

# ✠ St. Paul's Lutheran Church ✠

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Kenesaw, NE

Pastor's Ponderings  
September, 2018



## Painful Realities

Dear Friends in Christ Jesus:

*"Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit. A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus you will recognize them by their fruits" (Matthew 7:15-20).*

If you're aware of what's been happening within the Roman Catholic Church lately, you know it's heartbreaking, painful, maddening, and confusing. Having been raised a Catholic, these many stories of sexually abusive priests catch my attention. Once upon a time, the RC church was my spiritual home.

With the Philadelphia grand jury investigation that uncovered what appears to be a "network" of abusers, it's clear no defense can be mustered. It's so devastating to these young victims whose lives have been forever altered and scarred. Their images of twisted spiritual leaders can never be undone. Is this who they think God's representatives are? Let us pray they have been or will be introduced properly to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ who loves them and is angry at the actions of these abusive individuals posing as Christians.

Equally painful as the abuse itself, the name of Jesus Christ is maligned and the church everywhere is soiled. To the world (understandably, we might add), the church appears as little more than a front for hypocrisy, and a bearer of "bad fruit." Who within its walls can be trusted?

From the above Scripture reading, it's clear that our Lord anticipated these false prophets (i.e., spiritual leaders) masquerading as ministers of righteousness (II Corinthians 11:13-15), who would make their way on to the scene. At the same time they would provide clear indications of who they were by the fruit they bore. With tears, St. Paul addressed the elders at Ephesus, saying, "I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock" (Acts 20:29). We are witnesses to these very words being fulfilled.

Truth be told, spiritual and scandalous abuses, perhaps not as heinous and pronounced as these, have been evident through the centuries leading up to the Reformation. Many voices of reform were raised long before the time of Luther, but were silenced. We can only hope and pray a new wave of reform will begin at Rome's center and lead to a reformation of a new sort - one that will purge the church of false prophets and bearers of bad fruit who create terrible anguish and bring a reproach to the name of Jesus. He does not deserve such poor representation.

Is there good news in all this? Not that we can see with our limited vision. However, God causes all things to work for good to those who love God and are called according to His purpose. He will hold those precious, damaged lives close to His heart and provide a refuge for them when they call upon His name. Let us call upon His name for them and pray that we remain pure and dedicated to the Word and will of Christ, and that our Church would provide a faithful place to receive truth, comfort, strength and meaning for life.

See You in Church.

Pastor Duffy

## Workers for the Lord in September

### Acolytes:

Lane Kelley  
Nick Kuehn  
Kayla Mack  
Bridger Kroos  
Levi Schroeder

### Ushers: Allen Jacobitz

Curt Mack  
Zach Adams

### Money Counters:

Chad & Chandra Uden  
Al & Bev Nixon

### Altar Guild:

Valerie Schirmer  
Joyce Woodman

Elder: Mike Engelhardt


Welcome Ryder!

Ryder Coy Ferguson will graduated from the Nursery Roll in September and is invited to join us for Sunday School.

## SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Cortlen Klusman  
Savannah Williams
- 2 Matt Duffy  
Keaton Harpham
- 3 Alan Nixon
- 4 Rodger Harms  
Jack Powell
- 5 Casey Olson
- 6 Jake Brunk
- 7 Michael Duffy  
LaDonna Kimle
- 9 Jennifer Kurpgeweit
- 10 Ryder Ferguson  
Eva Wiese
- 13 Becky Ehly
- 15 Samantha Schirmer
- 17 Ken Marble
- 18 Tyson Denkert  
Douglas Raymond
- 19 Payton Chandler  
Frieda Iden  
Kerri Jameson
- 20 Betty Jacobitz
- 22 Lamoine Beal  
Isabelle Kroos
- 24 Jeff Binfield  
Diane Campbell  
Adam Denkert  
Dale Finnigsmeier  
Shane Powell
- 25 Drake Olson  
Mike Wiese
- 26 Jenna Jaeschke  
Chase Uden
- 27 Theresa Powell
- 28 Malena Goldenstein
- 29 Debra Adams

# Lutheran Schools



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# SEPTEMBER COMING EVENTS

## Sept . 5 † Worship at Premier

(Wed.) Estates 10:00 AM

Join with Pastor Duffy and the residents for a monthly devotion of readings and songs.

