

The St. Paul's

CONNECTION

June 2018

Volume 1, Issue 6



Pastor's Logos (word):

The Greatest of These is Love

BY PASTOR PAUL COEN

One of the best gifts a human being can receive is to be told they are loved. This is no small gift; however, it may very well come from a small person, which makes it equally special.

I don't think we can tell one another that we love them enough. Some might argue that we are trivializing the words and meaning by saying it to one another too often. I don't agree. I never get tired of hearing that someone I love, loves me. What is really amazing when someone not necessarily related to you says that and means it.

In a world where hate language is

used more often than love language, I believe that it is imperative that we both talk the talk and walk the walk of love, God's love in our lives. Not only do those near and dear to us need to hear every day that they are loved, but folks in the world need to know that love in words that may not be specifically the I love you, but words of grace, care, understanding and forgiveness. These are words that convey the power of love.

When the weather gets hot this summer, tempers flare and anger seems to be the go-to emotion.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

A LOOK INSIDE

Worship News	2
A Member's Perspective	3
Women of the ELCA	3
Faith Formation	4-6
St. Paul's Semi-Annual Meeting	7
Stewardship	8
Habitat for Humanity	9
The Second Mile	9
Presenting our 2018 Seniors	10-11
Pastor Paul's Reviews	12
Library News	12
The Legacy Windows	13
Lutherans Read Program	14
June Calendar & Servants	15-16





Summer Worship is Here!

We now have a single service on **Sunday mornings at 9:30 am through the beginning of September; Wednesday and Saturday service times remain the same (6:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m., respectively).**

New this summer, we will have three off-site midweek services. Each of these will be held outdoors, and we will have food in conjunction with each service. The dates and locations are as follows:

- Wednesday, June 13th - Stonybrook South Park**
- Wednesday, July 18th - Chalco Hills Recreation Area**
- Wednesday, August 1st - TBA**

Details and site maps are available in the church office and on our website (www.splcomaha.org). Mark your calendars and plan to join us for food, fellowship, and worship!

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



6/13
OUTSIDE WORSHIP
Stonybrook South Park
7765-7799 S 139th Ave. at 6:30 pm



Join us for Wednesday night worship in the park on June 13th at 6:30pm. Stonybrook South Park is located on S. 139th Ave, Southeast of 144th and Harrison.

This will be the first of 3 outside worship services this summer. The other events will be on July 18 (at Chalco Hills Recreation Area) and August 1 (location TBD).

Bring your lawn chairs. We hope to see you there!



Pastor's Logos

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

How we respond can make all the difference in the world. I still remember backing out of a parking space and some gentlemen were in my blind spot. I didn't see them and nearly ran into them until I heard their shout of alarm. I stopped and got out of the car and these guys were both mad and had had a few. I told them sorry and I asked them to forgive me. Their faces showed anger at first and after I asked for forgiveness, they weren't so angry. Then they asked if I needed a designated driver, laughing, they walk off.

Whether we are forgiving others or asking for forgiveness, we are using one of the most powerful tools in showing love, or requesting it, that is forgiveness. How and when we share love has always been up to us and the truth is we have ample opportunity to do so.

The cross is the ultimate sign of love. For love turned an instrument of death into something life giving. Our words can change hearts and minds especially when accompanied by love. For the greatest of these is love.

Amen!

Pastor Paul



A Member's Perspective:

Thank God There are Good Kids

BY KAREN HANSEN

I know people think of me as a "glass is half full person". Can't help it! I know there are unhappy, even maddening things in this world, but I really believe there is always something good to lift us above all that. In the last week, there was another school shooting. Horrible! Not excusing it, or brushing it under the rug, but that makes people focus on the sad, disturbed kids in the world. Something needs to change! So true! But there are kids in this same world who are already helping to change things. Kids who should be celebrated. Some are far away like the 19 year old cellist who held the world captive at the Royal Wedding with his amazing music. There is also the little guy who wants to travel the country thanking police officers for pro-

tecting us. There are high school kids in Santa Barbara who make a point to be sure no one at their school eats lunch alone. Then, right in our area, there is the guy who has served God and Country all his young life as a Scout, reaching to the rank of Eagle who now hopes to earn a college degree so he can be a police officer who can really communicate with the people. Another is a recent graduate of a local high school who has had a rough time at home, but uses his gift of music to contribute to two different churches' worship services and spends his after school time teaching piano lessons. How about another one of our own at St. Paul's who doesn't need any more service hours, but still wants to help with Bible School. I could go on, but you also know of



kids like these. We thank military members, police officers, fire-fighters, and teachers for all they do, and we should! We should also let the "Good Kids" know we see what they are giving of their time and talents to make this a better world. Thank one of the "Good Kids". Give them the encouragement and affirmation they deserve, and thank God that there are "Good Kids" in our world!

