

## From Africa to Texas: Learn about ELCA Partnership! Mueller Home, 7 PM January 8 (Monday)

Karen and Lee Mueller, along with the Friends In Faith of St. Paul Lutheran Church, invite you to hear about Karen and Lee's trip in September, 2017, to Tanzania and Rwanda. The Mueller's home is at 5435 Harms Rd., 5 miles east of La Grange in the Ruttersville area. The presentation will include a slide show from this highly inspirational and informative trip.

Traveling with others from the USA, under the auspices of the ELCA, Karen and Lee visited Keumbeine Masaai Village, Makumira University, Arusha Lutheran Medic Center, the Plaster House, the Masaai Lutheran Girls School and the Lutheran headquarters in Tanzania as well as worshipping in local churches. In Rwanda they visited the Kirehe Welding Project, Mumeya Community Organizing Project, Kayonza Parish, the Genocide Museum and met American volunteers in the Young Adult in Global Mission Program

To add to the excitement of the evening program, Karen and Lee have invited Andrew Steele and Rahel Mwitula Williams from the ELCA Global Church Sponsorship program to extend their planned stay in Texas one more day to be present for this gathering in the Mueller home and to meet their many friends in the La Grange area.

Our Church does care for so many beyond our borders, and we only know about it in a very distant and sometimes unrealistic way, so this gives us all a chance to hear firsthand about the lives of our brothers and sisters in Tanzania and Rwanda and the ministries of the Lutheran congregations in Africa.

The biographies of Andrew Steele and Rahel Mwitula Williams are included so that you may become acquainted with them prior to meeting them in person.

All are invited to attend this special evening. Spread the word!! Any questions, please call the church office, 979-968-5657 or Carolyn Bennetsen, 979-966-8104.

Light refreshments will be served! For any who do not drive at night, please call Carolyn Bennetsen, 979-966-8104.



**Andrew Steele** has served as the Director for ELCA Global Church Sponsorship since April of 2015. In this capacity, Andrew oversees the advancement efforts for ELCA Missionaries, Young Adults in Global Mission volunteers, Global Ministry projects, and the International Women Leaders initiative. These ministries make up \$33 million of the \$198 million goal as part of *Always Being Made New*:

*The Campaign for the ELCA.*

He joined the ELCA in 2013 as the Manager of Donor Relations for *Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA* after serving as a Senior Major Gifts Officer for United Way of Metropolitan Chicago. Prior to joining United Way of Metropolitan Chicago, Andrew spent a year volunteering in Bloemfontein, South Africa, as an ELCA Young Adult in Global Mission volunteer. He is also founder of BLOOM Africa, a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization working to strengthen communities and empower orphans in Lesotho, Africa. He leads annual cultural immersion trips to Lesotho and South Africa. Andrew graduated from Wittenberg University, (one of the ELCA's 26 affiliated colleges and universities,) with a degree in Sociology. He now serves on the University's Alumni Association Board as well as the Board of Directors for Wheat Ridge Ministries, United Way North-Northwest, and Friends of Lesotho.

**Rahel Mwitula Williams** is ELCA Manager of Donor Relations with ELCA Global Church Sponsorship. In this role, she seeks to develop and deepen relationships with ELCA Lutherans, to participate the church's call to service and create lasting impact through ELCA Missionaries, Young Adults in Global Mission volunteers, Global Ministry projects, and the International Women Leaders initiative.

Born and raised in Tanzania, East Africa, Rahel migrated to the United States with her family when she was 12 years old. She obtained her a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology from Loyola University and her a Master of Science degree in International Public Service from DePaul University. She is a founder of ILAVA: It Can Be Done- An African Inspired Lifestyle Boutique which serves as a way to help women entrepreneurs in Kenya and Tanzania gain economic security, and ILAVA Gives Back 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization that empower and provide academic, economic and social resources to women and children in targeted African's

