Parish Newsletter



"If we can just communicate, Together we'll walk thru Heaven's Gate"



ST. WENDELIN'S - LUXEMBURG, MN * May 25, 2025 - 664th Edition

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Fill your heart with the kindness of friends, the caring of everyone you love, and the richness of memories you wouldn't trade for anything.

NEXT NEWSLETTER

June 29, 2025 DEADLINE for News: Monday June 23, 2025

If you can get your items in earlier, it would appreciated.

Get your articles to Sheila Albers 7876 Ahles Road St. Cloud, MN Phone 320-251-7116

Or e-mail: alberssheila@gmail.com

MARKETPLACE NEWS

Mayday! Mayday!
Only 2 months until the festival
S.O.S. (socks or snacks)
We take it all!

-.. --- -. .- - .

This is Morse code for donate. (For real, check it out)

Thanks, Mary and Marla

THANK YOU

To our St. Wendelin School students for taking part in a living rosary on Tuesday, morning, May 20th in Mary Hall! With students seated on the gym floor gathered around a huge rope rosary, each one said his/her assigned prayer while also lifting up that particular bead, all under the guidance and encouragement of teacher, Kim Gruenes, along with the other teachers/ staff. Also present were a half dozen of our regular Tuesday morning rosary prayers who gratefully observed this special prayer time with our youth and came away gratified that this devotion, so loved by our Blessed Mother, is being taught to our young people. Again, Thanks and God Bless to Kim and all our teachers, staff and students for reverently bringing "to life" this much loved prayer!

From a grateful Saint Wendelin parishioner!



Grade School, High School and College Students

ST. WENDELINS CATHOLIC SCHOOL ADVISORY COMMITTEE



April 15, 2025 Unapproved Minutes

CALL TO ORDER 7:00 p.m.

Prayer was led by Bonnie Massmann

ROLL CALL: Bonnie Massmann, Pat Salzbrun, Lance Watrin, Leanne Donnay, Cassandra Deering, Amber Laudenbach, Todd Hurrle, Joe Watrin and Jason Salzbrun

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Routine Matters

PRINCIPAL REPORT

- 1. Donations
 - a. St. Augusta Legion
 - b. Many donations received for the fundraiser
 - c. Candy sales-all sold!

2. Financial Management

Finance Report-reviewed/discussed budget, food program in good shape

- 3. "Better World"-Company that offers services for free for Catholic Schools to help with fundraising needs/logistics such as QR codes/credit card transactions. *Need someone to look into this.
- 4. Employee Contracts-New work agreements sent from diocese.
- 5.Rally-To keep funding for non-public schools which aides in lunch program, textbook aid=\$8,000/yr, nursing/health services; a bus is being sponsored by the diocese to go to the capital on May 7th. *Contact Bonnie if able to help with this cause!
- 6.Bishop's Decree-Need to do a research study submitted to diocese before doing a large project one year prior to starting.

OLD/CONTINUING BUSINESS

Fundraising Committee Mtg. Report-

Enrollment for 25-26 current status is 71 signed for coming fall, with others showing interest. We had 68 students this year.

NEW BUSINESS

Membership of Advisory Board-all members plan on continuing and open to additional members if needed.

Committee arrangement for accreditation planning-discussed

Questions from Advisory Committee Members

Meeting Guests-none

Confidential Matters

Next Meeting: May 20, Aug 10. Meeting adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Leanne Donnay

PARISH LIFE COMMITTEE MINUTES

The meeting opened May 8th, 2025, in Mary Hall at 6:30 p.m. with prayer.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Tracy Dombroski, Ginia Meyer, Geralyn Hurrle, Keith Koltes, Kathy Watrin and guest Todd Hurrle

MEMBERS ABSENT: Char Volkmuth

Tracy gave an update on compiling information for a parish directory to aid in communication in our parish. After discussion, it was decided parishioners who had not completed the survey should receive a personal phone call to help with making a parish directory more complete.

Kathy gave an update on our new welcoming packet for new members to our parish. She had handed two out so far. It was decided that it may be best if group leaders were the welcome people and the contact for new members.

