



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

March, 2016

Dear Friends in Christ,

St. Peter writes in his second epistle, "For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of His majesty" (II Peter 1:16).

Yes, Peter and the other apostles were first-hand witnesses to many displays of Christ's majesty: to the healing miracles our Lord performed, to Christ's exorcising of demonic forces, to the feeding of the multitudes, to the transfiguration of our Lord when His radiance became like the sun, and to the greatest display of His majestic glory, when He was crucified on the cross at Calvary and three days later rose bodily from the tomb.

Many years ago a controversial book was penned entitled, "Why I Am Not a Christian". In it, the author listed his reasons. None were unique. What it came down to was that he was repulsed by the idea of hell. Perhaps his conscience was getting to him, having known that he, like everyone, had fallen short of God's glory and deserved nothing but divine punishment.

Certainly, whatever reasons he had would not be accepted by God. In fact, God has left a powerful witness of His existence and glory, so that no one will have an excuse when they stand before Him.

You or I could write as book as well. Mine would be entitled, "Why I Am a Christian." In it, I would list the many reasons why I am a believer in God and in His Son Jesus Christ.

First, I am a believer because my life was radically changed by an encounter with Jesus Christ many years ago. The Bible truth rings out: "If any man is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold the new has come" (II Corinthians 5:17).

Second, it is beyond credibility that all the Bible writers were fabricating their accounts. Why would they do this? And how could it be that the calls

throughout Scripture that demand truth in the inmost being could all be cloaked in lies? It is a contradiction too glaring to be considered.

Third, the recorded claims of the Lord Jesus are so radical that He had to be a lunatic, a liar, or He had to be who He said He was – the Son of God and Savior of the world. If He were not the Savior of the world, His many predictions of His raising Himself from the dead (John 2:18-22) would have been proven false, if indeed He did not rise from the dead. Christianity would have died right then and there with the decomposing body of Christ as proof.

And, what of the miracles of Jesus, recorded by Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, not to mention the other Bible writers? Again, were they all making up the same story? What possible reason would they have for doing this?

Fourth, the resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth is, according to countless historians, the most attested-to fact of the ancient world. Paul the apostle wrote in I Corinthians 15:3-9, that Christ was seen after His resurrection by over five-hundred witnesses at one time, most of whom were living at the time of his writings, so they could be consulted if desired. Friends, if there are five-hundred witnesses to anything, you can be sure it is an undeniable fact.

Fifth, the prophecies concerning the Lord Jesus Christ, written hundreds of years before He came, and fulfilled precisely, are solid proof of His identity as Son of God and Savior. Read Psalm 22, Isaiah 52:13-53-12, Daniel 9:24-27, Micah 5:2, Zechariah 12:10, and many, many others. To whom in history could these verses possibly refer but to the Messiah, Jesus of Nazareth.

We Christians confidently concur with Peter that "we did not follow cleverly devised myths!"

God bless you as we move ever closer to the blessed Easter morn!

See you in Church!



Workers for the Lord in March

Acolytes: Paige Morrow
 (Sundays) Savannah Williams
 Hope Nienhueser
 Rhett Augustin

Crucifer: Kaylee Steer
 Jenna Jaeschke

Acolytes: Kaylee Steer
 (Wednesdays) Payton Morrow
 Rhett Augustin

Maundy Thursday - Paige Morrow

Good Friday - Payton Morrow

Crucifer: Savannah Williams

Elder: Christian Kroos

Ushers: Rob Thompson
 Larry Woodman
 Mark Utter

Counters: Sundays
 Doug Powell
 Mike Quakenbush

Counters: Wednesday
 Gary Bittfield
 Rob Thompson

Altar Guild: Sharon Duffy
 Bev Nixon

March Birthdays 2016



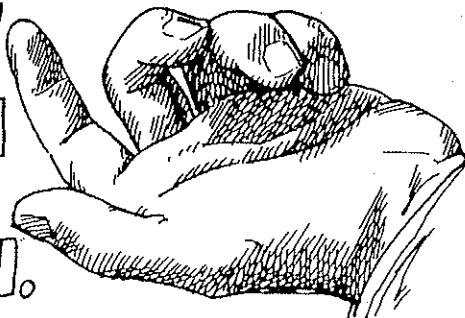
1	Marlin Kimlc	18	Grayson Rowe
3	Nancy Schroeder	19	Christian Kroos
7	Sara Linde		Blake Thompson
9	Bennett Rowe	21	Brent Woodman
	Rob Thompson	22	Joan Bittfield
10	Sharon Duffy	23	Bridger Kroos
	Ashlynn Klusman	25	Nicole Ferguson
14	Jamie Beal		Carson Woodman
	Roger Struss	27	Shon Augustin
15	Fern Augustin	28	Jon Denkert
	Nellie Kline	29	Scott Enninga
	Seth Binfield	30	David Jacobitz
	Jacob Panwitz		Zach Jacobitz
	Valerie Schirmer	31	Tony Greigo
	Vicky Wehrman		

Surely he hath borne
 our griefs, and carried
 our sorrows: yet we did
 esteem him stricken,
 smitten of God and af-
 flicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was
 bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was

upon him; and with his
 stripes we are healed.
 All we like sheep have
 gone astray; we have
 turned every one to his
 own way; and the Lord
 hath laid on him the in-
 iquity of us all.

