

✠ St. Paul's Lutheran Church
Kenesaw, NE

Pastor Paul S. Duffy
402-752-3421, 3536
(Cell) 308-216-1254
<http://stpaulskenesaw.org>

Pastor's Ponderings
August, 2015



Dear Chosen Ones of God,

Yes, that's what we are! A royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession (I Peter 2:9)! I don't know about you, but I often forget that. The world around us really has the tendency to drag us down into the muck and the mire; and when it does, we tend to lose sight of the fact that we are chosen people of God. We were not designed to live in the mire and be stained by the world. Rather, we were called to be holy, remembering who we are. We're children of God, and God has made us holy by the blood of His Son, so we are called to live in such a way as is fitting for God's beloved people (I Peter 1:14). Otherwise, how are we to be differentiated from the rest of the world? God empower us to walk in love so those who live apart from God may "by your good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation" (I Peter 1:12)!

The Ever-Present Reality

I had a conversation recently with my lovely wife, and I made the statement that the thought of death and eternity cross my mind virtually *every day*. That might seem strange to some, as it's an unpleasant subject usually avoided. Truth is, we never know when we will breathe our last or when life may be snatched from us. We literally are one step away from the presence of God and should always be looking up, having one foot on the ground and one foot

in eternity, "*for the Son of Man is coming at an hour when you least expect it (Matthew 24:44).*" This applies both to His Second Coming to gather His people or when He calls you home!

Thoughts on Private Prayer

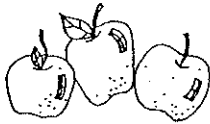
An awesome verse from Leviticus 6:13 reads, "Fire shall be kept burning on the altar continually; it shall not go out." This can be interpreted as keeping the "altar" of our private prayers burning. Jesus told us that when we pray in secret, the Father, who sees in secret, rewards openly (Matthew 6:6). Our "secret devotions" say a lot about the evidence of our faith. The Lord calls us to a regular and undisturbed time of prayer. Indeed, He commands us to pray.

We may ask, for what shall we pray? We can always pray for God's church, a particular ministry, our own soul, children, relatives, neighbors, our country. Certainly, this is also what Paul meant when he said to "pray unceasingly".

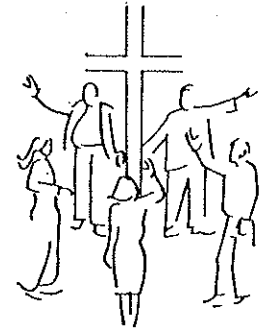
An Ancient Evening Prayer

Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night, and give Your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend to the sick, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous; all for Your love's sake. Amen.

See you in Church!
Pastor Duffy



Workers for the Lord in August



Acolytes: Paige Morrow
 Payton Morrow
 Savannah Williams
 Rhett Augustin
 Jenna Jaeschke

Ushers: Mike Pritchard
 Roger Harms
 Rodney Hagemeister

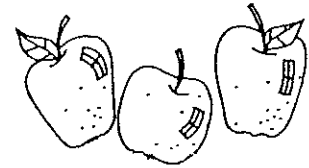
Elder: Leonard Schroeder

You have one teacher

Matthew 23:8

Counters: Dave and Theresa Powell
 Mike and Lorna Pritchard

Altar Guild: Valerie Schirmer
 Joyce Woodman



Volunteers Needed

Fellowship Coffee Hosts needed for August 2nd and Sept. 6th. Any person(s), family or organization can pick either Sunday. Sign up sheet is on the table by Pastor's office. If questions, contact Rosie Schroeder.

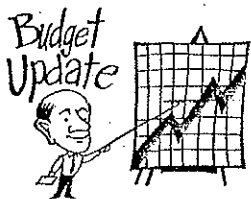
Sunday School & Midweek Teachers
 Soon school will begin again, please prayerfully consider if God is calling you to serve the children of St. Paul's. If you have questions or would like to volunteer contact Pastor Duffy or a member of the Board of Christian Education, Sharon Duffy or Brenda Mack.



