

The St. Paul's

CONNECTION

August 2019

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Pastor's Logos (word):

Can We Stand Up as a Community of Faith?

BY PASTOR PAUL COEN

I have decided to ask some questions of the church. Not just St. Paul's, but the whole Church, and I want answers:

1. What are we going to do about our poor image among younger members of our society?
2. What are we going to do about the children and families who are being held at the border?
3. What are we going to do about addressing climate change? And if a portion of the church doesn't believe in climate change, why?
4. What are we going to do about medical care, medical insurance, prescription drugs, and the general health of our nation's citizens?
5. What are we going to do about the tribalism in our na-

tion that has become so divisive that we can't talk to one another?

6. What are we going to do about the misuse of guns that are killing our children?
7. What are we going to do about the overt racism, sexism, anti-LGBTQ, anti-Muslim and anti-Jewish behavior that is growing in our country?
8. What are we going to do about the children in our country who live below the poverty line and need decent food and shelter?
9. What are we going to do about the materialism that has so infected this country that we ignore the needs of others?
10. What are we going to do about inequality of education in schools across the nation?

None of these questions are easy to answer or even to ignore, but I believe they have to be asked and addressed. There is not one magic bullet that will fix all the problems of this world. But as followers of Christ, can't we try and come to grips with them, making the attempt to solve them.

Maybe the questions seem too big for us. But I believe in a big God, who has sent the Holy Spirit, who is more powerful than we could imagine to help us solve

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A Member's Perspective

Wherever You Go, God IS There!

BY KAREN HANSEN

Having grown up in Maine, I love the ocean and seafood, and feel really happy when I am surrounded by trees. Once a year, I go back for a fix of salt air and light-houses. Of course, there is more to it than that. I have my very special sister there with her family, many friends, places which hold good memories, and any opportunity to spend time on a boat! The reality of my life is I am a Nebraskan, as well. I have actually lived in Nebraska much longer than I lived in Maine. I have family here, too. I am blessed. They are my true roots now. I have lots of very special

friends from different layers of my life: college, my years in education, and my St. Paul's family. You can find real beauty in Nebraska, too; in the wide open prairie, the wonder of a cornfield ready to be picked, or peaceful moments at Lake Zorinsky in the middle of our busy Omaha. Truth be told, I have struggled at times about where I should really be. But what it comes down to are the parting words we say each Sunday at St. Paul's: "Wherever you go, God is there!" That's the final answer, isn't it! As long as I remember that, I am home. Love and Blessings,

Karen Hansen



This picture was taken at Old Orchard Beach, Maine with my Papillion Nebraska grandson, Levi Hansen. . . . my worlds blended!

*Karen Hansen is President of St. Paul's Women of the ELCA.
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Pastor's Logos

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the problems these questions address! However, I do not hear these questions being raised in the church very often and when they are, they are, shouted down as being too political.

Here are some other questions I would ask specifically for the church:

1. Are we afraid that the culture, and even our own members, will be upset with us if we try and address these issues?
2. Have we lost our passion for justice and mercy?
3. Have we forgotten that we are already victorious in Christ and now we are called

to live it out?

4. Are we a mission of Christ doing the will of God or are we just one more civic organization that happens to have a cross on or in the building?
5. Are we afraid that church giving will take a nose dive if we take a stand for those who cannot stand up for themselves?
6. Is our faith based on polling what is popular to do?
7. Do we care about the generations ahead of us or are we only about the here and now?
8. Do buildings, budgets and attendance matter more than lives changed?
9. Do we worship Christ or the institution of the church?
10. Do we think we need to de-

fend God versus defending those who cannot defend themselves?

Again, the questions are not easy, not because we don't have answers, but because we do. If we wish to be God's mission in the world, whether you call it church or not, we will need to stand up as a community of faith and tackle the questions that need us to answer.

We are the instruments of God's will for the world and the responsibility rests with us to answer these questions with both ideas and action. That is how it has been since Biblical times and that is how it is today. Remember: wherever we go, God is there! Amen!

Pastor Paul

Worship

BY ERIN RODGERS

Erin Rodgers is Director of Worship and Music at St. Paul's. Contact Erin at erodgers@splcomaha.org or 402-895-3366

While scrolling through Facebook the other day, I came across an article shared on the ELCA page, written by Pastor Stephanie Lape of California. While I don't completely agree with every word in the article (specifically, point #2 . . . I believe we are here to worship AND serve God, not simply as consumers), it really made me stop and think. What expectations do we hold, consciously or subconsciously, as individuals or a congregation, for those who

walk through our doors into worship? Do

those attending for the first time feel comfortable and welcome as they are? Do those who have been members of St. Paul's their entire lives feel bound by the norms and behavioral expectations of the past? I know I am guilty of feeling obligated by several "rules" about attending worship: if my child starts to act up, you'd better believe I (or my husband) will take him out of the sanctuary so others won't be "bothered." I know I lay out clothes for my boys to wear every week before I come to church, because heaven forbid my husband dresses them in play clothes as opposed to "church clothes." In this article, the author invites the reader to take a

step back and focus on the bigger picture: it's not about the all little things that can keep us from worshipping; it's about being here and participating in the work of the people, sharing in God's love. Lape writes:

I recently read a list of "20 rules of etiquette for attending worship" shared by a clergyperson (not of my denomination). They were things people needed to do if they wanted to do worship "right"—such as never giving kids

means you do not come to serve God or anyone else. Before you worry that this will make you feel entitled, remember that the gathering commonly called "mass" was renamed "service" by Martin Luther, who said *God* is the one serving. God is lavishly serving you in word and sacrament. This is not to make you feel entitled but to make you feel loved and free to love others. (You will know when God

puts it on your heart to serve others, prompted by

Rules and requirements won't save you, me or anyone. Salvation was—and is—a gift from the Cross.

snacks; never looking at cell phones; bowing, sitting, standing and kneeling at all the right times; dressing in a certain way, etc. In response, I thought I'd share my own clergy list of etiquette.

