musical Presentation by
Michael Lyon

"Omaha's Most Versatile Vocalist!"

Tickets must be purchased in advance by April 9th, and are available by calling (402) 556-2433, at the Church Office, or from any UMW member. A suggested donation of \$15 per person will aid Saint Paul's United Methodist Women with their on-going support of local and national missions.

PALM SUNDAY BRUNCH



**Sunday, April 13,
9:00-11:30 a.m.**

Wesley Hall

**The Youth will be serving up
breakfast casseroles, rolls,
fruit, juice and coffee to raise
money for their mission trip
this summer.**

Please come and join us.



**Saint Paul
Early Childhood Development
Program invites you to attend a
Pre-Kindergarten Open House
on April 9, 2014,
3:15 p.m.—6:00 p.m.
Room 111**



Colorectal Cancer Awareness

Did you know colorectal cancer is one of the five most common cancers in our country? Did you also know it is one of the leading causes of cancer deaths in the US? Another eye opening fact we bet you didn't know—90% of all colorectal cancers are found in people 50 years of age and older. Along with these bits of not so positive info, here's a good statistic! Colorectal cancer is very often highly treatable if found and treated early. The five-year survival rate is 90% in these cases! Sooo...what should you do?!?!

If you're over the age of 50, run—don't walk—run to your friendly gastroenterologist and schedule your screening colonoscopy! They've really made improvements in the ole prep for this life-saving test. Don't be afraid! Be brave!

Here are a few symptoms of colorectal cancer—blood in the stool (that's a bowel movement, not the toilet!); stomach pain, aches or cramps that don't go away; losing weight and you don't know why. If you have any/all of these symptoms, again—run to that friendly gastroenterologist and get checked out!!

Some folks are at higher risk than others for developing colorectal cancer. The presence of any of these may increase your risk—inflammatory bowel disease, person or family history of colorectal polyps or colorectal cancer, some genetic syndromes.

The health ministry team wishes you all many more birthdays in your future! Get screened for colorectal cancer! We have access to free kits. If you would like one or further information on colorectal cancer, please contact the church office for name/telephone number of any one of our team members.

Health Ministry Team

Calling All 2nd-6th Graders and Parents!!!

Sunday School - The Last Supper Meal

Sunday, April 6th, 9:45 to 10:45 a.m.

**All students and their parents or family
are encouraged to attend this special
Sunday school event!**



Wesley Hall Update

A new ceiling and new lights have been installed. The next improvement to this room will be painting.



UMW NEWS

Featuring the activities of the United Methodist Women of Saint Paul UMC. April 2014

EXECUTIVE BOARD

President:
Kathy Rice
Vice President
Linda Mead
Secretary
Jackie Pospisil
Ass't. Secretary
Jan Walker
Treasurer
Pat Leslie

Advisor
Judy Stransky



UMW GENERAL MEETING
April 2..... COFFEE AT 9:30,
PROGRAM AT 10:00

Our program will feature
Rev. Jerry Brabec leading us in
A MUSICAL ADVENTURE.

*****REMEMBER CANDY FOR THE**
EASTER BASKETS.***

OUR SPRING LUNCHEON WILL BE A
HAWAIIAN LUAU!

APRIL 12, 11:30 a.m.

SUGGESTED DONATION \$15

TICKETS ARE NOW ON
SALE FROM MEMBERS
OR BUY THEM IN THE
CHURCH OFFICE.

LIMITED SEATING..



RUTH
CIRCLE
SERVES IN
APRIL

PLEASE PRAY
FOR
MARCUS
WOLFMAIER

MISSIONARY
SERVING
WORLD-WIDE
WHERE
NEEDED.

MINI-MART

MAY 3 & 4

PLEASE CONTINUE TO SAVE THE ENTIRE LABELS FOR
CAMPBELL SOUP PRODUCTS.

BOXTOPS FROM GENERAL MILLS CEREALS AND
BETTY CROCKER PRODUCTS ARE ALSO NEEDED.

Recent Hospitalizations

Ron Meier, Tom Neneman, Lucille Sullivan,
Lynn Ferry, Becky Rose

Christian Sympathy

To Frank Webber in the death of his sister-in-law.

To Bob & Carol Gatzemeyer and family in the death of their son.

To Pat and Barry Butterfield and family in the death of Pat's mother.

Thank You

Saint Paul members made my birthday memorable. You were so creative in making the day special. Some of you braved the slick streets and cold, making it possible for me to share with you at the Skyline reception. May God bless and keep you.

Martha Ann Orr

Honorarium

For Martha Ann Orr—Nick & Mary Stolzer

Book Club

"Huckleberry Finn" by Mark Twain is the book the Book Club will be discussing at their April meeting. The Book Club meets at Immanuel Village on Saturday, April 12, at 8:30 a.m. For directions, call Dee Maycock at 402-571-5599. Please feel free to come even if you have not read the book.



The Dinner Group will meet on Saturday, April 26, at Wheatfields. Meet outside the chapel after the 5:00 p.m. worship service, or meet the group at Wheatfields, 1224

South 103 Street, at approximately 6:30 p.m. All adults are welcome.

Memorials

For Jack Hallstrom—Djel & Paul Brown, Tom & Jeri Tinsley, Donna & Clarence Buscher, Family of Evelyn Darlene Maynard, Russ & Edna Hounshell, Charles & Patricia Beattie, Jackie Pospisil, Jerry Brabec, William & Sarah Carver, Steven & Margaret Bross, Susan Coffey, Barbara A. Lund Irvin, Gladys Lantz, Merle & Joanne Lubberstedt

For Juliamae Dunn—Jackie Pospisil

For Ron Gaskill—Walter E. & Charlotte Bailey, Sue Bobek, Jerry Brabec, Bob & Patti Griffiths, Martha Ann Orr, Ramona Gaskill, Jean Schmid, Nancy & Tom Jones, John & Elaine Zink, Bob & Melanie Griffiths, Joyce Black, Larry & Barbara Cox

For Kevin Gatzemeyer—Jerry Brabec

For Jean McGrane—Dee Maycock, Marian Bailey, Jackie Pospisil, Stan & Virginia Richards

For Don Hopkins—Jerry Brabec

Congratulations

To Bruce & Tracy Cady in the baptism of their sons, Landon James and Weston Isaac.



Save the Date! Workshop of Wonders Vacation Bible School!!

Monday, June 2nd - Wednesday, June 4th

Dinners at 5 p.m. VBS at 5:50 p.m-8:15 p.m.

Watch for more info to come!



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



in^Worship

Saturday Evening

5:00 p.m.—Roth Chapel

Sunday Morning

8:15 and 11:05 a.m.—Sanctuary

9:35 a.m. FUSION—Fellowship Hall

12:30 p.m. African National Service

(Nursery care available for all Sunday services)

in^Office

Monday - Friday: 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Sunday: 8:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

Inclement Weather Information

Monday through Friday—If the Omaha Public Schools are closed because of inclement weather, the church office, preschool, and child care are all closed, and all meetings and other activities are canceled.

Saturday and Sunday Worship Service cancellation announcements:

1. Call the church office (556-2433)
2. Check the website (www.stpaulomaha.org)
3. Check the KETV, Channel 7 cancellation board.

Saint Paul in^Spiration