

# The Celebrating Saint

Volume 12 | Spring 2014

## Alumnus in Search of a Life Theme

**Bruce Wurdeman, SPCH '66, SPC '68, had a full and active ministry within the church. Travel with Bruce as he shares his journey of life, ministry, and service.**

Many of my friends and colleagues have life themes or mission statements. Because I have run in Christian circles — more specifically, LCMS circles — for the 42+ years of my career, most of those life themes revolve around Scripture verses or phrases. I have a favorite passage — I Peter 2:9-10, but I don't know that I'd call that a theme.



As I approached and entered retirement, several people, including the editor of this publication, asked me to reflect a bit on my 42-year career.

As I've turned that over in my mind, I think I've figured out that "life theme" thing and I don't know that it is all that pious. It certainly isn't in Scripture! But it describes quite well what God has done to, with, and through me over the years.

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### My life plan took a turn

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At 13, my life was all planned. I was going to leave my suburban Kansas City home and

take up residence for at least nine months a year at St. Paul's College High in Concordia, staying through the junior college years. From there I would go to Senior College (Ft. Wayne, at the time) and then on to the Seminary in St. Louis. I would be a pastor.

Somewhere along the line while at St. Paul's, I began to figure out that caregiving wasn't my strong suit but education was and I shifted gears and finished my college work at Concordia, River Forest (now Concordia University Chicago).

This is where the story really starts — where the life theme starts making its appearance.

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### The car that wasn't but was

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Between my junior and senior year at RF, I interned for a full year at Zion Lutheran Church in Belleville, Ill. That January during my internship the Concordia Invitational Basketball Tournament was held at the Sem in St. Louis and I decided to meet up with some old friends and attend.

The year was 1970. After the game, there was a kegger in Loeber Hall and, of course, to be sociable, I attended. While I was sitting on the edge of the fireplace, a cute young blond came up and sat beside me and made conversation. I knew her but not that well.

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She had been dating my best friend while we were all at SPC, but wasn't anymore and now was doing a deaconess internship in St. Louis.



**Bruce and the "cute young blond" who needed a ride home.**

We talked away the evening and at the end of the evening, I asked her if she needed a ride home. She said she did and I took her home. (I found out only about two years ago that she actually had a car there that night and had to get someone to take her back to the Sem the next day to get her car!) **I never saw it coming!** By the end of 1970 I married that cute little blond and am still married to Mj (**Marijane Marsh, SPC '68**) 43 years later.

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## First stop was Bethalto, Ill.

My first call after graduation took me to Zion Lutheran School in Bethalto, Ill. — the district president at the time had asked that I be placed back in his district after I had his daughter in my class during my internship. I was happy to go to southern Illinois (in spite of the fact that I had asked to be placed in the West). I taught fifth grade, upper grade math and science, and was youth director there for three years.

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## God has a sense of humor

Fargo, N.D. — all I knew about Fargo was that it got really cold there in the winter

time. Yet, out of the blue, I got a phone call from the North Dakota District and Immanuel Lutheran Church wanting to do an interview with me. The position they were interviewing for was halftime Director of Youth Ministry at the congregation and halftime Director of Campus Ministry for the district. **I never saw it coming!** Campus ministry? That wasn't even on my radar screen.

I interviewed. I got the call. Mj and I flew to Fargo to take a look and explore the possibilities. It was 3 below when we landed at Hector Field and we would later find out that was a fairly warm winter day in Fargo. God has a wonderful sense of humor and knew much better than I did where He was going to use me and I accepted that call and spent six wonderful years in that ministry.

I can remember the sound of my hair freezing when coming out of the NDSU field house into a 35-below morning after some early morning racquetball and a shower.

But I remember best the time spent with those students. Some of those friendships that developed between the college students and me still are nourished. **I never saw it coming,** but He did and He used it to get His work done there and to shape me for future ministries.

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## Flu or morning sickness?

He did one other pretty surprising thing in Fargo. He added to our family. We had no children for eight years and so had gone into the four-year adoption process in North Dakota. Adam came into our lives a few days before Christmas in 1978.

While we were celebrating this new addition, Mj got sick. She claims to this day it was the flu. I'm pretty sure it was morning sickness. Whatever the ailment, a scant eight months later, Philip was born.

**I surely never saw that coming!** With my responsibilities at church, our two boys spent a lot of time in the arms and care of other members of the congregation. Fargo holds some special memories for us.

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## A phone call from Missouri

We had settled in nicely at Fargo. We had just purchased our first home in the summer of 1980 when a phone call came asking me to come to the St. Louis area for an interview. I wasn't particularly anxious to go and I was just at the point of accompanying my youth group to Ft. Collins, Colo., for one of those very early youth gatherings.

I told the head elder at St. Mark's in Eureka that if they could get me from the district youth gathering in Dickinson, N.D., to Eureka, to Ft. Collins in time for me to meet my youth and other adult counselors at the bus, I would do it.

Somehow they worked it out — a rental car from Dickinson to Bismarck; a flight from Bismarck to Fargo to Minneapolis to St. Louis; an overnight in St. Louis with evening and morning interviews; a flight from St. Louis to Denver; a rental car at Denver to Ft. Collins; and, miraculously, I pulled up at registration in Ft. Collins just as the bus with my youth and counselors got there. The call came my way and it intrigued me. But **I never saw it coming!**

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## DCE and start a school

The call was to serve as Director of Christian Education and explore the possibility of starting a school. Mj and I both cried as we left Fargo, but we knew God had something special in store for us. And we spent 14 amazing years at St. Mark's in Eureka, bonding with staff, working with all ages, and starting a Lutheran school. By the time we left, I was principal of the school and Director of Adult Ministries.

The school numbered 180 students in preschool through grade eight and God had blessed that ministry. The congregation was growing by leaps and bounds and I had learned so much in the process.

Again, I now can see His hand in preparing me for working with even larger staffs and

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in getting me ready for some significant leadership positions. And, by the time we left Eureka, God had added one more to our family — our daughter, Abi. And **I didn't really see that coming**, either.

## An opportunity with LHM

I guess I'm easily bored because I found the process of starting a school much more exhilarating than running one once it was established. At that point, the Lord dropped another opportunity into my lap — one **I didn't see coming** — and I went to work for Lutheran Hour Ministries as Assistant Director in the Volunteer Opportunities Division.

I worked there for eight years and during most of that time I traveled and led workshops about 30 weekends a year. What an incredibly valuable experience that was! I got to know people all over the U.S. and Canada. I sharpened my presentation skills and gained much knowledge from the gifted people with whom I was privileged to work.



**Bruce leading a workshop for Lutheran Hour Ministries.**

Working for Lutheran Hour Ministries at that time was fascinating to me because, for the first time, I wasn't working with all "system" people. Many of my co-workers came from secular occupations and that brought a vitality and creativity to the workplace that was new, exciting and unique to me. I enjoyed the work, knew we were making a difference, and planned to stay there until I retired.

## Retirement is not here yet

But — are you getting the picture? — **I never saw it coming!** One day in December of 2001 I got a phone call from the Texas District Office asking me to come to Austin for an interview. They were seeking a Mission and Ministry Facilitator (assistant to the president) to serve the western third of Texas. I was very happy at Lutheran Hour Ministries but reluctantly boarded a plane and headed for Austin.

They extended me the call. I accepted and by that February I was living in a dumpy little apartment in Lubbock, Texas, waiting for our much more comfortable house to close.



**Bruce speaking to a congregation on behalf of the Texas District in west Texas.**

We spent six wonderful years in west Texas. I served about 100 churches out there, loved the people, the climate, and the culture. Again, I thought, "I'll do this until I retire!" But God thought otherwise.

## Come back to St. Louis

Again, it was right before Christmas — is this another theme? A phone call came from Larry Lumpe, acting Executive Director of Lutheran Hour Ministries, asking me to come back to St. Louis and head up the U.S. Ministries division. **I never saw it coming!**

LHM was having some problems. Finances were tough and the staff climate was gloomy. It had been six years since I had worked there but I still knew many people.

On the other hand, we really loved Lubbock, the work and our home there. Mj had a great job as Director of Outreach at a local Lutheran church. It was horrible timing. Mj and I prayed about it.



**Marijane, Bruce's cute young blond, was at his side as wife and mother during the 42 years of decisions, moving, ministry, and now retirement. She was at his side in May 2012 when Bruce received a doctorate from Concordia University Chicago.**

I remember saying to her, "I think Lutheran Hour Ministries has the best shot at positively impacting the LCMS and spreading the Gospel of any agency in Synod. I can go up to St. Louis and watch it fail and I can live with that. But I don't know that I can sit here in Lubbock and watch it fail and wonder if my presence could have made a difference."

