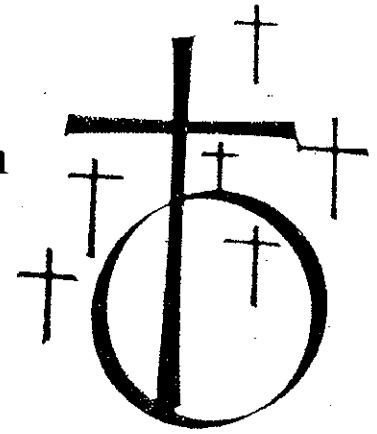
 St. Paul's Lutheran Church  
Kenesaw, NE

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

Pastor's Ponderings  
February, 2016



Dear Beloved in the Lord,

We are still in the midst of the Epiphany season, a beautiful season in the church. In it we are in direct contact with the beauty of Jesus as He manifested His glory through His coming as the Light of the World. He is the "Light to lighten the Gentiles." Typically, this is what the season represents.

In the doldrums of winter we like to see light. Think of Christmas, when lights of all colors shine brightly. We hate to see it go because we put away all the lights and candles that brighten the season. Epiphany helps us to hang on to the light for a little while longer. I've noticed in recent days that there are *still* some houses that turn their Christmas lights on; I'm guessing they're kept on because it is still the season of light in the Church Year.

I have always been fascinated by the city of Tromsø, Norway, near the Arctic Circle. For a two month period they are deprived of the sun. Then, on January 21<sup>st</sup>, they are treated to one minute of sunshine. On this day, Sol Dag, the children celebrate in school by making paper suns. It's a celebration because the light has returned and will gradually brighten greater portions of the day.

It's natural for us to love and embrace the light.

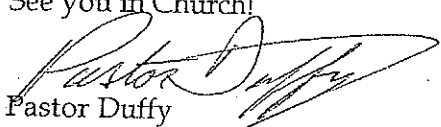
I'm also fascinated by the story of Bertrand Russell, the famous atheist who spent much of his life trying to destroy Christianity. It is reported that his last words as he was slipping away into death were, "More light!" In the throes of death he was apparently longing to see the light he didn't care to see while on the earth.

The fact is, we long for light.

Jesus is the Light of the World and came to bring light, God's love, and salvation to every man, woman and child. That very gift is abundantly given to all who receive Him, to those who believe on His name, for all who receive Him become children of light. The Bible tells us that God dwells in inapproachable light; and that is where we will one day dwell with Jesus - in the light of God, bathing in the light of God's love. I want to go there!

Now that Lent is around the corner, we must temporarily revisit a darker place - the sufferings of Jesus, the Light of the World, whose life Satan wanted to snuff out. The horrific, but blessed truth is that Jesus had to experience the thick darkness of sin and death and hell so we could become children of light and enjoy forever the light of God. His desire to have you and me share in His brilliant glory took Him to the pains of the cross - the cross we must revisit very soon...

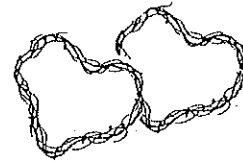
See you in Church!

  
Pastor Duffy

## Workers for the Lord in February

**Acolytes:** Kaylee Steer  
Paige Morrow  
Payton Morrow  
Savanah Williams  
Rhett Augustin  
Jenna Jaeschke  
Hope Nienhueser

**Ushers:** Lloyd Fischer  
Jon Denkert  
Gary Steiner



**Counters:** Jon and Tracy Denkert  
Doug and Kim Klusman

**Elder:** Lee Rockefeller

**Altar Guild:** Connie Bittfield  
Peg Saddler



## February Birthdays 2016

- 1 Steve Campbell
- 2 Linden Kimle  
Doug Klusman
- 4 Angie Harmon
- 5 Janae (Ramsey) Dreher  
Bailey Streff
- 6 Hattie Schirmer
- 7 Olivia Ehly  
Virginia Short
- 9 Bernice Petersen
- 11 Georgianna Klusman  
Ann Utter
- 12 Glen Kuehn  
Whitney (Rockefeller)  
Grauberger
- 14 Robin Stade
- 15 Danielle Burr
- 18 Margaret Wehrman
- 19 Stacy Adams  
Hilary Caldwell  
Shandra Uden
- 24 Greg Adams  
Bryan Steiner
- 26 Caden Jameson  
Brielle Schneider



STRENGTH  
IN THE FACE  
OF TESTING

# JOB

## Sunday Morning Adult Bible Class

9:00 AM Fellowship Hall

Why do people suffer, especially God's people?

