



St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Kenesaw, NE

Pastor Paul S. Duffy

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(Cell) 308-216-1254

<http://stpaulskenesaw.org>

Pastor's Ponderings

June, 2015



Beloved Brothers and Sister in Christ,

Recently, in the late-night hours, I've been brushing up on ancient church history. I find it intriguing to read about our brothers and sisters in Jesus from ages past - fascinating personalities through whom God worked to accomplish His purposes.

In reading, it seems as if our Lord was more active during the early centuries of the Church. Using these people as His messengers, the church spread far and wide and the Gospel message converted entire pagan lands and cultures, delivering people from darkness and superstition to the light, glory, and freedom found in our blessed Lord Jesus (Isaiah 9:2).

Truth is, God is as active now as He always has been. He neither slumbers nor sleeps (Ps. 121:3). He is just as concerned with the Gospel message reaching those in the dark and bound by superstition. Their number is great and growing all the time (I Tim. 4:1-2), but so is the number of Christians throughout the world (Matthew 16:18), those He uses today to pierce the darkness.

What this means is you and I comprise this number; we are strong and God's power residing in His church is massive - enough to break down any stronghold or barrier opposed to His truth (II Cor. 10:4-5).

There are countless hungry souls bound by sin who need to hear the Gospel and understand the freedom, light and love that exist for the believer as he or she becomes a member of the kingdom of God. The truth of God found in our Savior Jesus Christ literally

blasts away all error, and God is pleased to be leading the charge and using you and me to assist Him just as He used our Christian brothers and sisters in centuries past. May we keep our eyes and ears open to the opportunities God gives us to continue this work, be it through prayer, speaking in love to others outside the faith, or giving to God's work through His missionaries as they reach those whom He has appointed to eternal life (Acts 13:48).

From the Augsburg Confession

I. God

We unanimously hold and teach, in decree with the council of Nicaea, that there is one divine essence, which is called and which is truly God, and that there are three persons in this one divine essence, equal in power and alike eternal: God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit. All three are one divine essence, eternal, without division, without end, of infinite power, wisdom, and goodness, one creator and preserver of all things visible and invisible. The word "person" is to be understood as the Fathers employed the term in this connection, not as a part or property of another but as that which exists of itself...

See you in Church!

Pastor Duffy



Workers for the Lord in June

Acolytes: Savannah Williams
Rhett Augustin
Jenna Jaeschke
Paige Morrow

Ushers: Jack Powell
Myles Ramsey
Marlin Kimle

Elder: Mike Englehardt

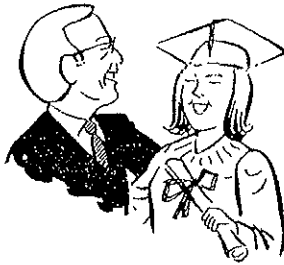
Counters: Greg and Deb Adams
Rodger and Janice Harms

Altar Guild: Connie Bittfield
Peg Saddler



JUNE Birthdays 2014

- 1 Austin Applegate
Grace Harmon
- 2 Kathy Kimle
- 4 Macey Beal
Case Kurpgeweit
- 6 Traci Olson
Keira Perkins
- 7 Betty Schirmer
Connie Valentine
- 8 Mason Stocker
- 9 Mitch Stocker
- 10 Douglas Powell
- 11 Jeremiah Harmon
- 12 Avery Kelley
- 13 Shawna Alloway
- 14 Victoria (Highberger)
Davis
Cooper Kroos
- 16 Allen Jacobitz
- 18 Caleb Ground
Connor Ground
- 20 Rick Horn
- 22 Jean Powell
- 23 Jonathon Chandler
Lydia Adams
- 24 Courtney Kuehn
- 27 Matt Bittfield
- 30 Melissa (Ramsey)
Peterson



To a Father Who Was There

You were there when I was little
To soothe my childhood fears;
There with love and wisdom
To enrich my growing years.

When I came to you with prob-
lems,
You helped me work them out;
You were the one who taught me
What life is all about.

