



# ST. PAUL EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH

1377 Lester Road, Valley City, Ohio 44280

330-483-4119, [www.spvc.org](http://www.spvc.org)

**November 2016**

## **So Much to Talk About!**

I tend to have a lot of different things on my mind all at once. (Not always the thing I need to be focused on right then, but lots of things nevertheless.) There is a lot going on in the world and right here at our congregation. So, here are a few sound-bites about what's on my mind lately, and maybe yours too.

## **The Election**

On November 8, you and your fellow citizens will go to the polls and cast your ballot. There are any number of local and state issues you'll need to decide about, but I think the presidential election is what is on everyone's minds the most.

Over the past few weeks we held a study on Sunday Mornings entitled "Called to Vote." If you didn't have the chance to attend, I'm going to post the study guide (with the "answers") on our website along with a link to the audio (such as it is) of the presentations and the slides. I hope you find it helpful. Here are a few of the high points:

- Sometimes God has spoken very clearly in His Word about things that are now up for a vote. Where we have a clear "Thus says the Lord" we should vote accordingly and uphold God's Word and profess our faith through our vote.
- Other times, we will need to vote on things that God hasn't spoken of in His Word. There's nothing in there about who should be the county surveyor, or how to fund rebuilding roads and bridges. These are the times we need to use our God-given ability to think. Be informed, think it through, talk with other people, pray, and then cast your vote.
- On whose behalf did you vote in the last election. No, not "who did you vote for" but whose interests and wellbeing did you consider as you voted? As Christians we are called to love God and love our neighbor. Cast your vote for what truly is in the best interests of your neighbor. Love them by being true to God's Word putting their wellbeing first. What will truly help them best?
- God calls us to pray for our leaders. He establishes all earthly authorities and we should always pray that they would be the best leader we've ever had. As far-fetched as that may seem, wouldn't that truly be an answer to prayer?
- Pray, vote, and repent. We'll never have pure motives for what we do, so we should be willing to repent when we put ourselves ahead of our neighbor, when we curse the authorities, or when we wonder if we'll be able to live with the results of the election. Repent and know that God still rules in Heaven and on Earth and pray that His will be done. Remember your neighbor (especially the most vulnerable among us, the unborn, the aged, and the infirm) and then, whatever the outcome, pray and work another day.

## The World Series

I half expected to see church attendance make a huge jump as people thought certainly the End of the World had arrived with a Cubs-Indians World Series! These two teams slugging it out is really a breath of fresh air as it seems everyone is excited that one of these two teams who haven't won (or BEEN TO) a World Series in so long will come out on top. Enjoy the series no matter what the outcome.

## The Mission of St. Paul, Valley City

I'm always amazed at the blessings God has poured out on our congregation. The people who gather and serve, the vibrant worship, the caring atmosphere, and the new faces that join us in the pews. It is a lot of fun being your pastor and serving with you.

We have a lot of opportunities knocking at our doors.

- **Outward Focus:** We've welcomed more than 50 new members this year. There are homes and apartments being built all around us that are filled with people for whom Christ has died and who have the Gospel right at their fingertips. How do we reach them and how do we inform them about what it means to be Lutheran and become a part of the Body of Christ here?
- **Alaska:** We're still on-track to coordinate a team to serve at a site in Alaska this coming summer. Serving on a team like this can have a wonderful impact on your faith. With a new perspective on what truly matters in faith and life you'll return home with a message to share with those who haven't yet served like you have.
- **Member-care:** Within our own church family we have members who slip away and are in spiritual peril as they are not in God's Word. They need our prayers and encouragement to return to God's gifts of Word and Sacrament.
- **Youth:** Our youth are active and ready to continue to grow in their faith. They loved travelling to the Higher Things gathering. What about when they head off to college or move to a new job? Have we prepared them to find a church and stay connected?
- **Nurturing the Faith:** St. Paul is a fantastic place to grow in the Faith. Don't pass up opportunities to study and grow. Our Sunday School, Confirmation Class, and Bible Classes are bursting at the seams. What if we could provide more opportunities for study?
- **Families:** The average age of our members is 38-years old. The average across the LCMS is 56. That means we're a young congregation. It also means we have lots of families and working households. How can we help them grow in their faith and live as God's people as fathers and mothers? How can we care for our children and their spiritual care?

