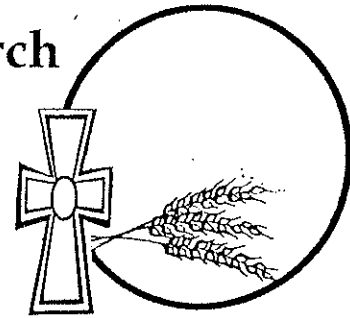


☩ St. Paul's Lutheran Church

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

Kenesaw, NE

Pastor's Ponderings
October, 2015



Dear Christian Friends,

It is nearing the time of the Church Year to once again celebrate the Reformation. This historic day in the church, October 31st, is a day of great meaning to Lutherans the world over. If you've grown up in the Lutheran Church, you know the story well.

In Wittenberg, Germany, 1517, The Roman Catholic monk, Martin Luther, was vexed in spirit at the corruption that had spread within the Catholic Church. It had become standard practice for the church to offer forgiveness of sins for a price, through the sale of indulgences – a purchased slip of paper that guaranteed time off suffering in purgatory for you or your deceased loved ones. Forgotten or ignored was the doctrine that the blood of Jesus cleanses us from *all* sin (1 John 1:7). Forgotten was the blessed truth that we are not saved by works of righteousness (or purchased indulgences), but by faith alone in the Lord Jesus Christ (Ephesians 2:8-9).

Luther was so concerned that the people be taught the truth of God (not the doctrines of man), he issued points of debate to be brought forward in the church, challenging the prevailing attitudes of the day. Among the most pertinent questions to be answered were, how was a person saved from their sins? Was it through their works or was it through the unmerited grace of God? Using the Holy Scriptures as His foundation, Luther showed that salvation was a free gift of God and not something that could be earned or bought.

To make a long story short, we are celebrating the rediscovery of that answer. Lutherans believe, teach and confess that "we are saved by grace, through faith, without any merit or worthiness in me."

Our worship and our preaching on Reformation Sunday will be an emphasis and celebration of the liberating truth that we are forgiven children of God solely by the merits of Jesus on the cross and His glorious resurrection from the dead.

It must also be emphasized greatly that *this still matters*.

In this increasing age of mass communication and mass opinion sharing based on human emotion and whims, people are losing the basic concepts of truth and reality; increasingly, they have no real answer about where they stand in relation to the God who rules the universe and has created them for fellowship with Himself.

The Reformation occurred to bring the message to all people that God was in Christ, reconciling the world to Himself. This is a sure foundation and it matters to a world that is not providing any real answers to questions that are eating the hearts out of people.

We, the faithful Lutheran Church in this world, have the answer. The answer is Jesus Christ, who offers the free gift of salvation to all who believe in His death for our sins and resurrection from the dead for our justification.

This, we celebrate on October 31st, and on this rock of truth, we stand!

See you in Church!

Pastor Duffy

Workers for the Lord in October 2015

Acolytes: Jenna Jaeschke
Hope Nienhaueser
Kaylee Steer
Paige Morrow

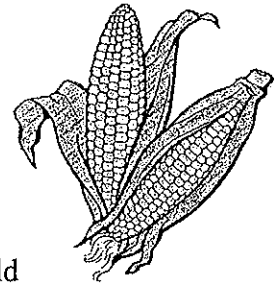
Crucifer: Payton Morrow

Counters: Myles & Mary Ramsey
Mike & Nancy Schroeder

Ushers: Gary Bittfield
Brent Schirmer
Taylor Jacobitz

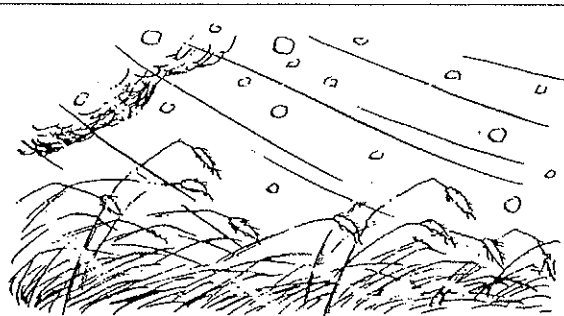
Elder: Mike Engelhardt

Altar Guild: Connie Bittfield
Peggy Saddler



October Birthdays

- 1 Joyce Woodman
- 2 Kade Klusman
Rodney Hagemeister
- 3 Bradley Jameson
- 4 Julie Fischer
- 5 Peggy Saddler
- 8 Chelsey Jacobitz
- 10 Tracey Denkert
Janice Harms
- 13 Mardi Novak
- 14 Carsyn Chandler
Brent Schirmer
- 17 Wyona Enninga
- 18 Duane Kimle
- 21 Michelle Duffy Tucker
Sarah Kroos
- 22 Clint Burr
Chad Kurpgeweit
Kayla Mack
Mike Pritchard
- 23 Jay Bittfield
Kelsey Jaeschke
- 24 Katie Nienhueser
- 25 Eldon Enninga
- 29 Max Beal