—Isaiah 53:4-6

*The will of God
 will never lead you
 where the grace of
 God cannot keep you.*



MARCH COMING EVENTS

Mar. 2nd ✠ Worship at Premier
(Wed.) Estates 10:00 AM

Mar. 3rd Ladies Aid
(Thurs.) 2:00 PM

Mar. 9th OGT Pack and Sort 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 9:00 AM. Questions? Contact Bev Nixon.

Mar. 9th Fellowship League
(Wed.) 8:00 PM

March 13th Daylight Savings Time Begins
Set your clocks ahead one hour before retiring Saturday night.



Mar. 14th April Newsletter
(Mon.) **Deadline**
Please have your news items, volunteer lists, etc. on the workroom desk **March 14th** to be in mailboxes Sunday, March 27th. Thanks!



Mar. 17th 6:00 PM Confirmation
(Thurs.) **Questioning & Potluck**

The class of 2016 confirmands will answer questions regarding faith and catechism followed by a potluck supper and pictures.

2016 Confirmands

Paige Morrow	Payton Morrow
Savannah Williams	Jenna Jaeschke

Mar. 22nd LWML
(Tues.) 7:30 PM, Fellowship Hall.


St. Paul's LWML would like to invite you to hear Bridger Kroos share his experience at Camp Luther last summer.



Ingathering: Cash/Donations for Camp Luther (see the list on the bulletin board by Pastor's office)/ Mites



Mar. 23rd LLL
(Wed.) 8:00 PM

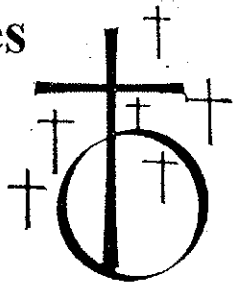
 **Choir meets Wednesdays** after Lenten Services Mar. 2, 9, 16 and at 7:00 PM on March 23 and 30

Lenten Services

Wednesdays - 7:30 P.M.
March 2nd - March 16th

"The Cross in Lent"

Join with all God's people for the journey to the cross!



Lenten Suppers

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

Mar. 2nd Preschool
Serving spaghetti, garlic bread and vegetables.

Free-will offering will go towards preschool supplies, furniture and scholarships.

Mar. 9th Choir Potato Bar Supper

Mar. 16th VBS

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



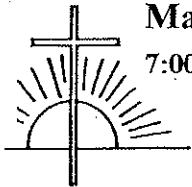
Holy Week

Mar. 20th Palm Sunday with Confirmation
10:00 AM Worship Service with Communion (individual cup)

Mar. 24th Maundy Thursday
7:30 PM Communion Worship (individual cup)

Mar. 25th Good Friday
7:30 PM Worship Service

Mar. 26th Holy Saturday
7:30 PM Healing Service



Mar. 27th Easter Morning
7:00 AM Sunrise Service with Communion (individual cup)

10:00 AM Festive Service with Communion (individual cup)



Easter Morning Activities
Come and celebrate the glorious resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, Easter morning.

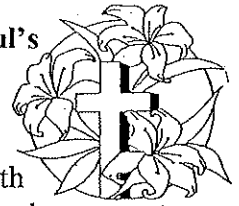
Easter Breakfast: Our LWML has prepared a special breakfast for you following the Sunrise Service. The LWML ladies will be serving breakfast casseroles, fresh fruit, and pastries. Free-will offering. Plan to attend this special event.

Easter Egg Hunt following the Easter breakfast instead of Sunday School for the children. No adult Bible class today. Parents please stay with your children and enjoy the fun! *Visitors welcome. Invite someone to attend with you!*



☩ Sunday Mornings at St. Paul's

9:00 AM Sunday School & Adult Bible Class
10:00 AM Worship Service with Communion 1st & 3rd Sunday



Easter Flowers

If you plan to share an Easter lily to help beautify our sanctuary Easter Sunday, please bring your flower to the church by 2:00 PM on Saturday, March 26th. Thank You!