So, we have lots of opportunities to grow in our faith and bring the faith to others. Over the next several months we'll keep talking about these opportunities, how to meet them, what's next, and what do we need to focus on first.

## **Worship Committee**

The five-member worship committee (Karen Myers, David Spry, Kathy Fargo, Ray Miller, and myself) will be attending a 3-day workshop at the Seminary in Fort Wayne in early November. The conference is celebrating the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our current hymnal, Lutheran Service Book. We'll look at the development of hymnals in the LCMS (including 1943's "red hymnal" and 1982's "blue hymnal") and how we can use the hymnal to lead our congregation in joyful and Christ-focused worship as we gather around Word and Sacrament.

## **Vicarage**

The 2016 budget included funds to apply to host a vicar (seminary student-intern) for a full year. We applied but were not assigned a worker (there were several dozen congregations who were likewise disappointed). This year's budget includes those funds again in hopes that we can be a host-congregation for a vicar. St. Paul would be a great place for a future pastor to grow in the ministry. We are a healthy and vibrant congregation that is a joy to serve. The flip-side of that health and vibrancy is that we're running at 110% most of time. Having another preacher, visitor, and Bible-class leader will further enrich the work that God has blessed us with. Hosting a vicar is a great opportunity to see what is possible when we have more hands-on-deck to coordinate our ministry.

## **Seminary Student Support**

Over the past several years St. Paul has generously supported the studies of Jeff Burgess as he worked through Seminary. With his graduation in May, we have the opportunity to continue to support the formation of future pastors for the LCMS. Initially, it was thought that we would focus that support on the vicar we would be hosting (and could be again in the coming year). But, that was not to be (as mentioned above). The funds raised at the golf outing and other gifts that have been earmarked toward the support of seminary education have been used to finalize our support of Jeff and then to also "adopt" a seminary student at each of our two seminaries. While Jeff's support was unique because he was "one of our own," I hope that we can continue to see the need to generously support future pastors and their families.

On the following two pages you'll find letters from Seminarian David Weirauch (Fort Wayne) and Adam Wolfe (St. Louis). As they introduce themselves, we begin to get a picture for how personal our support of seminary education continues to be even now as Jeff has graduated. These men are someone's "Jeff"! I hope you'll take a minute to send them a note and certainly to remember them in your prayers. Lord willing, perhaps we will have the opportunity to meet them face-to-face as our guests.

There's even more to talk about and more opportunities on the horizon. Stay tuned. In the meantime, pray for the workers and work of St. Paul. Jump in whenever you see the opportunity and enjoy serving in love and growing in faith. This is fantastic place to receive God's gifts.

In Christ,  
Pastor Zielinski

David, Kaci, Samuel, and Kaleb Weirauch 2323 Hiawatha Blvd Fort Wayne, IN 46809
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Sem. Adam Wolfe 801 Seminary PL Clayton, MO 63105
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801 Seminary Pl.  
Clayton, MO 63105

October 15, 2016

Dear Members of St. Paul,

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ! My name is Adam Wolfe and I am pleased to meet all of you at St. Paul Lutheran Church. As I was looking through my financial aid information I came upon the contact list which has you listed as my Adopt-A-Student sponsors! I am beyond thrilled and thankful that you have chosen to use your talents and finances to support me as I begin my studies at the seminary with the goal of being able to share the Gospel in the parish ministry.

As I look forward to developing a relationship with you personally throughout these years and beyond, I will say a little bit about myself to start off so you know who you are in contact with. Again, my name is Adam Wolfe and I am a first year student at Concordia Seminary St. Louis. I am from Germantown Wisconsin as I was born and raised there my whole life and attended Concordia University Wisconsin in Mequon for my undergraduate. Actually this is the first time I have lived outside of my home because I commuted to college at Concordia all four years. Upon moving, many tears were shed from my Mother (which is what mothers are good at doing), but overall it has been a great move and I am finally settled in my dorm room at the Seminary.

Now while many people may assume that because I am from Wisconsin, and have lived there my whole life, that I must love the Green Bay Packers but they are wrong... Now wait a minute, who am I kidding, I love the Packers!!! I thought I would throw you for a loop there and make things interesting. In truth, I have been a big Packer fan as far back as I can remember and I enjoy going to games if I can get ahold of tickets.

