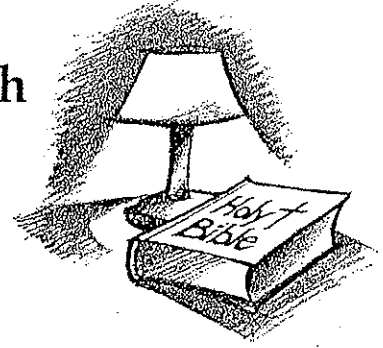


⊕ St. Paul's Lutheran Church
Kenesaw, NE

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

Pastor's Ponderings
July, 2015



Dear Friends in Christ,

Summer is in full swing now. To most, summer invokes an array of images and scenes we all know well: vacations, work in fields, irrigating, fishing, lakes of cool water, yard work, baseball, picnics, etc.

Along with these normal experiences come events that make us pause and drive us to reflect and pray with great concerns. Specifically, I refer to the unrest between police, and proud, emboldened lawbreakers; the soon to come U.S. Supreme Court ruling regarding same-sex marriage (a ruling which could truly affect the church in profound ways); the Islamic terrorist groups around the world (and even within our country), who find great pleasure in eliminating Christians; the media elevation of one former athlete, clearly mentally unstable, who contorts what God made him, into a sad caricature of a woman, who we're asked to believe is perfectly reasonable in altering the very make-up of his being.

It's clear; all kinds of strange and disturbing things are breaking out around us. Thankfully, we still have the everyday normal things we experience as well, to help bring us back to the ground of reality, even amidst sweltering, rampant ungodliness.

As you well know, the truest ground of reality is seen through the eyes of God and His eternal Word. God's Word is what helps us to maintain our bearings, evaluate all of life, ethics, laws, etc., and determine what is good and what is to be rejected as abnormal or ungodly.

I heard a commentator recently, who said we, in America, are headed for what is similar to the French Revolution - that is, a crushing of all past norms, including a sweeping away of the church, and an establishment of a new (old, actually) way of life, typified by no God.

Who knows what the future will bring? One thing we do know. That is, only through the Word of the Lord can we find stability, peace, truth, guidance, assurance, and the very sword we need to cut through all attempts of satan to silence the church into submission at the altar of error. Hebrews 4:12 reads, *"For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart."*

If we are to retain some semblance of normalcy in our lives and in our world, it all begins with a thorough and unwavering commitment to the Word of God.

May this summer be filled, not only with the familiar scenes we're used to, but also with the truth and blessing of being grounded in the surest anchor and reality check of all, the Word of the LORD!

From the Augsburg Confession
(That Which We Believe, Teach, and Confess)

II. Son of God

It is also taught among us that God the Son became man, born of the virgin Mary, and that two natures, divine and human, are also so inseparably united in the one person that there is one Christ, true God and true man, who was truly born, suffered, crucified, died, and was buried in order to be a sacrifice not only for original sin but also for all other sins and to propitiate (satisfy) God's wrath.

See you in Church!

Pastor Duffy

Workers for the Lord in July

Acolytes: Payton Morrow
Savannah Williams
Rhett Augustin
Jenna Jaeschke

Ushers: Dave Powell
DeWayne Boesen
Darwin Kroll



Counters: Darwin and Diane Kroll
Jack & Gloria Hoban

Elder: Lee Rockefeller

Altar Guild: Sharon Duffy
Bev Nixon



JULY Birthdays 2014

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>1 Clayton Klusman
Ben Panwitz</p> <p>2 Randy Dibbern
Dan Kimle
Leonard Schroeder</p> <p>4 Danny Streff</p> <p>5 Austin Schroeder</p> <p>6 Debbie Rasberry</p> <p>7 Philip Quackenbush</p> <p>8 Jeff Bittfield</p> <p>10 Jeanette Parr</p> <p>11 Gary Steiner</p> <p>12 Betty Bittfield
Rhonda Ehly</p> <p>14 David Kimle</p> <p>16 Becky Jacobitz</p> | <p>18 Nancy Hersh
Kelli Knott</p> <p>20 Jack Duffy
Landon Ehly
Cindy Jacobitz
Corina Mulford</p> <p>21 Kim Klusman
Vincent Utter</p> <p>23 Brenda Mack
Ethan Stade</p> <p>24 Cameron Klusman</p> <p>25 Mitch Schroeder</p> <p>26 Dan Beal</p> <p>28 Daniel Duffy
Stephen Duffy</p> |
|--|--|

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

We are not embarrassed to urge people to go to a doctor when we think they need to, because we feel we are giving advice that is in their best interests. Why, then, should we hesitate to invite people to visit our worship services? What is more in anyone's best interests than a closer relationship to God!

- Net Results



Nursery Roll Graduate

Cameron Scott Klusman has graduated from the Nursery Roll and is now welcome to attend Sunday School.

Welcome Cameron!



