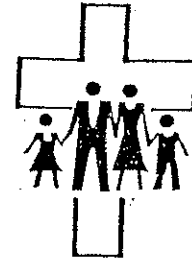
 **St. Paul's Lutheran Church**  
Kenesaw, NE

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

**Pastor's Ponderings**  
September, 2015



Dear Beloved People of God at St. Paul's,

The end of summer and the beginning of a new year of Christian education is a good time to evaluate the ministry at St. Paul's.

God knows there is a very strong core of believers here who love the Lord and serve Him unselfishly. They are dedicated and faithful to God and His Word. Many in this core are of an older generation and one that in the not-too-distant future will find it difficult to fulfill vital roles within the church.

This is by no means a new challenge. Of course, it happens in every church in every age. A concern I have is with the dedication of many Christians (not only here) who are in the midst of adulthood who appear to believe that gathering with God's people for worship and prayer is of secondary importance, forgetting the words, "Seek first the Kingdom of God," and "Remember the Sabbath Day by keeping it holy."

This is a truly dangerous age in so many ways. Attention is in a thousand different places with media such as it is (social networks, iPhones, pads, pods, etc.); and fewer and fewer people are hearing the voice of God which cries out: "Be still, and know that I am the LORD." Where do attentions lie? What is more important than knowing God and hearing His life-giving Word regularly? Is there a substitute for praising Jesus Christ for His free gift of life and salvation? Is there anything more important than growing in Christ and receiving strength and guidance to serve Him each day? What should take precedence over being equipped to influence the sin-drenched, dying world around us?

I am equally concerned for those who have children who are not instilling in them the importance of being in God's house weekly. For those of you who ARE here most every week, God

bles you for leading by example in your regular worship and being the model in your child's life as a family who is dedicated to God. How important for his/her generation to know the God who gives us life, salvation, and every good gift from above!

You may have noticed that church attendance could certainly be stronger. This summer's attendance has been weak compared to the past. Being human, I'm thinking, "Why are they staying away? Has my preaching gone south? Has their love for Christ gone cold? Are their iPhones and internet usage keeping them away? Am I not generating interest in God's Word?"

The fact is Christ builds His Church; no one comes to the Father unless He draws them. As many as God appoints to eternal life believe.

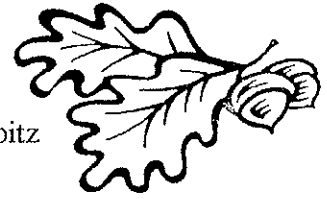
For those who are in the church, the body of Christ, it is our duty to dedicate our lives to God. If not, what happens? Like a plant without water, we shrivel up and die. Faith dies. Our homes lack the vital presence of Christ, His love and reconciliation. Peace within the heart disappears. Then we are left with nothing. If this is the case with individuals within the church, then we become a church body that fades in her influence in this world that God has called us to transform by our life and witness. God forbid that should happen here!

The Lord is undoubtedly calling us to prayer - for ourselves, for each other, to be a strong and lasting influence in our community. Please examine your life as I examine mine, and our intention to serve and love Christ with all our being in this age that wants to turn us away from God.

Together, let's prepare our hearts for a special year, growing in the grace and knowledge of Jesus, and abounding in His love!

Forever in Christ,  
Pastor Duffy

## Workers for the Lord in September



**Acolytes:** Paige Morrow  
Payton Morrow  
Savannah Williams  
Rhett Augustin

**Ushers:** Allen Jacobitz  
Curt Mack  
Zach Adams

**Elder:** Lee Rockefeller

**Counters:** Al & Bev Nixon  
Chad & Shandra Uden

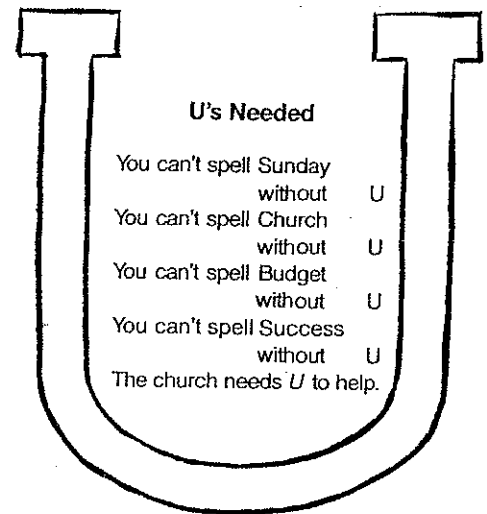
**Altar Guild:** Jean Powell  
Rosie Schroeder



**HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY**

# September Birthdays 2015

2	Matt Duffy	19	Payton Chandler
	Keaton Harpham		Frieda Iden
3	Alan Nixon		Kerri Jameson
4	Rodger Harms	20	Betty Jacobitz
	Jack Powell	22	Lamoine Beal
5	Casey Olson		Isabelle Kroos
6	Jake Brunk	24	Jeff Binfield
	Karen Greigo		Diane Campbell
7	Michael Duffy		Adam Denkert
	LaDonna Kimle		Dale Finnigsmier
9	Sierra Harmon		Shane Powell
	Jennifer Kurpgeweit	25	Drake Olson
13	Becky Ehly		Michael Wiese
15	Samantha Schirmer	26	Chase Uden
17	Ken Marble	27	Theresa Powell
18	Tyson Denkert	29	Debra Adams



### A Definition of Faithfulness

God has a great ministry for our church. If we are to be effective, we must be involved in the ministry of our congregation. As you consider the question of faithfulness, answer the following questions:

1. If your car should start one out of three times, would you consider it faithful?
2. If your paperboy should skip your house on Sunday, would you call him faithful?
3. If you should fail to come to work two or three days a month, would your boss consider you faithful?
4. If your water heater should greet you with cold water one or two mornings a week, would it be faithful?
5. If you should miss a couple of house payments in a year, would your mortgage holder say that ten out of twelve wasn't too bad?

Thinking about these questions should give you a good idea of what faithfulness really is. Let's be faithful to God in our work through his church.

THOU  
ART WORTHY  
O LORD, TO  
RECEIVE GLORY,  
HONOR &  
PRAISE.

# SEPTEMBER COMING EVENTS

Sept. 2 ✠ **Worship at Premier** ✠  
(Wed.) Estates 10:00 AM

Sept. 3 **Ladies Aid** 2:00 PM  
(Thurs.)



Sept. 7 **Labor Day**  
(Mon.) *"Come to me, all who are weary and burdened, and I will give your rest."* Matthew 11:28 (NIV)

Sept. 9 **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

Sept. 9 **Fellowship League**  
(Wed.) 8:00 PM - Fellowship Hall

**Sept. 13**  
**Fall Schedule Begins and Christian Education Sunday** (installation of teachers)



9:00 AM Sunday School and Bible Class

10:00 AM ✠ **Worship Service** ✠  
Communion 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday

*Potluck Dinner*  
*Following the Service*  
**Everyone Welcome!**



**Sunday Morning**  
**Adult Bible Class**

9:00 AM Fellowship Hall

A king in decline rejected by God, versus the newly anointed king, one after God's heart. Who will win the battle? The detailed answer can be found in the captivating study of the book of 1 Samuel. Join us!

Sept. 14 **Monday Morning**  
(Mon.) **Bible Study** 9:00 AM

Meet Monday mornings with Pastor and friends to continue the Bible study of the Gospel of Matthew. Everyone is invited to attend.

Sept 15 **Church Council Meeting**  
(Tues.) 7:30 PM

Sept 16 **Midweek Begins**  
(Wed.) 3:30 PM (Grade 1 - Grade 6)

Midweek Bible School, meets Wednesdays after school during the school year for snacks, singing, and Bible stories.



**October Newsletter Deadline**  
Monday, Sept. 21 to be in mailboxes Sunday, Sept 27th.

Sept. 22  **Meeting**  
(Tues.) 7:30 PM

Quarterly Bible study led by Pastor Duffy. All women are invited to attend. Election of officers will be held for 2015-2016. Prayerfully consider being open to the possibility of using your God given gifts and talents in service to Him.

Ingathering: hats and gloves for Kenesaw Schools

Sept 23 **Choir Practice Begins**  
(Wed.) 7:00 PM Sanctuary

Do you like to sing? How about lending your voice to the choir. Contact Betty Bittfield, Music Director if questions.





Sept 23 Lutheran Layman's  
(Wed.) League (LLL) Meeting  
8:00 PM

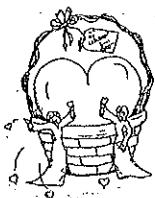
Sept. 27 LWML Hastings Zone  
(Sun.) Fall Rally Zion, Red Cloud

Registration & Refreshments 1:30 PM  
Meeting: 2:00 PM  
Registration Fee: \$5:00

**Theme: "Lord Teach Me to Pray"**  
*Luke 11:1 "Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples."*



### Other Area Events



Sept. 18 - 20 LWML  
(Fri./Sat./Sun.) Nebraska South  
2014 District Retreat  
Midtown Holiday Inn - Grand Island  
(Registration Deadline - Sept. 1<sup>st</sup>)