I hope that all is going well with all of you and your ministry. Fall is here now and it is a good way to get back in the swing of things as this summer weather draws to a close. As things change and times are different I recall the passage from Proverbs 3:5-6 "Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths." I take comfort knowing that our Lord and Savior Jesus will never change and that he has a plan for all of us. I hope this brings you comfort as well.

Will keep in touch and hope to hear from you soon!

In Christ,

*Adam Wolfe*

Dear St. Paul Lutheran Church

We are so happy that you have been assigned to us as an adopting party for my final year at seminary. I'm sure you have received some information regarding my family and myself but I will introduce us again.

My name is David Weirauch and I am beginning my fourth year at CTSFW. I recently returned from Highland Indiana where I served Redeemer Lutheran Church for the past year. I loved vicarage and it was hard to leave such a loving and caring congregation. That's kind of the curse of vicarage years. You grow to love the people you serve there and then after 12 months you have to leave. For me I was the 26<sup>th</sup> vicar in that congregation's history so they were used to it. You make friends and grow close to people and I hope to foster those friendships forever.

A little about myself, I grew up in Northwest Ohio in a small town called Liberty Center. It's about 45 minutes west of Toledo. I went to church in a small town called Wauseon, St. Luke Lutheran Church. I was baptized and confirmed in this congregation. Incidentally this is the same church my wife was baptized and confirmed in as well. She is a graduate of Concordia University Chicago and has her degree in Early Education. She graduated and moved back home and took a call to Florida to serve as a kindergarten teacher. It was then we decided to get married and we both moved to Florida. It was there that I decided that I wanted to go to the seminary. Having only an associate degree we moved back to Wauseon where I enrolled at Bowling Green State University. During this time in Florida and our move back and me starting school again our first born, Samuel was born. Samuel is now four going on five and he is all boy. He loves trains, boats, dinosaurs, and the "What's in the Bible" movie series. Couple this with playing in the dirt and helping dad in the garden, he gets a bath on average 2 times a day during the summer.

After I graduated with my undergrad we immediately moved to Ft. Wayne. When Samuel was born Kaci decided that she would like to stay at home with our children and we really haven't looked back. The first two years of seminary well were the first two years of seminary. I studied, wrote papers, read books, did all the things that seminary students do. In those two years of school Kaci and I suffered 3 miscarriages. And we carried those losses into my vicarage year. So when we found out within the first week of my vicarage we were pregnant again, we were scared to say the least. We had found out that Kaci had some medical issues that may have been causing the miscarriages. We had just started treatment when we found out. The first few months saw us driving to specialists in Chicago and Ft. Wayne. My congregation was very understanding and helpful. Nine months later all that fear and uncertainty was gone when Kaleb was born. Kaleb is now 3 months old and is loved, maybe most of all by his big brother.

We are anxious to begin this final chapter of my seminary career and its made easier by having congregation such as yourself to support us. We look forward to getting to know you better through out his year. You should know that I am bit of a writer so you can anticipate many letters from me.

God's Blessings.

David Weirauch and Familv.



*Family*

*Decorations*

*Music*

*Presents*

*Kids' Program*

# THE BEST PART OF CHRISTMAS

*Christ*

WEDNESDAYS  
IN  
ADVENT

11:30AM  
&  
7:00PM

NOVEMBER 30  
DECEMBER 7  
DECEMBER 14

SUNDAY SCHOOL  
PROGRAM

DECEMBER 18  
10:30AM

CHRISTMAS EVE

4PM & 7PM

*3:30pm & 6:30pm  
Carols by request*

CHRISTMAS DAY

*& New Year's Day*

10AM

*One Service  
on Sunday*



## **LWML**

All the Ladies of St. Paul are invited to join The LWML Group. Our next meeting will be on Tuesday November 1st at 10:00am. Election of officers will take place at this meeting.

Mark your calendars for Sunday December 4<sup>th</sup> for our annual Christmas Tea. This year we are having the Tea in the afternoon at 3:30pm. Watch for more information in the bulletin over the next few weeks.

