

# THE QUARTERLY BLESSINGS

The Official Quarterly Newsletter of St. Paul's Lutheran Church & School

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## DATES TO KNOW

- July 5 - Church Council Meeting
- July 6 - Women of St. Paul's
- July 6 - St Paul's Leadership & Staff Picnic
- July 8 - 1st Mornings with Mommy
- July 12 - Building & Grounds Board Meeting
- July 15-23 - Phone System Installation
- July 19 - School Board Meeting
- July 26 - Worship Team Meeting
- July 28 - Facilities Planning Committee Meeting
  
- August 2 - Church Council Meeting
- August 3 - Women of St. Paul's
- August 8 - Back to School Bash
- August 9 - Early Childhood Orientation
- August 9 - Building & Grounds Board Meeting
- August 15 - K-8 Orientation
- August 16 - School Board Meeting
- August 24 - First Day of School
- August 25 - Facilities Planning Committee Meeting
  
- September 6 - Church Council Meeting
- September 7 - Women of St. Paul's
- September 12- PTF Meeting
- September 13 - Building & Grounds Board Meeting
- September 20 - School Board Meeting
- September 29 - Facilities Planning Committee Meeting

If you would like to receive a copy of the quarterly newsletter via mail, please contact Carly Pickerign in the church office. If you would like to stop receiving a copy of the quarterly newsletter in the mail, please contact Carly Pickerign

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# MEET PASTOR KIETA & HIS FAMILY

by Pastor Geoffrey Kieta

Pastor Geoffrey Alan Kieta was born on June 22, 1963 in Munich, Germany where his father was serving in the US Army. He was the second of what would become four children. When he was two weeks old, his parents returned to the states. His early years were spent bouncing around from military base to military base. In 1968, his father left the service and the family settled briefly in Dowagiac, Michigan, where his mother grew up. Pastor was baptized as an infant at St. John's Lutheran Church of Dowagiac. For several years, the family followed his father's job opportunities, living briefly in several states before returning to Dowagiac, which he considers to be his home town. Pastor was confirmed at St. John's in 1977.

In 1981, Pastor Kieta graduated from Martin Luther Preparatory School in Prairie du Chien, WI. That fall, he enrolled at Northwestern College in Watertown to study for the pastoral ministry. After one year, he left NWC and joined the army where he served as an electronic warfare/signals intelligence analyst. While in the army, he spent a year studying Polish at the Defense Language Institute in Monterey, California and two years working at U.S. Army Field Station Augsburg, in Augsburg, Germany. While in Germany he attended the army's Foreign Language Training Center- Europe in Munich where he studied German.



(left to right) Benjamin, Heidi, Becky,  
Pastor Geoffrey, Joseph, Sandy



After being honorably discharged in 1986, Pastor returned to NWC to resume his studies for the ministry. He graduated in 1989 and enrolled at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary in Mequon that fall. He spent a summer working as a summer vicar at an exploratory mission in Brooklyn, New York. He vicared at Eastside Lutheran Church in Madison, WI. During his senior year, he served as a pulpit assistant at First Lutheran Church in Elkhorn, WI. He graduated in May of 1993.

During his vicar year he began to date Rebekka Eggert. They became engaged at the end of his vicar year. Becky grew up in Madison where her father was a professor at UW-Madison. When they started dating, she was a student at UW-Madison, where she was very involved in the WELS campus ministry. She had previously earned a bachelor's degree in computer science and mathematics. She earned a master's degree in computer science during Pastor's senior year at the seminary. She initially worked as a programmer for Epic Systems in Madison. They were married on June 26, 1993.

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Pastor Kieta was assigned to serve as a world missionary in Bogota, Colombia. After they got married, Pastor and Becky went to Monterrey, Mexico where they studied Spanish for a semester at the university there. Just after Christmas, they arrived in Bogota where they lived for about five years. At the end of that time, Pastor Kieta accepted a call to Grace Lutheran Church in Muskegon, Michigan where he served for nine years. In 2007, he accepted a call to Peace Lutheran Church in Livonia, Michigan where he has served for the last fifteen years.

Pastor and Becky were blessed with three children. Their oldest, Hannah, was born in Bogota. She earned a bachelor's degree in German and history from Wayne State University in Detroit in 2018. In 2019, the Lord called her home to heaven as a result of a car accident. She was an organist and had hoped to become an archivist.