1. I assume that, when you walk into church, you feel weighed down by the world. You probably had a hard week at work or failed on your diet or argued again with your spouse or have had it up to *here* with the kids. I could be wrong, but I assume you need a break. My job is to smile and welcome you. Your "rule" here is simply to walk in the door, if you choose.

2. As our guest of honor, you are in church to be served. This

your overflowing love.) So your "rule" here is to try to open your heart to God, who will serve you as you worship and praise God. It's not really a rule but a good idea. You'll get more out of things this way.

3. The music is always nicer if you sing along. The prayers are more powerful if you join your voice in the ancient rhythm created by billions of people over thousands of years. You'll get more out of the sermon if you listen. So your "rule"—let's call it a *suggestion*—is to involve yourself in what we call "the work of the people," which is what "liturgy" literally means. It's not a requirement,

Worship

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though. If what you need to do is sit in silence, cry, meditate, whatever—have at it.

4. Parents and grandparents, we give you all the breaks you need. Jesus loved kids and loves yours. Feed them Cheerios, give them toys—yes, quiet ones would be nice—step out of the sanctuary if you want, utilize the nursery and Sunday-school options, and ask your neighbors for help. Many of us have been there, and you're doing great. (I can preach with kids in the room. I just get louder!) If they are loud, do your best—but know that we love you and we love them.
5. The table is owned by Jesus Christ. He called you and all people to join in **Holy Communion**. I will never withhold the sacrament from anyone. (It's not mine to withhold.) Don't feel worthy? Well, Jesus fed Judas. It's not about worthiness; it's about God's love for you. Feel better? Good. Get up here and let me put bread in your hand!
6. Ask me anything about worship that you want to understand but know that it all unfolds over time and that we all grow, as we should, over a lifetime.

7. Cell phones are best kept quiet—but hey, pull it out to tweet an interesting sermon note (I do say some tweet-worthy things sometimes). Record, go “live,” spread the gospel in new ways. No rule here either.
8. Wear whatever you want. This is the most irrelevant thing in the history of *ever*.
9. Your love of God pales in comparison to God's love of you. If you are a persistent troublemaker, I'll let you know. But regardless of your culture or background, if you are wounded, broken, anxious, insecure, depressed, or unsure if you even believe in God, you will not be judged by God or our congregation. Bring your authentically human self to the worship service—and see how much God serves you in profound and soul-healing ways.
10. Relax.

Rules and requirements won't save you, me or anyone. Salvation was—and is—a gift from the cross. If any of us could have earned salvation by being the perfect churchgoer, the cross wouldn't have been necessary. I assume that we're all trying our best with what we know. But our trying is *nothing* compared to God's love. The mercy flows from



Stephanie Lape is a rostered minister in the ELCA, serving Cross and Crown Lutheran Church in Rancho Cucamonga, Calif. She lives with her husband and teenage children in Corona, Calif., and writes and speaks on spirituality and interfaith dialogue.



In Memoriam



Lahm, Phyllis J. passed away July 5, 2019. She was preceded in death by her parents, Wilke and Dena Wallman; sister and brother-in-law, Dorothy and Edward Oltman; brother, Eldon Wallman. Survived by husband, Ron; daughters, Vicki Giroux (Steve), Becky Martin (Kevin); grandchildren, Alex Martin (and fiancé, Madison), Paige Forfar (Chris), Dani Podany (C.J.), Drew Longwell, Blake Giroux (Taylor), Lauren Giroux; four great-grandchildren; sister, Mildred Fossler; sister-in-law, Lorene Wallman; numerous nieces and nephews. A Memorial Service was held at St. Paul's Lutheran Church. Memorials are suggested to St. Paul's Lutheran Church or the Alzheimer's Association.

Faith in Action

How Will We Help Those in Need?

The Habitat build is under way! Make this the year you give it a try!

This is the 26th consecutive year that St. Paul's has been involved with Habitat for Humanity. The Omaha chapter of Habitat has a goal of building 50 homes this year. We are part of the Faithful Builders coalition which is a group of 13 area churches that team together to build a Habitat house each year.

We need volunteers to help with the build. **People of all skill levels are welcome . . . men and women!** To sign up for the build go to <https://tinyurl.com/faithfulbuilders2019>. Here is the build schedule for the remainder of the year:

- August 3** – Basement walls, roof trusses, sheathing and foam.
- August 9** – Basement walls, roof trusses, sheathing and foam.
- August 10** – Doors, windows, siding. Inside framing.
- August 17** – Siding, inside framing.
- August 24** – Siding, inside framing.
- August 31** – Siding, deck.
- September 27** – Drywall – ceilings.
- September 28** – Drywall – walls.
- October 26** – Clean-up (1/2 day – no lunch).
- October 11** – Interior Painting.
- October 12** – Doors and trim, kitchen cabinets.
- October 19** – Trim, finish work.