Join us Sunday morning as we begin a study of

the book of Job to find the answer to this age old question.

\*\*\*\*\*

*We want to send a special letter to thank you for your generous donation of 7 bags of food given to the Hastings Food Pantry.*

*So many people will be blessed with your giving and we appreciate it so much! Thanks so much for thinking about us as this really helps.*

*Thanks again and God bless!! Have a great 2016!!*

*Hastings Food Pantry Board of Directors*



## Sunday School News

Thank You

On January 5<sup>th</sup> a check was sent to Lutheran World Relief for Emergency Water systems. We were able to supply 3 of the filter systems which cost \$190.00 each. So thank you to all Sunday School children and anyone who supported this project to reach out to the less fortunate with aide and the Good News of God's love.

Sunday School Offerings  
January through May will be donated to Habitat for Humanity in Adams County.



# FEBRUARY COMING EVENTS

Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup> † **Worship at Premier** †  
(Wed.) Estates 10:00 AM

Feb. 4<sup>th</sup> **Ladies Aid**  
(Thurs.) 2:00 PM

Feb. 10<sup>th</sup> **OGT Sort and Pack Day**  
(Wed.) St. Paul's monthly pack and sort day at the Grand Island warehouse, 10 AM - 2 PM. Pool rides from the church at 9:15 AM. Men can help also. Questions? Contact Bev Nixon.

**March Newsletter Deadline**  
Monday, February 15<sup>th</sup> to be in mailboxes Sunday, February 28<sup>th</sup>

Feb. 20<sup>th</sup> **LWML Hastings Zone**  
(Sat.) **Planning Meeting Spring Workshop** 9:00 AM  
Fellowship Hall

Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup> **LWML**  
(Tues.) 7:30 PM Fellowship Hall

Join us for a Bible study from the "Quarterly". Share a snack and fellowship. Help to plan upcoming events, Easter breakfast and Zone Workshop. Ingathering this month are Mites and kitchen/bathroom supplies.

Feb. 27<sup>th</sup> **LWML World Day**  
(Sat.) **of Prayer Service - 9AM**  
St. Paul's - Holstein

Watch the bulletin for more details as they become available.

Feb. 27<sup>th</sup> **Annual Church Cleaning**  
(Sat.) 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Please bring tall ladders, vacuums, cloths for cleaning pews and whatever else would help beautify our church. Lunch will be provided.



## LENT †

### Lenten Services

Wednesdays - 7:30 P.M.  
February 10<sup>th</sup> thru March 16<sup>th</sup>

*"The Cross in Lent"*

Feb. 10<sup>th</sup> **Ash Wednesday**  
**Worship Service**  
with Imposition of the Ashes

*Plan on joining us every Wednesday evening during Lent!*

### Lenten Suppers

Wednesdays 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM  
St. Paul's Fellowship Hall  
Free-will offering

Feb. 10<sup>th</sup> **Ladies Aid Soup and Pie/Dessert Supper**

Feb. 17<sup>th</sup> **LWML Casserole Supper**

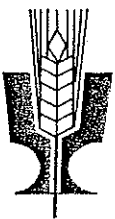
Feb. 24<sup>th</sup> **Fellowship League Scalloped Potatoes & Ham Supper**

Mar. 2<sup>nd</sup> **Preschool Spaghetti Supper**

Mar. 9<sup>th</sup> **Choir Potato Bar Supper**

Mar. 16<sup>th</sup> **Open** (contact Pastor)

*Join us each Wednesday during Lent to nurture your body and soul!*



## February Area Events

**Feb. 1st Todd Becker's  
(Mon.) Foundation  
11<sup>th</sup> Annual Banquet**  
Younes Conference Center, Kearney

Doors Open 6:00 PM  
Silent Auction 6:30 PM  
Dinner & Program 7:00 PM.  
Featured speaker Janet Parshall and  
Special guest speaker, Nebraska  
Attorney General Doug Peterson.  
For more information or tickets: Call 1-  
800-983-2644 or [www.toddbecker.org](http://www.toddbecker.org)

**Feb. 7th Kenesaw Midget  
(Sun.) Football Annual Super  
Bowl Soup Lunch**  
11:00 AM - 1:00 PM  
Kenesaw Fire Hall



**Feb. 7th Don Schmidt Soup & Pie  
(Sun.) Benefit 4:30-7:00 PM**  
Red Cloud Community Center

Funds raised will be used to help Don  
with medical expenses and medications.  
Sponsored by Thrivent Little Blue River  
Chapter.