Love and Blessings,
Karen Hansen

Women of the ELCA

Lutheran World Relief Kits' materials are always collected in the wooden boxes at the West entrance of the church. Materials needed are listed on the bulletin board by the "coffee nook".

Note about the table cloths: There are white and black table cloths available for church events in the Family Life Center. They have been carefully hung on a newly installed permanent rack in the south closet of the Family Life Center. Many table cloths were sorted and recycled because of stains which could not be removed. Please enjoy the special touch these table cloths could add to your event, but please respect the opportunity to use them by seeing that they are properly laundered and hung back on their rack. Thank you for helping with this project, and special thanks to Tony Gray for the engineering and installation of the rack!



Faith Formation

Where did you see Jesus' love?

#JesusontheGo #SeeingLove

Start Date: Sunday, May 20

End Date: Sunday, August 12

We want to spread the message about Jesus' love through digital media. This is also an exciting opportunity to stay connected with our church family throughout the summer in a fun and engaging way!

How does it work?

Throughout the summer, we are asking you where you were able to see Jesus' love. Was it in nature? Was it at the church playground? Was it in your home? Wherever you had the opportunity to see Jesus' love in your life, we want you to take a picture of it with (or without) your #JesusontheGo figurine and 'share' it with us via social media using the hash tags #JesusontheGo and #seeingLove.

Visit us on our social media sites for more information!



Follow us on Social Media

Facebook.com/splcomaha

Twitter - @splcomaha

Instagram - stpaulsomaha

Pinterest - St. Paul's Lutheran Church

YouTube - bit.ly/SPLCOMaha-youtube



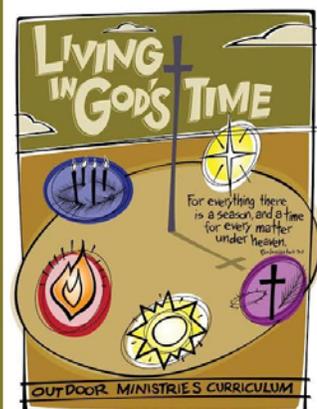
Faith Formation CONTINUED



Cross+Generational Trivia Night



A fun wrap up for this school year! On May 9 a cross+generational group gathered for a Trivia Night. Do you know how many angels are mentioned in the Bible? Can you name them? What spice is never mentioned in the Bible? We giggled, debated, enjoyed some food, and celebrated the year.



Register for VBS at www.splcomaha.org/vbsregistration "Living in God's Time" Vacation Bible School will be held July 9-12 from 6-8:30 pm. Those who are three years old and potty trained through 5th grade are invited to attend. This week is FREE and open to the community.

Supper will be served for a freewill donation from 5:15-5:55 pm.

Sign up to help with a great week of ministry with kids! The VBS team is looking for people to lead preschool and elementary stations, serve as crew leaders, music, skits, set up/clean up, and help with pre-VBS prep work. Would you be willing to help? Middle school and high school youth as well as adults are welcome to help. Please let Emily know ASAP if you're willing to spend a week building relationships with our youngest members!

Faith Formation CONTINUED



Are you a middle school student or parent of a student? **Plan to join us on Sunday, June 24 from 12-2 pm** at Boulder Creek Amusement Park for some fun activities! Students will need to bring money for food and activities. Let Emily know if you plan to attend. A few adults are needed to attend the gathering with Emily and the students.



Nolan Krue Andsager
Son of
John & Heidi Andsager

Brooks Benjamin
Gerald Bothwell
Son of
Ben & Kim Bothwell

Oliver Roy Lehman
Son of
Jedd & McKenzie Lehman

Important Information for Houston Gathering

Mandatory Meeting Sunday, June 3

Houston Gathering Information: **The next meeting is mandatory for all participants and parents.** Meet at church on **Sunday, June 3rd from 6:30-7:30 pm.** Final information will be given, and questions will be answered. Participants will receive final instructions, t-shirts and room assignments.



SPiRiT will meet on June 6 and 20. April and Emily are looking for families that might be willing to host the group. Food and activities will be provided if you're willing to open your home, backyard, or fire pit.

Commissioning Service Sunday, June 24

A commissioning service will be held on **Sunday, June 24 at 9:30 am** for all Houston National Gathering Participants. Please plan to attend.