There was discussion on whether there is a need for more hospitality for people in our community who are going through difficult situations, whether it be needing a ride to an appointment or Mass or in need of a hot meal. If anyone has any ideas or thoughts on this, please contact a committee member. We will investigate this further.

Todd Hurrle was our guest and explained how "All Things New" restructuring meetings are going. Father Erik had asked Todd Hurrle and Tracy Dombroski to represent our church at these planning meetings along with other ACC members. They are tasked with bringing a plan for our cluster to the bishop by the end of December 2025. Currently, our diocese has 131 parishes with 60 active priests, less members, less baptisms, less weddings and Mass attendance is down. Taking all this information into account, they need to come up with a plan. The bishop would like the priests to each have one church instead of two or more. This will be a very difficult task, and all were asked to pray for wisdom for all involved in this decision and for people to come back to the Church. There is a significant need for parishoners to communicate and to re-engage in their parishes.

It was decided that a parish mission will not happen until the new diocesan restructuring plan is known. We hope to pursue this in the future, and it will be for our entire cluster.

The meeting closed at 7:35 p.m. with a closing prayer led by Tracy.

Respectfully submitted in Char's absence,

Kathy Watrin

Happiness cannot come from without. It must come from within. It is not what we see and touch or that which others do for us which makes us happy; it is that which we think and feel and do, first for the other fellow and then for ourselves.

To find the air and the water exhilarating; to be refreshed by a morning walk or an evening saunter...to be thrilled by the stars at night; to be elated over a bird's nest or a wildflower in spring---these are some of the rewards of the simple life.

PRESCHOOL NEWS

May was a very busy month for our school! We celebrated Grandparents' Day with mass, where one of our preschoolers read petitions, followed by breakfast and showing off their hard work and accomplishments. We celebrated the wonderful volunteers who help keep the school running, and ended the month with a graduation ceremony for the 6th graders and field day!

As the end of the school year quickly approached, the preschoolers continued working hard. Nine of them will be moving up to kindergarten in the fall and they have been working on spelling, reading, neat penmanship, and simple addition. We are confident that they are going to go far in Mrs. Matchinsky's class next year! It's bittersweet to say goodbye to them, some of whom we've had for two years, but it's so obvious that they are ready for the next step.

We are also ready to take the next step. Mrs. Haselkamp will be stepping up as the full time preschool teacher in the fall and Mrs. Gruenes will be stepping down. We thank you for your prayers, encouragement and support this past year. Blessings to you all.

Mrs. Haselkamp and Mrs. Gruenes

KINDERGARTEN NEWS

It is always hard to believe that the end of the year is approaching again! It is a wonderful time to reflect on all the growth and progress we've made. The children have been working on some writing activities where they have to write about favorite memories for the year, and also write about their goals and aspirations for the future. The students also worked on writing a book about their mother for Mother's Day.

In religion, we learned about the children of Fatima and we were able to watch Pope Leo be introduced. We held our final all school rosary prayer time and were able to pray with some of the parishioners. This year has been full of blessings!

Mrs. Matchinsky

1ST & 2ND GRADE NEWS

The 2024-2025 school year has come to an end. The first and second graders learned so much this year. I am particularly proud of the writing skills they gained this year. Their most recent project, a personal narrative, has proven to be a fun topic to write about. Another topic the children enjoyed writing about this month was 'peace'. Inspired by our new Pope Leo XIV and his call for peace in the world. The children turned peaceful adjectives into an Acrostic style poem. Here is an example from one of my second graders,

P: Patient
E: Enjoyable
A: Amazing
C: Comforting
E: Everlasting

Thank you for all the support you have provided to us throughout the year. We could not be successful without you! We pray that you have a lovely summer and look forward to sharing our achievements with you in the fall.

God Bless.

Rebecca Rebstock

5TH & 6TH GRADE NEWS

May was an exciting end of the year for the 5th and 6th grade students. We attended our class field trip to the Capitol, Fort Snelling, and the Bell Museum. Students celebrated Grandparent's Day by showing their musical talents and classroom activities. We also recognized the 6th graders for their achievements at St. Wendelin's. Congratulations to them and all their future endeavors.

Thank you to all volunteers and to the community for helping make this year special for the students!