You can also be part of this year's build by providing financial support. As part of the Faithful Builders coalition, St Paul's is committed to raising funds for our build. If you'd like to support in this way, please make checks out to St. Paul's, and write "Habitat" on the envelope and on the memo line.

If you have any questions please contact Jeff Hohenstein at jmhohenst@gmail.com (402-619-7561) or Scott Custard at scott@movingpartslc.com (402-763-9384).

PS: St. Paul's food day is **August 3rd** this year. Thanks to all those involved who will make it a great success again this year!



Faith in Action

Brush Up Nebraska Another Way to Help Your Neighbor

BRUSH UP NEBRASKA Paint-A-Thon is a community based volunteer program that paints homes of qualified low-income elderly and low-income permanently disabled homeowners, in the Omaha Metropolitan Area, so that they may maintain their property, increase energy efficiency and beautify the community.

St. Paul's is forming a team and has been assigned a house to paint near 34th and Martin Avenue. Volunteers are needed—no experience required, and time is flexible for preparation and painting on **August 10 and 17**. Call Joel Christensen (402-943-8196) or Jay Schroeder (402-319-9097) to volunteer or learn more.



Women of the ELCA

You can help with Faith Bible Study's layette ministry! It's garage sale season, and a great time to be on the lookout for the following items: pre-folded diapers (these are the double cloth type with a panel of extra thickness in the middle), sleepers *without the feet* and receiving blankets. If you would like to contribute to this special mission, contact Bev Renken at 402-895-4635 with these items.

It's that time again for us to help our neighbors (Lutheran World Relief) get ready for school. Watch for upcoming back-to-school sales for the following items that each kit will need:

- Four 70-sheet notebooks (wide or college ruled)
- One 30-centimeter ruler (it can include inches on one side)
- One Pencil Sharpener
- One Pair BLUNT school scissors
- Five Unsharpened #2 pencils
- Five Ballpoint pens (no gel ink)
- One 2½ inch eraser
- One Box of 16-24 crayons

Look for the drop off places in the Commons or at Entrance B.



Faith in Action

Community Meals at St. Paul's

Saturday, July 27th brought 63 people from the Millard and surrounding neighborhoods to our 6th Community Meal this year. We fired up the new grill to cook hamburgers and hot dogs and served them with potato salad, watermelon and desserts. At one point, we ran out of food and a quick trip to Sam's for more burgers and dogs was in order. Many thanks to Maia Young for her help organizing the volunteers. Thanks also to Harry Seebold (grill master), Ted Leudke, Holly Marasco, April Taggs and her sister Emily, Nichole Baugh, Lois Becker, Ginger Hansen, Clark and Cristie Willms and 2 of their children and Scott & Cheryl Custard, for their help in working and/or providing desserts/food for this meal.



St. Paul's also provided food from our food pantry and we completely depleted our food supply! **We could use your help to replenish our food supply.** Just drop off non-perishable food items in the bin near Door A any-time. If you'd like to donate



Special thanks to Joel Christensen, Dennis Stieren, Gary McDonald, Scott Urbach, Harry Seebold (pictured), Amen Grill and Men of Armor for helping make the new grill a reality!

money so we can purchase milk, bread and eggs for the pantry, please designate this on your check or drop it off in the office. Thank you for your support!

Come join us on **August 24th for a St. Paul's Community Picnic!** We will grill hot dogs in the St. Paul's parking lot during the Millard Days parade. If you are interested in helping with this event, contact Maia Young at maiayoung@icloud.com.

A "Fun" Raiser

Wine and Beer Tasting and Fellowship Event

Sunday, Sept. 15, 2019 3-5 pm

at Thunderhead Brewery at 13304 W. Center Road

Funds will be used to support the Weekend Backpack Program thru the Food Bank



Bring an appetizer to share

\$20 per person includes wine or beer samples, information, and door prizes

Ticket Sales-August 17th - September 8th
Available before or after services at St. Paul's
or in the office during the week 402-895-3366

Come for fun, fellowship and support a great cause!

Continuing St. Paul's theme of helping our neighbors, our small group decided to support the Backpack Program which provides children with meals during weekends and school vacations. This is a great opportunity for you to support this good cause, meet new people and share in fellowship. Please join us whether beer, wine or tea is your beverage of choice. Spread the word that this fun activity is happening on September 15th. See you there!

Sponsored by St. Paul's Renken Small Group : Jay & Sue Schroeder, Doug & Bev Renken, Phil & Barb Hough, Jim MacDonald & Marie Witthoft, Jerry & Naomi Warner (Doug & Bev Renken: 402-895-4635 or 402-740-5367)

Faith Formation

BY EMILY DALEN

Emily Dalen is Director of Faith Formation. Contact Emily at edalen@splcomaha.org



It's Registration Time!