Their next oldest, Benjamin, was also born in Bogota. He graduated from Martin Luther College in 2019. He took a year to work in China with the Friends of China program. His year was cut short by the COVID pandemic and after he returned, he enrolled at the seminary. This past May, he received his vicar assignment to Hope Lutheran Church in Toronto, Ontario. In July, he will marry Heidi Kostrzewa, an MLC classmate who also served in China and most recently was teaching second grade at Salem Lutheran Church in Stillwater, Minnesota.

Their youngest, Joseph, was born in Muskegon. He is studying electrical engineering and sociology at Michigan State University. Last July, he married Sandy Schnose, his high school sweetheart. She is studying computer science at the University of Michigan. This summer, Joe is working at an internship at the Christman Company in Detroit, while Sandy is working as a server in an Italian restaurant. Joe and Sandy both hope to graduate in late summer 2023.

Pastor enjoys reading, NFL football (he is a diehard, unrepentant Chicago Bears fan), movies and travel. Becky enjoys music, the great outdoors and travel. Pastor currently serves on the Governing Board of Martin Luther College and on the synod's Translation Liaison Committee.



**WELCOME**  
*Pastor*  
*Geoffrey &*  
*Rebekka*  
*Kieta*

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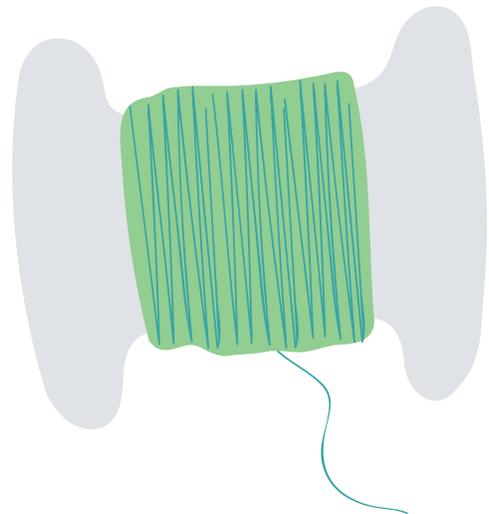
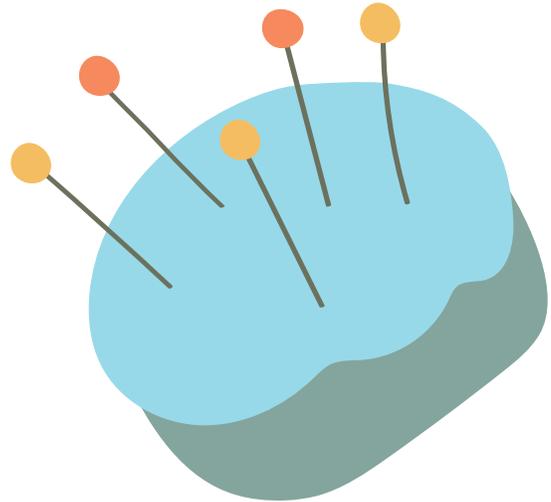
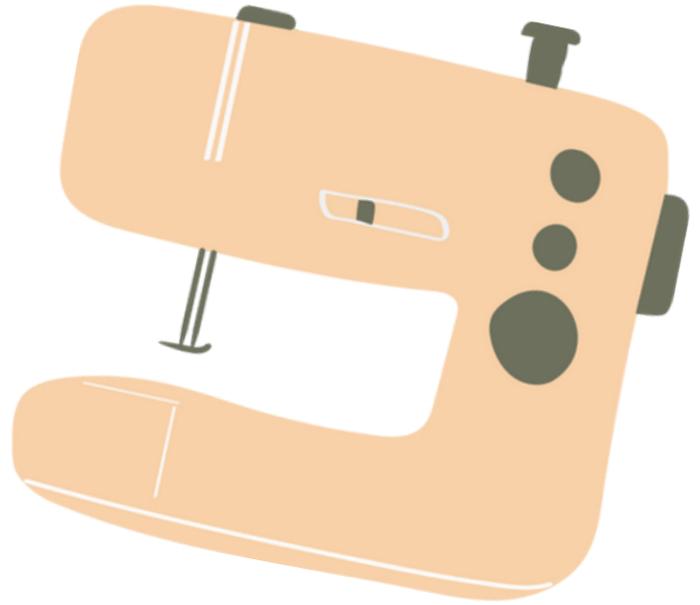
# DORCAS QUILTING GROUP

