

The St. Paul's

CONNECTION

August 2018

Volume 1, Issue 8



Pastor's Logos (word):

God's Amazing Word

BY PASTOR PAUL COEN

"A house divided against itself cannot stand!" Lincoln quotes Shakespeare, Shakespeare quotes the Bible (Matt. 12:25ff) and the majority of us didn't have a clue that Jesus said it. In other words, there is a lot in the Bible that folks don't know about or are aware of and that my friends is why we study God's written Word (Bible).

God's Word is amazing. It is full of insight into God's will, God's

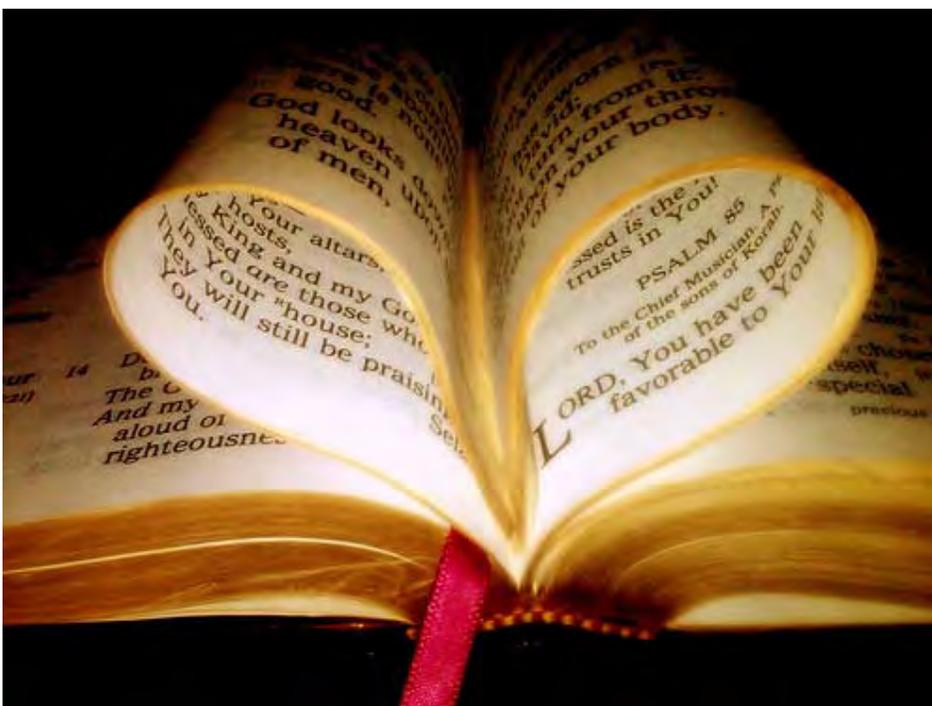
personality (Jesus) and of course, God's promises. Access to the Bible for the most part is quite easy, you can get it as a book in many different translations: NRSV, King James, New King James, NIV, American Standard, etc. You can get a Bible app for your smart phone, lap top or notebook.

The availability of the Bible is numerous and attainable. Yet most of us do not know what it says.

Too often I have heard Scripture quoted by various folks and many times incorrectly (not in the Bible) or out of context (using it for one situation when it was written for an entirely different situation). There is a Commandment about this; "Do not take the Lord's name in vain!" Yes, this is about taking God's Word and using it to say things we want it to say, as well as using God's name inappropriately.

Studying God's Word does not have to be boring, you don't have to memorize it (availability of Bi-

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Worship

August is a bit of a quiet month around the church, as everyone tries to enjoy the last few days of summer, while at the same time getting ready to begin another school year. However, there are still a few dates to put on your calendars:

- **Wednesday, August 1st** – Outdoor Worship at the home of Dave & Anne Ott (1320 N. 180th Ave, Elkhorn)
- **Wednesday, August 22nd** – Choir for Christ rehearsals begin (7:00 p.m.)

Looking ahead, regular Wednesday programming will resume on **September 5th**; we will return to our fall/winter worship schedule on **Sunday, September 9th**, with worship at 8:30 and 10:30 a.m., and Sunday school at 9:30 a.m.

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



Contact Jerry Johnson at 402-850-0027 or at jbjohnson-band@hotmail.com if you would like to participate in the building of 13956 Hickory Circle (only 6 minutes from church). All skill levels are needed on all workdays. (Workers minimum age is 16 with parental permission.)

St. Paul's Habitat Food Day is August 4th. We are still looking for volunteers to bring items like coffee cake or other goodies for the **10:15 am break on August 4th.** Lunch needs have been met thanks to the Renken's small group and Todd Whitham on the grill.



There will also be live music, food trucks, bounce houses, beverages (including beer by Thunderhead Brewery), local businesses, our police and fire department. Come and be a part of a very fun evening.

Food, fellowship and fun all here at the St. Paul's Block Party!