## Sept . 5 Church Council Meets

(Wed.) 7:00 PM - Fellowship Hall

All members please come to this meeting to discuss church business.

## Sept . 6 Ladies Aid

(Thurs.) 2:00 PM - Fellowship Hall

All female communicant members are welcome to join the ladies for Pastor led topics and refreshments. Service projects are delivering cookies to Premier Estates and Easter baskets to shut-ins, toys for the Hospital Toy Chest, serving a soup supper and bringing items for the food pantry. Come to the meeting to find out more!

## Sept. 8 Mission Central Trip

(Sat.) 5:30AM - 7:00 PM

Meet at the church at 5:30 for coffee, juice and rolls, the bus leaves at 6 AM sharp, arriving at Mission Central approx. 10:30 AM Mission presentation by the Gauthiers our missionaries to Panama, lunch, tour the museum and Creation Theater before heading home, arriving approx. 7 PM

## Sept 9th Fall Schedule Begins

(Sun.) 9:00 AM Sunday School

9:30 AM Joshua Code Discussion

10:00 AM Worship Service

## Christian Education Sunday &

## Annual All-Church Picnic

(following the service)

While the hamburgers and hot dogs grill, join in some old-fashioned games or get reacquainted with your church family. Everything provided: hamburgers, hot dogs, baked beans, potato salad, ice cream sandwiches, Pastor's home-made lemonade, ice tea and table service. Everyone welcome just bring your appetite! Casual dress.

## Sept. 12 OGT Sort & Pack Day

(Wed.) 10 AM - 2 PM

St. Paul's monthly sort and pack day at the Grand Island warehouse. Pool rides from the church at 9:00 AM. Helpers needed including men. Questions? Contact Bev or Al Nixon

## Sept . 12 Confirmation Class

(Wed.) 7:00 PM - Sunday School Annex

Bible based Lutheran doctrine and membership instructional classes for 7th and 8th graders meets Wednesday evenings during the school year. Questions? Contact Pastor Duffy

## Sept . 12 Fellowship League

(Wed.) 8:00 PM - Fellowship League

Couples and individuals are invited to join this mission oriented group. Free-will offerings received from monthly meetings and suppers support sponsored missionary, Johanna Heidorn to Macau, China. Join them for an evening of short Bible Studies led by Pastor, card games, refreshments and more!

## Sept . 13 Pastor's Conference

(Thurs.) 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Pastors from the Hastings Circuit meet to attend to circuit business, Bible Study, lunch and fellowship.

## Sept . 16 Lutheran Youth

(Sun.) Fellowship (LYF) 7:00 PM

What's up? LYF is open to any confirmed member of St. Paul's who is in Grade 9 - Grade 12. LYF meets the 1st and 3rd Sunday evenings. Meetings consist of Bible Studies, food, planning for fund raisers, and social events. For more information contact Tim Schirmer or Katie Callan.



**Sept. 17 Monday Morning**  
(Mon.) **Bible Study** 9:00 AM

Everyone is welcome to attend this Pastor led study of "Miracles, Mysteries and More" Monday mornings in the fellowship hall. Studies last approximately one hour. Coffee is served. Check out this fascinating topic!

**Sept. 17 October Newsletter**  
(Mon.) **Items Deadline**

Meeting details or activities? Special event? Anniversaries? Births? volunteer lists? Please place the information on the desk in the workroom. Thanks!

**Sept . 19 Midweek Begins**  
(Wed.) 2:40 PM Grade1 - Grade 6

Midweek Bible School meets Wednesdays after school during the school year for snacks, singing, and Bible stories. Please note earlier start time.

**Sept . 19 St. Paul's Choir Practice**  
(Wed.) 7:00 PM - Sanctuary

Do you like to sing? The choir could use YOU to lift up your voice in song at various church services and performances during Advent, Lent and Holy Week. The choir practices Wednesdays evenings September through May. Choir is open to adults and teens. For more information contact Betty Bittfield, Music Director.