To St. Louis we returned and within 16 months I was named Executive Director of Lutheran Hour Ministries. That was a humbling experience. I now had the joy and awesome responsibility for the ministry of 125 people in the St. Louis office and about 200 indigenous people in our 35 ministry centers around the world. I had the best staff in Synod to work with — of that I have no doubt whatsoever.

They worked hard to do what we all felt God was calling us to do.

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**Bruce and Dr. Douglas Rutt (LHM Director of International Ministries) overlooking Antigua, Guatemala, while visiting LHM in that country.**

Last year more than 48,000 people worldwide came to faith in Jesus through something that Lutheran Hour Ministries broadcasted or produced. The last two years I was there we were named one of the “Best Places to Work” in St. Louis by the St. Louis Post-Dispatch. God blessed those years and, as much as we loved Lubbock and the people there, I know He had a different plan than I did. **I never saw it coming!**

## The life theme is figured out

I’m pretty sure I’ve figured out that “life theme” thing. God has surprised me almost every step of the way. It began with a son of a General Motors mechanic finding a home and an excellent education at St. Paul’s High School and College and progressed through so many amazing surprises along the way. So much of my life was uncharted by me but most certainly planned by Him. But **I never saw it coming!**

## One chair exchanged for two

And now I’m retired and living in a golfing community on Lake Palestine. **This I saw coming!** As of January 1, 2014, I’ve traded my teacher/youth director/campus ministry/principal/DCE/executive director chair for two chairs — one in a golf cart and the other on my bass boat.

But God still surprises me. And I suspect that there are many times left when I will say, “Wow! I never saw that coming!”



**“This is one of my two favorite ‘office chairs’ today...the other is my golf cart.”**

I’m not all that sure about what the immediate or long term future will bring. But one thing I definitely see coming — when God is finished with me here, I know that, because of what Jesus has accomplished for me, He stands ready to take me home to be with Him forever. **That one I definitely see coming!**

## Can You Identify?



Can you identify the individuals in the above photo, the year it was taken, and the name of the group? The first person after Wednesday, February 19th to provide the answer by emailing the alumni office at [splhsalumni@yahoo.com](mailto:splhsalumni@yahoo.com) will receive either a Saints sweatshirt or a Saint Paul afghan.



The first person to correctly identify the photo in the fall 2013 alumni newsletter was **Jennifer Heins** of Prairie Village, Kan. She chose to receive the Saint Paul afghan. Those pictured are the senior class officers for the 2003-2004 school year: Adam Petersen, vice president; Sarah Christiansen, secretary; John Beerman, class sponsor; Alyssa Martens, treasurer, and Christopher Heins, president.



# From the SPAA President

One of the fun perks of serving as president of our alumni association is reviewing and updating our Constitution and Bylaws. It is interesting to see how the Association began in 1943 and how it has continued to develop into 2014.

In 2012 the board worked diligently to update the wording referring to technological advances and to better reflect how the board is run.

Our major project was to develop our Mission Statement which now reads, "The mission of the Association shall be to create and maintain Christ-centered relationships with our school and our alumni."

In 2013 we finalized our Vision Statement, which reads, "The vision of the Association is to reach all Alumni around the world and keep them connected to our school."

Please help us carry out our mission and reach our vision goal by continuing to support the Alumni Association and our school by telling others about it and keeping in contact with classmates near and far.

Most importantly, keep praying for continued blessings upon our beloved educational institution.

In His Service,

**Sara N. (Rotermund) Larsen**  
(SPLHS '94)

P.S. If you are interested in reading our updated Constitution and Bylaws please [click here](#). I would encourage you to at least take a look at the Preamble as it is an informative read on how the Saint Paul Alumni Association was founded.

## Encouraging Church Work Students

**Judy Schreiman Marshall (SPC '72) writes about encouragement and assistance for church work students and how you can help.**

Through the efforts of **Alfred Rodewald (SPGH '44, SPC '46)** Lutheran Leadership Education (LLE) was developed in 1997.

LLE is a plan to encourage students to go into full-time church work and assist them in designated geographic areas with tuition help. The monies for the funds are financial gifts from individuals and organizations interested in supporting full-time church workers.

One such recipient of tuition assistance is **Rebekah Grass (SPLHS '12)** now in her second year at Concordia University Nebraska.

She has had many health challenges in her life. A brain tumor while in kindergarten, followed by back surgery before starting CUNE, and leg surgery this past summer hardly slowed down this exceptional student.



She graduated first in her high school class of many good students at Saint Paul Lutheran High. She attributes it all to her Savior.

"I am able to walk all over campus with a heavy back-pack, in much less pain. After spending so much time at Children's Mercy Hospital, and watching children younger than I battle diseases with a smile, God led me to share Christ's love and forgiveness as a Lutheran teacher.

"I have already had classroom experience and know this is where God wants me. I

am very thankful to Lutheran Leadership Education for helping through the tuition grants."

As LLE endowment funds increase, larger amounts of financial assistance become available for students like "Beka," who are called to serve the Lord full-time.

The Christmas, Epiphany, Lenten, and Easter seasons are wonderful times to contribute to LLE for this purpose as well as are memorials for loved ones throughout the year.

A grant from LLE can be requested by a full-time church work student or his/her parents, or anyone from a church who wants to suggest a student.

Gift forms and information about LLE may be obtained from Ben Rodewald, LLE president, at [brodewald190@yahoo.com](mailto:brodewald190@yahoo.com) or from Lutheran Leadership Education, P.O. Box 60, Concordia, MO 64020.



# From the Executive Director

## Real Men

Where are all the real men? No. I wasn't in a conversation with the girls over in Moeller who wonder about this all the time. I'm thinking more about men AND women in general — and the focus isn't so much about gender, but the REAL part. Where are the REAL people, as opposed to the fake people?

C.S. Lewis writes that *"It is a serious thing to live in a society of possible gods and goddesses, to remember that the dullest and most uninteresting person you talk to may one day be a creature which, if you saw it now, you would be strongly tempted to worship, or else a horror and a corruption such as you now meet, if at all, only in a nightmare. All day long we are, in some degree, helping each other to one or other of these destinations. It is with the awe and the circumspection proper to them, that we should conduct all our dealings with one another, all friendships, all loves, all play, all politics. There are no ordinary people. You have never talked to a mere mortal."* (C.S. Lewis, "The Weight of Glory," Grand Rapids, Michigan: Eerdmans, 1965, pp. 14-15)

Some of you might wonder if that is English or just jibberish. Neither. It's British. But the point he is getting at is that people are rarely what they seem. We find ourselves in a strange dichotomy between what the WORLD around us tries to make us think is real and the truth.

Take for instance the so-called "Victoria's Secret Fashion Show" that is billed now as a "holiday special": near naked models skipping around in their ridiculous underwear. I missed it this past year again.

Of course, whether you wanted to watch it or not, you had to see the embarrassing commercials for a week. The question is: does pasting angel wings on a bra strap fool anyone into thinking that the program is pure and the girls angelic? What is the truth? At the last day when perfect, absolute justice will rule, what will a person look like? A hideous beast or a glorious saint?

More importantly, what will YOU look like? What is the truth about you?

Isaiah the prophet was given a glimpse of what the world would look like in the future. He writes, *"His government will grow, and there will be endless peace, to establish His rule on David's throne and to uphold it with justice and righteousness now and forever. The zeal of the LORD of armies will do this."* (Isaiah 9:7)

What he sees is the DESIRE that people have for justice. YOU have a desire for justice but you know that it's not happening in this lifetime in the experiences of this "time frame" that we are in. Yet the DESIRE is still there. The IDEA of justice — of perfection — even if we don't know exactly what that entails, we know that there should be more. A reality that is behind the scenes somewhere, like in a Matrix movie.

There is a glimpse of this that ekes its way into our lives. It's called the Christian Church here on earth. A few years ago we had a 50th year reunion group here on campus. It was all men. They had a little program that allowed the group to reminisce a bit about their old school days. One old gentleman remembered waking up unexpectedly by a loud noise in Biltz (steam pipes no doubt). He looked around and saw his classmates and thought to himself that the last day had arrived and that he must be in heaven with his best friends.

James tells us, *"Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world."* (1:27)

Basically, our lives should be lives filled with the same LOVE that God has shown us. The trouble, of course, is that we generally don't do a great job of this. Yet, despite our failures, our Lord continues to use us and grow His kingdom into the far reaches of this world.

Jesus explains to us a strange dichotomy. First He tells us that *"lawlessness will be increased, and that the love of many will grow cold."* Then

He says that *"the one who endures to the end will be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations. And then the end will come."*

In other words, we can complain all we want about all the garbage in the world, but what are we really complaining about is our own complacency. We aren't always so eager to jump in and love what appears to us as unlovable. Our one job to do on this planet is to make disciples of all nations so that the end of suffering, injustice and all the garbage even death can happen sooner than later.