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS 2015

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Rhett Augustin | 15 Delores Torske |
| 2 Paul Iden | 18 Elaine Beirow |
| 3 Nick Burr | 19 Blake Nienhueser |
| 6 Ellen Nabower | 20 Audrey Schutte |
| 8 Brent Enninga | 23 Marilyn Dittrick |
| 10 Nick Powell | Paityn Jameson |
| 11 Christain Ellis | 25 Violet Ava Linde |
| Brittany Worth | 26 Mike Quackenbush |
| 13 Jackie Boesen | 27 Jessica Kuehn |
| Marilyn Fischer | 31 Jacob Morrow |
| Roanne Mack | Aeden Schutte |
| Paige Morrow | |
| Payton Morrow | |

**HAVE A
 BLESSED BIRTHDAY**



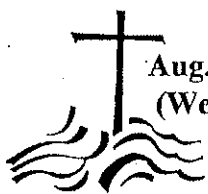
2015 Budget Analysis

	Amount Proposed For the Year 2015	Amount Received as of 6/30/15	Percent of Budget Met To Date	Amount Needed To Meet Budget
Missions	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 4,975.21	25%	\$ 15,024.79
Current	\$ 166,040.00	\$ 66,598.45	40%	\$ 99,441.55
Commodities and Assets	\$ -	\$ -		
Sharon Owens, Missionary	\$ -	\$ 150.00		



AUGUST COMING EVENTS

Aug. 5 † **Worship at Haven** †
(Wed.) Home 10:00 AM



Aug. 5 "Summer in the Psalms"
(Wed.) Bible Study 7:00 PM

Aug 12 **OGT Pack and Sort Day**
(Wed.) 10 AM - 2 PM

St. Paul's monthly pack and sort day at the Grand Island warehouse. Pool rides from the church at 9:15 AM. Questions? Contact Bev Nixon

Aug 16 **LWML Serves Fellowship**
(Sun.) Coffee after worship

Please join us for good food and Christian fellowship. Donations will be used by the LWML for mission projects.

Aug 17 **September Newsletter**
(Mon.) Items Due

Please place your lists of volunteers, etc. in the workroom. Classes and meetings resume in September. Do you have any special plans? Newsletter to be in mailboxes, Sunday, August 30th.

Aug 23 **OGT Crew Serves**
(Sun.) Coffee after worship

The Orphan Grain Train Crew from St. Paul's will be providing coffee and goodies for the fellowship coffee time after worship. All donations will be used for shipping expenses at the Orphan Grain Train.



Aug 23 **Preschool Parents**
(Sun.) Meeting 7:00 PM



Aug 25 **Preschool Begins Tuesday**

Preschool Registration for 2015-2016

Help us get the word out. It's not too late to register for St. Paul's Preschool for the 2015-2016 school year. We are a Christian preschool licensed by the State of Nebraska DHHS and associated with the Lutheran School System. Our curriculum offers developmentally appropriate activities meeting the individual needs of each student in a Christian setting. We meet 3 days a week.

To qualify, the child must be 4 by December 31st. For more information contact Michelle Hagemester at 308-325-5768 or Sharon Duffy at 402-752-3536. Financial aid available upon request. The time is now to register! Tell your friends!

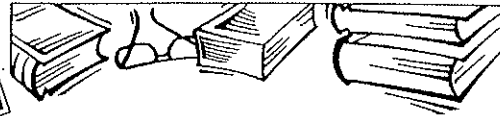
Aug. 30 **Hymn Sing** 8:45 AM
(Sun.) Prior to the morning worship we will be singing your favorite requested hymns. Place your request in the box between the mailboxes.



Aug 30 **Sunday School Teachers**
(Sun.) Serve Coffee

Sunday School teachers will be providing goodies at the fellowship coffee. Donations will be used to buy needed items for the Sunday School children, but if you would rather donate crayons or markers or construction paper that would be great too! Maybe even scotch tape? Thank you for your support!