We'd like parents to register kids of ALL ages for the upcoming school year of ministry opportunities. Please register children who are 3-years-old through high school. We use this annual information to update our records, track the number of teachers needed, and communicate in the best possible ways with families. Please register at www.splcomaha.org/faithformationregistration School year ministries begin on **Wednesday, September 4 and Sunday, September 8**. Everyone is invited to gather for service projects and learning more about serving our neighbor.

Planning to serve in Faith Formation Ministries this year? If so, please plan to attend one of these two trainings. Gather with April and Emily on **Wednesday, August 21 at 6:30 pm or Sunday, August 25 at 10:30 am**. Training shouldn't last more than an hour.


BAPTISM

Maykala Ann Dillard

DeeAnn Urbach

Clarence Claude Strain
born January 24, 2019
son of
Will Strain and Leah D. Strain

What Does the Bible say about Intergenerational Ministry?

BY CHRISTINA EMBREE, founder of Refocus Ministry

Is there a biblical basis for this new craze sweeping the children's ministry and family ministry worlds?

Well, technically, it's not so much new as it is old...really, really old. Until recently in church history, the generations did in fact worship together as an intergenerational faith community. In their book, *Intergenerational Christian Formation*, Holly Allen and Christine Ross (2012) point out that "first century churches were mul-

tigenerational entities, with children present for worship, healings, prayer meetings, even perhaps when persecutions were perpetuated."

That really didn't change until the 20th century when the work of development theorists such as Piaget, Kohlberg, and Fowler began to gain popularity, the church adapted their practices and it led the creation of special-

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2019 Mission Trip

June 23-29 was the high school mission trip in Denver, CO. Nine youth and adults spent the week serving in orchards, non profits, free meal kitchens, assisted living homes, and other ways in the Denver area. They met other youth groups from New Mexico, South Carolina, Wisconsin, and Colorado and spent the week serving, learning and laughing together. We got to learn about some of the unique needs of the Denver area, but also see connections in how we can serve the Omaha community when back home. In our free time, the group got to hike through Red Rock Mountain, experience Little Man Ice Cream, explore 16th street mall, and go white water rafting! We had an amazing group and an amazing week serving together and learning about God's *relentless* love!

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Faith Formation

2019 Mission Trip

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ALLIE MARASCO

When I was in Denver, I worked with the Denver Dream Center, which is an organization that works with people in halfway houses, single parents, low income families and the homeless in their area. They challenged my group on our second day working with them to go to Civic Center Park, which has the largest population of homeless people. Earlier that day we packed paper bags with sandwiches, granola bars, water bottles and some toiletries to hand out. Our task was to hand out the bags but to also have a conversation with the people. Most of the people we talked to were mad at their situation and angry at the world. One man we talked to was completely different, his name was Al. Al asked us if we were out there preaching God's word and we told him that we were with the Denver Dream Center because we weren't supposed to bring up God unless they did first. Al told

us that his family has been in Denver for 11 generations, then he started to tell us how he ended up homeless. He was a football player in school until he shattered his ankle and couldn't play anymore, he then became an alcoholic and a drug addict. After 30 years he decided to try going to church. He told us that he is now happy and "out here preaching God's word to those who need it most." After he told us his story we offered to pray with Al, so we joined hands in a circle and my group leader started but then Al surprised all of us and started to pray in thanks for us! After we said our good-byes to Al, my group was told that while we were in the prayer circle with Al that people around us were stopping to watch, taking pictures and some people were tearing up at the sight. Later that night at dinner our encounter with Al was all anyone could talk about.

My last day at the Dream Center



we were helping sort through the Dream Closet, which is a garage full of anything and everything you could think of. I was in the main room sorting through boxes and one of the adults of the group brought me this box of what seemed to be dorm room decorations. This was perfect timing because I am starting col-

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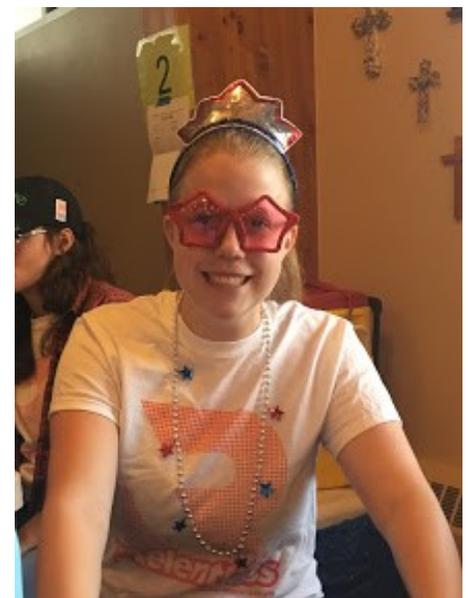


Faith Formation

2019 Mission Trip

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lege in the fall and I had no idea what color scheme I wanted. So, I started going through the box and there was this light teal rug and blanket. The very last thing I pulled out of this box was a burlap canvas with my confirmation verse (Proverbs 31:25) on it decorated with a sunflower, which just so happens to be my favorite flower. This was my moment of God telling me "this is where you belong and this is what you are supposed to be doing." I am going to attend Nebraska Christian College in the Fall majoring in Intercultural Ministries and this mission trip solidified my decision to want to do mission work in my future.



Faith Formation



2019 VBS



Faith Formation



2019 VBS



Faith Formation

Intergenerational Ministry CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

ized ministries to connect to specific age groups ([Source](#)). Eventually developmentalists' concerns were applied to the worship hour and the Sunday morning church experience began to be viewed as a time for teaching adults ([Source](#)).