You were there to show your
pride
On graduation day;
There to bless my marriage
And give the bride away.

It seems that you have always
played
A most important part
In all the happy moments
I hold within my heart.

Now I have a little one
Who climbs upon your knee
And listens to the stories
You used to tell to me.

And I'm happy you are here
To soothe her childhood fears
And use your love and wisdom
To bless her growing years.

—Alice E. Chase



Prayer

LORD GOD, HEAVENLY FATHER, Your Son gathered the little children to Himself that He might bless them. Strengthen the parents of our congregations that they may faithfully bring up their children in the nurture and instruction of the Lord by a life of prayer and devotion to You and Your Word. Bless the work of all Sunday School teachers, VBS leaders, and all who assist our parents in teaching the faith to their children, that all might led into the Savior's love arms and grow to lead godly lives to the praise and honor of Christ's holy name; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.



JUNE COMING EVENTS

June 1 -5 Vacation Bible School
(Mon - Fri.) 8:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Come join us for a fun-filled week at VBS "Camp Discovery". Everyone Welcome! Ages 4 years through grade 6 are encouraged to attend VBS. Students grade 7 and up are welcome to be helpers. To enroll your child, if you would be willing to assist in some way, contact Shandra Uden 402-705-4009.

Signup sheets are also available between the mailboxes.



June 4th ✠ Worship at Haven ✠
(Wed.) Home 10:00 AM

June 7 Summer Worship
(Sun.) Schedule Begins
9:00 AM ✠ Worship Service ✠
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. For best choice of dates sign up early! Signup sheet Education wing entryway. If you have questions, contact Rosie Schroeder.

June 10 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.



June 13 All Church Picnic-
(Sat.) **Potluck** 6:00 PM - ?
Fellowship Hall

The evening begins with the meal at 6 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Hamburgers, hot dogs, buns, condiments, table service, drinks and s'mores will be provided. Grill masters Tony, Darwin and Pastor will be grilling the burgers and dogs. Bring a side dish to share. Picnic hosted by the Board of Evangelism/Stewardship.



To help us in planning the event, please sign up if you will be attending by Monday, June 8th. Sign-up sheet on table Education wing entry way. Reservation **not** required!

After the meal enjoy games, relay races, bubbles, cards and more. Something for all ages! Join in the fun or bring your lawn chair to watch. Everyone Welcome!
*FOOD*FELLOWSHIP* FUN*

June 14 Flag Day
Celebrate and fly your American flag. Thank God for the freedom He gives and you enjoy. Pray for our nation.



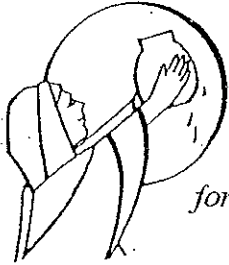
July Newsletter Deadline
Monday, June 15th to be in mailboxes
Sunday, June 28th.

June 21 Happy Father's Day!
Remember to say a prayer and to give thanks for your earthly and heavenly Fathers.

July Upcoming Events

Bible Study

"Summer in the Psalms"
Wednesday Evenings at 7 PM
beginning July 1st



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

Mission Sunday **July 12th**

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 ? LLL Ice Cream Social
Watch for details!

JUNE AREA EVENTS

June 5 Fiesta Salad Luncheon
(Fri.) 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Zion Lutheran Church - Hastings
New Fellowship Hall
Tickets \$7 at the door
For info call 402-463-1615
or 402-462-5012
Quilt Raffle: \$1 or 6 for \$5



Camp Luther Weekend* **June 6 - 7**

Saturday night campsites open

Saturday

1:00 pm to 4:30 pm

Open Activities - Canoeing and waterfront
hiking, archery, Frisbee golf, Sports Courts,
games and more.