Please let Holly know if your child will attend the Ropes Course event at Carol Joy Holling in Ashland on **Saturday, June 9th from 9:00 am-4:30 pm.** This is an opportunity for our group to have fun together and also meet people from other congregations who will be going to The Gathering.



Red Cross Blood Drive

June 10, 2018

Family Life Center

7am-noon

Appointments available every 15 minutes

For a time to donate, contact Linda Kuehl at 402-895-0426 or jlkuehl1975@aol.com. Let's see how St. Paul's can help the summer blood supply shortage. A huge thank you to all of you who have been such faithful donors. We are always looking for new donors too.

All donors will get a \$5 Amazon gift card by email offered by Suburban Propane.

Semi-Annual Meeting June 24

On Sunday, June 24th following the 9:30 am worship service, we will be holding our semi-annual congregational meeting in the family life center. This meeting will give us important updates on our debt reduction campaign, church security, and voting on four council positions.

This is an important meeting for all us, as we move forward in mission. It is our hope to be able to answer your questions about how Youth Ministry is going since the Director's position was eliminated from the budget, Emily's new role as Director of Faith Formation and what ministries are happening since the departure of Pastor Sarah. We will also be looking at the debt campaign and what this means for our overall budget, an update on the rental agreement with Trinity Classical Academy, as well as other questions and concerns you might have.

So please put on your calendar Sunday, June 24th following the 9:30 am worship service for this gathering. All adult members of the congregation are eligible to attend and vote. We're looking forward to seeing a good turnout.

Open House honoring Carroll Nyquist

90th Birthday Celebration
June 23, 2018

1:30 pm to 4:00 pm



Carroll's 90th birthday is November 8th
Please come and join his family as they honor him
with an Open House in St. Paul's Family Life Center

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.

Welcome New Members!

Adam Lutmer
John and Heidi Andsager,
Liam and Nolan
Olga Valle
Jose Pila
Russell Owens
Robert Tilson
Annette Webber
Ron Suchy
Allen and Laura Thamer,
Jackson, Kylie and Brooklyn

New Kitchen Freezer



Because it takes people, energy and money to keep our kitchen in working order, here's some exciting news about our recent replacement freezer for the kitchen. The new freezer cost \$2,600 and because of faithful groups and contributions, we were able to offset most of that cost. Thrivent Choice donated \$1,000, WELCA donated \$500 and Men of Armor donated \$500 towards the cost of the new freezer. Thank you to all of the groups that made this happen. It helps to keep St. Paul's budget on track. Thanks again to all for your support!



Men of Armor hosted a breakfast on Mother's Day and all moms got to eat free! Thanks MOA for honoring all the moms of St. Paul's!

Stewardship

It isn't a Bad Thing

BY MEGAN MOSLANDER

Stewardship. It is a word that is often used in church and one that people tend to think negatively about. On May 18, the Nebraska ELCA Synod hosted a one day workshop called Embracing Stewardship. The mere thought of trying to convince people that stewardship isn't a bad thing can be a bit daunting and clearly that is a thought that resonates throughout many churches.

Grace Duddy Pomroy and Pastor Chick Lane, authors of *Embracing Stewardship: How to put stewardship at the heart of your congregation's life*, lead the daylong conference and began by asking how we each define stewardship before sharing their own definitions. Lane believes stewardship is a "wonderful word that describes how a follower of Jesus

Christ faithfully travels through life. It is not about the budget and bills." Whereas, Pomroy defined stewardship as "love in action" and focused her description based around the Good Samaritan passage. She continued by saying "where your money goes, will cause your heart to go there."

Both firmly believe that money conversations in church shouldn't be about paying the bills but helping people to connect faith and finances in their life. However, we should all be looking at what God has done for us and realize that all that we have belongs to God as shown in Psalm 24:1-2 *The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it; for He founded it on the seas and estab-*

lished it on the waters.

As we continue to focus more on stewardship at St. Paul's, the Stewardship Committee encourages you to become more familiar with the reasons that you give to the church, think about how you prefer to give and what encourages or discourages you to give to the church. Talk about your giving as a family and what your faith and finances mean to each of you. We would love to hear personally from you about your thoughts on stewardship and how we, as members of St. Paul's, can evolve in our thinking about stewardship. Please feel free to reach Megan Moslander at 402-669-0061 or at mmoslander@splcomaha.org to share your thoughts.