In the meantime, while things in our culture DO go from bad to worse, so ALSO does the kingdom of God continue to grow and spread. What this causes is a bit of a conflict. A foot on both paths. The question is, how comfortable do we want to be with the world? Especially a world that doesn't even do a very good job of faking it anymore.

What the world needs right now is authentic men AND women. People who want to live in the reality of the kingdom of Christ.

Of course it's a struggle. Everything worthwhile is a struggle. But even the struggle is God's. *"The zeal of the Lord of armies will do this."*

The Lord of armies, also known as the Lord of hosts, is the ALMIGHTY God who commands REAL angels. Powerful angels. Not Victoria's Secret angels with fake wings. The ZEAL of our LORD defeats demons, Satan, our own sin, and even death.

He is going to make sure that you have what it takes to live your life in this world as if you have a real life in eternity. In His intense zeal for you He chose to give you HIS life, His perfection and justice.

Let's get real.

**Rev. Paul M. Mehl (SPCH '78, SPC '80)**

# Alumni Jottings

To share information about yourself in the next newsletter (mid-July), please use the lower half of the page recently sent to you announcing the newsletter posted on the Web. Mail to Alumni Coordinator, P.O. Box 719, Concordia, MO 64020, along with your financial support.

**SPCH '43, Harry Hoth, Colorado, Springs, Colo.,** celebrated his 90th birthday last September. He and his wife, Joan, who is 91, have been married for 67 years. They have four daughters (Janie, Joie, Susie, and Patti), seven grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren. A former marine, Harry has been active in the Colorado Springs community for 69 years. He has served on the boards of many local organizations including the Colorado Springs Chamber of Commerce, city council, and as mayor in the 60's. For 60 years, Harry built, owned, and ran Pikes Peak Broadcasting, a company that had a number of radio and television stations in the Colorado Springs area. During his broadcasting career, he was inducted into the Colorado Broadcast Pioneers Hall of Fame, the Pikes Peak or Bust Rodeo Hall of Fame, and the Colorado Springs Sports Hall of Fame. After officially retiring as the president of Pikes Peak Broadcasting last year, Harry enjoys playing golf, spending time with his family, and cheering for the Denver Broncos at every home game. He still hits the gym every day and has won the honor of being the oldest member to hit a "hole in one" at his local golf club.

**SPCH '47, Albert Meier, Denham Springs La.,** replies to the question, "What's new with you?" with "Every day."

**SPCH '51, Toby Dellamano, Omaha, Neb.,** writes, "Jean and I will celebrate our 60th wedding anniversary in August 2014, and also our 80th birthdays. We thank and praise God and our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, for His blessings. God bless SPLHS. You are in our prayers."

**SPCH '53, SPC '55, Jonathan Stein, Fairview Heights, Ill.,** is currently in his sixth year as chaplain at Concordia Seminary.

**SPCH '56, SPC '58, Alston Kirk, Corpus Christi, Texas,** has started his sixth interim as senior pastor at St. Paul Lutheran Church in McAllen, Texas.

**SPC '62, SPCH '64, Donald Nierman, Wentzville, Mo.,** writes, "I'm enjoying retirement since April 2013 from NGA-St. Louis (teaching Lutheran North - St. Louis since 1980). Expecting sixth grandchild (all boys) in April. Thanks for the work you do in His kingdom."

**SPC '63, Mary Ruth Adam Marschel, Washington, Mo.,** writes, "At the end of 49 consecutive years in the classroom, I plan to retire at the end of this school year."

**SPC '64, Edwin Rumerfield, Lebanon Ore.,** writes that he is still pastor at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Lebanon.

**SPC '67, Andrea Brown Bader, St. Libory, Neb.,** writes, "I taught school in Zion Lutheran, Worms, for five years. After the first three, I took a 30-some-year recess and went back to teach two more years. During the recess my husband and I raised three children on the farm. Our children also were privileged to attend Zion Lutheran School. I was able to get my degree renewed and was a para in our local public school for two years. Now I enjoy teaching first and second graders in our Sunday school, and am enjoying our three grandchildren who live down the road about a quarter of a mile. I've been blessed."

**SPCH '77, SPC '79, John Mehl, Concordia,** just completed 20 years of foreign missionary service. He began in 1993 as a church planter in Moscow, Russia, and went on to serve as LCMS World Mission Regional Director for Eurasia stationed in Frankfurt, Germany. John spent the last seven years in Hong Kong as the Regional Director for Asia. He will transition to Concordia University Nebraska this spring to serve as Director of Mission Partnership and Church Relations. This will include teaching in the mission realm, aiding the university to connect in missional ways both domestically and internationally, and promote a stronger relationship between the university and congregations of the LCMS.

**SPC '80, Jeffrey and Susan Reynolds Martin, Arvada Col.,** write, "We were remarried in February 2010. We have both been blessed with careers: Jeff at Miller/Coors for 33 years, and Susan at Century Link for 33 years. We are looking forward to retirement whenever that will be!! Love living in Colorado!"

**SPLHS '89, Kent Kunkel, Concordia,** has been promoted to assistant vice president and loan officer at State Bank of Missouri in Concordia. He is a loan officer specialist in personal and mortgage loans, and also handles customer service for the bank's Internet banking site.

**SPLHS '02, Jessica Fabry, Independence, Mo.,** was married to Christopher Miranti on Nov. 30, 2013, at Timothy Lutheran Church in Blue Springs. Jessica is employed at Centerpoint Medical Center in Independence as a radiological technologist/mammographer. Christopher is employed as an application support consultant for JWC Corporation in Shawnee Mission, Kan.

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# Alumni Jottings

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**SPLHS '04, Chris Heins, Higginsville,** was married to Adriane Dorr of Marcus, Iowa, on Nov. 8. Chris is the dairy herd manager for the Heins Family Farms, overseeing the care and milking of 650 cows. In addition, he does speaking

engagements, photo shoots, and interviews promoting the dairy industry. Adriane is the managing editor of *The Lutheran Witness* magazine, editor of Catechetical Information, and does other editorial writing for the synod, working from her and Chris' home on the farm. She authored the *Portals of Prayer* devotions for March 2014. She also maintains two blogs: [leitstet.wordpress.com](http://leitstet.wordpress.com) and [littlehouseonthedairyblog.blogspot.com](http://littlehouseonthedairyblog.blogspot.com).

**SPLHS '07, Dawn Day, Annandale, Va.,** is currently on a financial management program for GE Capital which involves traveling to a different business within the Capital finance function every six months.

**SPLHS '08, Bailey Kramer, Fort Hood, Texas,** has been promoted to rank of Sergeant in the U.S. Army.

**SPLHS '10, Louisa Mehl, Seward, Neb.,** was one of five students featured on a video email from the development office of Concordia University Nebraska expressing appreciation to donors for financial gifts to the university, enabling students to have the *Concordia experience*. These students "understand the significant impact the contributions of donors have on them." Louisa is also pictured on the cover of the winter 2013 issue of *broadcaster*, the magazine of CUNE. On page 9 is the story how she and fellow student Rebecca Monnier united the student body to raise over \$50,000 for Lutheran Malaria Initiative.

## Interesting Facts from the Past

### 100 years ago – December 20, 1913

During the last session of the Western District of the Lutheran Synod of Missouri, Ohio, and other states, the necessity of a gymnasium for St. Paul's College at Concordia was discussed and the director of the institution, Prof. J.H.O. Kaepfel, was encouraged to take the necessary steps of raising funds to pay for the building above indicated. The college, already an ornament to our town with its five or six buildings, is in need of a gymnasium as the students should have a place where they can take proper bodily exercises during inclement weather to keep in good health. *From The Concordian "From our Files."*

### 80 Years ago – October 26, 1933

The game with Higginsville closed the baseball season for the St. Paul's College team, the gloves and spikes were put away until the warm breezes of the springtime again produce the old urge for baseball. Full attention has been directed to basketball. About 75 percent of the student body is trying out for positions on the two teams. Professor Barth will also take part in the coaching of the teams. Last Saturday the boys set the stakes for the side-walling which is to surround the athletic field for the outdoor contests. *From The Concordian "From our Files."*

### 80 years ago – January 22, 1934

St. Paul's College shall, for the first time in its history, enter an intercollegiate speaking contest. This contest is to be held at Kansas City, Feb. 10, and will consist of orations, declamations and extemporaneous speeches. *From The Concordian "From our Files."*

To keep up-to-date with campus life, read the Parents Newsletter. This monthly publication brings you dorm life, sports, class activities, and much more. It is posted on line near the end of the month. Go to [splhs.org](http://splhs.org), click on Quick Links, then Parents Newsletter.