*"Great is the Father's Love"*

#### **Retreat Ingathering Items**

Unable to attend retreat? You can still participate by bringing an item for the ingathering. Please place your item(s) in the LWML box by the mailboxes *before* Sept. 17<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Orphan Grain Train:**

Any medical supplies, canes and walkers  
School supplies  
Quilts: Any size - receiving blankets to king

#### **Grand Island VA Hospital**

Gift Cards (not Skagway)  
Beanie Babies or any small stuffed animals  
Word search games, puzzle games  
Body pillow cases  
Husker Items  
Gripper Socks



### October Upcoming Events

Oct. 4th LWML Sunday <sup>Seek</sup> *first*  
the Kingdom of God

Our congregation will have the opportunity to join together in worship under the theme, "Seek First the Kingdom of God" in observance of LWML Sunday. The authors of this service are LWML counselors Rev. John Heckmann and Rev. Dr. Robert Roegner. Our LWML looks forward to a special time of sharing with you the exciting missions of the LWML - God's ministry around the world through mites, service, prayer and Christian fellowship.

*Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? . . . And your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and righteousness, all these things will be given you as well. (Matthew 6:26, 32b, 33)*



Oct. ? Lutheran Layman's  
(Sun.) League (LLL)  
5:00 PM Fall Rally

Watch the bulletin for details as they become available.

Oct. 25<sup>th</sup> Reformation/Heritage  
Sunday

Celebrate with us and enjoy a German food themed potluck following the service. Synod plans for the 2017 Reformation celebration will be revealed.  
*It's Still All About JESUS*



October LYF Fall Carnival  
A fun evening of games and treats. All are welcome.

**South Central Nebraska Right to Life Coming Events**

**Aug. 28 - Sept. 7** Nebraska State Fair Booth, Grand Island

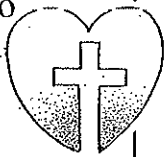
**Oct. 3** Harvest of Harmony (Sat.) Parade, Grand Island

**Oct. 4** Life Chain (Sun.) Burlington Ave. - Hastings

These are a few ways you can participate in the pro-life movement. If interested, contact Connie Consbruck at (402) 751-2368.

\*\*\*\*\*

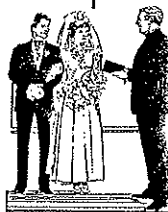
Do you have a special place in your heart for God's little ones? Do you feel God calling you to share His love? St. Paul's Sunday School and Midweek needs YOU! Contact Pastor, Brenda Mack or Sharon Duffy. Thank You!!



**Nursery Roll Graduate**

Violet Ava Linde has graduated from the Nursery Roll and is invited to attend Sunday School in the fall

*Welcome Violet!*



***Baptized into Christ***

*On the afternoon, July 26<sup>th</sup> we welcomed into the family of God, Cortlen Robert Klusman, son of Kade Klusman and grandson of Doug and Kim Klusman, in a private ceremony. Cortlen's sponsors are Tami Porterfield and Cody and Shonda Klusman. May God bless this special life!*



\*\*\*\*\*

**Congratulations to Zach and Stacy Adams on the birth of their daughter, Madeline Jean born August 6<sup>th</sup>. She was welcomed into the family by big sisters Ellie and Lydia. Paternal Grandparents are Greg and Deb Adams. Paternal Great-Grandparents are Jack and Jean Powell.**