8:30 pm Camp Fire and Devotions

9:30 pm Camp Led night hike



Sunday

10:00 am 'til 11:00 am Outdoor Worship

11:30 am - 2:00 pm Annual Luncheon &
Silent Auction (Sun Lunch - Free will donation)

1:00 - 4:00 Staff led camp activities for
children and youth

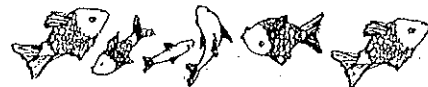
2:00 - 3:00 pm Dedication of Shadrach and
Barn Retreat Center

* Camping and camp activities are
free of charge this weekend. Tree
houses available, please call for
details (402-352-5655).

Camp Luther, 1050 Road 4, Schuyler,
Nebraska 68661 <http://www.campluther.org>

June 13 Kenesaw City-Wide
(Sat.) Garage Sales

8:00 AM - 3:00 PM

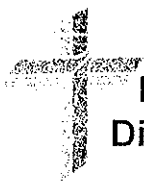


Orphan Grain Train Fish Feed

(Wisconsin Style) is a signature
fundraiser for OGT. Their special crew of
chefs, prepare the fish, pearl onions and
new potatoes in a specially seasoned
pot of brine. Side dishes and desserts
round out the meal.

June 19 LLL Area - Hastings
(Fri.) 5:30 PM Chautauqua Park

June 28 St. Paul - Shelton
(Sun.) 11:30 AM



LCMS Nebraska District Convention

June 12-13, 2015

Younes Conference Center, Kearney

The 2015 convention will be a time of exploring what it means to travel through this world as a citizen of the Kingdom of God, sharing the hope we have in Jesus Christ in our congregation and communities. Pastor Duffy will be attending convention in the capacity of Advisory Delegate during the convention.

LWML National Convention June 25-28, 2015

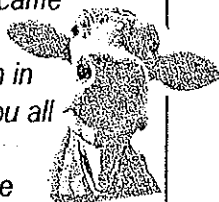
Pray 9 @ 9 . . . Or anytime for our LWML Convention in Des Moines, Iowa. Several members of our LWML Society will be traveling to the convention.

Please pray for safe travel for all. Pray as we gather to do the work of the Lord through the LWML with our sisters and brothers across the country. Pray for our speakers and the attendees, that God would grant a bountiful dose of His Holy spirit as we gather under the theme **Bountiful! Sow * Nourish * Reap.**



Cow Project

The cow project is complete! Many thanks for your generous support of this Sunday School Mission project. With the \$18.00 collected from the LWML members at our regular May meeting the total sent to Lutheran World Relief came to \$812.29. Additional money has already been sent in that was given in the church offering plate. Thank you all very much for helping The Sunday School children with this worth while project. God is so good!



Sept. 18-20, 2015

LWML South District Retreat Midtown Holiday Inn, Grand Island

"Great us the Father's Love"

Dr. James Lamb, with Lutherans for Life will be the keynote speaker Saturday. Other events include Bible Study, workshops, servant events, games, a craft, Zumba, devotions, singing, fellowship and prayer. Closing Sunday morning with a hymn sing and worship service with communion. More information and registration forms will be available in the summer issue of the Echo. All women of the congregation are invited to attend and share the Father's great love for us.

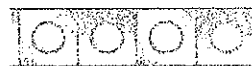


Sunday, Sept 27, 2015

LWML Hastings Zone Fall Rally

Zion, Red Cloud

Save the date and watch for more details to come.



Thank You Pastor Duffy and the members of St. Paul's Lutheran Church for your financial assistance to the AAA Pregnancy Resource Center in Hastings. To date \$327.12 has been given with 22 baby bottles still out.

It is evident that our Heavenly Father loves children. Psalm 127:3 says, "Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb is a reward." Thank you again as we work to do the Lord's work.

June Reiners

Thanks!





New in the Church Library

Courageous (DVD)

As law enforcement officers, Adam Mitchell, Nathan Hayes and their partners willingly stand up to the worst the world can offer, yet at the end of the day, they face a challenge that none of them are fully prepared to tackle: fatherhood. While they consistently give their best on the job, they quickly discover that their children are beginning to drift further away from them. When tragedy hits home, these men are left with a newfound urgency to renew their faith and reach out to their own children. Will they be able to find a way to serve and protect those who are most dear to them?