**Sept. 25 Lutheran Women's Missionary**  
(Tues.) **League (LWML)** 7:30 PM

All women of the congregation are invited to join these Lutheran women in mission for Bible Studies, service projects and more! Mites are collected for district and national mission grant recipients. Proceeds from Advent and Lenten suppers, Easter breakfast, Summer coffees and in-gatherings provides funds and supplies for selected local missions. See you in September as we begin a new year of fellowship and fun!

**Sept. 26 Lutheran Layman's**  
(Wed.) **League (LLL)** 8:00 PM

All are welcome to belong to the LLL. Join in the discussion of a topic led by Pastor after a short business meeting. Major fund-raisers are a Pancake Supper and Ice Cream Social. Proceeds supports LLL District and Zone projects, The Lutheran Hour and the LLL Scholarship Fund.

**Sept. 30 Fellowship Coffee**  
(Sun..) 9:00 AM

Come for home-made treats and refreshments before the morning worship service. Take a few minutes to examine *The Jesus Code: 52 Scripture Questions Every Believer Should Answer* by O.S. Hawkins. *The Jesus Code* is the followup to *The Joshua Code* that we have been studying in the Sunday Adult Bible Class. *The Jesus Code* will be available to purchase for \$5.



**Nebraska South LWML**  
**District Convention**  
**Sept. 14-15, 2018**

**Younes Conference Center - Kearney**

*"Daughters of the King--Sisters in Christ"*

It's time to register for the District Convention! You won't want to miss out on the big event! National speakers, Bible study, singing, worship with communion, servant events, elections of officers, selection of mission grants, laughter, fellowship and many blessings for participants. All the info is available in the Spring and Summer editions of the Echo or online at [www.lwmlinesouth.org](http://www.lwmlinesouth.org) Get your registration in today! Contact Debbie Rasberry if you have questions.

**Registration Deadline is Sept. 5, 2018.**

LWML Hastings Zone Fall Rally  
"Happy Feet"  
Sept. 30, 2018  
Zion Lutheran - Hastings



1:30 Registration & Social Time  
2:00 PM Rally Begins Registration: \$5.00  
Mary Ann Niemoth, a Zion Hastings LWML member will report on her recent trip to Africa. The rally theme is based on Romans 10:15 "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news." Our ingathering will be cash donations for solar lights to be purchased by Mary Ann for a future trip to Africa and/or new socks to be donated to SASA or Wellspring in Hastings.

**October Coming Events**

**Oct. 7 LWML Sunday**  
"Our REST in a Changing World"  
Psalm 62:1-8

**Oct. 21 Pastor Appreciation**  
(Sun.) Join us for this special day as we celebrate Pastor Duffy's 20 years of service to St. Paul's. A special meal and program is planned. Watch for more details.

**Oct. 28 Reformation Sunday**  
(Sun.) Proclaiming the Gospel!

**Oct. ? LYF Fall Carnival**  
A fun evening of games, prizes and treats. All are welcome! As in the past your help will be needed to help supply candy and pop for this event. Watch for more details

**St. Paul's Scholarship Fund**

We have six members of St. Paul's that are attending Concordia University at Seward and one that will be in the Seminary. That amounts to a lot of money every semester. You can, however, donate to the Educational Scholarship Fund any time, or times, of the year. You can use donation envelopes and write title on the check or current side. A blank envelope could also be used and ask for a receipt.

**Special Days in September**

**Sept. 9 Grandparent's Day**  
(Sun.) Let's appreciate all the joy and wisdom that grandparents bring to our lives! Find ways to spend time with them. Some ideas are to ask your grandparent to show you one of their favorite hobbies, explore nature together, ask about a special treasure. Don't miss the opportunity to spend time with the grandparents we love so much!