### **Lorain-Medina Zone**

We held our Women's Retreat this October 8<sup>th</sup> and enjoyed our speaker, Carolyn Brinkley, and her most knowledgeable topics and discussions.

We walked the halls and sang songs to the residents, they enjoyed our singing and we enjoyed seeing them sing along. We finished our tray cards and they will be on the resident's dinner tray. The Lutheran Home at Concord was most accommodating and a beautiful facility for a retreat.

Our next meeting will be November 12<sup>th</sup> at St Paul, Valley City beginning at 10. Please come to hear about this past year and bring plans for 2017. Let us know what was good and what did not go so well. Also if you have any new ideas for events and ingatherings.

Ethel Schiemann,  
Zone President



## QUILTERS

The quilters meet the third Wednesday of the month at NOON. Note the time change. Some of us will brown bag it and eat after Bible Study ends and then go into a quilting bee. Come for lunch or after. If you would like to join us in making tie quilts, bring your scissors and come down to the church basement.

## EVANGELISM

Thank you for the many news articles and pictures, about our members, for the bulletin Board in the narthex. Our "corner" has grown to half of the board! After a month or two, the articles and pictures will be returned to you. Keep the news coming! As you can see, our members keep busy with many fun and worthwhile activities.

On the bulletin board, did you notice the note card with a picture of a church on it? It is next to the family picture of Pastor Jeff Burgess. This picture is St. Matthew Lutheran in Mancelona, MI, the church that Jeff is now serving as their pastor. It looks similar to our original church building - how interesting!

Our card ministry is losing one of the ladies who sends special greeting cards every month to many of our members. Thank you, Wendy Patrick, for your interest in this ministry. Anyone wishing to be a part of this dedicated group, men or ladies, please contact Marilynn Rauhaus or Cindy Hawke in the church office.

"Free" Christmas cards will be arriving in November. In packets of twelve, the cards are a combination of religious and secular. They will be at the Welcome Center. Feel free to take them for your use or for someone you know who would appreciate them.

The shut-in list is continually updated. This list is available to you on the bulletin board or at the Welcome Center. These special members welcome mail, phone calls, or visits from you. Please keep these members in mind, as Thanksgiving and Christmas will soon be here!

## CHOIR

Choir practice will continue on Thursday evenings at 7:00pm. They will **NOT** meet on November 24<sup>th</sup>, Thanksgiving. Join the Choir and members of St. Paul on Wednesday November 23<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm as we sing praises and thanksgiving to God our Father.





## **HOMEMADE PUMPKIN ROLL**

Save yourself the time and hassle of making a homemade dessert this holiday season. The pumpkin rolls will arrive frozen and will thaw in 2-3 hours. Great gift for teachers, hosts, neighbors, and friends. The order forms are at the Welcome Center. Pumpkin Rolls will be available for pick up on Sunday November 20, 2016.

## **HOMEMADE PUMPKIN ROLLS** **\$10 PER ROLL**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Quantity: \_\_\_\_\_ x \$10 Total: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Traditional \_\_\_\_\_ Gluten Free

Please leave your order form and money in the box at the Welcome Center. You may pay by cash or check (make the check payable to St. Paul Lutheran Church).

## **CELEBRATING OUR GRANDPARENTS AND GRAND FRIENDS**



Join the Youth and Confirmation members  
of

St. Paul Lutheran Church

As we celebrate our Grandparents and  
Seniors with a special meal prepared  
and served by our Youth.

**Sunday, November 13, 2016 - 5pm**

We will begin at 4:30pm with a short worship service with communion  
for those seniors who are members of St. Paul.

Then we will join with others at 5pm for a delicious dinner.

RSVP's are necessary

Grandparents – let your youth member know that you will be joining us.

Seniors – call the church office with  
your RSVP 330-483-3883.

**Youth and Confirmation Members, plan on arriving at 2:00pm.**

**See Colleen Kato if you have any questions.**

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## **VOTER'S MEETING**

The Voter's Meeting will be held on Sunday, November 13<sup>th</sup> between the services at 9:15am.

This includes important elections for the Executive board for 2017-2018 and approving the budget for 2017. Please make time to attend.

Sunday School teacher may. The students will be supervised for you.

## HOLIDAY DECORATING

We are looking for volunteers to help decorate again this holiday season. The sign-up sheet is at the Welcome Center!