Rated PG-13 Approx. 129 minutes

A Long Way Off (DVD)

Retelling the timeless parable of a father's unconditional love, tempestuous young Jake tries to escape the duties of the family business by leaving his home and taking his dreams to the big city. Far from the wise words of his father, Abraham, Jake is finally free to live the high life that he's always wanted, trading the traditional values of his upbringing to revel in every temptation that money can buy. Just when Jake thinks the world is his playground and every day offers another enticing opportunity, he must come face to face with the consequences of the life he's chosen. Jake must learn that sometimes it takes losing everything to realize/appreciate what he left behind, and if his mistakes can ever outweigh the grace of a father's forgiveness.

Rated PG Running Time: 105 minutes

Check Out These and Others

A Girl's Best Friend (DVD)

Penelope, better known as "Polka Dot, is a spunky young girl who has a knack for helping people, particularly her ailing mother. While out looking for a part-time job, Polka-Dot befriends a hard-nosed police officer and his tracking dog, Luey. When Polka-Dot's mother's condition worsens, Luey helps Polka-Dot find the strength and faith inside to help her move forward.

Dove Approved for All Ages 89 minutes

12 Bible Stories (2 disc set) Greatest Heroes and Legends of the Bible

The Miracles of Jesus - Jesus performs a string of miracles - the healing of the sick, the transformation of water into wine and the multiplying of the fishes.

Jonah and the Whale - Jonah learns a series of important lessons about the power of God's wrath, and the power of His love for all mankind.

Life with Jesus - This beautifully animated short film begins with the story of one special child who was born in Bethlehem and raised in Nazareth - Jesus, the Son of God.

Joseph and the Coat of Many Colors - Joseph finds himself in a position of power - position that would allow him to take revenge against his brothers. . . or forgive them for their for their vicious actions.

Daniel and the Lion's Den - When Daniel reveals the King's favor that he has a gift for interpreting dreams gains the King's favor and is elevated to a position of power.

Other titles are: The Apostles, David & Goliath; Samson & Delilah; Sodom & Gomorrah; The Story of Moses; and Joshua & the Battle of Jericho.



THE GIVING CHRISTIAN #3

This month we consider the fact that the giving Christian gives **gracefully**. The apostle Paul asks in Romans 8:32, "*He who did not spare His own Son, but gave Him up for us all - how will He not also, along with Him, graciously give us all things?*"

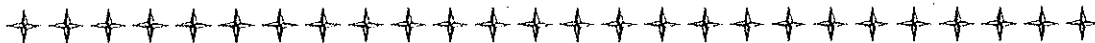
Everything we have - everything - is a gift from God. I can't think of anything that I have in my life, big or small, no matter what it is, and tell you truthfully that I earned it or deserve it. The house my family lives in, the cars we drive, the clothes we wear, the food we eat, or the money in our bank account - whatever it is, without exception, I have because God graciously gave it to me. He does the same for you as He gives graciously.

The giving Christian gives gracefully.

So, when it comes down to how I am going to give, I look first to how my Heavenly Father constantly deals with me. I see that He gives graciously, and I know that He would have me give graciously too. Graceful giving draws no attention to itself, but directs attention to God. Graceful giving seeks to glorify God, not to better one's bottom line.

That, my friends, is how the giving Christian gives gracefully. Next month we will consider how the giving Christian gives proportionately.

