

ST. PAUL'S
COLLEGE

SAINT PAUL LUTHERAN
HIGH SCHOOL

ST. PAUL'S
COLLEGE HIGH

SPC '69 alumna shares gift of life with co-worker



It was in the hallway at Concordia Elementary School that Jan Beerman (right) told Faye Fritsche she would donate one of her kidneys to give Faye the gift of life.

"I felt God was telling me, 'Jan, do this,'" stated **Jan Bethke Beerman, SPC '69**. "And I wanted to do it."

A co-worker of Jan at the Concordia Missouri elementary school, Faye Fritsche was in need of a kidney. Her kidneys were working at only 20 percent of their capacity.

With both of Faye's daughters living nearby, either would have been an ideal candidate as a donor. However, **Judy Roepe (SPCH '86)** was pregnant and could not undergo the procedure. **Kathy Lemmons (SPCH '83)** was a different blood type, and was ruled out as a possible donor.

It was then that Jan approached her co-worker with the news she would be willing to get tested and become a donor.

"I told her to go home and talk it over with her family because it is a big sacrifice and major surgery," Faye said.

According to Jan, her family supported her in her decision to become a donor. Her husband **John, SPC Class of '69** and current instructor at SPLHS, "stood by me in my decision and encouraged me throughout."

Her daughter **Emily (SPLHS '99)** is a nurse and has worked on a renal ward with dialysis patients, which gave her extra insight into the area of organ donation.

"Mom, if it can help," she said, "go for it."

Likewise her other children, **Amy (SPLHS '91)**, **Richard (SPLHS '93)**, and **Brian (SPLHS '04)** echoed the same words, "Go for it."

In October 2007, Jan was found to be a match through simple blood tests. That a non-family member was found to be an acceptable donor is rare. It is even rarer that the women are co-workers. That is why both women know that it is God's hand at work.

"It's been in God's hands all along," Faye said.

"I felt like this was something I was supposed to do and this is something I wanted to do," Jan expressed. "If God wants it to happen, it will."

Before becoming a donor, Jan needed to endure a series of tests to insure she had no underlying health problems that would prevent the transplant from taking place. "A blessing I received," Jan said, "was that I learned I had no trace of cancer."

Once all testing was completed, surgery was scheduled for May 21. The surgery went well for both women, and was termed a success. Both women were home within a week of the surgery.

How do you say thank you to someone who has given you the gift of life?

"The kidney started working while I was still on the operating table, Faye said. "My own kidneys were functioning at about 13 percent. My new one was at about 90 percent just hours after the surgery."

That the entire process seemed to go smoothly, both women agree, is not a coincidence.

"God had his hand in this the whole way," Faye said.

"This is something I felt God led me to do, Jan said. "Everything worked out so well."

Both women recovered over the summer months and have returned to school, Jan to her fourth grade students and Faye to carrying out her responsibilities as school nurse.

Faye said that finding the right words to tell her donor "thank you" was not easy. "How do you say thank you to someone who has given you the gift of life? You could use all the words in the dictionary and not find the right one. I just want Jan to know how much I appreciate her."

Would Jan do this again? "If I had another kidney to give, I'd do it in a heartbeat."

(Cindy Roerig Ebers, SPC '73, The Concordian staff writer contributed to this article.)

From the SPAA President...



In its 125 years of existence St. Paul's College, St. Paul's College High and Saint Paul Lutheran High School has experienced quite a history. The students, staff and faculty of our alma mater have made a positive impact upon our church body, our society and our nation. This history of our school includes the struggles for survival, the testing of tragedies, and celebrations of success, all under the goodness and guidance of our Triune God.

I thank the members of the historical committee of our Alumni Association that works under the guidance of board member **Ed Nierman (SPCH '59)**. They are doing a great job of cataloging our school's history and bringing back to our memory the people of our school's past.

Seated, from left, Rose Becker, Dorothy Bushman (Class of '59); standing, Ann Wolters (SPC '59), Melinda Heine, Lavonne Krause, Ed Nierman (SPCH '59)



It is said that the past is prologue. We do not learn history for the purpose of living in the past. The value of knowing history, where we have been in the past, is to have a better understanding of where we are in the present and a clearer view of where we are going in the future.

The future of our school is a bright one that will flourish with our support. Our alma mater needs our prayers for the students, staff and faculty who live on the campus and walk the halls of the buildings that were so important to us during the formative years of our lives. Our alma mater needs young people, from our families, our congregations and our communities, to form a student body which will continue to have a positive impact on our church, culture and country. Our alma mater needs our financial gifts to cover the escalating costs of education without expecting students and their families to bear an overwhelming burden.