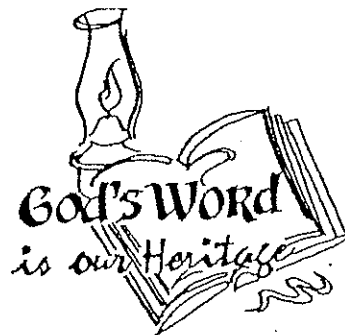


His Most Productive Crop

One growing season a farmer had a beautiful crop of grain. But a week before the harvest it was wiped out by a hailstorm. His son expected the farmer to lash out in bitterness and despair. But instead he accepted the loss in a spirit of faith and quiet acceptance.

Today this farmer's son is a person of faith who has also learned to live with failure and loss. He thinks of this devastated grain field as his father's most productive crop because it taught him a lesson he has never forgotten.

When it comes to our own children, we should remember that lessons and values which we try to teach them are more easily *caught* than *taught*. Modeling the right behavior before our children is a lot more effective than lectures and empty words.



God's Eternal Word

For feelings come and feelings go,
And feelings are deceiving;
My warrant is the Word of God
Naught else is worth believing.

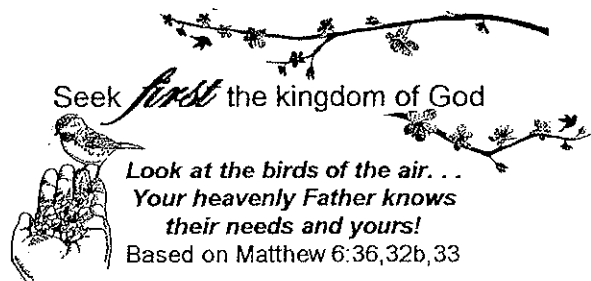
I'll trust in God's unchanging Word
Till soul and body sever;
For, though all things shall pass away,
His Word shall stand forever.

—Author unknown

OCTOBER COMING EVENTS

Oct. 1 Ladies Aid 2:00 PM
(Thurs.)

Oct. 4 LWML Sunday -
Celebrate with Women in Mission



The women of LWML invite the entire congregation to celebrate together as the body of Christ under the theme, "Seek First the Kingdom of God". We will share in a special worship service authored by LWML Counselors Rev. John Heckmann and Rev. Dr. Robert Roegner. Join us and learn how the Lord has worked through the LWML in bringing the lost and erring into fellowship with Him through mission and ministry.

Oct. 7 ✠ Worship at Premier
(Wed.) **Estates ✠ 10:00 AM**

Oct. 14 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.

Oct. 14 Fellowship League
(Wed.) 8:00 PM - Fellowship Hall

November Newsletter Deadline
Monday, Oct. 12 to be in mailboxes Sunday, Oct 25. Please place your news items, lists of volunteers, etc. on the desk in the workroom. Advent begins November 29th. Thanks!



Oct. 25 Reformation /Heritage
Sunday



10 AM Special Worship Service

"It's STILL About JESUS"

German Food themed Potluck Dinner following the service. Brats, drinks, and table service will be provided. All types of food are welcome! Join in the fun & try something new! Synod plans for the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation to be revealed.

Everyone Welcome!



Oct. 27 LWML Meeting
(Tues.) 7:30 PM Fellowship Hall

Watch the bulletin and your mailbox for meeting details.

Oct. 28 Lutheran Layman's League
(Wed.) **(LLL) Meeting 8 PM**

Oct. 31 Annual Fall Carnival
(Sat.) Sponsored by St. Paul's LYF

6:00 - 8:00 PM

Fun, Games, Prizes, Candy

**Come for a hot dog, chips,
and drink!**

Everything's FREE!



Remember it is a church sponsored event, so please ensure costumes are appropriate. Get in the spirit of the reformation! Come as a monk, medieval maiden, knight, etc.

See you there!

Oct. 31 Reformation Day

Martin Luther nailed his 95 Theses to the door of Wittenberg Castle Church.