Megan Moslander is Director of Stewardship & Development. Contact Megan at mmoslander@splcomaha.org



St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Mortgage Reduction Campaign Update

A little more than a month ago, the Stewardship Committee, in conjunction with St. Paul's Council, launched the yearlong mortgage reduction campaign "Our Future, Our Faith, Our Time". We are proud to announce that **as of May 21, 81 pledges for a total of \$501,384** has been received. With the goal of \$1 million dollars we are well on our way with the support and prayers of so many members of the congregation. From \$1 to \$1 million, each dollar counts as we work to alleviate the strain of the mortgage debt and build up the reserve fund.

Thank you to everyone who has pledged towards this very important campaign. Remember you have a full year to pay off your pledge. Also, you may now fill out your pledge form online by looking under the stewardship link on the news and resources of the St. Paul's website

www.splcomaha.org. If you have thoughts to share about the campaign or giving in general, please don't hesitate to reach out to a member of the Stewardship Committee.

St. Paul's Participates in Habitat for Humanity for 25th Year



The foundation has been poured and the floor supports have been placed.



This is the 25th anniversary of St. Paul's participation in Habitat for Humanity (Faithful Builders Coalition of 11 churches).

The new house is being built at 13956 Hickory Circle. This location is 3.5 miles from St. Paul's (a six-minute drive). The lot was donated by 2 sons that had a house torn down on this site about 5 years ago. It is a gem of a location and the neighborhood is one anyone of us would be proud to live in or visit. The foundation is poured, and floor supports were placed on Saturday, May 19th by a stellar crew of 13 long time Habitat Volunteers.

As an incentive for St. Paul's to be more active in Habitat this year (as if the location wasn't



The 2018 house address is 13956 Hickory Circle (just 3.5 miles from St. Paul's)!

enough) a 25th anniversary T shirt will be provided to our construction workers, our food servers on site, and a few set aside for our quilters. Jerry Johnson has purchased 28 shirts for this purpose and hopes to have them all in use so that he does not need to re-purpose them to his grandkids as night shirts!

Habitat Sunday is June 9-10 and Emily Lowndes from Omaha Habitat will do a temple talk at the 9:30 am service. Stay tuned to the electronic announcements and church bulletins for sign up information and further information concerning the 2018 Habitat Build. **The first build day is scheduled for Saturday, July 28th.**



The Second Mile

Walk the Extra Mile in Stewardship

June will provide us with the opportunity to support two important ministries. Both are outreach activities to bring Christ's love to the greater Millard and Omaha communities. **Habitat for Humanity** is a ministry we work with annually. The footings have already been laid for the build that will take place later this summer and fall. St. Paul's has pledged to support this ministry with our monetary treasures and equally importantly, our talent treasures. Look for articles in *The Connection* concerning how you can be involved. Your offering will help us

reach our financial commitment.

Secondly we will have a second mile offering in the later part of June to help fund **St. Paul's Annual Block Party**. This ministry reaches out to the Millard community with activities to foster friendships with our neighbors who live or work near our church building. It will once again be held in August. Be prepared to come and have fun and meet our neighbors!

In May, \$108.58 was collected to support St. Paul's MOPS ministry. Thank for your generous support of our outreach ministries.

Presenting our 2018 Seniors



Mackenzie Abendroth is the daughter of Dan and Marcia Abendroth. Mackenzie will be graduating from Millard West High School. In the fall, she plans to attend Nebraska Wesleyan University in Lincoln. While there, she will be studying theatre.



Natalie Hall is the daughter of Steven and Tracey Hall. Natalie is graduating from Millard West High School. In the fall, Natalie plans to attend Briar Cliff University, and has an interest in Criminal Justice.



Max Aden is the son of Steve and Tammy Aden. Max is graduating from Millard South High School. In the fall, Max will be attending the University of Nebraska in Lincoln, and has an interest in studying film production.



Tyler Jacobsen is the son of David and Pam Jacobsen. Tyler will graduate from Millard North High School. In the fall, he will be attending Iowa Western on a golf scholarship and plans to study biology.



Chase Anderson is the son of Tracy and Kendra Anderson. He will be graduating from Millard West High School. In the fall, Chase plans to attend University of Nebraska – Omaha. While there, he will study Business with a focus on Entrepreneurship.



Jamie Jensen is the daughter of Rodger and Merry Jensen. She will be graduating from Millard West High School. Jamie plans to attend the University of Nebraska at Lincoln and has an interest in political science.



Anna DeSordi is the daughter of Jim and Jodie DeSordi. Anna will be graduating from Westside High School. She plans to attend the University of Nebraska at Kearney. While there, she plans to study Business.