Sundays, Aug. 30 - Sept. 13
Northwestern Publishing
House Book Fair

Following morning service
 Fellowship Hall

Sponsored by the Board of
 Evangelism/Stewardship

We're bringing the bookstore to your door! A variety of titles to choose from including new releases, children's books, devotional books and more. Come and peruse the quality, Christ-centered materials. It's not too early to begin your Christmas shopping!

Stop & Shop

There's something for everyone!



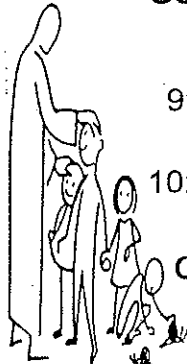
Upcoming Events

Sept. 13 Fall Schedule Begins

9:00 AM Sunday School and Bible Class

10:00 AM ✠ Worship Service ✠

Christian Education Sunday
 with
Installation of Teachers
 (Potluck following the service)



Sept. 18 -20
 (Fri./Sat./Sun.) **Nebraska South**
2014 District Retreat
 Midtown Holiday Inn - Grand Island

"Great is the Father's Love"

Registration Deadline
September 1st!

All women are invited to a weekend full of uplifting worship, workshops, Bible studies, singing, reflection, friendship building and more. . . Dr. Lamb, Executive Director of National Lutherans for Life will be the keynote speaker Saturday evening. Think of the retreat as your opportunity to share the love of serving with your pew sisters. A time for you to get away, take a break and be filled with God's love. Full details on display by Pastor's office or online www.lwmlnesouth.org. Pick up a registration form today and drop it in the mail. If you have questions contact an LWML member.



Sept. 22 LWML Meeting
 (Tues.) 7:30 PM Fellowship Hall

Our monthly meetings will begin again in September, always the 4th Tuesday of the month at 7:30 PM. We invite all ladies of the congregation to join us for Bible study and fellowship. Think about coming, LWML does some good, all to the glory of God.

Sept. 27 LWML Hastings Zone Fall Rally
 (Sun.) Zion, Red Cloud



The joy of the Lord is your strength. Nehemiah 8:10

THANK YOU

Dear St. Paul's Lutheran Church:

God wants us all to be saved and come to the knowledge of the Truth. His Son's death and resurrection, sufficient for all, was necessary even if only for one. Your sacrificial gift is clear witness to the truth that our heavenly Father is a loving God. Your Synod continues in the vital work of vigorously making known that love in word and deed, all over the world. We continue to pray for you and give thanks for you as you share your faith with the world through us. We thank God and your gift to The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod of \$91.00. It will be used in support of the Wittenberg Building.

In service to our Lord, Jesus Christ,
Mark D. Hofman,
Executive Director Mission Advancement

Praise to the Lord!

Hastings Pregnancy Resource Center can announce that a grand total of \$425.06 was given by St. Paul's members. Thank you so much. We can also announce that we have a new Executive Director. She is Jennifer Ames, who is the wife of Michael, who is the manager of Orschelin. They have 3 children.

Late this fall watch for the grand opening of our ST1-testing and ultrasound services also.

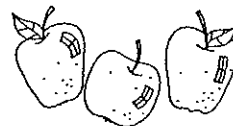
Thanks again for your help and blessings to each one of you.

June Reiners,
Treasurer of Hastings PRC



Welcome New Member

St. Paul's is pleased to welcome into our fellowship, Dixie Jackson, who as a baptized and confirmed Lutheran and by her profession of faith is now a member of St. Paul's. Dixie is the current administrator at Premier Estates (formerly Haven Home). She was born and raised in Axtel and now lives in Heartwell. Dixie is married to Steve and between them they have four grown children (2 boys and 2 girls) and four grandchildren. Steve is the maintenance director at the nursing home in Ravenna. Dixie's hobbies are crochet, embroidery, tending roses and riding motorcycles. Dixie has previous ties to Kenesaw, she is the niece of Rudy and Barb Jensen. Dixie states, "when I was looking for a new church, when I came to St. Paul's it felt like home". Welcome home Dixie!