Mr. Walls

3RD & 4TH GRADE NEWS

In our last month of school, we have learned about Saint Damien of Molokai and his voluntary dedication to serving the sick. We also completed our Junior Achievement program that teaches kids about making sound financial decisions.

As the school year is winding down, I asked the students to brainstorm some of their favorite things we have done this year. These are a few of the highlights from their very long list.

Making posters in Language Arts Learning about Saints and the Countries they came from

Science Experiments like the Egg Drop and Building a Boat

When Father Erik brought his friend Thomaso to visit our classroom

Having our own Bibles
Our class pet Emily
Writing in our journals everyday
Playing at recess
Field Trips

Thank you so much for all your support throughout the entire school year. St. Wendelin's School is a very special place that I am thankful to be a part of.

Mrs. Deering

LUXEMBURG 4-H

Luxemburg 4-H met on Monday May 12.
We talked about fair exhibits like foods or crafts. We also talked about decorating a booth at the fair with our club name.
After the meeting we decorated birdhouses and Amanda V. told us facts about birds.
Reported by **Scarlett L.**

Begin doing what you want to do now.

We are not living in eternity.

We have only this moment;

Sparkling like a star in our hand—and melting like a snowflake.

LIVE IN THE MOMENT

To be in the moment means
To sit in reflection, in silence,
Allowing for thoughts and emotions
To flow freely.
It means to take a breather
From your everyday schedule
To enjoy the simple things in life.

To be in the moment; means
Not letting life pass you by.
It allows you to experience
Each moment for what it is
And then let it go
Like a feather floating in the wind.

To be in the moment allows us
To see the many blessings we have--The wonderful gifts
That we so quickly look past
In our day-to-day lives.
It means truly and entirely living.

PEACE

It does not mean to be in a place
Where there is no noise,
trouble, or hard work.
It means to be in the midst
Of those things
And still be
Calm in your heart.

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CHURCH CLEANING JUNE, 2025 GROUP 3

(Cleaning time is 8:30 a.m.)

SATURDAY, JUNE 7TH

***Mary Broda
Jolene & Steve Brang
Laurie & Steve Opatz
Sue Eckerman
Marie & Ron Kotzer

SATURDAY, JUNE 14TH

***Judy & Dan Walters Sheila & Ron Albers Erin & Paul Koshiol Geralyn & Todd Hurrle Jennifer & Damon Rice

SATURDAY, JUNE 21ST

*** Ruth & Paul Roufs Marla & John Honer Jayne & Keith Thole Sharon & Ray Gohman Margie & Dale Koshiol

SATURDAY, JUNE 28TH

***Sandi & Mike Weber Gina & Joe Bartell Julie & Dale Kraemer Nancy & Jeff Albers Sue & Paul Koshiol

*** If you have an asterisk in front of your name, please call the other members the week prior to remind them of church cleaning. If you are unable to work your shift, please find your own replacement or switch with someone else. Thank you all so much!! You are appreciated!!!

When you talk to those who matter most, open the door to your heart. The wider it is, the easier it will be for things like compassion and understanding to come inside. And it just naturally follows...the more wonderful visitors you have, the more your life will shine.

RECIPE CORNER

Ron Albers

BLUEBERRY POUND CAKE

1 1/4 cups unsalted butter, softened

1 3/4 cups granulated sugar

2 ½ tsp. lemon zest

5 large eggs, room temperature

1 tsp. vanilla extract

2 1/3 cups plus 2 Tbsp. flour, divided

1 ½ tsp kosher salt

½ tsp baking soda

½ cup whole buttermilk, room temperature

1 2/3 cups fresh blueberries

Garnish: confectioners' sugar

Preheat oven to 325 degrees.

In a bowl of a stand mixer fitted with the paddle attachment, beat butter, granulated sugar, and lemon zest at medium speed until light and fluffy, 3 to 4 minutes, stopping to scrape bottom and sides of bowl. Add eggs, one at a time, beating well after each addition. Beat in vanilla.

In a medium bowl, whisk together 2 1/3 cups flour, salt, and baking soda. With mixer on low speed, gradually add flour mixture to butter mixture alternately with buttermilk, beginning and ending with flour mixture, beating until just combined after each addition and stopping to scrape the bottom and sides of bowl.