# In Memoriam

**SPC '45, Eugene Pennekamp, Atchison, Kan.,** died July 9, 2013.

**SPCH '49, Gilbert Ziegelbein, Wichita, Kan.,** died Oct. 15, 2013. He was a retired electrical engineer for Boeing Aircraft.

**SPC '61, Lydia Homan, Chester, Ill.,** died several years ago, according to word received at the alumni office. She had taught for about 25 years at St. John's Lutheran School in Chester.



**Linda Laubenstein, wife of faculty member Larry Laubenstein,** died Jan. 4, 2014, at the Lutheran Good Shepherd Home in Concordia. In 1970 Linda moved to Concordia, and on Aug. 15 she and Larry were married. They have two sons, Lane (SPCH '93) and Jesse (SPLHS '01). Linda worked

at Concordia Farmers Mutual Insurance, and taught 2nd grade (earned her B.S.Ed. degree at Concordia Teachers College, Seward) at St. Paul's Lutheran School from 1971-74. She was a member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, where she taught Sunday school, was a member of Ladies Aid No. 1, participated in many Bible study classes, and served as superintendent of St. Paul's VBS. She served as first vice president of the Concordia Zone LWML, Christian Growth chairman of the Ladies Aid, and was a 4-H child care leader. She held membership in the Lutheran Good Shepherd Home Auxiliary, American Red Cross, St. Paul's College Guild, SPC Faculty Wives and Women, Concordia Community Betterment, and Discovery Extension Club. In 1978, she was named Concordia's Outstanding Female Citizen, and when asked what it meant to her to be chosen she replied, "I'm thankful to the Lord for giving me this time in my life when I can be active and help others. I believe that God put us here to serve."

**Garda Kunkel, wife of former faculty member Jesse Kunkel, Concordia,**

died January 31 at the Lutheran Good Shepherd Home in Concordia. On July 8, 1957, she married Jesse Kunkel. They resided in several places: Corpus Christi, Texas, St. Paul, Minn., and Wichita, Kan., before moving to Concordia. She became involved in the community, especially St. Paul's Lutheran Church and School, and Saint Paul Lutheran High School. She had a great sense of humor and an unequivocal affection for others. She shared God's love by cooking and baking. She was known for her pies and supported the SPLHS Auction with a pie-a-month to the highest bidder. Garda was mother of five and mom to many.



## 28th Annual Saints Showcase and Hog Roast Dinner

Formerly known as Hog Roast and Auction

**June 22, 2014**

Hog roast dinner in Krueger Dining Hall  
11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Auction in Krueger Dining Hall, Noon

Last June was the first scaled-back auction that still included some of the more popular items, such as selling a tree for the campus, naming the quad, and purchasing parking spaces for athletic games. Plans are to continue this procedure at the 2014 event.

## Interesting Facts from the Past

**50 years ago – December 26, 1963**

Airman First Class Markus F.T. Reinke (SPCH 1960) of Concordia has arrived at Ernest Harron A.F.B. in Newfoundland for duty with an Air Defense Command unit. *From The Concordian "From our Files."*

**Alumni Office Location: Fine Arts Building**

**Alumni Office E-mail: splhsalumni@yahoo.com**

**Alumni Office Phone Number: 660-463-2238, Extension 517**

**Alumni Mailing Address: P.O. Box 719, Concordia MO 64020**

# A Time To Rebuild

**How does a congregation cope with an arson fire which destroys its fellowship hall and preschool and causes \$900,000 damage to the sanctuary? Pastor Nathan Brandt takes you through the fire, his members' reaction and response, and the dedication of the new facilities for Living Savior Lutheran Church in Tualatin, Oregon.**

"Pastor, we're pouring every ounce of water that Tualatin has on this fire." Those are words that no pastor or parishioner wants to hear, but those words were spoken the morning of March 19, 2012, at about 4:15 a.m. after an arsonist set fire to the facilities at Living Savior Lutheran Church in Tualatin, Oregon.



**The four-alarm fire brought 64 firefighters to the scene.**

Tualatin (*pronounced - twal-a-tin*) is a southwest suburb of Portland. Living Savior Lutheran Church was established there as a congregation in the summer of 1978. It has been served by **Rev. Nathan M. Brandt (SPC '74)** since 2002 when he accepted the call, and with his wife Charlotte (*Bruns*) and family moved to the congregation.

## Fire brings total loss

The fire began in the early morning hours of March 19, but was not reported until 3:30 a.m., and because of the age of the fellowship hall and lack of a sprinkler system in that part of the building, the fire quickly spread, engulfing the structure which was located right next to an adjoining and new (2008) sanctuary.

Sixty-four firemen along with a great number of police officers descended upon the scene with ladder trucks, pumping trucks and fire-fighting equipment. While they were able to save the sanctuary, the rest of the structure (fellowship hall, offices, preschool and Sunday school classrooms, kitchen and restrooms) were a total loss. Even the sanctuary, with modern fire safety features, sustained \$867,000 in damage. The rest of the facility was considered a total loss.

## The fire to cover fingerprints

To say the least, congregational staff and leaders were stunned and found themselves scrambling to answer questions and make decisions.

The first question on everyone's mind was, "How did this happen?" The answer would unfold over the next couple of days. After bragging to a friend over Twitter about the size of the fire, two fourteen-year-old boys were taken into custody and were being questioned. It soon became apparent that the fire was not an accident.



**Fire erupts in the preschool area at 4:00 a.m.**

The boys confessed to breaking into the church in an effort to steal money. In the process they became mindful that they were leaving fingerprints and the claim was that the fire was lit to cover their fingerprints. The small fire soon developed into a four-alarm disaster for the people of Living Savior Lutheran Church and endangered the lives of many people.

## The Spirit of God was alive

The Apostle Peter writes: "In your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect." Within an hour the news media was surrounding the church, taking pictures from their helicopters and flashing the pictures on the morning news. Newscasters were eager to get live footage and video clips of how the pastor, staff, and parishioners were responding to the fire and the news that two boys had been arrested in connection with the fire.

While the media seemed to be looking for emotional responses of anger and bitterness, the Spirit of God led the people of God in this place to reflect what has been shown to them in the love of Jesus Christ. "We hold these young men and their families in our prayers." "We are not the judges of what should or should not be done." "We will leave justice in the hands of those to whom it has been delegated." "We're sad, but we are not without hope."

## Fire cannot destroy the Word

Still, the congregation was forced to be very flexible. There was a Lenten service scheduled for Wednesday evening. Even though it snowed a little, a candlelight service was held in the parking lot with over 400 people in attendance (a far cry from the normal 145).

Holy Week quickly followed. The congregation was granted permission to hold services in the high school auditorium. Over 650 attended. The shift was made to the gymnasium of the local elementary school where services were held until the end of October.

*(Continued on page 11.)*

# A Time To Rebuild

Continued from page 10.



**The people of Living Savior worshipping in a school gym following the fire.**

## First focus: the sanctuary

Simultaneously, the focus was upon the insurance policy. An adjuster was dispatched and assigned to the claim. There were many, many meetings. In the end, the insurance company virtually divided the claim into two parts. The sanctuary suffered \$867,000 worth of damage. It was decided to focus upon that first with the goal of getting the congregation back into it as soon as possible. That ended up being Reformation Sunday (October 30, 2012) – seven months and two weeks after the fire.



**The restored chancel of Living Savior.**

## Second focus: Fellowship Hall

The work on the fellowship hall/preschool proved to be more difficult. The insurance company wanted to rebuild exactly what was there even seeking to save some walls. The congregation sought to reconfigure using the same footprint. The city had the final say in condemning the burned facility as an “inviting nuisance.”

However, in the words of an insurance lawyer, “If you have a Dodge, you can’t expect it to be replaced with a Mercedes, but the burden is to show that it was a really nice Dodge.” The congregation and insurance company finally came to agreement as to the worth of the facility and its contents.

## Dedication November 24, 2013

Accomplishing the congregation’s goals would require a Capital Funding Campaign. In December of 2012, the congregation raised \$1 million in pledges over the next three years and that, coupled with the insurance settlement and additional dollars borrowed from LCEF, paved the way for a new fellowship hall and preschool. It was dedicated the last Sunday in November of 2013.

## The Lord is Lord of the church

What happened? A fire caused great devastation, but the Lord is still the Lord of the Church. The Word was preached and the sacraments were administered. The congregation discovered that they were Living Savior Lutheran Church — and they were not the building.