Are You A Missionary? Gary Thiess, Director of Mission Central posed this question to several people and a pastor at the recent LWML National convention held in Des Moines, Iowa. How would you answer that question? No, was the recurring response. Gary says, "the real missionaries are not those that cross the seas but those that see the cross." The mission field is everywhere. Are you sharing the gospel and the love of Christ? Are you a missionary? YES!



Who can proclaim the mighty acts of the Lord or fully declare His praise? Blessed are those who act justly, who always do what is right. (Psalm 106:2-3)

OUR CHURCH

M R I F N O C T U D P N D P H
 J H W Z E K Y T O A D U T O S
 Y O U T H O L Y S P I R I T G
 P I H S R O W T M I U G A L C
 R I B P V Z O I T S R I Q U H
 E V H E X R N N T V N H P C O
 H E U S O X E R R E S S C K I
 T Z D N W M W C D L U T H E R
 A Y O U A O S G I B I B L E W
 F H V R C H L T Z V B P G W N
 F W C K U A E L P I R L H D P
 W A P T S V T P E A F E F I N
 S C I S U M T I R F U H S M D
 Z N X T I L E D O A N L G Y T
 S V O D H G R N H N Y Z U Q V

PASTOR	LOVE	CHOIR	NEWSLETTER
EDUCATION	FUN	MUSIC	FAITH
FELLOWSHIP	LUTHER	PRAY	TRUST
SERVICE	VBS	HELP	GOD
WORSHIP	CONFIRM	SHUT-INS	STAINED GLASS
HONOR	BIBLE	POTLUCK	SACRAMENT
CHRIST	MIDWEEK	FATHER	
ST. PAUL	YOUTH	HOLY SPIRIT	

THE GIVING CHRISTIAN #5

Four months ago we began a little series of thoughts dealing with stewardship. We began with the thought that the giving Christian gives faithfully. Then we considered the fact that the giving Christian gives compassionately and gracefully. Last month we considered the fact that the giving Christian gives proportionately. In this final installment of this round of stewardship thoughts, we will consider the fact that the giving Christian gives **globally**.

The promise of Jesus is sure as He says in Luke 6:38, *"Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."* With those thoughts, I would like to share with you the fifth and final thought in our series dealing with the fact that the giving Christian gives **globally**.

The work of Christ on our behalf on the cross of Calvary is an all-encompassing deed carried out to touch everyone, everywhere.

We read in John 3:16, *"For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."*

"For God so loved the world..." The world of people - that is every person of every period of time throughout history.

"For God so loved the world that He gave..." God's love for us motivated Him to give, and not just to give leftovers or a little, but to give His best as He offered His own Son, His only Son as our substitute on the cross to pay for our sins and be our Savior.

God loves and God gives **globally**, and this is our inspiration for giving. The giving Christian gives **globally**, eagerly supporting the worldwide work of Christ. The most spiritually alive Christians I know are those who have a passion for world missions and who back up that passion with generous gifts to the Lord's work.

When Jesus sent out His disciples to declare the Good News of the Kingdom, He told them in Matthew 10:8, *"Freely you have received, freely give."* And that is exactly what they did, freely giving all that they could in His name. Today, 20 centuries later, that is still the priority as followers of Christ sow the seeds of His truth in order to reap an eternal harvest.