**Feb. 7th Royal Family Kids Camp/  
(Sun.) Teens Reach Across Christ**

### RFKC/TRAC

**4<sup>th</sup> Annual Chili Cook-Off**  
11:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Adams County Fairgrounds  
*Come Eat, Compete or Give to the  
Silent Auction*

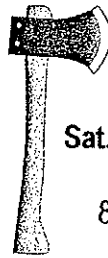
Adults: \$7; Children 5-11: \$4;  
Children under 4: Free  
To enter the cook-off call Joni at  
308-380-7502

## Camp Luther's Annual Woodcutter's Retreat Feb. 26-27



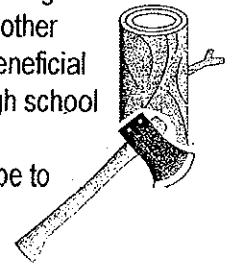
Camp Luther of Nebraska has become  
overgrown with trees and bushes and  
needs your help to remove dead trees,  
clear overgrown areas, clear hiking trails  
and paths, trim trees, and create burn  
piles. Please consider joining us!

**Friday** 7pm - Arrive & Settle into Cabins  
8pm - Bible Study followed by  
Fellowship Time  
(Bring games and snacks to share)



**Sat.** 8am - Breakfast, followed by  
Devotions  
8:30am - Woodcutting commences!  
Noon - Lunch  
12:30pm - Woodcutting continues!!  
5pm - Wrap up

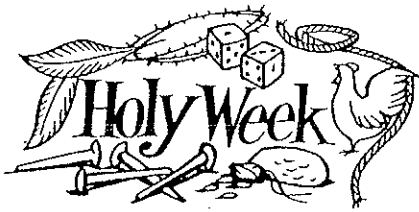
If you'd like to participate in this event,  
please call 402-352-5655 or email  
[campluther@campluther.org](mailto:campluther@campluther.org) to let them  
know, especially if you'll be staying  
Friday night for planning housing  
arrangements and meal numbers.  
Please feel free to attend the entire event  
or come when you can. Please bring  
chainsaws, safety gear and any other  
equipment you think would be beneficial  
in helping to clean up camp. High school  
boys can attend with a parent or  
guardian. Thanks so much! Hope to  
see you at Camp this winter!



### ✠ Sunday Mornings at St. Paul's

**9:00 AM** Sunday School &  
Adult Bible Class  
**10:00 AM** Worship Service with  
Comunion 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Sunday





**March 20** Palm Sunday with  
Confirmation 10 AM  
**Mar 24** Maundy Thurs. Service 7:30 PM  
**Mar 25** Good Friday Service 7:30 PM  
**Mar 27** Easter Services with  
Communion 7 AM & 10 AM  
LWML Easter Breakfast 8:15 AM



**11<sup>th</sup> Annual ACLEA FIRE**  
Sat. March 5, 2016  
Adams County Fairgrounds  
Doors Open 5:00 PM - Meal 6:30 PM

FIRE is the annual fund raising banquet for The Adams County Lutheran Education Association. It is a night of Christian fellowship, music and entertainment, all done in an effort to assist our Lutheran Parochial schools, providing scholarships as well as assistance with curriculum and other urgent needs. For more information email: <http://acleafire.org>

**Tickets:** \$55/person or  
\$800/table of ten

\*Silent & Live Auction \* Valet Parking\*  
\* Entertainment \*  
\*Raffle for 2016 Ford Focus  
4-door Sedan\*  
\$100 for one in 200 chance to win!

**Tickets Available:**  
Zion Lutheran Church & School-Hastings  
Christ Lutheran Church & School-Juniata  
Ruhter Auction & Realty, Inc.  
Email: [auctions@ruhterauction.com](mailto:auctions@ruhterauction.com)



**District Convention**  
**September 16-17, 2016**  
Younes Conference Center, Kearney

**"Partakers of Grace"**

*"Because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace." Phil. 1:7b*

**Keynote speaker:** Heidi Floyd ,  
**Bible Study Leader:** Rev. Richard Snow, LCMS District President  
**Mission Speaker:** Gary Theiss  
**Humorous Interrupter:** Jan Struck  
**Song Leader:** Karen Reynolds  
**National Representative to Convention:** Patti Ross, President



**"Days for Girls"**

**Saturday, April 2, 2016**  
Peace Lutheran - Grand Island

Deb Burma - Bible Study leader  
Activity - making feminine hygiene bags and products to be sent to Africa  
Supplies Needed: material, Ziploc bags, washcloths and underwear.