Friday, August 3rd 6 pm to 9 pm

featuring

Simone G. Weber & Band

and

4 Food Trucks:

402 Barbeque

Mobile Grace Cafe

Serving up Burgers & Fries

Chicago Dogs

Ice Cream Truck



There's still room for volunteers for the 2018 Brush-Up Nebraska "Paint-A-Thon" on **Saturday, August 11 or August 18th.**

Please consider helping, even if it's only for a couple of hours. All levels of skill are needed. It's a great way to work with others, help someone in need, and have a little fun along the way. This is the 30th year of Paint-A-Thon and St. Paul's has participated every year! Contact Joel Christensen (402-943-8196), Jay Schroeder (402-896-0411) or the church office (402-895-3366).

St. Paul's Garage Sale



All proceeds go to the St Paul's Debt Reduction Fund. Support the cause and bring your donation items so we can reduce the debt!

Donation items that are of good quality, clean, and saleable will be accepted. **Drop off your items Thursday, August 23 after 2pm in the Family Life Center.** Anything in the basement not identified or tagged is also up for sale.

We will need volunteers to help unload items, stock items, take money, help load items, and to keep the area organized. Please contact Gary McDonald at garymcdonald@cox.net or 402-415-9781 if you can help or have any questions.

GARAGE SALE
St. Paul's Family Life Center

Friday, August 24 8am - 5pm
Saturday, August 25 8am - 5pm

Pastor's Logos

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

bles) and you certainly don't need to be a pastor or theologian. Yet it is important that we read God's Word and we ask questions about what it says, why it says that, when it was said and who said it to who. This is best done in a dialog, conversation or group. Yes, we can read God's Word by ourselves, pondering it and thinking about it. But God's Word was always intended to be read, or spoken about, in a setting of more than one person. However, you don't have to be sitting in church, or in a class with others to talk about God's Word (online).

God's Word was, in the beginning, an oral tradition of storytelling around a campfire or at a meal (Passover as an example). Today we have the printed word,

a standardization and formality of how God's Word is published. From the Hebrew or Greek to a hundred plus different translations and languages of God's Word. But unless it is read and talked about, it is just another book, a really good book (pun intended), but without life without a reader or teacher.

In the coming months you will see learning opportunities into God's Word (the Bible) available to everyone (see page 13). Whether in class or online, small group or larger assembly, we will study God's Word, so that we may know of the wondrous love God has given us. From Sunday School, Midweek Programs, Confirmation Classes and yes, of course, adult learning experiences, everyone will be given the

opportunity to see, hear and participate in learning about God's Word.

I make you all this promise, that we will find ways that help folks with different learning styles engage in God's Word. I promise that we will continue to offer learning opportunities that use the Lutheran understanding and approach to God's Word. I promise that asking questions, will be seen as a good thing.

Please take note of the Fall/Winter Calendar for educational and worship opportunities that will bring us closer to God and one another. May the Spirit guide us all, in bringing God's Word into our hearts and homes.

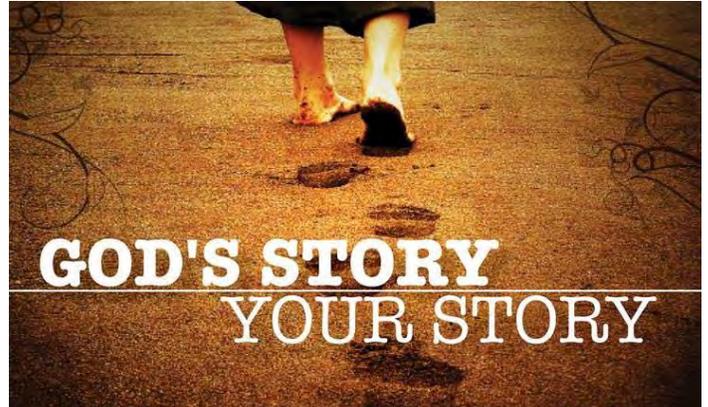
Pastor Paul

Faith Formation

Coming this Fall . . . G I F T

What is the greatest gift you've been given? I've often found that when we take a moment to really think about this question, we find that the greatest gifts in our lives aren't physical items. Maybe your greatest gift includes your children, a parent, a relationship with a partner, or time spent with someone. How do you feel after spending time with the significant person? What did you learn? Are you counting the days until you can be together again? Did you enjoy a time of peace or that feeling of love from a shared history? In these times we get to know each other and do life together. We create new stories and reminisce. These stories become a part of who we are.

As we think about ministry at St. Paul's we know that we are sharing God's story and helping others to see how God's story is a part of their lives. We know that God's story has been passed down for generations in the church, but also at the dinner table, around a campfire, at bedtime prayers, through a phone call, or with a friend at work. As people of faith, God's story of love, forgiveness, and new life changes who we are. Each of us has a story to share.