March Area Events

11th 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. For more information email: <http://acleafire.org>

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

Tickets: \$55/person
Zion Lutheran Church & School-Hastings
Christ Lutheran Church & School-Juniata
Ruhter Auction & Realty, Inc.
Email: auctions@ruhterauction.com

Mar. 26th Kenesaw Mrs. Club
(Sat.) Annual Easter Egg Hunt
1:00 PM Kenesaw Park



St. Paul's Lutheran Preschool Now Registering for 2016-2017

We are the only Preschool in Kenesaw and are located at St. Paul's Lutheran Church. We are licensed through the State of Nebraska and associated with the LCMS schools. Our program offers developmentally appropriate activities that meet the individual needs of our students, in a Christian atmosphere. Because we have returning students, we offer a new and varied curriculum each year, meeting 3 days a week, 15 weeks a semester. Our staff strives to keep up to date on the latest trends in education and our teacher has a Nebraska teaching certificate in Elementary/Early Childhood education.

To qualify, your child must be 4 by Dec. 31st. There is a \$20.00 registration fee that will be waived if you register by May 30th. We can help arrange transportation and we also have financial aid if needed. For more information contact Michelle Hagemeister at 308-325-5768 or Sharon Duffy at 402-752-3536.

Scholarship News!

Lutheran Women's Missionary League Nebraska South District Scholarships

Scholarships for 2016/2017 school year are available for those planning to be full-time church workers and attend one of our Concordia Universities and Seminaries. The scholarship has been increased from \$500 to \$1,000/year. Please let students know about this wonderful opportunity to serve our Lord in their vocations. For more information and an application contact Pam Binfield or online at www.lwmlnesouth.org. Application deadline is June 1, 2016.

Save the Date!!!

Barnyard Roundup

2016 VBS

June 6th -10th



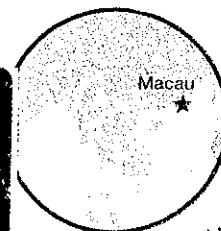
Watch the bulletin and newsletter for more details.



Pray for

New Missionaries to Macau

St. Paul's fellowship League has adopted Rev. Peter Haugen and family, new missionaries to Macau, China. Pastor Haugen is married and has four children, ages 12, 10, 9, and 7, Aleithia, Isaiah, Janoah and Elias. He hails from Minnesota and his wife, Bethany, from North Dakota. At last notice, the family was living in Hong Kong awaiting approval for Bethany and the children to live in Macau, as their initial visa applications were denied. Pastor Haugen has been granted a work visa and travels to Macau by ferry every other weekend to attend his duties there. While in Hong Kong he leads daily Matins and weekly Divine Services. Bethany is home schooling the children. Please pray the visa appeal process ends quickly and favorably and that the Haugen's are soon at home and at God's work in Macau!



- Pray daily for Peter and Bethany — and how you can support and tell others about their ministry. Visit lcms.org/haugen



April Upcoming Events

"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 We can't wait
to see you there!



**LWML Hastings Zone
Spring Workshop
Saturday, April 9th - St. Paul's
Kenesaw**

"Apple of His Eye"

*"Bothers and sisters, my heart's
desire and prayer to God for Israel
is that they may be saved. Romans
10:1*

Featured Speaker: Sharon Duffy

Registration/Refreshments: 9 AM - 9:30 AM
Registration Fee: \$5.00
Program Begins: 9:30 AM

All women of the congregation are
invited to join us for this special time of
Bible study and fellowship with other
sisters in Christ. Sharon Duffy will share
her walk of faith from Judaism to
Christianity. Mark the date, plan to
attend and bring a friend.



**New In the Church
Library**

The Very First Easter

This Gold Medallion Book Award
finalist paints a vivid picture of Jesus'
last days on earth to children ages 5-
10. Christopher hears the *true story*,
not a fairy tale, about Jesus' trial,
death and resurrection. He learns
important details about this
miraculous event and discovers his
own special link to the very first
Easter. Author Paul Maier writes,
"this book answers real questions
children ask about Easter".
Beautifully illustrated by Francisco
Ordaz.

St. Paul's Library has many books,
videos and DVDs available for check
out to enhance your Easter
experience. Take a few minutes
before or after services to make a
selection. Write it in the book, enjoy,
then return it for others to enjoy and
mark it off the book.



Serve at

Camp Luther has many opportunities for
volunteers and workers. Camp Luther
has partnered with NLOMA (National
Lutheran Outdoor Ministry Association)
which will allow staff to work in Nebraska
and at over 20 Lutheran camps across
the country. Camp Luther's staff training
week begins Tuesday morning, May 31st,
and the summer camp season officially
closes on Sunday, July 31st. Consider
joining Camp Luther's team. For more
information go to www.campluther.org

Stewardship Wrap Up #2

This month, let's spend a few moments considering a very well-known parable, The Parable of the Talents, as it is recorded in Matthew 25:14-30. You remember that there were three servants who each received from the owner, the master, an incredible amount of money to care for during his absence as he went on a journey. (Just to give you a little more information, a talent was the largest unit of measure of weight being usually reserved for the measurement of precious metals. It seems that a talent weighed 75 pounds and that a talent of silver would have been what a common laborer could have made over a 20-year career.) He "gave" them the money to care for as stewards, trusting that they would do what was best for him. He gave them the opportunity to showcase for him their skills and abilities as stewards, possibly leading to a greater position in his company.