Thank you for your time in reading this issue of our alumni newsletter, for your support of our Alumni Association, and for your support of Saint Paul Lutheran High School.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Mark Alan Nebel (SPCH '82, SPC '83)

Be somebody today

This is an appeal! Take the envelope that comes with "The Celebrating Saint," place your contribution into it and return it to the alumni office.

You might think that somebody will help support your alumni association. Be that somebody.

You might think that you will give a contribution some day. Give today.

Be somebody today. Provide the funds needed to give scholarships, to print and mail "The Celebrating Saint" three times a year, to provide a minimal salary for our alumni coordinator, and to cover miscellaneous office costs.

I urge you again, especially if you have not made a contribution to your alumni association this year, be somebody today!

Rev. Robert Lange (SPCH '49, SPC '51)
Finance Committee Chairman

Can you identify?

Can you identify the three individuals in this photograph and the year it was taken? The first alum to correctly provide the answers to the Alumni Office by emailing splhsalumni@yahoo.com will receive a pewter Christmas ornament with a picture of Baeppler Hall in the center.



Little Blue Jug

The Little Blue Jug is alive and well and is waiting to be awarded to an SPCH or SPC class.

Historically, the Little Blue Jug was awarded each fall at homecoming to either the alumni, the students, or the faculty, depending on who had the winning record for the athletic contests of the weekend. Now it will be awarded to the class which contributes the greatest amount of dollars to the Alumni Association.

Last year the award was won by SPCH Class of 1949 with total contributions of \$2,060.

Your contribution before the end of 2008 will mean much to the Alumni Association and/or the alumni coordinator position, and will be credited to your class, at the time of the awarding of the Little Blue Jug.

The jug with an awards plaque is displayed in Biltz Hall.

Board of Trustees Welcomes Alumni



Three alumni were installed at the opening service on August 17 to serve on the Saint Paul Board of Trustees. From left, Donald Nordmeyer (SPCH '52, SPC '54), Wentzville; Rachel Oetting (SPLHS '00), Concordia; Neil Sandfort (SPCH '57, SPC '59) St. Charles.

Golfers raise \$7,500

The fifth annual Saints Classic Golf Tournament at the end of August was a big success, according to Monte Pitsch, SPLHS Athletic Director. "Over \$7,500 was raised, with 100 golfers participating."

In the five-year history of the classic, over \$35,000 has been raised for the athletic department. Sports equipment, a trailer, and weight room equipment have been purchased with the funds that have been raised.

Pitsch added, "Thank you, alumni, who participated as a golfer, sponsor or donor."

For information on

alumni jottings • class reunions • alumni in the military
"lost" alumni • other information and stories

go to www.splhs.org,
click on ALUMNI, then on the left side,
click on ALUMNI UPDATES

Class Reunions Held

SPC Class of '63, SPCH Class of '68,
SPCH Class of '88 held reunions this summer.

Photos and reports are at www.splhs.org; click on ALUMNI;
on the left side, click ALUMNI UPDATES.

Alumni reunions being planned

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

SPCH Class of 1959 — Ed Nierman has started work on a class reunion for 2009. Contact Ed at 30230 Old Highway 40, Concordia MO 64020; phone: 660-463-7739; email: esnierman@centurytel.net.

SPC Class of 1959 — Delores Beck has begun work to bring the SPC Class of 1959 together for a reunion on campus June 26-29, 2009, at Biltz Hall. Delores can be reached at 208 South Greenway, Holts Summit MO 65043; phone 573-635-4941.

SPCH Class of 1970 — Arrangements for the SPCH Class of '70 annual reunion in the summer of 2009 are incomplete at this time. Tentative plans are also being made for a cruise for their 40th year reunion in 2010. For more information or if you have questions or ideas, contact Dennis Bahrenburg at dennisbahrenburg@sbc.global.net.

SPCH Classes of 1973 and 1974 — Glen Endorf is heading the effort to bring these classes together for a reunion in 2009. The date and place are yet to be determined. With suggestions and to express interest, reply to Glen at gejjj03@diodecom.net.

Please cut here.

Keep Us Posted!

We want to hear from you! Do you have a new address?

Is there any information about yourself that you wish to pass on to your classmates in "Alumni Jottings?"

Alumnus(a) _____

Year of graduation: (HS) _____ (C) _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

What's new with you? _____

Write on back if more space is needed

Please detach, fold and return in the enclosed envelope along with your contribution.