Budget Update



2015 Budget Analysis

	Amount Proposed For the Year 2015	Amount Received as of 5/31/15	Percent of Budget Met To Date	Amount Needed To Meet Budget
Missions	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 4,470.21	22%	\$ 15,529.79
Current	\$ 166,040.00	\$ 59,345.93	36%	\$ 106,694.07
Commodities and Assets	\$	-		
Sharon Owens, Missionary	\$	100.00		

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Savannah Williams
Rhett Augustin
Jenna Jaeschke

Ushers: Dave Powell
DeWayne Boesen
Darwin Kroll



Counters: Darwin and Diane Kroll
Zach and Stacy Adams

Elder: Lee Rockefeller

Altar Guild: Sharon Duffy
Bev Nixon



JULY Birthdays

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
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| Ben Panwitz | 20 Jack Duffy |
| 2 Randy Dibbern | Landon Ehly |
| Dan Kimle | Cindy Jacobitz |
| Leonard Schroeder | Corina Mulford |
| 4 Danny Streff | 21 Kim Klusman |
| 5 Austin Schroeder | Vincent Utter |
| 6 Debbie Rasberry | 23 Brenda Mack |
| 7 Philip Quackenbush | Ethan Stade |
| 8 Jeff Bittfield | 24 Cameron Klusman |
| 10 Jeanette Parr | 25 Mitch Schroeder |
| 11 Gary Steiner | 26 Dan Beal |
| 12 Betty Bittfield | 28 Daniel Duffy |
| Rhonda Ehly | Stephen Duffy |
| 14 David Kimle | |
| 16 Becky Jacobitz | |

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JULY COMING EVENTS

July 1 ✠ **Worship at Haven** ✠
(Wed.) Home 10:00 AM



Bible Study
"Summer in the Psalms"
 Wed. Evenings at 7 PM
 July 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29

Refresh yourself with the water of God's Word. *"As a deer pants for flowing streams, so pants my soul for You, O God."* Psalm 42:1

July 4 Independence Day!
(Sat.)

Prepare a special moment in your celebration today to honor freedom in Christ. Thank God for the blessings of citizenship in the United States of America.



July 8 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.

July 12 Mission Sunday
(Sun.)

Sharon Owens will be speaking during the morning worship service. Sharon is our missionary in Macau, China. Don't miss hearing her share how the Lord is working through her to spread the Gospel. Fellowship Coffees July 5th and 12th donations will be given to Sharon.



July 25 ✠ **Evening Service of** ✠
(Sat.) **Healing** 7:30 PM



A special service of prayer and the anointing of oil based on James 5.

"Is anyone of you in trouble?" "Is any one of you sick?" "He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord." James 5:13-14

July 26 LLL Ice Cream Social
(Sun.) 3 - 5 PM Fellowship Hall



Come and eat homemade ice cream and goodies!!! Free-will donation proceeds go to Mission projects.

Ice cream social sponsored by St. Paul's Lutheran Laymen's League.

August Newsletter Deadline
 Monday, July 20th to be in mailboxes
 Sunday, July 26th.

Summer Worship Schedule

9:00 AM ✠ **Worship Service** ✠
(Sun.) Communion 1st & 3rd Sunday

No Sunday School during the summer months.

Fellowship Coffees following the service during the summer months. Any organization, group, family or person(s) may host a coffee. Only a few dates remaining. Signup sheet Education wing entryway. If you have questions, contact Rosie Schroeder.

The Ladies of the LWML will be serving coffee and goodies on Sunday, July 5th following worship. Please join us for fellowship. Any donation we receive will be given to Sharon Owens for her use in her mission in Macau. The Woodman family will be serving coffee and treats on July 12th with all donations also going to Sharon.



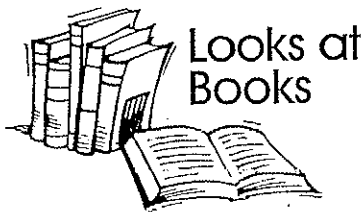
Upcoming Events



Aug. 30 Hymn Sing
(Sun.) Prior to the morning worship service we will be singing your favorite requested hymns.

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

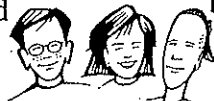
We're bringing the bookstore to your door! A variety of titles to choose from including new releases, children's books, devotional books and more. Watch for more details to come in the August.



Looks at Books

Spread the Word...

Do you have a neighbor you know who is not connected to any church? Tell Pastor or leave a name and address in the church office, and St. Paul's will send them a formal invite to come and worship with us!



God is at work in you.

Philippians 2:13

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

"Great is the Father's Love"

Registration Deadline
September 1st!



A weekend full of uplifting worship, workshops, Bible studies, singing, reflection, friendship building and more is planned. 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 in the Quarterly Echo - Summer Edition or contact an LWML member if interested in attending.



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

Save the date! More details to come.



Sept. 29 LWML Meeting
(Tues.) Quarterly Bible Study & Election of officers.

Ingathering: Hats & Gloves for Kenesaw School Students.