This Fall we are kicking off a monthly gathering for all ages called GIFT. GIFT will take place on the first Sunday of the month and will be a time for us to gather to tell stories and hear God's story for us. It will be a time to get to know each other and ask questions. We may sing, create, or listen. We might find out that we have something in common with another person. GIFT, or **Growing In Faith Together**, will hopefully become a gift to you. Every generation has gifts to give and every generation has needs we gift. More details to come. **Think about joining us the first Sunday of the month at 9:30 am (September 2).**

Faith Formation Training Dates

Are you planning to serve in our Faith Formation Ministries this year? Sunday School, Cross and Heart Kids, Confirmation, and SPIRIT are all included in these! Please plan to attend one of two trainings. You can attend on **Sunday, August 26 at 10:30 am** or **Wednesday, August 29 at 7 pm**. Trainings should not last more than an hour and we'll provide curriculum as well as helpful ideas for working within your areas.



A special blessing will be held on **Sunday, August 26 at the 9:30 am** service for all students as they start a new school year. We'll also bless those who are serving as teachers within children's, confirmation, SPIRIT, or adult Bible studies. Hope you can join us!

Faith Formation CONTINUED



A great time was had by all at this year's "Living in God's Time" VBS! 114 kids and 62 volunteers of all ages gathered to learn about the seasons of the church year including Advent, Lent, Easter, and Pentecost.

VBS 2018: Living in God's Time



A highlight from the week was having James Hersch as our resident musician. The elementary kids wrote four songs each night about each day's theme and performed them during opening and closing time. Be sure to visit www.splcomaha.org/faithathome in the next few weeks to hear each of these songs.

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Faith Formation CONTINUED

VBS 2018: Living in God's Time CONTINUED



We read God's Word and talked about how it makes a difference each day.



We collected enough toilet paper to fill a minivan for the Open Door Mission, made dog treats for Town and Country Humane Society, and placemats for Meals on Wheels as our service projects.



We danced, ate fun snacks, made prayer candles and flame headbands. Check out a highlight video on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/VWOz6HoTQ24>

2018 ELCA YOUTH GATHERING

**THIS CHANGES
EVERYTHING**

JUNE 27-JULY 1 • HOUSTON, TX

**ST. PAUL'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH
OMAHA, NE**

This Changes Everything

BY JACEY HAMMER

I was one of the 24 youth from St. Paul's that went to the 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston where our group was joined by 31,000 others. The first day of the gathering, our adult leaders gave us St. Paul's bracelets for us to trade with other groups from all over the country. In exchange, we received other bracelets, clothespins, pins and even leis. Each included the church's name, the state they're from and sometimes even their snapchat or Instagram. It was really cool walking around and seeing all the pins filling peoples' bags and the bracelets on everyone's wrists.

We made 31,000 new friends this week. Each night, we had a mass gathering, which consisted of 4-5 speakers sharing their stories and how God affected them on their journey. On the third night, we heard from Pastor Will Starkweather as he told us his story of

overcoming self harm. All my life, I've tried to live by treating everyone with kindness because you never know what someone's going through, but Pastor Starkweather truly pointed out that the happiest face can have the worst story. After he told us he has been free from self harm for 10 years, all 31,000 of us stood up and clapped. Chills ran down my spine and I knew hearing this changed all of us for the better.

Our service day did not go as planned, but we made the best of it. We picked up trash in a park for a few hours, and as we were leaving, our bus couldn't get out of the parking lot due to a tight turn. A homeless man immediately got up to assist the driver with the turn. It took them nearly an hour to finally get out of the parking lot, but seeing the homeless man's dedication to help out gave me chills, and this was just



one of many moments where I felt a connection with God's presence.

If you ever get the chance to go on a mission trip, I strongly recommend it . . . It Changes Everything!

Jacey Hammer is a member of St. Paul's and will be a Senior at Gretna High School.



Houston 2018



Changed Everything!



1 + 2 3 + 4



Special Musicians

BY KAREN HANSEN

A while back this writer reminded all of us that we need to focus on the “*good kids*”. Well, here are a couple more who will not only make you smile, but also will make you want to cheer. We don’t have to look far away. These two are right here in our own back yard, or rather right here in the St. Paul’s Chapel. Carly Renken, an SPLC member and her friend Joanna Bai don’t spend



their Sunday afternoons on their phones or visiting the mall or even taking naps which are truly okay options for busy high school kids. From 1:00 to 2:30 every Sunday afternoon in each season, Carly and Joanna provide music classes for kids with special needs.