What happened? It was as if the Lord Himself kicked us out of our facility and into the community. We met all of our



**This picture taken by police officer and member of Living Savior, Eric Hermann, served as the logo for the congregation’s Time to Rebuild Capital Campaign. The sun formed the shape of the cross in the lens of the camera. “Though the church burned, the light of Christ is greater than any earthly tragedy.”**

neighbors. The choir met at the Assembly of God Church. The Youth Group met at the Presbyterian Church. The preschool moved to unused portion of Triumphant King Lutheran’s facility in Lake Oswego. Building Committee meetings were held at the Lazy Boy Furniture offices. Confirmation classes were held at St. Paul Lutheran in Sherwood. Office space was rented in downtown Tualatin right next to the community warehouse. The senior citizens group met at the Juanita Pohl Center. Members of the congregation hosted various youth group functions in their homes. Sunday school classes were held in the balcony, narthex, sacristy and any other place we could carve out some space. It was as if God pushed us to the doorstep of all those around us and we were well received.

We are back in our facility, but we are changed. We have a renewed sense of purpose and a new open attitude toward those around us. It was, “A Time to Rebuild,” but now it is, “A Time to Serve.”

# Alumna is Traveling on a Musical Journey

**Life can be a journey. Laura Snyder (SPLHS '10) is traveling a musical journey. Walter Snyder leads us on his daughter, Laura's musical journey**

How could Laura Snyder have known what journey she was beginning when she asked an innocent question at a Jasper, Texas, junior high football game where her big sister was cheering?

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## Will you teach me piano?

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When she was 3 ½ years old, Laura overheard a conversation between her mother and Debbie Fisher, mom of another cheerleader. Mrs. Fisher was talking about teaching piano after she returned to college to earn her teaching degree. Laura looked up and asked, "Will you teach me piano?" Before her fourth birthday, her wish was granted. Neither she nor her parents had any idea how much of her life would be defined by her music.



**The piano was Laura's first love and continues to be her joy. Her SPLHS days gave her the opportunity to accompany the Singing Saints and play the piano and organ for chapel. Pictured with Laura at the grand piano in Kaeppl Hall is Audrey Mehl (SPLHS '11).**

One of the first things her parents, Rev. Walter and Stephanie Snyder did after moving to the Concordia area in 1999 was to find a new piano teacher for their then second grade daughter. Gerry Hartwig of Concordia assumed that role for a time and then handed her over to Carol Borgstadt. Meanwhile, her mother played organ and guitar while her older sister

**Courtney (SPLHS '01), trumpeted in the high school band.**

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## Trumpet, organ and voice lessons added

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A few years later, Laura had a small part in a local production of South Pacific and started talking to music director Chris Winter. Mrs. Winter began Laura's trumpet instruction and later taught her basic flute technique. During this time, Laura often played incidental piano music at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Emma before learning enough organ to fill in at times for entire worship services.

In a few more years, she started voice lessons with Concordia school teacher Katy Marshall. When Ms Marshall left town, Laura studied under Marcille McCandless of Warrensburg. Through her, Laura met Mrs. McCandless's husband Richard, the music department chairman at the University of Central Missouri. Dr. McCandless began giving Laura formal organ lessons.

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## SPLHS the beneficiary

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While at SPLHS, Laura sang both soprano and alto with the Singing Saints and became a principal accompanist for the choir. She trumpeted with the school band, played piano and organ for chapel, and played for services at Holy Cross and other area congregations.

Her rigorous academic preparation at SPLHS led to a President's Scholarship at

Concordia University Chicago while she also parlayed her musical background into scholarships for the Music Education program and for trumpeting with the university's Wind Symphony.

Laura tries out the chapel organ at CUC. While in Chicago, she is the regular organist for Jehovah-El Buen Pastor Lutheran Church.

She also discovered that the practical training she received during choir tours under SPLHS music teacher William Gasau translated to helping the Wind Symphony



**Laura tries out the chapel organ at CUC. While in Chicago, she is the regular organist for Jehovah-El Buen Pastor Lutheran Church.**

on its domestic tours.

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## Her musical talents in China

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This past year brought the Wind Symphony's quadrennial international trip. Following the 2013 spring semester, members spent 12 days in China, visiting the cities of Beijing, Xi'an, Hangzhou, and Shanghai.

The journey afforded Laura opportunity to draw even closer to many fellow Wind Symphony members, of whom some 50 participated in the tour. While there, they performed at several colleges and in the Xi'an concert hall.

The campuses in China opened Laura's eyes to differences and similarities between the U.S. and China's educational systems.

"I sincerely appreciate my education and my relatively easy access to university studies," she says. "Since there are so many (Chinese), academics are very competitive. They know from a fairly young age what they're going to do. They also know that they face rigid examinations to enter college."

*(Continued on page 13.)*

# Alumna is Traveling on a Musical Journey

Continued from page 12.



Laura poses on the Great Wall of China at Beijing

The Wind Symphony played to a sold-out audience at Xi'an Concert Hall, a 1,250-seat facility. "It's not as big as Carnegie Hall, but it was really neat to play there," Laura said. "It was fairly packed."

This Music Education major is scheduled to graduate in December 2014 with an instrumental emphasis. Along with her keyboard and trumpet playing, she's added some percussion experience and has taken tech classes in all types of instruments.

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### Enough is never enough

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This year, Laura moved from being one of the Wind Symphony's trumpeters to playing its euphonium. She also plays piano in the CUC Jazz Band and takes

"pot luck" on pep band instruments. She has completed her piano pedagogy program and plans to continue her musical education after graduation.

"I hope to teach music and, perhaps, additional subjects in a Lutheran school," Laura says of her immediate goals. In the longer term, she leaves open other options, including advanced degrees and music therapy or another cognate field.

## Interesting Facts from the Past

50 years ago – January 9, 1964

Lambert J. Mehl, president of St. Paul's College, has announced the appointment of Melvin F. Schlake as the new college business manager. *From The Concordian "From our Files."*

## Alumni Board of Directors

Sara Rotermund Larsen (SPLHS '94), President  
Russell Kruse (SPCH '80, SPC '81), Vice President  
Mark Nebel (SPCH '82, SPC '83), Secretary  
Markus Reinke (SPCH '60), Treasurer  
Leonard Goldammer (SPCH '56)  
Judy Schreiman Marshall (SPC '72)  
Curt Nierman (SPLHS '91)  
Ed Nierman (SPCH '59)  
Hannah Frerking (SPLHS '08)

The next alumni board meeting is Saturday, April 5, 1:00 p.m., Conference Room B in Biltz Hall. The meeting is open to all alumni.

## Newsletter Staff

Editor — Walter Loeber, Alumni Coordinator  
Layout design — Amber Petersen (SPLHS '97)  
Photographers — Rosalie Pennington,  
Aaron Brandt (SPCH '86)  
Proofreaders — Ruth Rodewald, Judy Loeber  
Technical advisor and website administrator —  
Orlyn Heimsoth (SPCH '65, SPC '67)  
Faculty advisor — Dr. Kenneth Wesemann (SPC '80)

Some information for this newsletter was supplied by SPLHS Historical Society, Concordia; and *The Concordian*, Concordia

# Dr. Allen Nauss Selected by Alumni as 'Favorite Instructor'

By a wide majority of votes cast in 2013, Dr. Allen Nauss was selected as "Favorite Instructor."

His biography and photo will be placed on the lobby wall of Biltz Hall.



**Dr. Nauss as SPC instructor**

Born in Fargo, N.D., Dr. Nauss attended Concordia High School in Portland, Ore., Concordia Junior College in St. Paul, Minn., and graduated from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, in 1948.

Through the years he received additional education at Washington University, Northwestern University, University of Denver, University of Oregon, and University of Missouri.

Dr. Nauss arrived on the SPC campus in 1948 with the assignment to teach Latin to 14-year-olds and upperclassmen.

"I knew at the time that Latin was a dead language, but I recognized, too, that it had some merit in finding the roots of English words." If these young men were to become pastors, Dr. Nauss knew that it would also be useful in their understanding of Latin theological terms.

## Outside the classroom

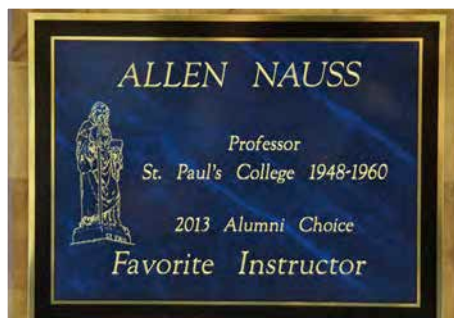
After several years on the faculty, Dr. Nauss introduced drama along with competitive speech and student government activities "in the hope to broaden the prospective pastor's social skill and poise." In the student government structure the students had opportunity for the first time to manage their own affairs and budget.