In a small bowl, toss together blueberries and remaining 2 Tbsp flour until coated. Using rubber spatula, fold blueberry mixture into batter until well combined.

Spray 10-cup Bundt pan with baking spray with flour. Spoon batter into prepared pan gently spreading with an offset spatula.

Bake until wooden pick inserted near center comes out clean, 1 hour to 1 hour and 5 minutes. Let cool in pan on wire rack for 15 minutes. Invert cake onto wire rack. Garnish with confectioners' sugar.

MINUTES FROM ST. ANNE'S CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S MEETING - MAY 13, 2025

St. Anne's Christian Women met Tuesday, May 13, 2025 in Mary Hall beginning with fellowship at 6:30 p.m. President Karen DesAutels called the business meeting to order at 6:45 p.m. with opening prayer and pledge of allegiance. Seventeen members were present.

Minutes from the April 8, 2025 meeting were read, motion was made to approve the minutes, motion was seconded and passed; also read was the Treasurer's report showing a balance of \$3,600.83 in savings and \$1,863.67 in checking for a total of \$5,464.50. A motion was made to approve the Treasurer's report, motion was seconded and passed. April minutes were adjusted later to include an additional Steubenville participant, which made our donation to \$400 in lieu of \$300.

A. OLD BUSINESS

- 1. Rosary at May Masses (as per our by-laws)
 Thank you to Sharon Spanier and Millie Brunn for leading the rosary so far this month.
- **2**. Easter Card Writing Ministry Volunteers wrote out and sent 32 cards to those in need. These cards were warmly treasured by so many.
- **3.** West Central Deanery General Meeting Update
 Our desserts and centerpieces were well received. Forty ladies attended representing various areas of our deanery. The Deanery is still in search of officers for several positions, if interested contact Karen.
- 4. Faith Formation Meal Donations Our donation of time and monies was greatly appreciated and it was recommended to do again next year.

B. NEW BUSINESS

- **1.** Fifty Year Members' Celebration...LaVerne Reinert, Jane Stang Our new Fifty Year members were honored in a ceremony where prayer, cake, and refreshments were enjoyed by all. Fifty Year certificates were presented with multiple rounds of congratulatory applause.
- **2**. Fun, Food, and Fund Days (Thursday, June 26, St. James Parish, Randall MN)

A sign-up sheet was sent around to the attendees. Our St. Anne's Christian Women group will be doing a strawberry theme basket for the silent auction. This day is always filled with fun and laughter. Carpooling will be arranged.

- **3.** DCCW Annual Fall Conference (September 20, 2025) Watch the bulletins this summer for information regarding this conference.
- **4.** SEEK 2025 Salt Lake City Utah by Maria Volkmuth Maria Volkmuth, Char Volkmuth's granddaughter, shared a beautifully written article about her faith-filled experience, with a sound recommendation to attend SEEK. A special thank you to Maria for taking the time to write this article which gave our group a better understanding of SEEK and how it benefits those who attend.



CHRISTIAN WOMEN MINUTES CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

5. Graduates' Mass Update

Kelly Knier gave an update - 3 graduates will be honored. SACW will be giving a card of inspiration to each graduate.

6. Market Place Donation

A request was received for either a monetary donation or a basket donation. Karen contacted the requester and asked if they could use scrapbooking items to make up a basket. They welcomed this idea.

7. Thank You Notes

Thank you notes were read and acknowledged from St Wendelin's School and Tom Dockendorf. After these minutes were developed additional thank you notes came in from Poor Clare's, St. Scholastica, Quiet Oaks and one of the Steubenville participants

8. Table Linens

Stacey Watrin requested a donation of black table linens for St. Wendelin's School. It was suggested to investigate further the type of fabric. This item was tabled for now, no pun intended .