Area Events

Oct. 4
(Sun.)

Life CHAIN

Burlington Ave. - Hastings
2:00 - 3:00 P.M.



A peaceful and prayerful public witness of pro-life individuals standing and praying for our nation and for an end to abortion. It is a visual statement of solidarity by the Christian community that abortion kills children and that the Church supports the sanctity of human life from the moment of conception until natural death. St. Paul's is assigned to the block along 2nd Street between Burlington and Lexington Streets.

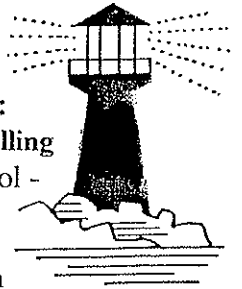
Rain or shine! As you stand for the unborn, please space yourselves 25-30 feet apart along the route. Do not park in front of any open business. Always be courteous. Water, lawn chairs, umbrellas and strollers are welcome and encouraged.

Signs proclaim "Abortion Kills Children," "Adoption - the Loving Option," "Jesus Forgives and Heals," "Life the First Inalienable Right" and "Pregnant? Need Help? 1-800-712-HELP."

Bring your whole family!

Everyone can do something and opportunities abound to uphold the sanctity of life. Information on how you can defend the sanctity of life can be found at www.lutheransforlife.com or <http://blogs.lcms.org/2015/defending-sanctity-of-life>

Oct. 1 **Lighthouse Parenting:**
(Thurs.) **Guiding But Not Controlling**
7:00 p.m. Christ Lutheran School -
Juniata



How much is too much? Veteran teacher, author, and speaker Sue Acuna will share tips on how to be a helpful beacon of light in your child's life instead of a hovering interference. Her engaging storytelling style will leave you both laughing and inspired. Pick up a flyer between the mailboxes.
Free to the public! Invite others!

Upcoming Events

Nov 1 **Daylight Savings**
(Sun.) **Time Ends**



Nov. 1 **Wurstfest 5 - 7 PM**
(Sun.) **Holstein Fire Hall**

Enjoy a feast of brats, kraut, German potato salad and more. Proceeds fund mission projects.

Nov 29 **Fellowship Coffee 9 AM**
(Sun.) **Hymn Sing 9:45 AM**



Begin your Advent season with us!! Share a cup of coffee or hot beverage, satisfy your sweet tooth and enjoy lively conversation then head to the sanctuary for the hymn sing prior to the morning worship service.

Nov. 1 **International Day of**
(Sun.) **Prayer (IDOP) for the**
Persecuted Church

Uniting in prayer for the persecuted church, in the spirit of oneness that Christ commanded: 'For, if one suffers, we all suffer.'



Fall Carnival!

It's the time of year to prepare for St. Paul's Annual Fall Carnival, October 31st from 6-8 PM. As in past years we rely on donations of pop (16-20 oz. bottles) and bags of candy to pass out to the children as prizes. If you'd like to help, please leave donations in the box provided in the entry way. Thank you and God bless!

Operation Christmas Child

Operation Christmas Child Shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child are available in the entryway. If you are interested in packing one or more, help your self to a box and instructions. **Return the filled boxes to the church by the first week of November.**

More information about Samaritan's Purse can be found on line at www.smaritanspurse.org Thank you for your help with this ministry.

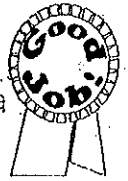


Sunday Morning Schedule

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

Attendance Awards

The following Sunday School students were awarded attendance pins at the August 30th Service for missing no more than one Sunday a month Sept. 2014-May 2015.



Archie Augustin Rhett Augustin
Shawn Duffy Bridger Kroos
Cooper Kroos McKinley Kroos
Austin Mack Kayla Mack
Lottie Schirmer

Busy Bags

"Busy Bags" are available to the young children of the congregation to use for the service and return on your way out of church. Please feel free to take the pictures your child creates and leave the remaining supplies for future services. *Enjoy!*



Words from FDR

We still remain true to the faith of our fathers who established religious liberty when the nation began. We must remember, too, that our forebears in every generation, and wherever they established their homes, made prompt and generous provision for the institutions of religion. We must continue their steadfast reliance upon the providence of God.

No greater blessing could come to our land today than a revival of the spirit of religion. I doubt if there is any problem in the world today — social, political or economic — that would not find happy solution if approached in the spirit of the Sermon on the Mount.

—Franklin D. Roosevelt, 1938



New In the Church Library!