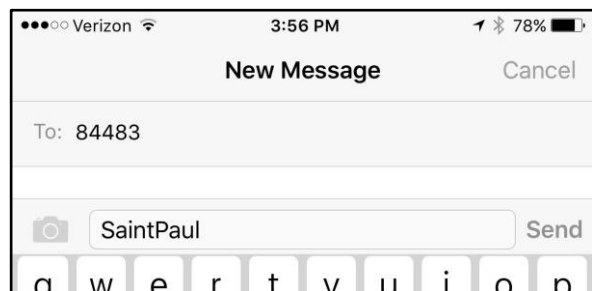
In the event that we may have to cancel our Worship Service or an event due to inclement weather, we will post the cancellation on WKYC (Ch. 3) and WEWS (Ch. 5). You may also call 330-483-3883 and listen to the voicemail for the cancellation. We will also add the cancellation notice to our website: [www.spvc.org](http://www.spvc.org).

## NEED HELP?

**OAK FAMILY CARE CENTER** - They offer services such as classes and support groups, professional counseling, free pregnancy testing and ultrasounds, material goods and food pantry-just to name a few things. This is a Christian based organization (non-denominational) to reach out and serve individuals and families in their time of need.



**TEXT UPDATES** Stay connected to everything going on at St. Paul. Sign up for text updates and receive occasional announcements, urgent prayer requests, cancellations, and other information. Text the keyword **SaintPaul** to the number **84483**. We use "RainedOut" as our text provider. It's free, but your normal text message rates apply.



# PLEASE HELP SUPPORT ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

## THROUGH THRIVENT CHOICE!

If you are an eligible Thrivent member, please consider directing Thrivent Choice Dollars to **St. Paul Lutheran Church, Valley City**. Learn more by visiting [www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice](http://www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice) or by calling Thrivent at 1-800-847-4836 and when prompted, say “Thrivent Choice.” Thank you for helping to support the mission of St. Paul!

Don't forget to set  
your clocks back  
Saturday night  
November 5<sup>th</sup>.  
Daylight Savings  
time begins!



# November 2016

## Church Events

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

		1	2	3	4	5
		LWML meeting 10am	Worship Committee Meeting 6:30pm			Set your clocks back!
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
8 & 10:30am Worship Service 9:15a SS & Bible Class No New Member Class	No Confirmation Handbell Practice 7:00pm Worship Committee, Fort Wayne	Elder Meeting 7pm  Worship Committee, Fort Wayne	Bible Study 10-11:30am	Choir Practice 7pm		LWML Lorain- Medina Zone meeting 10:00am at St. Paul, VC
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
8 & 10:30am Worship, 9:15a SS Voters meeting 9:15 Blood Pressure Thanksgiving Meal 4:30 New Member Class 6-7:30pm	Confirmation 6:00-7:30 Handbell Practice 7:00pm	Executive Board Meeting 7pm	Bible Study 10-11:30am	Choir Practice 7pm		Food Pantry 10:30am
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
8 & 10:30am Worship Service 9:15a SS & Bible Class New Member Class 6-7:30pm	Confirmation 6:00-7:30 Handbell Practice 7:00pm		No Bible Study Quilters Meet 12:00pm Thanksgiving Eve Worship 7:00pm	Thanksgiving Day No Choir Practice		Christmas Decorating 9:00am
27	28	29	30			
8 & 10:30am Worship Service 9:15a SS & Bible Class	Confirmation 6:00-7:30 Handbell Practice 7:00pm		Bible Study 10-11:30am Advent Worship 7:00			

# November 2016

## Birthday/Anniversary

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
		Natalie Myers	Samuel Strba		<b>Bill &amp; Tolley Schnurr # 10</b>  Brian Dearth	Larry Krueger
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
<b>Jeff &amp; Grace Bailey # 17</b> Ron Strba Sr.	<b>Bob &amp; Ethel Schiemann # 46</b>		Miles Heyse	Laurie Baker Bill Schnurr IV	Sharon Jaeger	<b>Richard &amp; Dorothea Miller # 50</b> Debbie Heffinger Diane Peters Jessica Shook
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	Allysa Metzger Ricky Rasschaert	Ethel Schiemann	David Spry Ezmarelda Winterstein Valeria Zielinski	Adam Read Kathe Stumpf	<b>Ron &amp; Holly Pierce # 21</b> Ron Strba Jr.	Richard Olee Reagan Sherry
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
<b>Don &amp; Debbie Gotsch #44</b>		Anita Praisler Matthew Shook	Madison Jakabcic Ron Pierce Joshua Whitmer	Holly Hinderer Molly Ross	Nina Spry	Irene Sopata
27	28	29	30			