But, I digress. Since the late 1970s there have been movements popping up to help churches regain that more intergenerational feel and today . . . well, today, it's a thing. It seems like everywhere you look, this idea of intergenerational or multigenerational ministry and generational discipleship is being discussed, argued, and implemented.

Which leads some of us to ask . . . is this biblical?

Can we find this in Scripture and, if so, what does the Bible have to say?

Deuteronomy 6:4-9 gets talked about a lot within the realm of family ministry as a verse that exemplifies the work of discipleship done by parents within the home.

BUT it's important to note that these instructions to share about the commandments of the Lord weren't given to solely to parents. In fact, when Moses shared these commands, he did so with the whole assembly of Israel, not just to the parents/caregivers that were present.

Deuteronomy 4:9 reads, "Make them known to your children and your children's children" indicating there were multiple generations present when these commands were given. Now, with that in mind, consider that in one commentary, it's pointed out that according to the Jewish people, "Teach them to thy children" meant "*not only those of thy own body but all those that are anyway under thy care and tuition.*" That means the charge to "impress upon your children" the commandments of the Lord extended beyond the home and into the larger faith community.

We call that "generational discipleship"!

And it's not limited to this moment. Intergenerational community can be found throughout Scripture.

Whenever the nation of Israel would gather for special occasions such as feasts or celebrations, the en-

tire community, all generations, would be present. Like . . .

- **Deuteronomy 29:10-12** when Moses spoke to Israel for the final time
- **2 Chronicles 20:13** when Jehosaphat called for a fast of the entire nation
- **Nehemiah 8: 2-3 and 12:43** when Ezra read aloud the book of the law and the entire community celebrated together.

Again, Holly Allen and Christine Ross share, "In the religion of Israel, all ages were not just included, they were drawn in, assimilated absorbed into the community with a deep sense of belonging."

In the book of Psalms, there are references to the passing of faith from one generation to another. Like...

- **Psalm 145:4** "*One generation shall commend your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts.*"
- **Psalm 78** – The psalmist explains the importance of testifying about God's works to the next generation so they would remain in the faith and not turn away a.k.a. generational discipleship.

In the New Testament, Jesus modeled this inclusion of all generations and specifically children throughout his ministry, going so far as to tell his followers that welcoming a child into their midst was akin to welcoming Him and the One who sent Him (**Matthew 10:42, Matthew 11:25-26, Matthew 18:2-6, Matthew 18:10, Matthew 19:13-14, Matthew 21:16, Mark 10:13-16 & Luke 9:46-48**).

In the epistles Paul writes to the churches and asks for the letters to be read aloud to the gathered community. In them, he specifically addresses a wide range of generations, including children (such as **Ephesians 6:1-4, Colossians 3:20**). It's safe to assume he mentions all the generations because he expected them to be there to hear what he had to say.

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Healthy Ministry Team

Immunizations

(Source: CDC.gov)

July was National Immunization month. Your pediatrician will provide you with recommendations for your children. Immunizations are very important as many of the diseases that have been almost eradicated are again on the rise with an influx of unvaccinated persons. The CDC has provided this recommendation for adults. It is important to get boosters and immunizations. **We will have a clinic on October 11th provided by Walgreens in the family life center between services.** They will have flu and pneumonia vaccines. View the chart below or click on this link to see all the recommended immunizations for adults. www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/hcp/imz/adult.html

Vaccine	19–21 years	22–26 years	27–49 years	50–64 years	≥65 years
Influenza inactivated (IIV) or Influenza recombinant (RIV) ^{or}			1 dose annually		
Influenza live attenuated (LAIV)			1 dose annually		
Tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis (Tdap or Td)		1 dose Tdap, then Td booster every 10 yrs			
Measles, mumps, rubella (MMR)		1 or 2 doses depending on indication (if born in 1957 or later)			
Varicella (VAR)		2 doses (if born in 1980 or later)			
Zoster recombinant (RZV) (preferred) ^{or}					2 doses
Zoster live (ZVL)					1 dose
Human papillomavirus (HPV) Female	2 or 3 doses depending on age at initial vaccination				
Human papillomavirus (HPV) Male	2 or 3 doses depending on age at initial vaccination				
Pneumococcal conjugate (PCV13)				1 dose	
Pneumococcal polysaccharide (PPSV23)		1 or 2 doses depending on indication			1 dose
Hepatitis A (HepA)		2 or 3 doses depending on vaccine			
Hepatitis B (HepB)		2 or 3 doses depending on vaccine			
Meningococcal A, C, W, Y (MenACWY)		1 or 2 doses depending on indication, then booster every 5 yrs if risk remains			
Meningococcal B (MenB)		2 or 3 doses depending on vaccine and indication			
Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib)		1 or 3 doses depending on indication			

Recommended vaccination for adults who meet age requirement, lack documentation of vaccination, or lack evidence of past infection
 Recommended vaccination for adults with an additional risk factor or another indication
 No recommendation

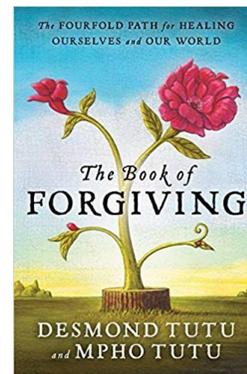
Pastor Paul's Movie, Media & Book Reviews