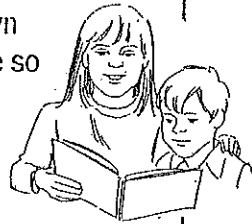


October Baby (DVD)

As the curtain rises Hannah steps onto the stage . . . Only to collapse moments later. Countless medical tests all point to one underlying factor. Hannah's difficult birth. The doctor's diagnosis is nothing compared to her parents' revelation: Hannah was adopted -- after a failed abortion attempt.

Bewildered, angered and confused, Hannah embarks on an incredible journey with Jason, her oldest friend. As she searches to discover her hidden past and find hope for her unknown future, Hannah realizes life can be so much more than you've planned.

Rated PG-13 Approx. 109 minutes



Whisper, Whisper - Learning about Church (Book)

When you help your little one learn what to expect in church and how to participate in the service, you teach that church is for everyone. By making the worship service familiar to your child ahead of time, you help prepare him or her to behave respectfully, respond appropriately and receive God's gifts faithfully. Packed with how-tos and why-we-dos, this book is for children ages 1 and above.

When Someone Dies - Find Comfort in Jesus (Book)

Written for readers of all ages, this gentle book suggests ways to understand and cope with grief. Respectful and honest, this book does not diminish feelings of grief in whatever form they take. Instead, it encourages children to find comfort in Jesus, our Good Shepherd, and in His promise of an eternal home.

Double Feature DVD

Sarah's Choice

Sarah is a young woman on the elevator of success, poised to attain her dream of an exciting corner office. There's only one thing that's going to keep her from getting it, an unexpected pregnancy. Sarah is now faced with a moral and potentially career ending choice. She is torn between keeping the life growing inside her and her legal right to abort the baby in the midst of her turmoil, a mysterious stranger foretells the coming of three visions that will change her heart. With financial pressures mounting and her dream career at stake, what will Sarah choose.

Hidden Secrets

This charming and irresistible film explores the lasting impact a group of close friends has on one another despite drifting apart over the years. Reunited at the funeral of hometown hero Chris Hayden, friend find tensions escalating rapidly as their darkest secrets are revealed. Jeremy rediscovers the love of his life and is caught between his childhood sweetheart and his new fiancé. As the embers of their past relationship reignite, Jeremy must seek God's ultimate will for his life.

Meanwhile, Gary (John Schneider, *The Dukes of Hazard, Smallville*), the agnostic, questions everyone's faith at this close-knit group of friends learn to stand firm in their adversity. Pastor Wexler (Reginald Val Johnson, *Die Hard, Family Matters*) encourages them not to give up but follow the truth that Chris Hayden lived.

Both titles are Dove Family Approved
Rated 4/5 Doves Approx. 90 minutes
Recommended ages 12 and over

STEWARDSHIP TIPS FOR THE NEXT GENERATION

Understand that all you have belongs to God.

Christian Stewardship reminds us that the things we have, everything we have, our time, talents, treasure, tissue, touch, testimony, even our trash (think about that for a minute), are blessings from God. All the things we own belong to God and He loans them to us for the length of time that He sees fit and in the quantity that He knows is best for us. What that means for you and me is that He trusts us to be responsible for these things for the period of time that He puts them under our care.

Jesus shares with us a well-known parable in Luke 19:12-26 that sums this up very well. ¹² "A nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom and then return. ¹³ Calling ten of his servants, he gave them ten minas, and said to them, 'Engage in business until I come.' ¹⁴ But his citizens hated him and sent a delegation after him, saying, 'We do not want this man to reign over us.' ¹⁵ When he returned, having received the kingdom, he ordered these servants to whom he had given the money to be called to him, that he might know what they had gained by doing business. ¹⁶ The first came before him, saying, 'Lord, your mina has made ten minas more.' ¹⁷ And he said to him, 'Well done, good servant! Because you have been faithful in a very little, you shall have authority over ten cities.' ¹⁸ And the second came, saying, 'Lord, your mina has made five minas.' ¹⁹ And he said to him, 'And you are to be over five cities.' ²⁰ Then another came, saying, 'Lord, here is your mina, which I kept laid away in a handkerchief; ²¹ for I was afraid of you, because you

are a severe man. You take what you did not deposit, and reap what you did not sow.' ²² He said to him, 'I will condemn you with your own words, you wicked servant! You knew that I was a severe man, taking what I did not deposit and reaping what I did not sow? ²³ Why then did you not put my money in the bank, and at my coming I might have collected it with interest?' ²⁴ And he said to those who stood by, 'Take the mina from him, and give it to the one who has the ten minas.' ²⁵ And they said to him, 'Lord, he has ten minas!' ²⁶ 'I tell you that to everyone who has, more will be given, but from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away.' "

What does this mean for us? It means many things. I think one point is that our Heavenly Father calls on us and equips us to be responsible with the money we earn and how we use it as we look at our possessions as a treasure God has provided. Another point is that we understand the privilege that is ours to care for these things with which He provides us.