How this all started goes back to second grade for Carly when she became buddies with a classmate who has Down syndrome. That friendship, which is strong even

today, started Carly on the path to working with the Special Olympics. Carly played club volleyball for most of that time. Six years ago, the volleyball team held clinics for kids with special needs. These clinics led to Carly's becoming a coach for four Special Olympics teams of various sports. Joanna Bai also got involved with Special Olympics after she got a glimpse of what it was like working with kids with special needs alongside Carly in middle school. Carly said that last June she and Joanna started seeing increasing gaps in some of the kids' interests. Special Olympics are games and sports. Not all kids care about sports. There was one “not so nice” kid who hated track and got angry at being around any track activities at all. Carly noted “these are kids, just like any other kids, they just have special needs.” “We saw a huge



Joanna Bai and Carly Renken are the founders of Special Musicians.

gap in opportunities for these kids”. Joanna thought of the idea of offering them music programming, but “we had no idea how to execute it.”

“We met with some Special Olympic parents for the first session in August, 2017. We didn’t have huge plans, we just started with drums.” Later, they sometimes used the piano. The music is almost all percussion and the kids love it. Parents advertised on social media, and more and

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Helping Carly and Joanna is Brandon Collins who lends his guitar playing to the mix, donating his time along with William Nervig, another dedicated volunteer.

Special Musicians

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more came. Carly and Joanna appreciate St. Paul's willingness to host the project. It can't work in schools because of insurance issues. St. Paul's council approved the use of the chapel and cooperate with the girls by being kept updated and keeping paperwork current. In 2017-2018, 40 kids came as they were able.

There are no attendance requirements, and a kid who only comes one time can still be in the end of the year concert. When asked



about music skills, Carly tells that Joanna is classically trained on the piano and participates in show choir at Millard West High School. Carly, an incoming senior at Millard South, admits, "I am the most non-music person I know. I am the hype person. I can handle the paperwork, and I can make lesson plans look good. I know enough to help with the kids, and I assist Joanna as she



takes the lead on the music!"

The kids are split into three groups . . . higher functioning kids who really want to learn more music theory to lower functioning kids who just love the sensory aspect of music. "The kids in the higher group know more about music than I do." There are also the babies . . . 3 and 4-year olds. Additionally, there are two 19-year olds in transition through the Millard Young Adult Program. These young people are working on life skills and independent living. "We try to stick to youth and work on some life skills like being

polite, sharing and cleaning up after themselves. These lessons are subtle because we want the kids to have fun." There are snacks and "random dance parties" often break out during the session. Parents are encouraged to leave, so they can have a break, and so the kids won't lean on their parents.

The summer session runs until August 12, every Sunday from 1:00 to 2:30. The program has relied on parent donations, but the goal is to get approved for non-profit status this summer. As mentioned before, there is paperwork and that includes files of information and medical forms. The program is looking for volunteers. Carly has spoken to Emily Dalen about getting confirmation kids service hours for assisting. If you are interested in helping with this project, contact Carly Renken or the church office.

So these two young ladies just add to my "glass is half full view" of young people. We have lots of "good kids" all around us. And that beat goes on every Sunday in the St. Paul's Chapel from 1:00 to 2:30.

Coming Up this Fall

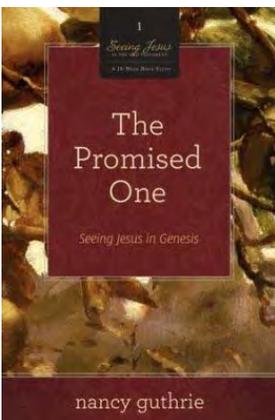
Mark your calendars for another year of Faith Formation! All ages are invited to gather on Wednesday, September 5th or Sunday, September 9th as we kick off another year of Sunday School, Adult Bible studies, service opportunities, SPIRIT, Cross and Heart Kids, Middle School Ministry and so much more! More details to come!



“I Want to Tell You a Story” Sermon Themes 2018-19

“52 Bible Stories” from both the Old and New Testament. These will be our focus of sermons for 2018-19, **beginning September 9th 2018 thru September 1st 2019**. From Genesis through the Old Testament, from the birth of Christ to the Book of Revelation in the New Testament. The stories chosen will also sync up with the celebrations of the Church year. Sermons and music will follow this pattern as we hear, see and learn about these 52 essential stories of God’s Word for us. For those who have heard the stories many times before, new insight and focus, for those who are new to many of the Biblical stories an unpacking of the richness of God’s Word. A calendar of what each story will be and when will be announced in the September Connection. Hear, see and enjoy the Word of God thru story beginning this Fall.

St. Paul’s Adult Bible Study



On **Thursday night, October 4th at 6:30pm**, for five weeks there will be a Bible Study offered to the whole congregation called: “The Promised One”, a Study from the Book of Genesis. Following the large group DVD presentation, we will break up into small groups with discussion questions from a study guide and from Pastor Paul. Each participant is asked to purchase the study guide at a reduced cost of **\$8.00**.

The study will also be presented online for all those members of our congregation who cannot make some or all of the studies.