**Sept. 11 Patriot's Day**  
(Tues.) Cry Out America  
Praying for The Security  
and Protection of the  
United States of America  
*"But you LORD, are a shield  
around me."* Psalm 3:3



**Sept. 26 "See You at the Pole"**  
is the global day of student prayer, began in 1990 as a grass roots movement with ten students praying at their school. Twenty five years later, millions pray on their campuses on the fourth Wednesday in September. The movement has spread to other nations through U.S. missionaries, now more than 3 million students from all the world and from more than 20 countries participate. Places like Canada, Korea, Japan, Turkey, and the Ivory Coast, students are repending to God and taking seriously the challenge to pray. See You at the Pole is simply a prayer rally where students meet at the school flagpole before school to lift up their friends, families, teachers, school, and nation to God. It is a student-initiated, student organized, and student led event. However, parents, churches, and families are encouraged to participate but to learn more, and to get involved, visit [www.syatp.com](http://www.syatp.com)



## Prayers

**Prayer #1** – Heavenly Father, we thank you for these young people willing to step out in faith to reach those who do not know you; to those who are considering abortion. Send your Holy Spirit to give them the words that will open the hearts of others. Give them encouragement to speak boldly about your love for all, even the unborn. May their words change hearts and minds and bring them to faith. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

**Prayer #2** – Dear Lord, we thank you for your goodness, your mercy and your grace. Help us to assist the Lutherans for Life with this new program to train Lutheran high school students to tell others of Your love and to provide information about alternatives to abortion. We know this is a challenging task but with the help of the Holy Spirit we know that the Y4Life will bring others to know You and to no longer consider abortion as a solution to an unplanned pregnancy. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

**Prayer #3** – Gracious Heavenly Father, we give you thanks for these young people willing to step out in faith to speak up for the unborn. A child is a gift from you to be raised in faith, love and service to you. Help these young people to spread the Good News of Jesus' birth, death and resurrection for the salvation of all people. Send Your Holy Spirit to work in the hearts of all who hear their words that they may come to faith in You. We pray for this grant that it may be a tool to bring new believers to the family of Christ. In Jesus Holy name we pray. Amen.

**Prayer #4** – Faithful Father, we are your little children. When Jesus was here on earth he blessed the little children and said *Let the little children come me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these* (Matthew 19:14). We know our much our Lord and Savior loved little children. He loves all human life even that of the unborn child. And because of this love we pray for Youth to Witness for Life and all those willing to speak out against abortion and to share the love of Jesus. Hear us for the sake of Your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

## Story

*For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well (Psalm 139:13-14).*

Indeed, your works are wonderful, Gracious God, but too many people, faced with an unwanted pregnancy, don't think about that wonderful child that could be theirs. Instead they're thinking about an inconvenient and unwanted intrusion on their lives.

What to do about an unplanned pregnancy is a decision that young adults face more than any other age group. And, as a result, over 1.2 million abortions are done every year. This is a staggering number of lives lost.

Youth for Life (Y4Life) is program for young adults and older teens to speak to their peers about these issues and is part of Lutherans for Life. In their training they learn that 27% of those having an abortion have no religious affiliation and only 25% have been to church in the last month. A sad as this situation is, it is also an opportunity to share the Gospel and God's love. Through training these young people can give guidance and information about alternative services while witnessing to their peers.

This grant will expand this campus ministry to include Lutheran high schools. Since abortion occurs at an alarming rate in high school age teens, the need for education about alternatives to abortion is great. And since 17% of Lutheran high school students have no religious affiliation, Y4Life has an opportunity to tell these fellow classmates about Jesus and provide helpful information about alternatives to abortion and the sanctity of life.

This grant will provide funds for an internship program, outreach events, leadership training, servant events and a director for this ministry. Students are also provided with on-going mentorship to ensure that the student-led ministries are supported and equipped for their work. Through this program even more young people can hear the life-affirming message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

## LCMS STEWARDSHIP NEWSLETTER - SEPTEMBER

It's September, and everything is in full swing again: back to school and back to church attendance after vacations and weekends away. And since everything is back into full swing, it's a perfect time to get back to basics, back to the foundation.