“Men in Black, International” - rated PG-13, currently in theaters. The movie had humor, was action-packed and, well, not great. It tried hard to recreate some of the style of the previous “Men in Black” movies but failed. Evil versus good, betrayal, empowerment of women and several other themes that tried to launch, but never fully got airborne. After you watch this movie let's talk. ★ 1/2



“Spiderman, Far from Home” - rated PG-13, currently in the theaters. This movie is well put together and does a very good job of post-“Avengers Endgame” storylines. Teenage angst, adult betrayal, relationships and being a nerd superhero are all well portrayed and fun to watch. My 13-year-old granddaughter said she would watch again; that is high praise. Another sub-theme that I found in this film is using fear to get what you want. Sounds like something that is happening in the real world today. After you watch this movie we really should talk. ★★★



“The Book of Forgiving” by Desmond Tutu, available in paperback and on Kindle. This short, somewhat overly-simple book about the process of forgiving and what it means for our spiritual, mental and physical health explains it well. Bishop Tutu knows something about forgiveness when it comes to his history in South Africa as well as his own personal history. The book makes it clear that forgiveness is not easy, but necessary. As followers of Christ, it is essential to our understanding of our relationship to God and to others. After you read this book, we might want to talk. ★★★ 1/2

Intergenerational Ministry CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

So, yes, intergenerational ministry and generational discipleship are found in Scripture.

And the idea of having all generations interacting within a community of faith isn't a new one. That doesn't mean we throw out everything we've learned from developmentalists or that doesn't mean that age-appropriate ministry isn't of any value.

What it does mean is that the normative faith practice is one where generations have the opportunity to be together and pass the faith to one another, so it

would be a good idea for us to create spaces where that can happen.

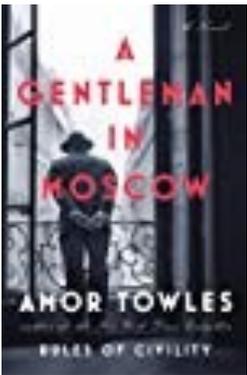
I'm a firm believer that we can do both age-appropriate ministry and intergenerational ministry well in our churches instead of either/or. Rather than pitting these two against each other, perhaps its time we consider how to embrace the new without rejecting the old.

And, I'd love to know... How is your church finding ways to engage every generation in faith conversations and relationships?

From the Book Club

In August we select what we will read for the following year. It is a perfect time to join us and share the books you think everyone should read so we have a good selection for the 2019 – 2020 reading year.

Come meet with us and give us your suggestions. We meet at 10:00 in the church library on the second Wednesday of each month. **This month we meet on August 14.** We will have tea or coffee and a snack.



In September we will read *A Gentleman in Moscow* by Amor Towles. It is a novel recounting “a 30-year saga of the Count Alexander

Ilyich Rostov, who is placed under house arrest inside the Metropol Hotel in Moscow in 1922 when the Bolsheviks spare him from death or Siberia because of his 1913 revolutionary poem written in university.” – Amazon.com

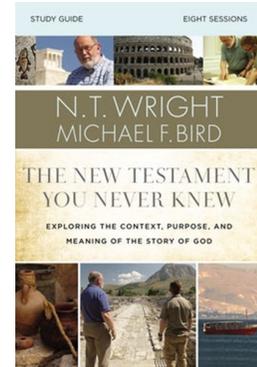
Come join us on August 14 and September 11!

New Member Class

Save the Date! The New Member class will be held on **August 18th at 10:30 am in the church library.** Come join us and discover the mission of St. Paul's and meet some new friends. If you have any questions, please call Jan in the church office at 402-895-3366.

Adult Bible Study begins September 26

Have you ever had moments where something was right in front of you, but you simply did not see it, or you have heard someone speak on a topic but truly didn't understand the power of what they were saying? You hear the words, but the full picture is not clear. Suddenly, your eyes are opened, and you see with clarity what is being shared! I understand! I get it! Are your eyes opened with the New Testament? Many people have heard sermons from the New Testament but never realized the how it all fits together. There are truths you may have overlooked and lessons that you might have skimmed by. Join us in learning the story behind the New Testament, how it came to be written, why it was written...the glorious truths and how the teachings impact our lives today. We will be studying *The New Testament You Never Knew* written by N.T. Wright and Michael F. Bird. This eight-week study will take us on a tour of the story behind the New Testament. You will discover things you never knew about Jesus' baptism and journey into the wilderness, the meaning behind his parables and miracles, the significance of his death and resurrection, the incredible expansion of the early church into the Greco-Roman world, and how the transforming mission of Jesus can still turn the world upside down today.



The adult bible study will begin on **September 26th through November 21** (No session on 10/31). **Each session will be from 6:30-8:00 pm** and consist of a group video presentation followed by small group discussion. A study guide book is available for \$10.00 or an eBook option is available at various web sites. The book is recommended but not required. An information table with specifics about the study, registration for the class and books for purchase will be available in the commons starting September 7th.