Please cut here.

Vote for your favorite teacher

With a gift to the Saint Paul Alumni Association, alumni are asked to identify their favorite Saint Paul teacher. Teachers eligible for consideration must have taught for at least five years and not be currently on staff at Saint Paul Lutheran High. The teacher who receives the greatest number of votes will have his/her picture prominently displayed in Biltz Hall for the coming year and be identified as being the teacher honored by the alumni for that year.

SPLHS Christmas Concert

Concert Band and Singing Saints
Friday, December 19 — 7:00 p.m.
St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Singing Saints tour goes Northwest

The 2009 Singing Saints tour is scheduled for March 13-21. Anyone interested in hosting a concert in South Dakota, Wyoming, Nebraska or Kansas contact Bill Gasau at wgassau@splhs.org.

New alumni board officers

President: Beth (Royuk) Pester, (SPCH '92), Seward
Secretary: Russell Kruse, (SPCH '80, SPC '81), Concordia

Support Your Saint Paul Alumni Association

I am donating \$ _____ for the Alumni Association

I am donating \$ _____ for the Alumni Coordinator position

Thank you for your gift!

Please make checks payable to "Saint Paul Alumni Association"

Return this form with your gift in the attached envelope.

Faculty member to receive my vote:

(See article above and www.splhs.org; ALUMNI,
Then click Alumni Updates for the list of the faculty.)

Please cut here.

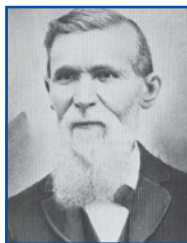
From the Executive Director...



One hundred years ago, a few months after St. Paul's College celebrated its 25th anniversary in 1908, Pastor Julius Biltz passed away. His wife and two sons had preceded him in death. He had already retired as pastor of the local congregation and as such had lived a productive and faith-filled life. It was fitting therefore that on the 100th anniversary of his birth in 1925

that a new building on the campus would be dedicated and named after him. His legacy would live on.

I pass by his picture often when I am in Biltz Hall (One of our alums has provided us with many wonderful framed photos in Biltz.) and I see on his face a mischievous smile. Behind the distinguished beard, the pressed shirt and black suit I see crinkled eyes that beg to tell a story.



Julius lost both of his parents at a young age. When his older sister decided to join the Lutheran Saxons who were coming to America, he decided to join her. The only problem was that his legal guardians forbade him to leave and sent the police to the ships to bring him back before they left. However, Julius hid among the baggage, and, avoiding the authorities, came to Perry County in 1838 at the age of 13.

When the Log Cabin College, later known as Concordia Seminary, opened in Altenburg, Julius was in the first class of five boys who would graduate from the institution. By 1847 when The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod was founded he was one of the pastors in attendance and by 1859 he became the pastor of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Freedom Township in the western part of the state of Missouri. As one of the few educated people in the area at that time, he was also appointed postmaster (you had to be able to read) and promptly named the new town after his college alma mater – “Concordia.”

Hard times came with the Civil War as southern sympathizers known as “Bushwhackers” swept through this sleepy area, often killing, sometimes raping and usually stealing from the non-combatant German Lutherans. Rev. Biltz himself was once tied on a horse and had to listen and watch as six of his elders were shot in the back, one every mile, and dumped into ditches. Being the last one, he was let go because one of the Bushwhackers had promised his wife that he would be left unharmed.

After the war it was a time of expansion for the church and congregations that were springing up all over the Western District. These churches began asking Rev. Biltz for help. He knew it would be impossible for one man to take care of such a great area so he begged his beloved synod to begin a school (gymnasium) in the west to help alleviate this problem. Following a rousing sermon by a seminary professor at a mission festival in Emma, Mo., in 1879, the idea to start a school in the Concordia area began to take shape. The rest is history that you already know.

I like to think that the smile on Rev. Biltz has something to do with the joy he had serving his Lord and watching his Lord work through a little, mischievous boy like himself. Have there been other “mischievous” boys who have come through the halls of Saint Paul? Boys and girls who have gone on to become leaders and servants in the kingdom of God somewhere in this world? Is that a smile I see on your face?

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

Three alumni in seminary news

Focus, a magazine of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, detailed achievements of three SPCH and SPC alumni in its summer issue.



Dr. L. Dean Hempelmann (SPCH '57, SPC '59), at commencement exercises on May 16, received the Distinguished Alumnus Award. He has distinguished himself in a career of over 40 years in teaching, educational administration and pastoral ministry.