# Life News

November  
2016



[www.lutheransforlife.org](http://www.lutheransforlife.org)

## Life Newsbytes

### Unborn's Heartbeat Occurs at 16 Days, Study Finds

A baby's heart first beats far earlier than was previously understood. Until recently, the accepted beginning point of a baby's first heartbeat was around day 21. Now a new study published in *eLife*, a peer-reviewed, open-access scientific journal, finds a baby's first heartbeat occurs even earlier: at 16 days. A team funded by the British Heart Foundation [BHF] at the University of Oxford discovered that in mice, the heart muscle starts to contract as soon as it forms the cardiac crescent—an early stage in heart development—rather than the later stage when the heart appears as a linear tube. In mice, this crescent appears 7.5 days after conception, which is equivalent to day 16 in a human unborn baby. Scientists hope this discovery can help in understanding and treating congenital heart disease. (*NRL News Today*, 10/12/16; *Christian Life Resources LifeWire*, 10/13/16)



For those who have had an abortion—there is a **Word of Hope** for broken hearts. Call

888.217.8679 or go to  
[www.word-of-hope.org](http://www.word-of-hope.org).

## Speaking Up For Life

“Dear ones, in a culture and society increasingly divided by ideas and behaviors, let us never forget that we have no human enemies. Our God came to a ‘hostile’ people to win them with His love, not His ‘correctness.’ Let us do the same with those who are their own worst enemies. Today ... let us overcome darkness not with rhetoric and force, but with humility and faithfulness. Love one another, even those who hate you.” *Father Barnabas Powell, Cumming, Georgia*

“Do you want to do something beautiful for God? There is a person who needs you. This is your chance.” *Mother Teresa (on adoption)*

“If you keep thinking of your life—which is utterly unique in the entire universe!—as a true gift, you will draw nearer to the Giver of that gift. So, Happy Thanksgiving!” *James M. Kushiner, The Fellowship of St. James*

“After you have thought about your earthly blessings, take some time and meditate on your spiritual blessings from the Lord. Think of your Baptism when the Lord adopted you into His family and gave you forgiveness of your sins, life, and salvation.” *James Schroeder, LCMS Foundation*

[www.lutheransforlife.org/media/life-quotes](http://www.lutheransforlife.org/media/life-quotes)

**Keep life issues before your congregation:**  
**LifeDate** journal • **Life News** bulletin inserts  
• **Life Notes** email • **Life Quotes** and **Life Thoughts** in the Church Year



## Owen's Mission—in Williamsburg, Iowa

From Rev. Karl J. Heck, Saint Timothy Evangelical Lutheran Church, Williamsburg, Iowa:

“On Sunday, August 14, Saint Timothy Evangelical Lutheran Church combined her adult Bible class and Sunday school hour (well, a little more than an hour!) and gave a great life presentation using Scriptures and some tract materials, brochures, posters, etc., (as well as other materials we had prepared) that we use in catechetical instruction and other educational in-reach and out-reach. We also used the Touch of Life fetal models we secured from you some time ago. It was great for the elderly all the way down to the little ones. We also unashamedly tied this in with the current political climate in this country and the upcoming elections this fall; votes of Christians do matter! Anyway, it was a wonderful educational time; the models were wonderful. The children relished the babies. We had no problem retaining their attention!”

In the photo (l-r): Isabella Schlesselman (holding the 12-week-old model), Angelina Heck (holding the 26-week-old model), and Samantha Schlesselman (holding the 22-week-old model). Pastor Heck wrote, “Note how carefully and lovingly they are holding each of the babies. Absolutely beautiful! God’s blessings!”

[www.lutheransforlife.org/about/owens-mission](http://www.lutheransforlife.org/about/owens-mission)