LWMLers and friends are invited to help, be nourished by the word, and share in fellowship and laughter. Information for either event can be found in the *Echo* or at [www.lwmlinesouth.org](http://www.lwmlinesouth.org) We can't wait to see you there!



**LWML Hastings Zone**  
**Spring Workshop**

**Saturday, April 9<sup>th</sup>**  
**St. Paul's - Kenesaw**



*Save the date and plan to attend.*

# New DVDs in the Church Library

## The Mighty Macs

From the inspiring true story comes the tale of one woman who just wanted to make a difference and wound up making history! When Coach Cathy Rush arrives at tiny Immaculata College, the women's basketball team has no budget, no uniforms, and no gym. Refusing to give up, Cathy finds help from a young nun named Sister Sunday. Together, their relentless drive reignites their team's spirit and the Mighty Macs start conquering bigger and better funded schools. As financial troubles rock Immaculata, the Macs charge into the championships against all odds. Can the Mighty Macs save their school with one last shot at victory? You'll stand up and cheer for the heartwarming, incredible season that made the real Cathy Rush a basketball Hall of Fame legend! Rated G



Concordia  
Publishing House  
www.cph.org

## New from Concordia Publishing House

The Bible is both incredibly simple and wonderfully complex! Whether your grew up surrounded by Holy Scriptures or are new to Christianity, it's normal that your days are filled with faith questions--questions that reveal a desire to dig deeper into God's word.

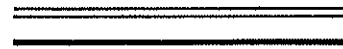
**Know the Bible Now!** Is a confidence booster book that helps you embrace a fuller understanding of the biblical narrative. The chapters combine **120 significant Scripture Passages** with easy to skim **info graphics** that connect all of the Word to Jesus, from creation to Revelation. This unique resource strengthens your faith while quickly increasing your **Bible literacy skills**.

## Fireproof

Kirk Cameron stars as Caleb Holt, a heroic fire captain who values dedication and service to others above all else. But the most important partnership in life, his marriage, is about to go up in smoke. This gripping story follows one man's desire to transform his life and marriage through the healing power of faith and fully embrace the fireman's code: *Never Leave Your Partner Behind*. Rated PG

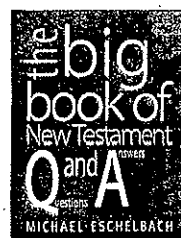
## Unanswered Prayers

Based on the #1 Hit song performed by Garth Brooks. "Unanswered Prayers" is a riveting drama about an all-American family man whose commitment is tested when his fantasy love from high school comes back into his life. Is this just a temptation, or is this an answer to his prayer? A thought provoking story about marriage, family, community and faith. Not Rated.

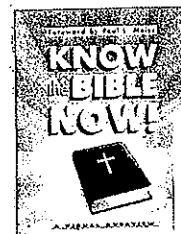


**The Big Book of New Testament Questions and Answers** dives deeper into God's grand story, uncovering 2,000+ questions you've probable heard or asked. Discover a Q&A collection with vast insight into the entire New Testament--the kind of exploration that sparks those "Hey, I've always wondered that!" moments

**Special pricing offer expires February 29, 2016. Place your order on the sheet by the mailboxes by Feb. 25<sup>th</sup>**



**Know the Bible Now!** \$15.00  
(Regularly 19.99)



**The Big Book of New Testament Q & A** \$25.00  
(Regularly \$34.99)

## Stewardship Wrap Up #1

As we begin to wrap up these articles, I would like to review a little of what we have considered thus far, beginning with the fact that **everyone on the face of this earth has the same amount of time.** No matter who it is, from the President of these United States (the leader of the free world) to the newborn baby resting in his or her mother's arms, and to everyone in between, we all have exactly 24 hours in each day, 168 hours in each week, and 525,600 minutes in each year. What is different among people is how they choose to use that time. As we have said, and as you are very aware, we can "waste time," "spend time" (wisely or foolishly), "make the most of our time," etc.