Oh, what a blessing it will be when we hear our Master say to us on our glorious day of judgment and welcome into the Kingdom of Heaven, "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 25:23).

Rev. John Heckmann
LWML Senior Counselor

Budget Update



2015 Budget Analysis

	Amount Proposed For the Year 2015	Amount Received as of 8/31/15	Percent of Budget Met To Date	Amount Needed To Meet Budget
Missions	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 6,820.61	34%	\$ 13,179.39
Current	\$ 166,040.00	\$ 87,284.35	53%	\$ 78,755.65
Commodities and Assets	\$	\$		
Sharon Owens, Missionary	\$	\$ 645.00		



October 2015

PRAYER GUIDE FOR LWML MISSION GRANTS

Prayers for: Disaster Response Trailers

PRAYER #1

Dear Jesus, as we gather our mites to further Your Kingdom, we pray for those struggling with disaster in areas across the USA. We give thanks for those that volunteer time and talents to go into these areas with tools needed to clean-up and give comfort. Protect the workers and empower them with the Holy Spirit as they minister to Your children in time of need. We thank and praise You for the gifts of mercy, love, and life that You have given to each one of us. In Your Holy Name, we pray, Amen!

PRAYER #2

Dear Lord, we often fail to remember the many people that scan the weather situations and notify Your children of dangerous tornadoes, hurricanes, floods, and other disasters that may be headed their way. The gift of technology has saved many lives as they seek shelter from danger. We ask Your blessing on the The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod districts that will be using these equipment trailers to bring comfort to Your children as they recover from disaster. Praise be to You, the one who brings peace. Amen!

PRAYER #3

Dear Father, as the Disaster Response teams reach an area of destruction, empower them to give Gospel-centered care for body and soul, providing an opportunity for the church to be visibly active in reaching out in mercy to serve the hurting and homeless with physical and spiritual care. We have seen Your power over the years with the mites that are gathered by the Lutheran Women's Missionary League, keep us mindful that all is to the glory of God to further His Kingdom. Amen!

PRAYER #4

Dear Lord, as we place our mites into the Mite Box may we be forever reminded of the power of these small coins. As the Lutheran Women's Missionary League met in convention, we asked Your guidance in the selection of grants for this biennium. These projects are before us to remember in prayer, support financially, and share the results of Your labor. Many grants require workers to carry out a project, we remember them and place them into Your caring hands. Use our hands, feet, voices, and gold to further Your Kingdom. 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

DISASTER RESPONSE TRAILERS

\$80,000

The last decade saw an unprecedented number of disasters. God calls us to be His hands reaching out to bring peace and hope, relief, and assistance to those who suffer the devastating effects of natural and man-made disasters. These equipment trailers will allow groups to quickly provide volunteers for debris clean-up after hurricanes, floods, tornadoes, and other disasters. In this way, they aren't a burden on those affected, but rather are able to bring relief and comfort. The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) Disaster Response trailers provides a ministry of presence before, during, and after a disaster.

Currently, there are over 12,000 individuals from across the LCMS who have received training as Lutheran Early Response Team volunteers and the number grows every month. The goal is to equip twenty trailers to be used in twenty LCMS districts. Trained teams will be tasked with utilizing and maintaining these equipment trailers. Volunteers will be better prepared to quickly respond in time of disaster with the proper cleaning supplies and tools. Disasters, while terrible, are a time when the church can take a moment to truly care for the greatest treasures of this world—people. Through LCMS Disaster Response, the church is able to provide Gospel-centered care for both body and soul in times of tragedy.

This Lutheran Women's Missionary League mission grant will pay for one third of the costs per trailer for each congregation in various districts requesting a trailer. The congregation/district will also be asked for one third of the cost and the LCMS Disaster Response will pay the remaining third. Disaster Response volunteers throughout a district would be better prepared to quickly respond in time of disaster with the proper equipment available to the entire district. In turn, they will be in a better position to speak the comforting truths of the Gospel to the individuals and families affected.