LWML members please pray to be open to serving as an officer for the 2015-2017 term.

THE GIVING CHRISTIAN #4

Three 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 last month that the giving Christian gives gracefully. This month we will consider the fact that the giving Christian gives proportionately and next month, we will see how the giving Christian gives globally.

We hear Jesus promise us again 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 that promise in mind, I would like to share with you the fourth thought in our series dealing with the fact that the giving Christian gives **proportionately**.

St. Paul wrote, "And now, brothers, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. Out of the most severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the saints. And they did not do as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then to us in keeping with God's will" (2 Corinthians 8:1-5).

The young churches of Macedonia were persecuted severely and were materially poor, yet spiritually they lived above the extreme conditions and excelled in giving it their all. Specifically, they gave to a ministry project that

the Apostle Paul had begun and they gave in a most remarkable way: sacrificially, beyond their ability, willingly, and eagerly. They gave of themselves to God and of their resources to God's work.

A powerful principle of stewardship is this:

God's provision dictates the believer's proportion. In other words, what He

provides determines what we give. If He gives a little, from that little we are to give; if He gives abundantly (and that is how He has blessed each of us), from that abundance we are to give. Whatever He provides, regardless

of how small or great we or the world may think it is, determines the measure of our giving. As Jesus reminded the disciples, "To whom much is given, much is required" (Luke 12:48).

Don't worry about what you have or don't have to give. Instead, give in proportion to everything you have received. My personal conviction is that giving begins with the tithe (10% of all my time, talents, treasures, tissue, testimony, touch, and trash) and extends beyond that to a higher percentage returned to God from all that He has given to me, and even beyond that to other offerings for the work outside of the church. As we give, relying upon the Lord and depending upon Him as our Source, we grow in the grace of giving. In the process, giving becomes a beneficial experience as we die to self and grow in faith. My dear friends, we can be sure that God will provide as the proportion of His provision defines the proportion of our giving.

The giving Christian gives proportionately.

Rev. John Heckmann
LWML Senior Pastoral Counselor



New in the Church Library

Amazing Racer (DVD)

In this heartwarming tale of family connection, teenager Shannon is devastated when her beloved father dies suddenly. She thinks she's an orphan until her father's best friend and her doctor tell her that the mother she thought had died in childbirth is alive. As Shannon and her mother struggle with their new relationship, Shannon bonds with a young horse and befriends a trainer who starts working magic with the pair, preparing them for a big race. But when an egotistical horse owner buys the horse and abuses it, she is faced with the biggest battle of her life. Can Shannon heal her crushed spirit and rescue the horse in time?

Rated PG Dove Family Approved

Our Wild Hearts (DVD)

A Story of Family and Friendship

Willow, a determined young teenager, is obsessed with the idea of meeting the father she never knew. She leaves her cushy life in Malibu to travel to the Sierra Nevada mountains, where she pays a surprise visit to Jack, a rugged cowboy who has no idea he's a father. As the two struggle to bond, Willow makes a connection with a wild mustang, Bravo. Jack wants to capture and tame the magnificent horse, but Willow is convinced he needs to be free. Will the wild stallion that brought them together end up tearing them apart?

Rated PG Running Time: 89 minutes

Check Out These and More.

It's easy, just write the title of the book or movie, the date you check it out and your name in the gray book, then, put a line through it and date when it's returned. There's no late fees, but please return items in a timely manner so that others may also enjoy them.

Soul Surfer (DVD)

The incredible true story of teen surfer, Bethany Hamilton, who lost her arm in a shark attack and courageously overcame all odds to become a champion again through her sheer determination and unwavering faith. The film features an all-star cast, including AnnaSophia Robb and Helen Hunt, with Carrie Underwood in her film debut, and Dennis Quaid. In the wake of this life-changing event that took her arm and nearly her life, Bethany's feisty determination and steadfast beliefs spur her toward an adventurous comeback that gives her the grit to turn her loss into a gift for others.

Rated PG Approx. 106 minutes

Annie's Point (DVD)

Sometimes Life Takes A Detour

Beloved actress Betty White lights up the screen in this upbeat film about taking chances and living your dreams. When Annie decides to take a two thousand mile journey to fulfill her husband's last wish, her straight-laced son Richard is adamantly against it. Like a modern day Thelma and Louise, Annie convinces her singer-songwriter granddaughter to embrace her free spirit, skip town and set off on an outrageous road trip filled with brushes with the law, a detour in Vegas, and an unexpected reunion. Sentimental, inspirational and downright fun, *Annie's Point* is a film as exciting and unpredictable as the open road!

Christian Romance Novels

Recently donated to the church library are a variety of titles by various authors, such as, Beverly Lewis - "October Song" and "The Shunning"; Cynthia Davis - "Beloved Leah"; Judith Pella - "Heaven's Road"; a mystery by Susan Meissner - "Sticks and Stones"; Gilbert Morris - "The Miracle" plus many more titles to choose from.