countries. She serves as an Executive Board Officer for the BIGG Hearted Foundation, an organization that provides scholarships and education programs to Chicago land area students. She is a member of Shekinah Chapel Lutheran Church in Chicago.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>31</b> 9:00 AM Worship 10:30 AM Sunday School 4:15 PM Monument Hill Worship	<b>1</b> OFFICE CLOSED	<b>2</b> OFFICE CLOSED 9 AM - 3 PM 2ndChance 2:00 PM Afternoon Circle 3:30 PM - 4:00 PM Nursing Home Worship 4:15 PM - 4:45 PM Nursing Home Worship	<b>3</b> 8:30 AM Comm. Bible Study 9 AM - 3 PM 2ndChance 6:30 PM Agape/Wolfpack 7:00 PM Senior Choir 8:00 PM Praise Band	<b>4</b> 9 AM - 3 PM 2ndChance	<b>5</b> 9 AM - 3 PM 2ndChance	<b>6</b> 9 AM - 3 PM 2ndChance 5:00 PM Worship
<b>7</b> 9:00 AM Worship 10:30 AM Sunday School 4:00 PM 11th Night Concert @ Trinity, Frelsburg	<b>8</b> 8:00 AM Quilters 8:00 AM 2ndChance Clean Up 9:30 AM CWU Mtg in Friendship Room 7:00 PM Friends in Faith	<b>9</b> 3:15 PM Jeff. Pic Comms. 4:00 PM Mon Hill Comms	<b>10</b> 8:30 AM Comm. Bible Study 3:30 PM WOW 5:45 PM Confirmation Class 6:00 PM Bell Choir 6:30 PM LYO Wednesday 7:00 PM Senior Choir 8:00 PM Praise Band	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 5:00 PM Worship
<b>14</b> 9:00 AM Praise Worship w/ Children's Sunday School after communion 10:30 AM Sunday School	<b>15</b> 8:00 AM Quilters	<b>16</b> 8:00 AM Tacky Tuesday 2:00 PM Ladies Aid	<b>17</b> 8:30 AM Comm. Bible Study 3:30 PM WOW 5:45 PM Confirmation Class 6:00 PM Bell Choir 6:30 PM Agape/Wolfpack 7:00 PM Senior Choir 8:00 PM Praise Band	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 5:00 PM Worship
<b>21</b> 9:00 AM Worship 10:30 AM Sunday School	<b>22</b> 8:00 AM Quilters	<b>23</b> 6:00 PM Council Meeting	<b>24</b> 8:30 AM Comm. Bible Study 3:30 PM WOW 5:45 PM Confirmation Class 6:00 PM Bell Choir 6:30 PM LYO Wednesday 7:00 PM Senior Choir 8:00 PM Praise Band	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 5:00 PM Worship
<b>28</b> 10:00 AM Praise Worship 11:30 AM Annual Meal & Meeting	<b>29</b> 8:00 AM Quilters	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 8:30 AM Comm. Bible Study 3:30 PM WOW 5:45 PM Confirmation Class 6:30 PM LYO Wednesday 7:00 PM Senior Choir 8:00 PM Praise Band	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 5:00 PM Worship w/ Installation of Council Members

**ANNUAL MEAL/MEETING**

Sunday, January 28

**after the 10:00 a.m. Praise service**

The meal will be served at 11:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall, with the annual meeting starting at 11:45 a.m.

All reports to be included in the Annual Report should be in the office no later than January 9.

**11<sup>th</sup> NIGHT CONCERT:** The Lutheran churches of the Colorado River Conference will gather for an evening of Christmas music and fellowship to finish up the Christmas Season. Please join us **Sunday January 7 from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.** at Trinity Lutheran Church in Frelsburg. Bring your family, friends and neighbors for a very enjoyable evening of music! An offering will be received for the "Live On!" the Synod's Endowment Fund which gives scholarships to our Gulf Coast Seminars.

	5:00 p.m.	9:00 a.m.
<b>Jan 6 &amp; 7</b>		
Greeters		
Ushers	Bonnie Sladek Shiela Bae	Anita Barnett Carolyn Buchanek Barbara Greenwood George Eilert
Lectors		Atlan Citzler
Acolytes	Caleb Jochen	Rory Halpain
Altar Guild	Myrtle Friemel/Hertha Kruse	Velrie Prause
Flowers		Leon Mueller
<b>Jan 13 &amp; 14</b>		
Greeters		
Ushers	Bonnie Sladek Jackie Skelton	Frank & Lisa Moellenberndt David & Patty Ehler
Lectors		Praise band
Acolytes	Trey Cunningham	Berklaigh Arthur
Altar Guild	Dennis & Nancy Zbranek	Tanya Psencik
Flowers		Cindy Schwertner
<b>Jan 20 &amp; 21</b>		
Greeters		
Ushers	Bonnie Sladek Naida Roden	Marc Fitzpatrick Family
Lectors	Annazell von Minden	Stephanie Fitzpatrick
Acolytes	Garrison Bage	Maddi Mach
Altar Guild	AC & Annazell von Minden	Janet Coronado
Flowers		
<b>Jan 27 &amp; 28</b>		
Greeters		
Ushers	Bonnie Sladek Sharon Jochen	Gerald & JoLene Hughes Darrell & Lori Moerbe
Lectors		Praise band
Acolytes	Clay Wolff	Cole Stork
Altar Guild	Myrtle Friemel/Hertha Kruse	Liz Tannler
Flowers		Annette Citzler

**Monday Morning Quilters** will not meet Monday, January 1. Our first quilting day will be Monday, January 8 and will continue the regular schedule for January quilting on Monday mornings!! Join us!!