Rev. John Heckmann
LWML Senior Pastoral Counselor



Dear Friends in Christ,

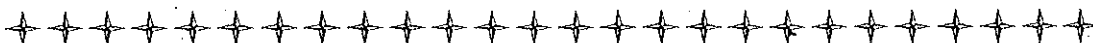
"He who oppresses the poor shows contempt for their maker,
But whoever is kind to the needy honors God." Proverbs 14:31 (NIV)



Thank you very much for your generous contribution of \$315.00 on May 1 and \$166.00 on May 4, 2015 to Orphan Grain Train for Orphanage Priozersk 2 Kenesaw. Orphaned children in many countries lack basic necessities, such as a warm coat, a toothbrush, or shoes that fit. Your donation helps provide these and other items such as food, medicine, vitamins, school needs, hygiene supplies and other necessary items. Because of generous donors like you, poor children in 63 orphanages are now being shown God's mercy through the work of Orphan Grain Train.

Thank you for helping to improve the lives of these precious little ones.

Sincerely in the Lord,
Rev. Ray S. Wilke, President



LET US WAKEN EACH DAY WITH JOY TO FACE OUR WORLD WITH JESUS AS OUR GUIDE. GROW CONFIDENCE IN US TO MEET THE DEMANDS OF LIVING IN THIS CHANGING WORLD THAT SO DESPERATELY NEEDS THE SAVIOR. LET US REST IN THE KNOWLEDGE THAT WE HAVE DONE AS WE ARE CALLED TO DO, THAT WE HAVE SHARED YOUR SAVING GRACE IN THOUGHT, WORD AND DEED. GIVE US RIGHT PRIORITIES, THAT WE MIGHT CHERISH YOUR WORD. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.



June 2015



PRAYER #1

Heavenly Father, Creator of all, we thank You for the ideas, discussion, and guidance granted to the women in leadership roles as they met and planned for the 2015 Lutheran Women's Missionary League Convention in Des Moines, Iowa. In the name of Jesus. Amen.

PRAYER #2

Lord God, please be with and continue to bless the women on the many committees of the 2015 LWML Convention in Des Moines, Iowa, as they put convention plans into action. We ask this in Christ's name. Amen.

PRAYER #3

God of order, we know You preselected the guest speakers, Bible study leaders, and special speakers for the 2015 Lutheran Women's Missionary League Convention. Thank You for inspiring them as they come to Des Moines in June to share messages of You. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

PRAYER #4

Father, please bless the officers, committees, delegates, and guests as they prepare to attend the 2015 LWML Convention in Des Moines, Iowa. Grant them safe travel and allow each to sow seeds of love for Christ along the way. 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.

BOUNTIFUL!
Sow • Nourish • Reap

The Time is NOW to get your suitcase out, pack your walking shoes (for the Mission in Motion/ Mission Pledge Walk), your LWML purple clothing, and to make sure you have room to bring some Gifts From the Heart ingathering items (see the Des Moines Convention insert in the *Winter Lutheran Woman's Quarterly* for a detailed list).

Once you arrive, whether by plane, bus, or auto, you can look forward to enjoying:

- The worship proclaimers: Rev. Gregory Seltz, of The Lutheran Hour Ministry on Thursday evening and on Sunday morning, Rev. Keith Piotter, Our Savior Lutheran Church, Bettendorf, Iowa;

- Keynote speaker, Rev. Dr. James Lamb, Lutherans For Life;

- The Mites in Action Speakers: Carly Hatcher, Mission Opportunities Short Term (MOST) Ministries; Tim Hetzner, Lutheran Church Charities; Rev. Dr. Tilahun Mekonnen Menedo, Concordia College, Alabama; and Rev. Jim Rivett, Southern Illinois District Prison Ministry Coordinator;

- Singing led by Dr. Dina Vendetti; and

- The wit and humor of Jan Struck.

There are 33 mission grants on the ballot. All are very exciting ministries. Our delegates and officers will prayerfully select and by the time we leave Des Moines, we will have new mission grants to prayerfully support.

It has been 30 years since LWML gathered in convention in Iowa. The world has seen many changes – dress, hair styles, communication, and technology – but the warm smiles and hospitality of the women of the Iowa Districts remains the same! They are preparing the way for each convention attendee to be fed by God's Word and Sacrament, nurtured through worship and fellowship, and equipped to sow, nourish, and reap in the Lord's harvest field long after the convention adjourns.