At the end of the first of his chapters on the virtue of faith in *Mere Christianity*, C.S. Lewis provides a helpful reminder, by way of analogy, for the foundation of stewardship. He wrote:

Every faculty you have, your power of thinking or of moving your limbs from moment to moment, is given you by God. If you devoted every moment of your whole life exclusively to His service you could not give Him anything that was not in a sense His own already. So then, when we talk of a man doing anything for God or giving anything to God, I will tell you what it is really like. It is like a small child going to its father and saying, "Daddy, give me six pence to buy you a birthday present." Of course, the father does, and he is pleased with the child's present. It is all very nice and proper, but only an idiot would think that the father is six-pence to the good on the transaction. When a man has made these two discoveries God can really get to work. It is after this that real life begins. (128–129).

This is the first thing we are given to confess about stewardship, and it has to do with ownership. God owns everything, and we are simply managers — stewards — acting on His behalf. This is true not only of all that we have in this life (Deuteronomy 8:17–18), but also all that we are in this life (1 Corinthians 6:20).

The rest flows from here. Since we are stewards, or managers, of what belongs to God, entrusted to make use of it according to His will, there is an expectation of responsibility and accountability.

For the Lord said, "Everyone to whom much was given, of him much will be required, and from him to whom they entrusted much, they will demand the more" (Luke 12:48b).

And from this comes blessing and reward: "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).

We have everything we need to support this body and life from our God's fatherly divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in us. We have everything we need for our spiritual life also from His merciful hands.

On account of the sacrifice of His Son, our Lord Jesus, through the preaching of the gospel and the administration of the sacraments, we have the forgiveness of sins, eternal life, and everlasting salvation delivered to us with absolute certainty that it is ours — not as stewards but as sons (Galatians 4:1–7).

Let us then, as His own sons, press all that He gives to us into the service of His church and to His glory.

# St. Paul's Lutheran Church Income/Expense Report - July 2018

## INCOME

Contributions	\$ 9,006.27	
Other Misc Income	\$ 500.00	St. Paul's Lutheran Lowell - pension & health reimbursement
Preschool	\$ 50.00	
VBS Contributions	\$ -	
VBS Offering	\$ -	
Commodities Income	\$ -	
Misc Income	\$ -	
	<b>\$ 9,556.27</b>	

## EXPENSES

Payroll	\$ 5,594.27	
Pension & Health	\$ 2,605.97	
Insurance	\$ 824.17	
Discretionary Fund	\$ -	
Furnishings	\$ -	
Pastor's Expenses	\$ 67.09	cell phone, mileage, etc.
Board of Education	\$ -	
Preschool Expenses	\$ -	
Printed Materials	\$ 595.16	
Custodial Supplies	\$ 17.58	Weekly Bulletins, Portals of Prayer, Happy Times, Lutheran Witness
Office Supplies	\$ 49.00	
Equipment	\$ -	
Telephone	\$ 136.26	
Utilities	\$ 1,157.78	\$127.98 Black Hills Energy, \$836.00 Southern Power, \$193.80 City Utils
Labor & Repairs	\$ 3,614.36	\$ 174 LED Lights & controls, \$3,614 New air conditioner
Maintenance	\$ -	
Miscellaneous	\$ -	
Music	\$ -	
Missions	\$ 574.00	
Non-Budget Missions	\$ 133.00	Russian Orphanage
Vacation Bible School	\$ 231.86	Pizza Party
Scholarships	\$ -	
NACC Membership Dues	\$ -	
	<b>\$ 15,600.50</b>	
<b>Monthly Total</b>	<b>\$ (6,044.23)</b>	

## 2018 Budget Analysis

	Amount Proposed For the Year 2018	Amount Received as of July 31, 2018	Percent of Budget Met To Date	Amount Needed To Meet Budget
<b>Missions</b>	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 5,418.80	45%	\$ 6,581.20
<b>Current</b> <i>(including Commodities/Assets)</i>	\$ 161,428.39	\$ 82,184.25	51%	\$ 79,244.14
<b>Commodities and Assets</b>		\$ 12,863.79		
<b>Gauthier Family, Missionary</b>		\$ 950.00		