This study is for the whole congregation and is offered to help bring us deeper knowledge of God’s Word and fellowship among St. Paul members. If you have questions or wish to purchase the study guide, please contact Colleen Christensen at 402-339-7722. There will be an information table in the commons beginning September 8th to answer questions, register for the class and offering the study guide books for purchase. Everyone is invited to this all church learning opportunity. It all begins **Thursday Night, October 4th at 6:30pm**. We’re looking forward to seeing you there.



From the St. Paul's Library

Hopefully you have been in the library to find a good read or reference material, but are you aware of what all is available to you? The books are arranged by groups and within each group by author or reference number for non-fiction.

What groups do we have? A color coding system is used to make it easier to find a book to meet your needs. **Biographies:** all have a green dot; **Classics:** all have a gold dot; **Faith Journey:** all have a blue dot; **Fiction** all have a light blue stripe on the label and are primarily on the wall to your left as you enter the library; **Large Print:** all have a yellow dot; **Mar-**

riage and the Family: all have a red dot; **General Non-fiction** are arranged by call number and are primarily on the left wall as you enter the library but may be stored within one of the listed specific groups. **Newly acquired books** are on the first shelf to your left. Books for **Children and Youth** are on a separate bookcase on the far wall. Books and pamphlets on **Grief and Caring** are together on the far wall. **DVDs and CDs** are located on the far wall. There is also a basket labeled free books. Feel free to look for a book there!

The card catalogue is immediately on your left when you enter so

you can look up a title, author or topic to see what books are in the library. To check out a book put your name and phone number on the card in the front of the book and place it in the plastic box on top of the card catalogue. When you are finished with a book, place it in the wooden box next to the card catalogue and the library team will return it to the appropriate place.

A Good Read

FROM THE BOOK CLUB

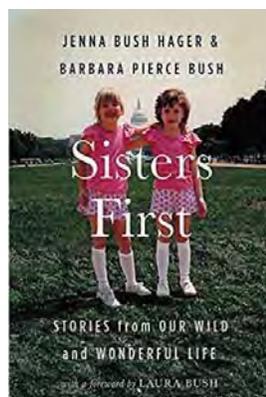
Welcome to St. Paul's Book Club! Won't you join us and bring a neighbor/friend with you? On the second Wednesday each month we gather together at the church at 10 o'clock to share about books we are reading and to discuss the book chosen for the current month's read. **This is not a deep discussion time but a sharing time about the author and whether we liked or disliked the book and why.**

A list of books selected for the year is on a shelf in the library. We purchase at least one copy of each book to make it available to everyone who wants to read the selection but does not have a public library card.

There is a shelf dedicated to past book club selections (it's labeled) and also a shelf for the books chosen for the current year in the church library. We encourage you to investigate!

On **August 8th at 10 am** we will meet in the library to select books for the 2018-2019 year. **Please come, all are welcome!**

September's selection is **Sisters First** by Jenna Bush.



School Kit Items Needed

The school ads are out! There are bins in the commons to collect items for the Lutheran World Relief school kits.



Needed for each kit:

- Four 70-80 sheet notebooks (wide or college ruled paper)
- A 30 cm ruler (can have inches on one side)
- One pencil Sharpener
- One pair BLUNT scissors
- Five unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers
- 5 ballpoint pens (no gel ink)
- One 2½" eraser
- One box of 16 or 24 crayons

Sturdy drawstring-style backpacks will be provided. Thank you for your great support on this WELCA project!



If you have any questions, please contact Sid Rames.

Stewardship

Why is Stewardship Important?

SOURCE OF ARTICLE: <https://biblicalstewardship.net/why-is-stewardship-important/>

There are two words that send the average American congregation and common churchgoer into fear and panic, from the leadership and pastorate, that fears to offend or drive people away, to the church member who may be too far stretched in time and giving, and cannot give anymore, to the person who does not want to be convicted, lest he be forced to reach for the sacred will of his wallet or the exercise of His call. Yet, these two words are simple, and needed, because the church and the body of Christ could not function without them being proclaimed and exercised: These simple words are Stewardship and Evangelism.

Why such fear? Perhaps they necessitate a response that requires us to get up and do when we would rather sit down and don't. So, a cold shiver goes up the back of our complacency. These two words strike at the very heart and will of plans and ideas that we have set up for ourselves. They strike at our comfort, and the way of life we like and have designed for ourselves. Perhaps they even put us in front of the mirror of duty and requirement, of responsibility and a response to our free gift of grace, which we would rather not give. Then there is the world of complacency, where a Christian will just "pew sit" his way through life in his walk with Christ. A Sunday visit from time to time is more of a greater sacrifice than he can handle. His time is booked with the duty of his own plans and ideas. So when stewardship comes up, he realizes his failings. Guilt rears its ugly head and calls for the primeval reaction of fight or flight. Thus, we can think we can fight against such requirements and proclaim they are not needed so we do not have to meet them. Or, we can run to another church that has no such requirement, so we can hide our inadequacies. I received my gift of grace, yet I will not send a thank-you, nor will I use it. It is to sit on my shelf for my comfort and insurance only. And, for the

most part, God will let us keep it there.