Under his direction, drama students put on the musical drama based in DuBois "Seven Last Words of Christ." Also involved were the college choir and orchestra in the performance of the text and score written

by Alvin Horst (SPCH '55, SPC '57).

## Additional SPC responsibilities

When Dr. Oscar Walle left SPC for the Fort Wayne Senior College faculty in 1955, Dr. Nauss was asked by President Lambert Mehl to handle the registrar position and serve as dean of students.



This opened the door for Dr. Nauss to seek additional training in a doctoral program in counseling and guidance at the University of Missouri. He used the new-gained knowledge to urge students to develop personality characteristics that would be useful for their ministry.

## Moving on from SPC

In 1960 Dr. Nauss accepted the call as dean of students, registrar, and placement director at Concordia Seminary in Springfield, Ill.

A Behnken fellowship in 1970-71 enabled Dr. Nauss to make use of computer facilities at the University of Washington in Seattle to complete a research project on ministerial effectiveness.

This resulted in the development of the Vicar Evaluation Inventory (VEI) used in both synodical seminaries since 1997. An additional related inventory is currently being used in assessing seminary graduates during their parish service.

In 1978 he accepted the call to Christ College in Irvine, Calif., as Director of Student Personnel Service and professor in the area of communications.

## A book in the making

Through all the years, beginning on the SPC campus, was the germ of an idea that only much later resulted in the publication of a book under the title, "Implications of Brain Research for the Church: What it Means for Theology and Ministry" available for \$20 from Lutheran University Press, P.O. Box 390759, Minneapolis MN 55439. He is working on a sequel to be titled, "The Pastor's Brain Manual."



**Dr. Nauss and his wife Vicki (nee Hinck), SPC '57, at their home in Orange, Calif.**

## "Pleased and also humbled"

When Dr. Nauss was informed of this "favorite instructor" honor, he responded, "I am pleased and also humbled. It is certainly good to be remembered for something positive. I trust that my service has proved beneficial to God in the work of His Kingdom, as well as to students, colleagues, and the Church. I continue to be interested in hearing about the lives of students at SPCH and SPC during my period of service there."

Others who received votes in 2013: Steve Fritzier, Norman Gienapp, Larry Grothaus, Verner Klotz, Jerome Ommen, Andy Schroeder, Oscar Walle.

Dr. Nauss joins previously named "favorite instructors" Lando Otto (2008), Emil Weiss (2009), Dr. Earl Fuhrmann (2010), Harold Rast and Jerome Schwab (2011), and Dr. Wilbert Rosin (2012).

A list of instructors and instructions for voting is on the SPLHS web site under "Vote for your favorite instructor."

# SPLHS Notes and News

**Your Lutheran high school in Concordia is alive and active. Rejoice with us as we share the excitement with you, our alumni.**

To keep up-to-date with campus life, read the Parents Newsletter. This monthly publication brings you dorm life, sports, class activities, and much more. It is posted on line near the end of the month. Go to [splhs.org](http://splhs.org), click on Quick Links, then Parents Newsletter.

## Sports scoreboard

Football record: 6 wins; 4 losses

Soccer record: 17 wins; 6 losses

Volleyball record: 26 wins; 10 losses

Lady Saints basketball: 16 wins; 5 losses (as of Feb. 17)

Saints basketball: 18 wins; 3 losses (as of Feb. 17)

Saints win I-70 Conference championship with a 7-0 conference record.



To replace the broken SPLHS Victory Bell, the graduating class of 2013 presented the school with a new victory bell. The bell was stripped of several layers of paint by **Andrew Jones (SPLHS '90)** and repainted blue. Prior to the 2013-2014 school year, several alumni and future alumni installed the bell. Directing the installation was Andrew, assisted by **Quentin Jones (SPLHS '13)**, **Wyatt Jones (SPLHS**

**'16)**, **Michael Nebel (SPLHS '14)**, **Matthew Nebel (SPLHS '16)**, **Seth Mueller (SPLHS '14)**, and **Zachary Gifford (SPLHS '13)**.



New blue lockers have replaced the old brown ones in Weis Gym. The Saints Golf Classic Committee spent \$23,000 for 228 lockers for the boys and girls locker rooms in the gym. Alumni

may purchase a locker for \$100 and have an engraved plate on the locker of their choice. For an example of a plate, go to [splhs.org](http://splhs.org), Quick Links, scroll to **Saints Classic Name Plate for New Lockers**. If interested, contact Athletic Director Monte Pitsch at [montepitsch@yahoo.com](mailto:montepitsch@yahoo.com) or 660-463-2238, ext. 611.

## Band Instruments Needed

Recently the school rented a saxophone for one of our band members who does not own the instrument, but is very good at playing it. It would cost about \$900 to purchase a mediocre one.

Are there alumni who might have an instrument they would be willing to donate to the SPLHS Music Department?



**Cecil Roth (SPC '65)**, above right, of Geneseo, Ill., came on campus Dec. 4 and presented a violin to the music department. Accepting is William Gasau, band director. Cecil purchased the violin when he was a music major at Concordia, River Forest, 45 years ago. Later he changed his major to math, and was a math teacher for 26 years. "It is a good feeling to give something to the school that I really appreciate having attended."

William Gasau, band director, said, "Any instrument would be welcome, but we especially need a tenor saxophone, a bari saxophone, a tuba, a sousaphone, a violin, a viola, and a clarinet."

To donate or contribute toward an instrument, contact William Gasau at [wgasau@splhs.org](mailto:wgasau@splhs.org) or 660-463-2238, ext 513.

# Senior Scores Perfect SAT

Sungjun Ji, a SPLHS senior, earned a perfect score on the SAT. Known to his classmates and faculty as “Jay,” he received perfect scores of 800 in the critical reading, mathematics and writing sections for a total perfect score of 2400 on the SAT he took on Oct. 5. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Kyu Duk Jee of Kyeonggi-do, South Korea.

Jay’s dual credit college composition instructor, Andrea Schmidt, commented, “Jay is a joy to have in class because he sincerely wanted to improve his writing skills. He is an articulate and creative student who pushed himself to take ‘writing risks’ throughout the courses. I am not surprised that he did so well on the writing portion of the SAT. Great kid!”

Jay shares: “I was so surprised when I got a perfect score. I took a couple of practice tests and the highest score I got was 200 points less than perfect.

“Official scores are updated around 5:00 each morning. I woke up at 7:15, logged in and saw there were 800s listed in every category on my information, but thought SAT was just telling us what the best score was in each area. I kept looking for my scores.

“After a few minutes I discovered the 800s were my scores. I was so excited! I checked my text messages on my phone and contacted my parents and some teachers that had helped me prepare for the test. It was very exciting to share the news, and my parents were so happy that they cried over the phone.

“The best part was that after waking up late, talking to my parents in Korea and teachers



**Pictured with Jay are four SPLHS teachers who have influenced and assisted him in his educational advancement. From left: Valerie Krause, math; Larry Laubenstein, English and German; Andrea Schmidt, composition; and Kim Brandt, English and Speech-Theatre.**

I was not even late for class that day.”

Jay enjoys math. “Jay has been a student in several of my math classes and is currently in the dual credit Calculus class,” said Valerie Krause, mathematics instructor.

“He is hard-working and very intuitive about mathematics and math topics. He is a talented young man and I am proud of him for his accomplishment.”

Jay participates in baseball, Singing Saints Traveling Concert Choir, football, serving as junior class treasurer and Korea Country Representative on Student Government.

Jay joined SPLHS his sophomore year, after spending his freshman year in New Jersey at a private school of 1,600 students. Prior to that, he attended a private middle school

in Abbotsford, British Columbia, Canada.

Jay stated: “I feel like Saint Paul was the right school choice for me. At Saint Paul, the faculty, they help me in everyday life. I put my mind to studying and focusing on my work while still being able to enjoy the American culture and participate in sports and clubs.”

Larry Laubenstein, his football coach and German instructor commented, “Jay is a conscientious student. Besides his intelligence, he also has the drive to do the best he can in every class. He has a good sense of humor, and gets along with classmates. Jay has been a pleasure to teach, and I’m sure he has a bright future.”

Jay is considering a future in economics and has applied to Georgia Tech, Boston College, University of Illinois and the University of Michigan.

Economics has been his subject of interest for the past several years. He is fascinated with how the world really runs and routes money, the flow of merchandise and goods and the effects all these decisions have on each other. In time, Jay would like to work in the U.S. in the economic arena.

Jay’s English and Speech-Theatre instructor Kim Brandt adds, “It is obvious God has blessed this young man with great academic talent. As he continues his academic growth, my prayer is that Jay be ever mindful of all of God’s blessings within his life, even beyond the academic.”