**Cut-Ups will not meet** Wednesday morning, January 3. However, we will meet Wednesday, January 10, 2018. We welcome you to iron fabric, cut squares, and make kits for sewing quilt tops!! These are for the Lutheran World Relief quilts!!

**Friends In Faith** will meet Monday, January 8 in the home of Karen Mueller, 5435 Harms Rd., La Grange, Texas. Karen will present a slide show from their recent trip to Tanzania and Rwanda. And two guests, Andrew Steele and Rahel Williams from the ELCA Global Church Sponsorship program will also be present!! We encourage anyone to attend. See newsletter for more information.

**Tacky Tuesday** is Tuesday, Jan. 16 at 8:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. A great day of fellowship as we pin, sew, and tack quilts for Lutheran World Relief. A pot of soup will be provided for our meal. See you Tuesday!

# January Birthdays & Anniversaries

1	Sarah Ehler
2	Laurie Schneider
3	Caitlin Morgan, Tyler Schmidt
4	Matt Jaster, Brantley Koehl, Patti Weber
5	Wallace Hobratschk
6	Sherry Huebel, David Stancik
7	Ali Huebel
8	Hayley Saunders, Cole Stork
9	Morgan Johnson, Tammy Kutac, Camille Stancik
11	Nick Dokos, Charlotte Hagemann
12	Gail Cook, Danette Coufal, Glenn Davis, Leon Heintschel, Amber Loehr
13	Frank Adams, Justin Anders, Elaine Halpain, Audra Spann
14	Mark Brown, Leerie Giese, Alex Schielack, Henry Weber
15	Amanda Drab
16	Rhonda Koether
17	Marilyn Gest
18	Brian Fowler, Todd Keilers, Gary Piwetz, Cindy Schwertner
19	Tara Childs, Brooks Dittert, Amalia Woolf
21	Andrew Arlund, Darby Fitzpatrick, Estella Lueders, Michelle Martin, Edwin Votaw
22	Sydney Fritsch
23	Patrick Raborn, Deanna Toddy
24	Max Karger, Todd Oehlke
25	Ruth Hensel, Emily Maupin
26	Charles Rau, Brad Schielack, Laurie Stork
27	Jeremy Brown, Kloe Kutac, Grace Robilio
28	Leroy Bennetsen, Daniel Pietsch
29	Alex Toensing
30	Laurie Boehm, Mark Davis, Kate Fitzpatrick, An'na Loehr, Claude Mertz
31	Stephanie Fitzpatrick, Blake Harbers

John & Bonnie Pineda	January 8	18 years
Leroy & Carolyn Bennetsen	January 13	41 years
Wallace & Verlene Hobratschk	January 21	57 years
Bert & Jackie Gest	January 26	5 years
David & Mary Ann Butler	January 27	56 years
Bill & Marlene Schneider	January 27	39 years

## Saint Paul Organizations & Groups

*If your group has a special event planned, let us know by the 20th of the month for inclusion in the newsletter. Any of these organizations and groups would be pleased to have you become a part of their ministry and activities.*

**Afternoon Circle** meets the first Tues., **Feb. 5**, 2 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

**Fishers of Men** will be announced.

**Friends In Faith** meet Mon., **Jan. 8, 7 p.m.**, at the home of Karen Mueller, 5435 Harms Rd, La Grange. Karen will present a slide show from their recent trip to Tanzania and Rwanda. Two guests, Andrew Steele and Rahel Williams from the ELCA Global Church Sponsorship program, will also be present! We encourage anyone to attend.

**Ladies Aid** meets the third Tues., **Jan. 16, 2:00 p.m.** in the Friendship Room.

**Lutheran World Relief Quilters** meet the third Tuesday, **Jan. 16**, at 8 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. All help is welcome!!

**Hand-Quilting!! The Monday Morning Quilters** meet at 8 a.m. each Monday in January in the Quilting Room. We invite any quilter to join us at anytime. All quilting proceeds go to Lutheran World Relief!

**The Cut-Ups** will meet Wednesday, **Jan. 10** at 8 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. We iron fabric, cut fabric and assemble squares into kits for sewing quilt tops!! We need your help!!

**The Altar Guild** meets quarterly. They meet again Tuesday, **Feb. 13, 4 p.m.** in the Friendship Room.

**AMEN** volunteers meet March 5 & 8

**Second Chance Volunteer Schedule:** January 2-8, February 13-19

Christ in our Home devotionals for January-March are on the Narthex counter.