Hempelmann served as a parish pastor in Washington, Oregon and Missouri. His service to the church continued at Concordia Seminary where he taught in the department of practical theology and served, at various points, as director of ministerial recruitment, academic dean, director of the doctor of ministry program and acting president.

He has also served as president at Concordia Lutheran Seminary in Edmonton, Alberta, as synodical director of pastoral education and as executive director of the Board for Pastoral Education.

Dr. Quentin F. Wesselschmidt (SPCH '55) edited a new book, “Old Testament VIII, Psalms 51-150” part of the Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture.



“We owe a debt of gratitude to Quentin Wesselschmidt for his careful and thorough work in uncovering the interpretive treasures of ages past that can illuminate our own meditation on the psalms,” said Dr. Paul Raabe, professor and chairman of exegetical theology at Concordia Seminary.

In the Psalms 51-150 volume (the series has 29 volumes), more than 50 church fathers spanning seven centuries of exegesis, are cited. These selections reflect on the various roles the psalms have played in the individual and corporate lives of Christians.

“Christians in the 21st century still find the psalms a great source of inspiration, comfort, guidance and a real well-spring of the doctrinal truths which lead to eternal salvation,” commented Wesselschmidt. “It is hoped that in some small way readers of the excerpts in this volume (Psalms 51-150) will have their spiritual lives greatly enriched.”

Prior to joining the Concordia Seminary faculty in 1977, Wesselschmidt served as pastor of Our Savior in Hillsboro, Ill. (1963-1965); assistant professor at Concordia College, Milwaukee (1965-1971); and instructor of religion and administrative assistant at Milwaukee Lutheran High.

Dr. Ronald R. Feuerhahn (SPCH '55, SPC '57) retired at the close of the 2007-2008 academic year after 22 years of distinguished service. He was professor of historical theology and seminary archivist.



He served both the Evangelical Lutheran Church of England and The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. From 1963 to 1967 he served as a missionary in England and Wales. He also served as pastor at St. David's Lutheran Church, Cardiff, Wales, from 1964 to 1970 and at Resurrection Lutheran Church, Cambridge, England, from 1970 to 1977. From 1977 to 1986 he was preceptor at Westfield House, the seminary of the ELCE, in Cambridge, England. He joined the Concordia Seminary faculty in 1986.

(Photos and information courtesy of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis.)

Asian missions



John and Susan Mehl in the Forbidden City, Beijing

Our alumni are scattered throughout the world serving in various capacities. **John Mehl (SPCH '77, SPC '79)** explains ministry in Asia.

FIRST MISSION — The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod (LCMS) began its first overseas mission efforts in the late 1800's with work in India. Outreach started in China in the early 1900's and has only continued to spread. Today, LCMS World Mission Asia team is working with personnel or projects in 20 different countries that have a combined population of over 3.5 billion.

China is the world's most populous country (1.33 billion) followed closely by India (1.15 billion). The population density of Calcutta, India, is about 110,000 per square mile which is different from Concordia, Missouri, which is about one square mile, but has a population of about 2300. About 10% of Asians are Christians. Indonesia is the largest Muslim country in the world. While about 1% of Americans are farmers, about 50% of Asians farm, and one third of Asians live in poverty.

In 2006, John Mehl was called by LCMS World Mission to serve as the Asia team regional director. He is responsible for budget and planning, and serves a church relations role with Asian Lutheran churches at the request of the LCMS president's office.

VARIETY OF MINISTRIES — The work of the LCMS in Asia is rich. It is built on the 100 years of missionary efforts. Partner churches that were started as a result of missionary efforts are now sending their own missionaries. The Asia ministry includes church planting, theological education and a great human care program that is presently preparing to provide ongoing relief to those who suffered from the earthquakes in China this year.



The dedication of the Rittman Center at Concordia International School, downtown Shanghai.

EDUCATION — Asia also provides a unique opportunity for the LCMS in the form of education. There are 200 Lutheran schools in Asia that range from the village schools of the India Evangelical Lutheran Church to Hong Kong International School. Most of the 100,000 students who attend these schools are not Christian, making the schools mission outposts.

Concordia International School Shanghai (CISS) will celebrate its 10th birthday this year. It started with 22 students but today has a student body of about 1100. Concordia serves a wide Asian population in Shanghai. **Dr. Henry Rowold (SPC '58)** is responsible for much of the China strategy that led to the opening of CISS. **Patrick Frerking (SPCH '83, SPC '84)** and **Jane Peuster Klammer (SPC '78)** presently teach there.