And what did they do with the opportunity?

Two of them invested the money and one buried his portion in a field, either forgetting (or not wanting to believe) the master was going to return, or being so scared of him that he chose to bury the gift and at least be able to give the master back what he had entrusted to him before he left.

What do we learn from this stewardship parable? One, that the master does not give everyone the same gifts in the same quantity.

We see the same thing happening in our lives as our heavenly Father gives to people various gifts and talents in various proportions, but each according to what He knows they need and can manage. And that is okay with us, trusting always that God knows what He is doing and it is for our good. It does us no good to spend our time pouting that someone has received a gift we wanted.

God's gifts
to us are
incredible!

Instead we are blessed to be able to praise God for the gifts and talents He has given to us, rejoicing in the fact that He has deemed us worthy through the blood of Jesus Christ to receive gifts from His gracious hand, as He sees fit and knows is best.

Two, that the size of the gift is not what matters, but what we do with the gifts God gives to us. You see, even though the first two men returned to the master different sized gifts, he said the exact same thing to both of them: ²¹ His master said to him,

"Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master" (Matthew 25:21, 23). All the Master is concerned about is how we use the gifts He gives to us.

Third, just a brief thought about the third servant who chose to do nothing more with the money his master loaned to him to take care of than to bury it in the ground, so if and when the master returned he could return it to him just as he received it. When the master returns and the servant starts with the excuses, the master does not condemn him for doing bad things. The servant did not lie or cheat or steal or anything like that. And that is really the point. **He did nothing with the gift that was entrusted to him by the master to care for in his absence, and that is where the problem lies between the master and this steward.**

What a blessing is ours to see how God has gifted us in so many incredible ways, and how He also has given us opportunities to be good stewards of those gifts as we use them for the good of His Kingdom, both here on earth and ultimately in heaven, as we impact the lives of those He places in our lives!

Rev. John Heckmann

LWML Senior Pastoral Counselor

Dear Friends in Christ,

Thank you very much for your generous contribution of \$155.00 received 12/31/15 and \$1,110.00 and \$432.50 received on 2/15/2016 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



Relief for Human Need Worldwide

CHRIST THE LORD IS RISEN TODAY

Charles Wesley—1739



*And if Christ has not been raised,
then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain (1 Corinthians 15:14).*

John and Charles Wesley, fiery evangelical preachers, were rejected by many of their fellow ministers and pulpits were closed to them.

Another preacher, a friend, was having the same difficulty; however, George Whitefield, 22, began preaching in the open air. He invited Charles to join with him in Blackheath and they each had a vision of reaching multitudes.

Charles made his first attempts at preaching in the open air in the outskirts of London. A farmer invited him to preach in his field and drew a crowd of around 500 people. Soon he was preaching to thousands. He said, "My load was gone, and all my doubts and scruples. God shone upon my path; and I knew this was His will concerning me."

Charles was quoted to have said: "I found him standing on a table-board, in an erect posture ... surrounded by, I guess more than a thousand people, some of them fashionable persons, but most of the lower rank of mankind. He prayed with uncommon fervency ... He then preached about half an hour in such a manner as I have scarce ever heard any man preach ... I think I never heard any man labor so earnestly to convince his hearers they were all by nature in a sinful, lost, undone, damnable state; that notwithstanding, there was a possibility of their salvation, through faith in Christ ... All this he backed up with many texts of Scripture, which he explained and illustrated, and then by a variety of the most forcible motives, arguments, and expostulation, did

he invite, allure, quicken, and labor, if it were possible, to compel all, and every of his hearers, to believe in Christ for salvation."

Charles Wesley still preaches today in much the same way through his ageless hymns which are sung around the world each Sunday. Perhaps his most exuberant anthem is the one he simply called, "Hymn for Easter Day," published in 1739. It originally consisted of eleven stanzas. The "Alleluias" were added later, but appropriately, for this is a hymn one never gets tired of singing:

*Christ, the Lord is risen today Alleluia!
Sons of men and angels say, Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!
Sing, ye heavens, and earth, reply, Alleluia!*

*Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia!
Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia!
Dying once He all doth save, Alleluia!
Where thy victory, O grave? Alleluia!*

*Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!
Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!
Death in vain forbids Him rise, Alleluia!
Christ hath opened paradise, Alleluia!*

—Taken from Then Sings My Soul

By Robert J. Morgan 2003

(Thomas Nelson, Inc.)