That is the beauty of grace—no strings attached. But, what good is a car if all it does is stay parked? Without care, it will rust, degrade, and be of no value, even with 0 miles on the odometer. Yes, grace is given without strings attached, except for our faith. But, as the book of James proclaims, what good is it? What good is our salvation if it is only good for comfort and security? Of course, there is no greater Comfort or Security than our faith in Christ, so, why should we worry about temporary earthly pleasures, when so much more awaits us?

But, these words of Stewardship, sometimes referred to as tithing or Evangelism, and sometimes said of discipleship, do not need to be scary. Stewardship can be an act of love, and even fun! It can be a response to His love, which will give us much, much greater comfort than any plans or ideas on our part. Perhaps Christians want to give, but they do not know how. Maybe they just need to be told that all we have is not really ours to begin with. We are just temporary stewards of His treasures, time and talents. With such a view, we may see a pleasure in giving, and

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St. Paul's Lutheran Church

92 Pledges

\$514,959.96

As of July 19, 2018

Stewardship CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

see the benefits as they help build the body of Christ.

“The earth is the LORD’s, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it” (Psalm 24:1)

The word, *stewardship*, simply means to manage someone else’s property. For the Christian, as Scripture proclaims everything belongs to God, we manage the property of our Lord. Since everything belongs to Christ, we need to have the attitude and view that our things are His things, our stuff is His stuff, that all we could have now, all we have lost, all we will have, is His, including our very bodies and spiritual gifts. We are mere lessees of the property, money, relationships, talents, time, and even our lives. That means all that we are and all that we have are not really ours to

begin with. They belong to God. So, the duty of the Christian is to learn how to become responsible stewards of our Lord’s resources entrusted into our care. It means to manage everything to the best of our abilities for His glory (1 Cor. 4:2).

What is Stewardship? Principle answer from findings is “the care of others resources.” All we have is others resources, as we do not truly own anything, only God does.

- Stewardship honors God with all of the relationships and resources in our life! Thus, we are able to give Him gratitude for what He did for us and recognize His sovereignty, which is His control and ownership of all things. In this way we can honor Him with

our worship as well as with our material goods and abilities.

- Stewardship is a priority! We need to take what we have and put it to the right use.
- Stewardship is exercising the gifts He gives, not letting them waste away. We are to find them and put them to use with joy. To do otherwise is a big waste and a travesty.
- Stewardship is being His faithful servant. It is the understanding of who we are in Him and being grateful for that. In addition, it is being willing to put forth the effort to please Him, even though we do not have to.
- Stewardship is recognizing that we belong to Him as a human being in His grace, that the church is not the building, but the body that gathers for worship and leaves for ministry! Those who just dwell in a building end up doing nothing there.
- Stewardship is being wise to the ways of the world, so we do not fall prey to it.

The Second Mile

Walking the Extra Mile in Stewardship

On the weekend of **August 12**, our second mile offering will be for an important ministry—**WELCA School Kits**. Many of you donate to this cause through the supplies that are listed in The Chat (or see page 14) but there is a need to purchase the backpacks that are used to organize/package them and also to pay for their distribution by Lutheran World Relief. If you could contribute to this fund it would be greatly appreciated. The school kits will be shipped to students in Africa, Latin America, Asia, and the Middle East.

We like to welcome visitors to

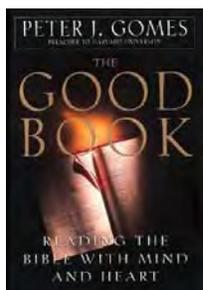
our congregation! Coffee and donuts are served every weekend on Sunday morning. These are provided by the **Hospitality Ministry**. Though donations are possibly given when people drink the coffee, the cost does exceed what is collected. Would you be willing to donate on the weekend of **August 26** so that this ministry can continue?

Thank you for your generosity! Last month \$242.50 was collected to help offset the costs of St. Paul’s annual Block Party where we welcome the neighborhood to come fellowship with us.