## Interesting Facts from the Past

50 years ago – January 23, 1964

The annual mid-year student banquet of St. Paul’s College will be held Sunday evening at 5 o’clock. A highlight of the banquet will be the awarding of the Apostle Paul award to Dr. Paul Schelp of Brazil. The main speaker for the occasion will be Dr. Clarence Peters of St. Louis. Dr. Schelp, a 1915 graduate of St. Paul’s College, was chosen to receive the 1964 award for his more than 40 years of service to the church in South America. *From The Concordian “From our Files.”*

# Football Mom Did What a Football Mom Would Do

Chad Stover, a Tipton High School football player, was seriously injured while playing football and later died. Chad was not known to any of the SPLHS football players or to **Debbie Fiene Woodall (SPCH '84, SPC '85)**.

When Debbie heard of Chad's injury and subsequent death, her Christian faith went into action.

As the Saints football team gathered at the home of Gary and Jennifer Bredehoeft (their son John is a senior) on a Sunday evening at the end of the season, Debbie told the story of Chad and asked if the group would join her in sending a greeting to the family.

The team responded with the photo below. Debbie posted it on Facebook with the comment and prayer.



**From a group of football players to a single football player in time of need, the members of Saint Paul Lutheran**

**High School team in Concordia, Mo., are sending their thoughts and prayers for Chad and his family:**

**Dear Lord, You are the great physician and we come before you with a prayer on behalf of Chad Stover. You know the pain and the danger that has come across him and You alone can provide the relief and help that will answer his needs. We ask You to graciously behold Chad and grant him healing in the days ahead. Please watch over him and comfort his family during these trying days. We also pray for the medical team who is watching over Chad. Amen.**

Several days later, Chad passed away. Debbie then posted the following:

**From our football family to your family, we are so sorry for your loss.**

**Please accept our heartfelt sympathy.**

**Praying God's comfort to you at this time of sorrow.**

**Saint Paul Lutheran High School, Concordia, Mo.**

"I did this for a number of reasons," said Debbie. "First of all, being a mom, any time I hear of a child receiving a serious injury and then passing away like this, it breaks my heart. I can't begin to imagine going through something like this as a parent.

"Second, as a Christian I just wanted to reach out to a family in time of need. Although I do not personally know this family, I knew the only thing I could do was pray to the Lord which was something I did and still do every night.

"Third, Tipton's head football coach Tony Braby, was my husband Darrin's high school football coach at Sweet Springs for four years. Darrin always thought a lot of Coach Brady and his care and concern for his players. Also, being the wife of a man who coached Little League football in our community for ten years, I know firsthand how a coach can care so much for his players. Darrin was not only their football coach on the football field, but also a friend outside of football.

"Fourth, and I have to admit, being the mother of two sons (**Dylan SPLHS '12, and Derek SPLHS '17**) who eat, breathe, and sleep football, I am nervous every time my sons go out on that field knowing that something serious could happen to them. That is why I pray before every one of their games for safety, not just for them, but for all players playing on that Friday night no matter what team it is."

## 2014 Courtwarming Court

Although the January 31 Saints basketball games with Concordia High were postponed, other events went on as scheduled. The chili/soup supper was enjoyed by those who braved the weather and the varsity teams put on a scrimmage. The highlight was the crowning of (from left) Breanna Vogelsmeier, queen; Elijah Rodewald, king, Seth Muehler, prince, and Hannah Gillet, princess. A courtwarming dance followed.



# Alumni Financial News



The Little Blue Jug is awarded to the SPC Class of 1975. They led all classes in 2013 with \$4,000 in contributions to support the Alumni Association.

The jug and plaque are encased next to the elevator on the main floor of Biltz Hall. Annually the jug goes to the SPCH or SPC class that contributes the most in support of the Alumni Association.



## 2013 Contributions by Class

Below are the 2013 contributions by class, the number of contributors, and the amount contributed.

### SPCH & SPLHS

| Class         | Contributors | Amount |
|---------------|--------------|--------|
| Class of 1929 | 1            | \$25   |
| Class of 1934 | 1            | 5      |
| Class of 1939 | 2            | 1,000  |
| Class of 1940 | 1            | 20     |
| Class of 1941 | 1            | 100    |
| Class of 1942 | 2            | 75     |
| Class of 1943 | 3            | 500    |
| Class of 1944 | 1            | 125    |
| Class of 1945 | 1            | 25     |
| Class of 1946 | 1            | 50     |
| Class of 1947 | 4            | 195    |
| Class of 1948 | 3            | 75     |
| Class of 1949 | 7            | 1,645  |
| Class of 1950 | 2            | 45     |
| Class of 1951 | 8            | 365    |
| Class of 1952 | 9            | 795    |
| Class of 1953 | 1            | 100    |
| Class of 1954 | 3            | 650    |
| Class of 1955 | 3            | 135    |
| Class of 1956 | 9            | 378    |
| Class of 1957 | 2            | 200    |
| Class of 1958 | 2            | 200    |
| Class of 1959 | 10           | 1,035  |
| Class of 1960 | 10           | 330    |
| Class of 1961 | 1            | 50     |
| Class of 1962 | 6            | 1,425  |

|               |    |       |
|---------------|----|-------|
| Class of 1963 | 3  | 375   |
| Class of 1964 | 2  | 45    |
| Class of 1965 | 2  | 125   |
| Class of 1967 | 1  | 25    |
| Class of 1969 | 2  | 30    |
| Class of 1970 | 1  | 25    |
| Class of 1971 | 6  | 255   |
| Class of 1972 | 2  | 300   |
| Class of 1973 | 4  | 2,025 |
| Class of 1974 | 4  | 280   |
| Class of 1975 | 14 | 405   |
| Class of 1976 | 1  | 50    |
| Class of 1977 | 4  | 325   |
| Class of 1978 | 4  | 200   |
| Class of 1980 | 4  | 300   |
| Class of 1981 | 4  | 1,075 |
| Class of 1982 | 3  | 325   |
| Class of 1983 | 1  | 200   |
| Class of 1985 | 1  | 50    |
| Class of 1990 | 2  | 100   |
| Class of 1996 | 2  | 70    |
| Class of 1997 | 3  | 130   |
| Class of 1998 | 1  | 50    |
| Class of 2002 | 1  | 25    |

### SPC

|               |   |     |
|---------------|---|-----|
| Class of 1931 | 1 | 25  |
| Class of 1936 | 1 | 5   |
| Class of 1941 | 1 | 500 |
| Class of 1942 | 1 | 20  |
| Class of 1943 | 1 | 100 |
| Class of 1944 | 2 | 75  |
| Class of 1945 | 1 | 25  |
| Class of 1947 | 1 | 25  |

|               |    |       |
|---------------|----|-------|
| Class of 1948 | 2  | 75    |
| Class of 1949 | 4  | 270   |
| Class of 1950 | 3  | 75    |
| Class of 1951 | 2  | 920   |
| Class of 1953 | 2  | 140   |
| Class of 1954 | 9  | 795   |
| Class of 1955 | 1  | 100   |
| Class of 1956 | 3  | 575   |
| Class of 1957 | 5  | 310   |
| Class of 1958 | 6  | 235   |
| Class of 1959 | 4  | 350   |
| Class of 1960 | 3  | 225   |
| Class of 1961 | 19 | 1,835 |
| Class of 1962 | 9  | 630   |
| Class of 1963 | 5  | 220   |
| Class of 1964 | 9  | 505   |
| Class of 1965 | 3  | 525   |
| Class of 1966 | 7  | 550   |
| Class of 1967 | 4  | 170   |
| Class of 1970 | 1  | 25    |
| Class of 1971 | 3  | 55    |
| Class of 1972 | 4  | 65    |
| Class of 1973 | 7  | 225   |
| Class of 1974 | 5  | 625   |
| Class of 1975 | 6  | 4,000 |
| Class of 1976 | 2  | 250   |
| Class of 1977 | 1  | 100   |
| Class of 1978 | 2  | 175   |
| Class of 1979 | 4  | 160   |
| Class of 1980 | 6  | 410   |
| Class of 1981 | 3  | 150   |
| Class of 1982 | 5  | 650   |
| Class of 1983 | 1  | 100   |

## Alumni Budget for 2014

|  |                    |
|--|--------------------|
| Alumni Coordinator salary              | \$9,000.00         |
| Two scholarships (\$700 & \$500)       | 1,200.00           |
| Homecoming speaker                     | 150.00             |
| Mileage                                | 100.00             |
| Newsletter (design, printing, mailing) | 2,400.00           |
| Stationery, Envelopes                  | 800.00             |
| Supplies                               | 200.00             |
| Postage                                | 200.00             |
| Student recognition                    | 500.00             |
| Contest prizes                         | 100.00             |
| Miscellaneous                          | 200.00             |
| <b>Total</b>                           | <b>\$14,850.00</b> |

# Reunions Being Planned

The alumni office is aware of the following classes planning a reunion. If you know of a class planning a reunion that is not mentioned below, please email the alumni office at [splhsalumni@yahoo.com](mailto:splhsalumni@yahoo.com).