Thanks be to God for his incredible gift! 2 Corinthians 9:15

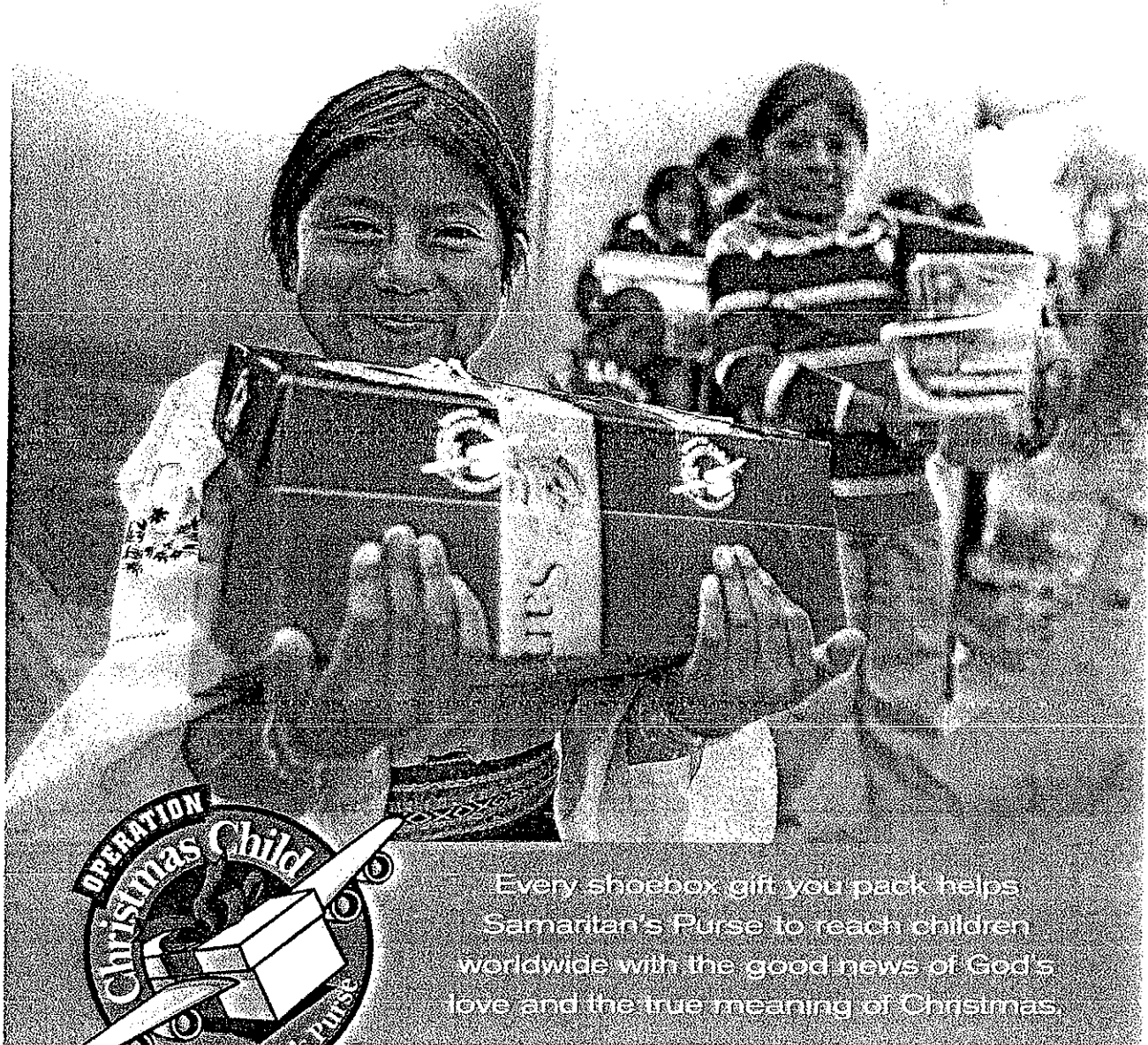
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***The Celebration of Holy Matrimony***

*Congratulations and God's blessings to Macey (Beal) and Trevor Kohls, who were joined in Holy Matrimony Saturday afternoon, August 29<sup>th</sup>. May God grant them a long and prosperous marital union, filled with His love and presence!*

SAMARITAN'S PURSE®

# Good News. Great Gifts.



Every shoebox gift you pack helps Samaritan's Purse to reach children worldwide with the good news of God's love and the true meaning of Christmas.

Boxes are available in the entry area if you are interested in being part of this mission ministry. You can also use your own shoe box if you would like. Information on how to pack your box can be found at [www.samaritanspurse.org](http://www.samaritanspurse.org). Please return your filled box to the same area by the second week of November. Thank you.

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N 189

# STEWARDSHIP TIPS FOR THE NEXT GENERATION

The past 22 months has given me the opportunity to share with you some thoughts on what it means to be a Christian steward of all with which God has blessed us. This whole matter of Christian stewardship is a teaching of our Savior that is very near and dear to my heart. We have talked about the 7-T's of Christian stewardship. We have visited about various aspects of stewardship. Most recently, we have finished a little series of thoughts that dealt with the fact that the giving Christian gives faithfully, compassionately, gracefully, proportionately and globally.