Get ready for a new adventure! God has great things in store for you, and as you travel the lands of the New Testament, he will reveal himself to you in ways you might not expect! So be open to what he is doing in your life . . . as you learn more about *The New Testament You Never Knew*. The Spirit of the Living God is longing to whisper fresh truth into your ears. For additional questions, please contact Colleen Christensen at crchrist51@gmail.com.

Second Mile Offering

Be a Good Neighbor



On the weekend of **August 10/11**, we will have the opportunity to contribute to St. Paul's **Hospitality Ministry** through the Second Mile Offering. The cost of providing doughnuts and coffee every Sunday is not covered by the donations people make. We would appreciate contributions on that weekend that will help cover this cost. It is so important to welcome our visitors and also to provide a welcoming opportunity for people to visit in THE COMMONS between and after worship services.

Miller Park Elementary (Omaha Public Schools), for three grades. It also happens at Rockwell Elementary (Millard Public Schools). Here we read to two classrooms of third graders and we will hopefully begin reading to Kindergarten students this year. It is a program that provides each student with a copy of the book that has been read that month. It costs about \$7,500 a year and if we add the kindergarten it will cost an additional \$1,000. This is an important program to start students reading at an early age. It also helps them begin to build their own personal library. Hopefully you can contribute to this ministry as St. Paul's proceeds with our outreach ministry addressing the question "Who is My Neighbor?"

Coffee with the Council

August 10 following 5:30 service

August 11 following 9:30 service



St. Paul's Council

Susie Stieren, *President*

Jared Collins, *Vice President*

Tom Wilson, *Treasurer*

Mark Giesmann

Christine Karloff

Katie Mauseth

Jeff Hohenstein



The weekend of **August 24/25** will be the second mile offering weekend in August. One of St. Paul's outreach ministries is the **Lutherans Read** program. It occurs monthly in North Omaha at

The St. Paul's

CONNECTION

August 2019

Volume 2, Issue 8

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Publication deadline is the 21st of the month. Articles/photos/suggestions may be submitted to Lynda Nicholson at Sower@splcomaha.org

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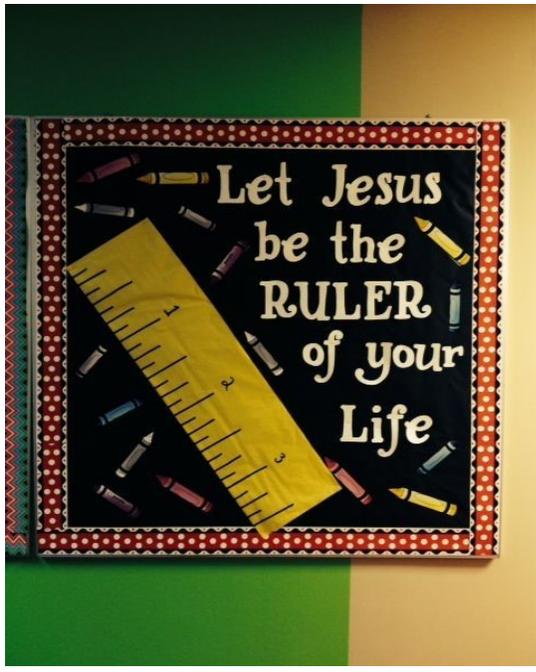
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St. Paul's Lutheran Church
Calendar of Events
August, 2019

*Sharing Christ's message to
transform all generations*

ST. PAUL'S EVENTS

Church Council Meeting	6:30 p.m. Mon.	12
Church Staff Meetings	9:30 a.m. Tue.	6, 13, 20, 27
Facility Team Meeting	6:30 p.m. Mon.	5
Faith Bible Study	1:00 p.m. Thu.	8
Finance Team Meeting	6:30 p.m. Thur.	8
Grace Circle	6:30 p.m. Mon.	26
Hope Circle	1:00 p.m. Thur.	15
Library in the Commons	8:00 a.m. Sun.	11
Library Team Meeting	9:30 a.m. Wed.	7, 14, 21, 28
Love Circle	11:30 a.m. Wed.	21
Memorial Committee Meeting	1:30 p.m. Mon.	19
Mission Quilters	9:00 a.m. Mon.	5, 12, 19, 26
Monday Night Quilters	6:30 p.m. Mon.	5, 12, 19, 26

MEMBER CARE

Cards in the Commons	12:30 p.m. Tue.	13, 27
Exercise Class	8:15 a.m. Mon.	5, 12, 19, 26
	8:15 a.m. Fri.	2, 9, 16, 23, 30
Health Ministry Team Meeting	6:30 p.m. Mon.	5
Home Communion at Millard Manor	11:00 a.m. Thu.	1
Tai Chi	9:00 a.m. Tue.	6, 13, 20, 27
	9:00 a.m. Thu.	1, 8, 15, 22, 29

EDUCATION SCHEDULE

Faith Formation Training	6:30 p.m. Wed..	21
	10:30 a.m. Sun.	25
Tuesday Morning Bible Study	11:00 a.m. Tue.	6, 13, 20, 27
Thursday Morning Bible Study	10:00 a.m. Thu.	1, 8, 15, 22, 29
Thursday Morning Bible Study	6:30 a.m. Thu.	1, 8, 15, 22, 29
Wednesday Morning Book Club	10:00 a.m. Wed.	14
Youth Group Meeting	5:30 p.m. Wed.	24

MUSIC OPPORTUNITIES

Choir for Christ	7:00 p.m. Wed.	21, 28
Worship Team Rehearsal	4:30 p.m. Sat.	3, 10, 17, 24, 31

Worship Team Rehearsal 7:00 p.m. Wed. 7, 14, 21, 28
PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

"Church Chat" Deadline 9:00 a.m. Mon. 5, 12, 19, 26
"Connection" Deadline 12:00 p.m. Wed. 21

WORSHIP SERVICES

Saturday Evening Worship Service 5:30 p.m. Sat. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31
Sunday Worship Service 9:30 a.m. Sun. 4, 11, 18, 25

Dates to Remember

New Member Class
August 18th @ 10:30 a.m.