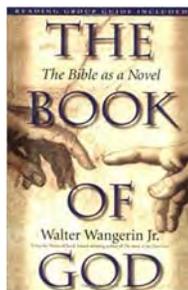
The Stewardship Committee would love for you to share your thoughts on stewardship as well as the debt reduction campaign via phone or email. We also have spots available to serve on the committee Please feel free to contact Megan Moslander, Director of Stewardship and Development, at 402-669-0061 or mmoslander@splcomaha.org

Pastor Paul's Movie, Media & Book Reviews

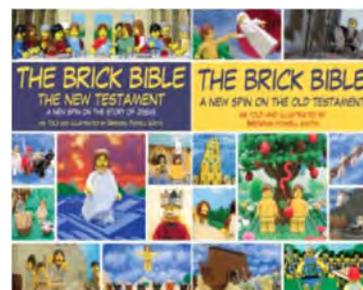
Someone asked me the other day what books I would recommend in helping to understand the Bible better. Here they are:



“The Good Book” Reading the Bible with Mind and Heart. By Pastor Peter J. Gomes. Available in Hardcover, Paperback and Kindle. The author was the campus pastor at Harvard University and called the Preacher in residence. This book is very readable and gives common sense insight and heartfelt love for how we can read and gain understanding in the “Good Book”. After you read this I would love to chat.



“The Book of God” by Pastor Walter Wangerin, Jr. Available in Hardcover, Paperback and Kindle. Pastor Wangerin is an ELCA pastor and author who took on the challenge of writing the Bible as a novel. This is no small undertaking and he has done a very good job of telling the Good News as a story. He is an excellent storyteller and comes at it from a Lutheran perspective. I highly recommend this to you and after you have it read it, we should talk.



“The Brick Bible” Old and New Testament. Available in Hardcover only. Here is a way in which our younger readers and even those who cannot read can get into the Word of God thru Legos. A warning, that even if the illustrations are only Legos, there are some violent scenes (hey it's the Bible). This is best read with an adult who doesn't mind playing with Legos with the child and telling the story at the same time. For all those guys, this book was made for all of us, who have sat on the floor or at a table, helping to assemble a Lego project. However, there are many moms and daughters who also will enjoy this creative way of learning God's Word.



Olga Valle
to
Jose Pila

July 14, 2018



LOCAL BEER, PATIO AND KITCHEN

TheoLOCAL - 6:30pm

First and Third Mondays of each month

We would love to see you on **1st and 3rd Mondays at 6:30pm** at The Local Beer, Patio and Kitchen in Millard. TheoLocal is an opportunity for theological conversation over dinner and a beverage of your choice with friends from St. Paul's.



A "Fun" Raiser

Wine & Beer Tasting and Fellowship Event

Sunday, September 9, 2018

3-5 pm

\$20 per person

(includes wine or beer samples, information, and door prizes)

Bring an appetizer to share

Come for fun, fellowship and
to support a great cause!

Ticket Sales begin August 4th thru September 2nd (before & after services)
Fundraiser for the Mortgage Reduction

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)

Here is your opportunity to support a good cause—our mortgage reduction campaign, meet new people and share in fellowship. Our small group decided to promote this activity to further build community at St. Paul's. Hopefully, you can join us, whether beer, wine or tea is your beverage of choice. Spread the word that this fun activity is happening on September 9th. We hope to see you there!

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 13271 Millard Ave., Omaha

Babysitting available by request

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Did you know that you can support St. Paul's Lutheran Church through Amazon Smile? Go to www.smile.amazon.com and search for St. Paul's Lutheran Church Millard or just look under Millard, NE and the church will pop up, select it as your charity of choice and as long as you are shopping under the www.smile.amazon.com web-site, a percentage of your Amazon purchases will support our church!

The St. Paul's

CONNEC  **ION**

August 2018

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The St. Paul's Connection
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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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Back to School



St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Calendar of Events

August 2018

*Sharing Christ's message to
transform all generations*

ST. PAUL'S EVENTS

Church Council Meeting	6:30 p.m. Mon.	13
Church Staff Meetings	9:30 a.m. Tue.	7, 14, 21, 28
Facility Team Meeting	6:30 p.m. Tue.	7
Faith Bible Study	6:30 p.m. Thur.	16
Finance Team Meeting	6:30 p.m. Thur.	9
Grace Circle	6:30 p.m. Mon.	27
Library in the Commons	8:00 a.m. Sun.	12
Hope Circle	1:00 p.m. Thur.	16
Library Team Meeting	9:30 a.m. Wed.	1, 8, 15, 22, 29
Love Circle	11:30 a.m. Wed.	15
Memorial Committee Meeting	2:00 p.m. Wed.	15
Mission Quilters	9:00 a.m. Mon.	6, 13, 20, 27
Monday Night Quilters	6:30 p.m. Mon.	6, 13, 20, 27
Stewardship Team Meeting	6:00 p.m. Thur.	2
TheoLocal	6:30 p.m. Mon.	6, 20

MEMBER CARE

Cards in the Commons	12:30 p.m. Tue.	14, 28
Exercise Class	8:15 a.m. Mon.	6, 13, 20, 27
	8:15 a.m. Fri.	3, 10, 17, 24, 31
Health Ministry Team Meeting	6:30 p.m. Mon.	6
Home Communion at Millard Manor	11:00 a.m. Thur.	2
Tai Chi	9:00 a.m. Tue.	7, 14, 21, 28
	9:00 a.m. Thur.	2, 9, 16, 23, 30