That is where Christian stewardship once again comes into play as **we look for godly ways in which to use our time, talents, treasures, testimony, touch, tissue and even trash,** to the glory of God and for the good of our neighbor both here in time and forever in heaven. We do this in response to all that God has done and continues to do for us, His dear children, who have been redeemed, bought back, through

Blessed to use gifts wisely!

the blood of Jesus Christ. Those are the two parties that make up this owner/steward relationship--God the owner of everything--each of us the caretaker of those gifts God entrusts to us to care for, for a time, always being accountable to Him as the Giver. In short, **we own nothing, God owns everything,** and He allows us to use, enjoy, and care for these gifts. James says it like this in James 1:7, *Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.*

Bottom line: *Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father. . . (James 1:17)* As hard as it is for us to admit, we bring nothing to the relationship. *It is all about God.* He puts everything on the table. He brings everything into the Father/child relationship and we benefit from it all. Then, every decision we are blessed to make **becomes a spiritual decision** as we live our lives as Christian stewards.

Rev. John Heckman  
LWML Senior Pastoral Counselor

### Lenten Living

Lent begins this year on Ash Wednesday, February 10, 2016. Christians have observed this season of the church year since the fourth century. It's traditionally a time of reflection, penitence and spiritual renewal before Easter.

During Lent, some Christians give up something that hinders their relationship with God. Others do something extra for their spiritual growth or make a special sacrifice. The key is to make lent a memorable season of spiritual growth--a time that can set the tone for the rest of the year.



# February 2016

## PRAYER GUIDE FOR LWML MISSION GRANTS

Prayers for: Hope and Healing to the Navajo People

### PRAYER #1

Dear Father, You grant blessings to all of Your children, and You see our struggles. We pray for those among the Navajo people who are facing unemployment, or struggling with substance abuse, domestic violence or depression. Many families are hurting, Lord. May they look to You and find loving Christian support in the ministry of Vicar Tim Norton and Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church. In Your Holy Name, we pray, Amen.

### PRAYER #2

Dear Lord, Your disciple Timothy reminds us, *"First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people.... This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth."* 1 Timothy 2:1-4. We uplift the Navajo people in prayer. May they find hope and healing through the Gospel! Amen.

### PRAYER #3

We thank You Lord, for Timothy Yazzie, a Navajo man, who desires to share his faith with his fellow Navajo. His work with Vicar Norton has resulted in a desire for more scriptural training. We ask Your blessings on Timothy and pray he may be a strong Christian leader among his people, leading them back to You and the promises of Your love and salvation. In Jesus Name, we pray, Amen.

### PRAYER #4

Dear Jesus, as we bring our mites to You, make us mindful of how they will be at work among the Navajo people. The problems and needs are great, but Your unfailing love is greater. Give courage, strength and perseverance to those working in this ministry. Strengthen the faith of Navajo Christians that they may effectively reach out in their communities with the saving message of the Gospel. We ask this in Your name. Amen.

[www.lwml.org/missions](http://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

### HOPE AND HEALING TO THE NAVAJO PEOPLE \$75,000

The Navajo Nation is the largest native people group in the United States. Over the years, the Rocky Mountain District LWML and LWML have reached out to the Navajo people. In 1969 a parsonage and guest house were built for Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church in Navajo, New Mexico. In 1979 an LWML Mission Grant funded the construction of an educational wing. The community was growing, and under the leadership of a young pastor, the future looked bright. Eight years ago the pastor retired leaving no one to serve the worshipers who remained. Lack of employment opportunities and behaviors that often accompany poverty began to dim the light of hope. In 2013 however, Tim Norton, a trained DCE and former LCMS missionary to Africa, was called as a missionary-at-large to the Navajo people.

In partnership with Lutheran Indian Ministries, Norton is working to establish after school enrichment programs for children, Boys/Girls Clubs, youth camps, a men's Bible group, and a support group for abused women. Mentoring and training Navajo people for lay-leadership opportunities is another vital part of this program.

In 2014, four Navajo men accompanied Norton to Alaska to work with the Athabaskan people of Minto, Alaska, to restore a cultural recovery camp. The Navajo people once migrated from that area, and Athabaskan and Navajo are both from the Diné people group. This reconnection and celebration of a common heritage, and the opportunity to share the Gospel, will offer mutual long term benefits.

It is with hopeful and thankful hearts that the LWML reaches out to our Navajo brothers and sisters. May our mite offerings truly help to bring hope and healing to the Navajo people.