by Donna Chaudoir

This message is to enlighten you on our quilting group here at St. Paul's, named Dorcas. We are currently a small group of 5 ladies, and would like to grow. More volunteers would enable us to make more quilts, that can be donated to the needy in our area, and throughout the nation. We want our work to represent God's love and glory, as we present our gifts to families and called workers.

We meet Monday mornings from 9am-12pm, but the hours are flexible. Arrive when you can, and stay later if you like. The quilts we make are given to our called teachers and Pastor. When a family has their baby baptized, they receive a baby quilt from us. We like to donate quilts to the LWMS Fall Rally, which then are given to different charities in the synod.

If you enjoy sewing, or would like to learn, we would gladly welcome you into the Dorcas sewing group.



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# STEWARDSHIP & EVANGELISM

by **Herb Mehne**

## **Hello!!! What's this?**

This is a conversation between two St. Paul boys, about 21 years of age. They were meeting at TED's Pizza Place.

"Hi" Pete said to Joe "How 's it going with you." "Fine I guess but I'm little concerned about what is happening at church" replied Joe. "What is that?" asked Pete." "The stewardship thing" indicated Joe. "Ya, that's the stuff that the old guy gets up in front of the church and talks to us about." Pete said. "He handed out three sheets of paper, one titled **time**, one called **talent** and the third called **treasure**. He said that every on has the same amount of time. I don't believe that because I never have enough time to get every thing done. He also indicated that everyone has been given talents but not all the same ones. I don't believe that either: I don't have any talents. And the third one, treasure, I work my butt off for what I get and it's mine to spend on what I want. Right? He also put three to four key points on each sheet. What was that for? Oh, one more thing, he said that what I decided was between me and God." What good is that? "Well, I do not know the answers to your questions but maybe we should follow Pastor Seelow's suggestion and ask the old man at church next Sunday, "explained Joe." "I agree with you, indicated" Pete.

Next Sunday after church.

"Good morning, sir, could we have a moment of your time? We have some questions regarding your stewardship program" asked Pete. "Sure" said the old man. "What are your questions." "We would like to know about the sheets you handed to the congregation. Why are you interested in our time, talent and treasure" asked Joe? "I'm not interested in your time, talent and treasure; God is the one who is interested. He owns everything on this earth. Why the sheets with key points handed to the congregation? It was an attempt to tie the sermon to the stewardship program and then have you use it as you consider how you use your time, talent and treasure. Why make it between you and God? He is the one that died as your substitute. Christ covers you with his blood so you are free of your sins in God's eyes. You may feel that you do not have any talents but, do like to play basketball? If you do, why not help the children at our school by coaching the basketball team. It would give you an opportunity to thank God for His death and resurrection and His payment for your sins", replied the old man. "The same thing is true with your treasure, if God did not share part of His treasure with you, you would have nothing. Right? Stewardship is an opportunity for us to thank to God for what He has done for us" he added. "Does this answer your questions?"

By **The Old Man**

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# APRIL - JUNE 2022 MEMBERSHIP SNAPSHOT

## **Baptized - 4**

- Amelia Wagner
- Gabriel Mulske
- McKinley Morrow
- Amelia Skovbroten

## **Home with the Lord - 2**

- Wayne Cook
- Nancy Zimmer

## **Released from Membership - 10**

- Tom Sr, Katie, Thomas Jr, Josephine, & Samantha Jakubovsky
- John, Anna, Lydia, Isaac, & Adah Nielsen

## **Married - 2**

- Stephen Baehman & Faith Tietz

## **Transferred into Membership - 6**

- Joyce Klatt from Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Menomonie, WI
- Geoffrey & Rebekka Kieta from Peace Ev. Lutheran Church in Livonia, MI
- Jill, Darija, & Matthew Geissendoerfer from Peace Ev. Lutheran Church in Livonia, MI



**ST. PAUL'S**  
Lutheran Church & School