EDUCATION SCHEDULE

Spirit	7:00 p.m. Wed.	8
Tuesday Morning Bible Study	11:00 a.m. Tue.	7, 14, 21, 28
Thursday Morning Bible Study	10:00 a.m. Thur.	2, 9, 16, 23, 30
Thursday Morning Bible Study	6:30 a.m. Thur.	2, 9, 16, 23, 30
Wednesday Morning Book Club	10:00 a.m. Wed.	8

MUSIC OPPORTUNITIES

Choir for Christ Rehearsal	7:00 p.m. Wed.	22, 29
Worship Team Rehearsal	4:30 p.m. Sat.	4, 11, 18, 25
Worship Team Rehearsal	7:00 p.m. Wed.	1, 8, 15, 22, 29

PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

"Church Chat" Deadline	9:00 a.m. Mon.	6, 13, 20, 27
"Connection" Deadline	12:00 p.m. Tue.	21

WORSHIP SERVICES

Wednesday Outdoor Worship Service	6:30 p.m. Wed.	1
Saturday Evening Worship Service	5:30 p.m. Sat.	4, 11, 18, 25
Sunday Worship Service	9:30 a.m. Sun.	5, 12, 19, 26
Nursery	9:30 a.m. Sun.	5, 12, 19, 26

Block Party
Friday, August 3
6:00 p.m. — 9:00 p.m.

Food, Fellowship and Fun

Worship Servants for August, 2018

August 4—5:30 p.m.

Acolytes—Ellie Woehler
Will Woehler
Communion—John Fonda,
Shannon Fonda, Marie Witthoft
Greeter—Mary Holland
Prayers-As Assigned
Reader-Marie Witthoft
Video—Sid Rames
Audio—Jim Rames
Usher—Gary Norenberg,
Dennis Verdick

August 5—9:30 a.m.

Acolytes—As Assigned
Communion—Donna Snowdon,
Pastor James Lindberg,
Phil & Barb Hough, Kathy Juma
Cal & Anna Mae Wamre,
Bev & Doug Renken
Greeter—Fran Witt, Donna Lewis,
Doug & Bev Renken
Hospitality-Anna Mae Wamre
Prayers-As Assigned
Reader-Barb Hough
Video—Renate Witt
Audio—John Snowdon
Usher—Norm Bensinger,
Scott Custard, Cory Juma,
Gary McDonald

August 11—5:30 p.m.

Acolytes—Katie McGraw
Greeter—Mike & Wanda Johnson
Prayers-As Assigned
Reader-Jodi DeSordi
Video—Jeanette Swope
Audio—Jayson Swope
Usher—Dave Smith,
Gary Norenberg

August 12—9:30 a.m.

Acolytes—Ellie Woehler
Will Woehler
Greeter—Jay & Sue Schroeder,
Donna Lesley, Sharla Fitzgerald
Hospitality-Carol & Harvey Applegate
Prayers-Katie & Shannon Mauseth
Reader-Allen Darell
Video—As Assigned
Audio—Bryan Kreun
Usher—Norm Bensinger,
Jeff Hohenstein, John Bourne,
John Keim

August 18—5:30 p.m.

Acolytes—Sofia Schommer
Alex Karloff
Communion—Neal & Sharyn Willms,
Vicky Marquardt, Pastor James
Lindberg
Greeter—Karla Neemann
Prayers-As Assigned
Reader-Bev Steinbaugh
Video—As Assigned
Audio—Bill Koile
Usher—Todd Whitham,
Doug Wallace

August 19—9:30 a.m.

Acolytes—Cole Renken
Camille Renken
Communion—Lynda Nicholson,
Jerry & Naomi Warner,
Keith Snodgrass, Jane Coen
Greeter—Steve & Amy Oberdin,
Karen Hansen, Phyllis Matthews
Hospitality-Marvin & Corinne Wastell
Prayers-As Assigned
Reader-Joel Christensen
Video—Linda Kuehl
Audio—Jim Kuehl
Usher—Gary McDonald, Scott Custard
Norm Bensinger, Brock Flowers

August 25—5:30 p.m.

Acolytes—Ellie Woehler
Will Woehler
Greeter—Pat Whitham
Prayers-As Assigned
Reader-Vicky Marquardt
Video—Sid Rames
Audio—Jim Rames
Usher—Dennis Verdick,
Bill Jaquith

August 26—9:30 p.m.

Acolytes—Ally DeSordi
Sofia Schommer
Greeter—Patrick Runge,
Jim & Mary Jo Larson,
Sally Runge
Hospitality-Toni Flermoen
Prayers—DeSordi Family
Reader-Patrick Runge
Video—As Assigned
Audio—Arno Neben
Usher—Norm Bensinger,
Jay Schroeder, Cory Juma,
Jeff Hohenstein