As we have worked through these thoughts and shared them with others, it just dawned on me that oftentimes we look at Christian stewardship as something the adults do, while forgetting to teach these concepts of the Christian life to our youth and children. That is why we hear in many congregations that when the present generation, who are in their 70's, 80's, and 90's, are with the

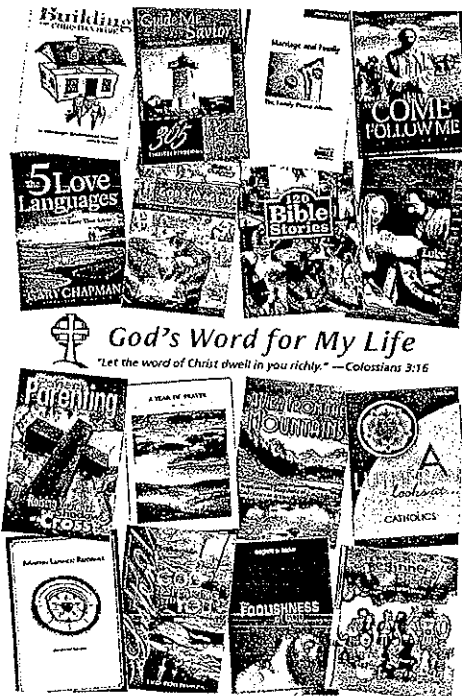
Lord in heaven, the church is going to be in a world of hurt in regard to finances because we will lose those regular givers who very often bless us with large gifts. Sadly, in many places, the young people who make up the generations that follow have been taught very little, if anything about stewardship.

So, if you will allow me, we will see if it works to share with you for the next few months some thoughts we can share with the children, teens, and young adults in our families and in our congregations. If you have no children or teens or young adults in your household right now, share these thoughts with those who do. Give this wide circulation, even outside the LWML.

With all that said, the first topic we will consider next month will be, "Understand That All You Have is God's."

Rev. John Heckmann  
LWML Senior Counselor

\*\*\*\*\*



NORTHWESTERN  
PUBLISHING HOUSE

## NPH Book Fair

Sundays  
August 30<sup>th</sup> - September 13<sup>th</sup>  
Fellowship Hall

Sponsored by  
Board of Evangelism/Stewardship

*Proceeds will be used to purchase books  
for the church library.*

Northwestern Publishing House exists to bring you trustworthy, Christ-centered resources that are both personal and impactful. We have a wide variety of books and resources, each one Bible-based and gospel-focused. Our prayer is that the Lord would use these resources to continually strengthen your faith and aid your eternal walk with Jesus.

# September 2015

## PRAYER GUIDE FOR LWML MISSION GRANTS

Prayers for: Clean Water and Evangelism Ministry

### PRAYER #1

Heavenly Father, the lack of clean water, proper sanitation, and health education contributes to illness and death around the world. We thank and praise You for the Water Ministries that Mission Opportunities Short Term (MOST) Ministries provides in their ongoing effort to correct this, as well as, sharing the living water of Your Son, Jesus Christ. In His name. Amen.

### PRAYER #2

Lord God, bless the Water Ministry of Mission Opportunities Short Term (MOST) Ministries as they educate those who lack clean drinking water and knowledge of the Gospel of the saving grace of Your Son, Jesus. Open the hearts of those they assist to accept Your free gift of salvation and make them instruments in sharing the gospel in their communities. In Jesus name. Amen.

### PRAYER #3

Thank You, Father, for Mission Opportunities Short Term (MOST) Ministries, which provides short term mission opportunities to reach the lost around the world. It is through the acts of love, education, and hard work alongside the lost, done in response to Your command to go and share the gospel, that the increase becomes reality. Please bless MOST Ministries and continue to open doors for them in areas around the world. In the name of Jesus. Amen.

### PRAYER #4

Gracious God, thank You for the volunteers of Mission Opportunities Short Term (MOST) Ministries. Bless their interactions with the people they encounter during their missions and make them missionaries to the unchurched in their communities when they return to the USA. May they bring many to the saving grace of Jesus. In His name we pray. Amen.

[www.lwml.org/missions](http://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

## CLEAN WATER AND

## EVANGELISM MINISTRY \$50,000

### Mission Opportunities Short Term

(MOST) Ministries is impacting the world for Jesus Christ through short term mission trips. Working through partnerships with congregations, mission organizations, LCMS missionaries, and LCMS partner churches they provide medical and dental clinics, eyeglasses, hospice care training, women's and children's ministry, construction, ethics training for policemen and soldiers, and many other projects. Third world countries are in dire need of clean water. Five thousand (5,000) children die each day from lack of clean water from diseases spread through unsafe drinking water. The clean water program of MOST Ministries will work with LCMS missionaries and national partner churches to deliver lifesaving water and hygiene education. When given the opportunity, we will proclaim to them the living water of Jesus Christ, His forgiveness and eternal life. This grant of \$50,000 will purchase, ship, and administer a 99% effective sustainable water filtration system for MOST Ministries clean water mission teams to distribute to 568 families and reach over 5,000 people with the gospel.