**SPCH Class of 1964** — The 50th anniversary class reunion will be celebrated in conjunction with the graduation exercises on May 23, 2014. Questions can be directed to the SPLHS Development Office, 660-463-2238, ext 232.

**SPC Class of 1964** — Gayl Ann Jones Calvin is working to bring the class together for a reunion June 6-8, 2014 on the campus. Contact her at 816-228-4282 or [gayl.calvin@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gayl.calvin@sbcglobal.net).

**SPC Class of 1965** — Inquiry has been made about a 50th class reunion in 2015. To express your thoughts, contact Cecil Roth at 314 N. College Ave., Geneseo IL 61254; 309-944-3791; [ceejames1@yahoo.com](mailto:ceejames1@yahoo.com).

**SPC Class of 1974** — Plans are being formulated to hold a reunion June 27-29 on the campus. Contact Nancy Hermann Endicott at 22676 Park Loop, Onawa IA 51040, or by email: [n\\_endicott@hotmail.com](mailto:n_endicott@hotmail.com).

**SPCH Class of 1979** — Plans are underway for a reunion, Sept. 5 - 7 in Concordia. Contact Tina Griggs Bredehoeft at P.O. Box 42, Concordia MO 64020, or 660-422-2081.

**SPLHS Class of 1994** — The 20th class reunion will be June 27-29, 2014 on the campus. Contact Sara Rotermond Larsen via Facebook or email at [numberonetexan-fan@yahoo.com](mailto:numberonetexan-fan@yahoo.com), or Allison Roepe Rankin via Facebook.

**For updates to these reunions, and a listing of additional reunions, go to [www.splhs.org](http://www.splhs.org), click on ALUMNI, click the tab ALUMNI UPDATES, scroll to REUNIONS BEING PLANNED.**

## Mark your calendar

March 7-14 ..... Singing Saints tour  
March 23 ..... Singing Saints home concert  
April 5 ..... Alumni board meeting  
May 23 ..... Graduation  
May 23-25 ..... SPCH Class of '64 reunion  
June 6-8 ..... SPC Class of '64 reunion  
June 22 ..... Saints showcase and hog roast dinner  
June 27-29 ... SPLHS Class of '94 reunion  
June 27-29 ..... SPC Class of '74 reunion  
Mid July.. Summer alumni newsletter  
Mid August 17th ..... Opening service for the 2014-2015 academic school year  
September 5-7 ..... SPCH Class of '79 reunion

## Class of '93 Holds Reunion

On June 22-23, 2013, members of the SPLHS Class of '93 gathered in Concordia for a reunion. Most of the activities were at the farm of Chris Virus in rural Concordia. Attending were: from left, front: **Amy Prohl Griesmann, Rolland Zoch, Miike Bellach, Angie McKeage Mundt, Stephanie Burrow Oddy**; back, **Dan Griesmann, Dave Steitz, Chris Virus, Aaron Bronner, Paul Reinke, Josh Weber, and Richard Beerman**.



## 'Can You Identify?' Winner

The first person to correctly identify the photo in fall 2013 alumni newsletter was **Jennifer Heins (SPLHS '97)** of Prairie Village, Kan. She chose to receive a Saint Paul afghan.



# Help Locate 'Lost' Alumni

Below are alumni whose current address we do not have. Any assistance (address, phone, email) will be appreciated. Email your information to the alumni coordinator at [splhsalumni@yahoo.com](mailto:splhsalumni@yahoo.com).

## From October 2013 mailing

|  |                   |
|--|-------------------|
| Kathy Ahlschwede, Austin, Texas        | SPC '69           |
| John Bohling, Jefferson City, Mo.      | SPCH '80, SPC '82 |
| Eric Cash, Chester, Ill.               | SPC '68           |
| Stella Ankney Coffman, Ft. Gordon, Ga. | SPLHS '02         |
| Robert Covington, Cape Coral, Fla.     | SPC '76           |
| Ashley Cox, Warrensburg, Mo.           | SPLHS '11         |
| Kim Davis, Hope, Ark.                  | SPLHS '05         |
| Gary Hayes, Aurora, Col.               | SPCH '73          |
| Randy Mabry, Memphis, Tenn.            | SPCH '73, SPC '75 |
| Tracy Minor, Columbia, Mo.             | SPC '83           |
| Daniel Vehling, Verona, Wis.           | SPCH '73          |
| Mary Weinhold, Utica, Mich.            | SPC '78           |
| Stephanie Wilckens, Columbia, Mo.      | SPLHS '05         |

## From July 2013 mailing

|   |                   |
|---|-------------------|
| Kristy Kollmeyer Barnes, Strafford, Mo. | SPCH '98          |
| David Braun, St. Louis, Mo.             | SPC '62           |
| Stella Ankney Coffman, Fort Gordon, Ga. | SPLHS '02         |
| Dara Oetting Kahes, Concordia           | SPLHS '02         |
| Gary Lietke, Portland, Ore.             | SPCH '68, SPC '70 |
| David D. Lohmeier, Carterville, Ill.    | SPCH '54          |
| Joyce Jordan Peek, Nashville, Ind.      | SPC '67           |
| Amy Prohl Haines, Downers Grove, Ill.   | SPLHS '93         |
| Ericka Thompson, Lubbock, Texas         | SPCH '76          |

## Remember when?

Remember when on a below zero and windy night Founders Hall was on fire. Firefighters remained throughout the night. Coeds served hot coffee. Losses included 19 pianos, two new pipe organs, a music library, typewriters, books and course notes. Seven students rooming in the hall lost almost all their belongings. At a special service prior to Christmas vacation, the faculty and students raised \$350 to help the students replace some of their clothing. Taken from *Praise for the Past; Faith for the Future* by Rev. Frederick Baepfer.



## Interesting Facts from the Past

### 50 years ago – December 26, 1963

Founders Hall, the oldest building on the campus of St. Paul's College, was destroyed by a fire which was discovered about 7:15 last Wednesday night. Local firemen, assisted by St. Paul's students and firemen from several neighboring towns, fought the flames in sub-zero temperatures through the night, and local firemen have returned a number of times to keep the fire under control. Cause of the fire or the exact place where it began cannot be determined, but an overload on the wiring in the building is considered to be the probable cause. There were no serious injuries to the many fire fighters who helped, although there were several minor injuries. The college clinic, a few yards from the burning building, was kept busy by local firemen and students fighting the blaze who went there for treatment of apparently frozen hands and feet. Dr. H.S. Brady, assisted by the college nurse, Mrs. Lambert Steffens, was on duty there until the early hours of Thursday morning. *From The Concordian "From our Files."*

# Singing Saints 42nd Annual Tour Goes Northeast



## Pre-tour appearances

Sunday, February 23 | Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church | Oak Grove, Missouri  
Wednesday, March 5 | Trinity Lutheran Church | Alma, Missouri

If you are in the area of a Singing Saints concert, come to hear and meet the Singing Saints and Director William Gasau. Traveling with the Singing Saints will be Rev. Paul Mehl, Executive Director of SPLHS. The 42nd annual tour of the Singing Saints is March 7 - 15 as they perform in the Northeast.

Friday, March 7 | 7:30 p.m. | Zion Lutheran Church | Moberly, Missouri

Saturday, March 8 | 7:00 p.m. | Immanuel Lutheran Church | Iowa Falls, Iowa

Sunday, March 9 | 11:00 a.m. | King of Kings Lutheran Church | Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Sunday, March 9 | 7:00 p.m. | Saint John Lutheran Church | Lena, Illinois

Monday, March 10 | 7:00 p.m. | Faith Lutheran Church | Grand Blanc, Michigan

Tuesday, March 11 | 7:00 p.m. | Saint Paul Lutheran Church | Westlake, Ohio

Wednesday, March 12 | 6:30 p.m. | Grace Lutheran Church | Niagara Falls, New York

Thursday, March 13 | 7:00 p.m. | Saint John Lutheran Church | Dublin, Ohio

Friday, March 14 | 7:00 p.m. | Saint John Lutheran Church | Dieterich, Illinois

Saturday, March 15 | 7:00 p.m. | Saint Paul Lutheran Church | Union, Missouri

Sunday, March 23 | 7:00 p.m. | St. Paul's Lutheran Church | Concordia, Missouri  
(Home concert)