LCMS World Mission is in the process of establishing another international school in Hanoi. The Lutheran Church – Hong Kong Synod (LCHKS) is working to establish a boarding school. The LCHKS president, Dr. Allan Yung, has been open about the fact that he hopes to have help in his new school from the leadership of St. Paul Lutheran High School in Concordia, Missouri.

OPPORTUNITIES — The Asian fields of LCMS World Mission provide many opportunities for volunteer or career workers, particularly for teachers. Saint Paul graduates are especially welcome!

John Mehl is based in Hong Kong with his wife Susan and son Ted. John and Susan also have two daughters: Louisa, who is a junior at SPLHS, and **Katrina (SPLHS '07)**, who is a sophomore at the University of Missouri, Columbia.

Alumnus returns to Nigeria



With Joel and his wife Heidi are their two sons, Tristan (4) and Cameron (6).

Joel Loesche (Class of SPCH '76-'79) has taken a position with Contour Global as Senior Project and Operations Manager. In this new position he will supervise and ensure execution of the projects, oversee the business development, as well as to develop the operations, maintenance, safety, environmental, and administrative procedures for those projects.

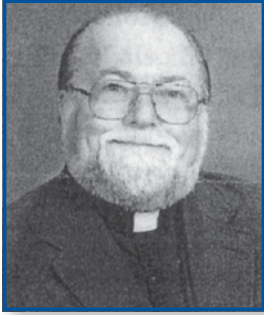
Loesche explains his position which will take him and his family back to Lagos, Nigeria. "These projects are different from the much larger power plants that I have built and operated before, as these opportunities are business specific solutions for major businesses in developing countries.

"The power solutions that we are offering involve building a cogeneration facility to provide electric power, heat and steam, chilled water, and carbon dioxide. The "quad-gen" plants use one or more simple gas engines, and capture the exhaust heat. A portion of the hot water is transformed to chilled water via an absorption chiller. Finally, carbon dioxide is removed from the exhaust stack, and can either be captured or it can be purified to beverage/food grade quality and used in carbonated drinks.

"The 'quad-gen' design significantly reduces a business environmental footprint — carbon emissions. Furthermore, it provides a reliable source of energy in many markets which have a shortage or predicted shortage of power and adds efficient capacity.

"This tour will keep us in Nigeria for about 2 years. Plus, it will involve travel to different parts of the world. My family and I enjoy new (and challenging) experiences!"

Final words



Pastor Timothy Mowry

Before leaving for a vacation to Grand Cayman, British West Indies, with his family, **Timothy Mowry (SPCH '65)** penned the article below to his congregation. He addresses an important truth to his congregation and it is shared with our alumni. About three weeks before his death Pastor Mowry wrote:

If you were to die tonight and stand before God and He asked you, "Why should I let you into my heaven?" what would you say? "I've tried real hard to live a good life? I'm better and more deserving than the guy down the street? In fact, I'm so good I'll improve the neighborhood? I didn't steal or kill, etc?" If so, I have some bad news for you.

God demands — and He has every right to demand — that we keep His Law perfectly. This is an unconditional demand, a total demand encompassing the entirety of our daily life in thoughts, desires, words, and deeds. He has given us Ten Commandments, not Ten Suggestions. Try as we might, our works and efforts are worthless, insufficient. Isaiah describes even our best righteousness as "filthy rags" (Isaiah 64:6), and St. Paul calls us in Ephesians 2:3, "children of wrath."

Heaven is ours because of what Jesus Christ has done for us. It's a matter of **G.R.A.C.E. — God's Riches at Christ's Expense**. All religion falls into one of two camps: the "do" religions, which teach one must do something or work his way to heaven, and the "done" religion: Jesus did it all for our salvation.

Our salvation is "done," completed because of what Jesus has done once for all. Jesus through his suffering, death, resurrection, and ascension completed His mission: to seek and to save that which was lost. The account has been paid in full! Our works cannot add to or complete that which Jesus has fully and completely accomplished on Good Friday and Easter. It would be arrogance on our part to believe that in any way we can contribute to Christ's sacrifice for us or make ourselves worthy of God's amazing grace.

May we always place our trust and confidence in what Jesus Christ has done for us!

*My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
No merit of mine own I claim
But wholly lean on Jesus' name.*

*When He shall come with trumpet sound,
Oh, may I then in Him be found,
Clothed in His righteousness alone,
Redeemed to stand before His throne!*

Saint Paul Day of Reflection

January 24, 2009

"Educating for Vocation"

Guest speakers 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Banquet with presentation of the
Apostle Paul Award 5:30-7:30 p.m.