Community Meal
August 24 @ 11:30 a.m.

Worship Servants for August, 2019

August 3—5:30 p.m.

Acolytes-Katie McGraw,
Sean Simmons
Communion-Carolyn Badtke,
John & Shannon Fonda
Bev Steinbaugh
Greeter-Bev Steinbaugh
Prayers-Volunteer Needed
Reader-Marie Witthoft
Video-Sid Rames
Audio-Jim Rames
Ushers-Gary Norenberg,
Russ Owens

August 4—9:30 a.m.

Acolytes-Sofia Schommer
Communion-Tammy Aden,
Joel & Colleen Christensen,
Phil & Barb Hough, Donna Snowdon,
Chelsey Schommer, Doug Rothgeb
Greeter-Tim & Jennifer Collins,
Joel & Colleen Christensen
Hospitality-Mary Holland
Prayers-Volunteer Needed
Reader-Tony Schommer
Video-Volunteer Needed
Audio-John Snowdon
Ushers-John Kuehl, Norm Bensinger,
Seth Zentner, Harry Seebold

August 10—5:30 p.m.

Acolytes-Volunteers Needed
Greeter-Karla Neemann
Prayers-Ellie Woehler
Reader-Judy Bergman
Video-Volunteer Needed
Audio-Bill Koile
Ushers-Denny Verdick,
Dave Smith

August 11—9:30 a.m.

Acolytes-Volunteers Needed
Greeter-Ina Averman
Phyllis Matthews,
Alex & Tami Williams
Hospitality-Phil & Barb Hough
Prayers-Volunteer Needed
Reader-Jerry Warner

Video-Renate Witt

Audio-Bryan Kreun

Ushers-John Kuehl, Norm Bensinger,
Gary Winter, John Keim

August 17—5:30 p.m.

Acolytes-Katie McGraw
Communion-Kathryn Gannon,
Amy Oberdin, Marie Witthoft,
Jim MacDonald
Greeter-Steve & Amy Oberdin
Prayers-Ellie Woehler
Reader-Steve Oberdin
Video-Volunteer Needed
Audio-Jayson Swope
Ushers-Keith Simmons,
Todd Whitham

August 18—9:30 a.m.

Acolytes-Sofia Schommer
Communion-Lynda Nicholson,
Jay & Sue Schroeder, Jane Coen
Tony & Chelsey Schommer
Toni Flermoen, Julie Hilger
Greeter-Gary & Denise Winters,
Jay & Sue Schroeder
Hospitality-Marvin & Corinne Wastell
Prayers-Sofia Schommer
Reader-Patrick Runge
Video-Volunteer Needed
Audio-Jim Nissen
Ushers-John Kuehl, Norm Bensinger,
Scott Urbach, Brock Flowers

August 24—5:30 p.m.

Acolytes-Andi Anneberg
Greeters-Keith Simmons
Prayers-Ally & Jodie DeSordi
Reader-Jodie DeSordi
Video-Volunteer Needed
Audio-Arno Neben
Ushers-Dave Smith,
Todd Whitham

August 25—9:30 a.m.

Acolytes-Volunteer Needed
Greeter-Ina Averman, Denise Winter
Dean & Cathy Gilbertson
Hospitality-Cal & Anna Mae Wamre
Prayers-Volunteer Needed
Reader-John vonDohren
Video-Linda Kuehl
Audio-Jim Kuehl
Ushers-Norm Bensinger, John Kuehl,
Spencer Witt, Jeff Hohenstein

August 31—5:30 p.m.

Acolytes-Sean Simmons
Communion-Kristi McKamy,
Vicky Marquardt, Jill Chleborad,
Bev Steinbaugh
Greeter-Mike & Wanda Johnson
Prayers-Volunteer Needed
Reader-Kristi McKamy
Video-Volunteer Needed
Audio-Bill Koile
Ushers-Gary Norenberg,
Russ Owens

September 1—9:30 a.m.

Acolytes-Volunteer Needed
Communion-Sue Kuehl, Linda Kuehl,
Tony & Judy Gray, Jodie DeSordi,
Doug & Bev Renken,
Marilyn Lienemann
Greeter-Tony & Judy Gray,
Doug & Bev Renken
Hospitality-Toni Flermoen
Prayers-Volunteer Needed
Reader-Sally Runge
Video-Volunteer Needed
Audio-John Snowdon
Ushers-John Kuehl, Norm Bensinger,
Seth Zentner, Harry Seebold

If you are unable to serve on the date you are scheduled, please find your substitute and then notify the church office at 402-895-3366.