C. COMMISSION REPORT

MCCL states "Action 4 Liberty" is a libertarian group to watch out for, it is not in line with MCCL's antiabortion policies and beliefs. Also, Linda Kaiser brought up a proposed MN state budget cut that will kill Private school support for needs such as bussing, curriculum textbooks, nursing needs, etc. She urges all to contact State Senator Aric Putnam at 651.296.6455 or 320.266.4032

D. NEXT MEETING DATE: September 9, 2025

Meeting location change was suggested to school library or Mary Hall entry way to make it easier for hearing, as the acoustics in Mary Hall are extremely poor. Ginia Meyer shared there is some discussion going on how to address this matter, as it has been noted at various events. Meeting location will be announced prior to September 9, 2025.

E. CLOSING PRAYER AND PRAYER EXCHANGE

Prayer Partner exchange took place along with a special prayer for All Things New. Members were encouraged to go to the website published in our bulletin regarding All Things New.

F. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted, **Cyntia Lommel**, Secretary

SALUTE TO THE GRADUATES



JACOB KNIER

Hi, I am Jacob Knier, son of Tony and Kelly Knier. I am graduating from Tech High School this year. While there, I participated in Band, Knowledge Bowl, Math Team, National Honor Society, and Men's Volleyball. I will be attending the University of Alabama on a full-ride scholarship and studying Aerospace Engineering. I'd like to thank my parents for supporting me in my education and my Faith.

JOCELYN ZOLLER

I am Jocelyn Zoller, daughter of Adam and Michelle Zoller. I will be graduating from Kimball Area High School and will be attending SCTCC in the fall. While at Kimball, I participated in Volleyball, Track and Field, National Honor Society, and Art Club. I like to be outside and enjoy everything God has created. Thank you to St. Wendelin's for all of your support.

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St. Wendelin's Parish Organ Tour of the American Guild of Organists

Twin Cities Chapter (April 26, 2025)

On Saturday morning, April 26th, history repeated itself at our church when a group from the Twin Cities Chapter of the American Guild of Organists came to hear our organ. This time, though on a smaller scale, the gathering of about 50+ people was reminiscent of one here in August of 2017 that filled our church with some 250 organ enthusiasts from

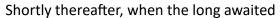
around the country and beyond. Though nearly eight years apart, both gatherings had a common focus...<u>our</u> <u>historic organ</u> thought to be the oldest functioning pipe organ in the state of Minnesota.

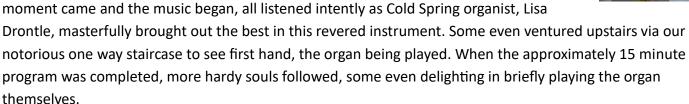
As the visitors arrived, most on a bus but a few in their own vehicles, a sense of excitement was definitely in the air. Upon entering the church, they were greeted with a welcome sign, along with greetings from hostesses giving out programs and a goodie bag. Projected on the upper front wall was yet another welcome note along with a photo of our organ.

Once seated and waiting for the music to begin, visitors' eyes were busily taking in the many sights of our church. Soon thereafter, Dr. Kim Kasling, a skilled area organist and former professor of music at SJU, gave a few words of welcome including a thank you to



our parish organist, Mary Neidermeier for all her work in attending to the many details of the visit and to Karen DesAutels who wowed the group with her A+ hospitality especially the musically themed goodie bags which included, no less, a homemade cookie in the form of a musical note!!!





Then, all too soon, though they and we, too, would have liked to linger, time did not allow that luxury as they needed to depart, so as to arrive on time at SJU, their next scheduled stop. Their departing smiles and words of grateful appreciation for our treasured organ as well as of our beautiful church are a constant









reminder to us to never take for granted all the history and beauty we have with us each day right in our midst!

May our historic organ continue to lead us in praise and worship and give joy to all well into the future!

<u>Pre 4th of July Holiday Hamburger Sale!</u>

The Luxemburg Lions will be grilling Hamburgers in the St. Wendelin's School parking lot **Friday June 27**th **from 10am-6pm.**Single or double burgers. Fancy it up by adding cheese, raw or fried onions, and pickles at no extra cost. Make it a full meal by adding chips, pop, or water.

There is plenty of room for parking campers and boats of any size.

Take your burger to go or sit and relax in our picnic area.

Proceeds support our local community.

Place your larger orders in advance with a call to John Honer @ 320-266-0337

Thank You for Your Support!



Bring your old eyeglasses and hearing aids for repurposing







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A great resource to help you grow in your faith.



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