Rev. John Heckmann

LWML Senior Pastoral Counselor



Many churches provide their children and many from the community, with an education that is Christ-centered and stresses the morals and values consistent with our Lutheran heritage. Approximately 1,200 early childhood centers and preschools with 87,000 children, ages infant through 5 years old, are operated by congregations and Christian Day Schools within the LCMS in the United States. Additionally, there are 113,000 students in 880 elementary schools. Domestic and international high schools in the LCMS total 130. In this new beginning of fall classes whether in public or private schools, keep these children and teachers in your prayers as they focus on academic studies for their minds and spiritual food for their souls. Pray they are nurtured and their minds renewed to reach their God-given potential. Keep them in your prayers and encourage them to do their best, be respectful, and be truthful, growing in faith and serving God and the community.

August 2015

PRAYER GUIDE FOR LWML MISSION GRANTS

PRAYER #1

My dear heavenly Father, as I think of this first day of school for all children, I ask that You help me remember that You always know and understand what is going on in our lives and You have a plan for the children in Your kingdom. You allowed Your Son to leave heaven, to come to earth, knowing all of the things He would face, including dying on the cross, as part of Your plan for our salvation. Grant these children a good adjustment to school, loving teachers, and new friends. Be with all of us as we make this tremendous change in our lives, knowing that You are watching over us. Amen.

PRAYER #2

Good and generous Lord, You have once more brought the year full circle, through planting and growing and ripening, to harvest time and autumn. We marvel at Your wonderful ways of bringing food from the earth for man's good. As we share these bountiful gifts with our neighbor, may we see the merciful, generous hand of Your creation. Strengthen our voices so that we can rejoice in our Lord and praise our King so that all may know of Jesus. Amen.

PRAYER #3

God of all creation, You give us the gift of seasons to mark our journey through time. The season of autumn, with its change of colors and falling leaves, reminds us that sometimes things must die and fall away for new life to arise. Such is the message of the cross - that through death of our sinful nature, we find newness of life through Jesus Christ who paid the price for our sins once and for all. In those moments when we experience setbacks or failures, help us to remember that You are always with us and that there is no failure or sin Your love cannot heal. Amen.

PRAYER #4

O most gracious God, as we go down new paths this fall, whether it be new schools, new teachers, or moving to a new home in a new community, help us through the unfamiliarity by being at our side giving us reassurance. Help us to know that Your love sustains us in all that we do. Give us courage to live and speak as Your child of the forgiveness of sins that Jesus won for us on the cross, which was confirmed by His resurrection from the dead. In Jesus' name. Amen.

www.lwml.org/missions

PLEASE FOLD OR CUT THIS GUIDE ON THE DOTTED LINE,
AND KEEP PRAYER GUIDE IN YOUR BIBLES
FOR DAILY MISSION SUPPORT REMINDERS.

MISSION GRANT STORY

BACK TO SCHOOL - MISSION GRANT STORY

For many people, the season of autumn is their favorite. Fall reminds us of the beautiful sight of leaves changing colors and falling off the trees, harvest time of crops, apple cider, and enjoying being outside with nature in the mild and delightful temperatures.

The calendar may designate January 1 as the beginning of the New Year. For many of us, however, fall seems like the real start of a new year. There is a certain excitement following the summer and vacation time. Many of us are dictated by school schedules when it's a time to start fresh and embrace new changes.

Those changes can mean new schools, new teachers, perhaps making new friends due to a move, and new school clothes. Many of our societies are gearing up for their fall programming, zones are planning their fall rallies and events, retreats are being scheduled, and districts are busy planning for their conventions in 2016.

Adapting to these new changes is easier for some than for others. But all of us can be challenged to make one important resolution: to spend time in God's Word on a daily basis. In His Word our Lord reveals Himself and His will for our lives. His revelation informs our hearts, heads, and hands and transforms our lives and lifestyles.

Please continue to pray for your LWML, its members and leaders. Let us also pray for the 2015-2017 mission grants that were voted on just a short time ago at Des Moines. In Lamentations, we are reminded that God's compassions never fail; they are new every morning; great is [His] faithfulness! (Lamentations 3:21-23) Because of His new mercies and grace each day, we can be confident in facing any "new" beginnings in September.