Caleb Kreun is the son of Chris and Stephanie Wilson. He will be graduating from Millard South High School. In the fall, Caleb plans to join the apprentice program at the local steam fitter union.



Kassie Gibbons is the daughter of Patrick and Laura Gibbons. Kassie will graduate from Elkhorn South High School. In the fall, Kassie will study nursing, specializing in neonatology or obstetrics, either at the University of South Dakota or Grand Canyon University.



Josh Kunkel is the son of Chad and Julie Kunkel. He is graduating from Millard South High School. In the fall, Josh plans to attend the University of Nebraska – Lincoln and pursue a degree in Financial Management.

Presenting our 2018 Seniors



Ethan Peterson is the son of Scott and Amy Peterson. He will be graduating from Elkhorn South High School. In the fall, he will be attending Hutchinson Community College in Hutchinson, Kansas. While there, he plans to major in Business.



Sergio Smith is the son of Rosa Smith. He will be graduating from Millard South High School. Sergio plans to attend The University of Nebraska of Omaha in the fall. While there, Sergio plans to study premed.



Noah Pierson is the son of Keith and Jeanne Simmons. Noah will be graduating from Westside High School. In the fall, Noah plans to attend either the University of Nebraska in Kearney or Northwest Missouri State.



Jared Urbach is the son of Scott and DeeDee Urbach. Jared is graduating from Ralston High School. In the fall, Jared plans to attend Dakota State University in Madison, SD on a baseball scholarship. While there he plans to study Education and History and eventually become a High School History teacher.



Haley Renken is the daughter of Troy and Suzy Renken. Haley is graduating from Millard West High School. In the fall, she plans to go to the University of Nebraska – Lincoln. At first, Haley plans to take General Education courses in hopes that it will lead her to what she would like to study.



Nate Richards is the son of Jason and Linda Richards. Nathan will graduate from Ralston High School. Nathan plans to attend Nebraska Wesleyan University. While there, he plans to study criminal Justice.



Matthew Rothgeb is the son of Doug and Kim Rothgeb. Matt will graduate from Millard South High School. In the fall, he plans to attend the University of Nebraska in Lincoln.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church Endowment Fund Awards Scholarships for 2018-1019 Year

St. Paul's Lutheran Church Endowment Fund Board is very pleased to announce the awardees for scholarship/grants for the 2018-2019 school year. These funds are to assist with expenses attending a college/university and/or technical school. The funds will be dispersed after their proof of enrollment next fall. The awardees are: **Anna DeSordi** of Westside High School, **Tyler Jacobsen** of Millard North High School, **Noah Pierson** of

Westside High School, **Haley Renken** of Millard West High School, **Matthew Rothgeb** of Millard South High School and **Sergio Smith** of Millard South High School.

Congratulations graduates, we wish you well on your next step!

Board Members:
President, Judy Gray
V Pres., Kevin Ronnenkamp
Secretary, Sally Runge
Treasurer, Sharon Welna
Directors: Jim Larson & Janet Henthorn
Advisors: Alex Williams & Tom Wilson

Pastor Paul's Movie, Media & Book Reviews



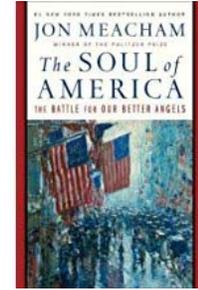
"Avengers: Infinity War" rated PG-13 and currently in the theaters. This film does not disappoint, except the ending. I hate endings that leave you hanging. So, without giving the whole thing away, I will say this; There are the good guys (male and female super heroes), they fight the bad guys (monsters). There is a clear life versus death struggle. There are Biblical references all over the place and, of course, humorous one liners abound. We will need to talk after you watch this movie.

★★★★



"The Terror", rated PG-13 on AMC reruns and soon to be released on Blue-Ray and DVDs. The mini-series, based on a true story, takes place in the mid-1800s and is about the crews of two ships seeking the Northwest Passage. They become trapped in the arctic ice for nearly two years and besides the harsh weather conditions they must deal with a killer Polar Bear that is quite terrible. Terror is the name of one of the ships, but the true terrors are the arctic weather, a crew with some huge issues and a serial killing polar bear. Evil takes on many forms. After you watch this series, let me know what you think.

★★★★



"The Soul of America: The Battle for Our Better Angels" by Jon Meacham, currently in hardcover. This book deals with the current struggles in our culture, politics and religions. I found this book to be both hopeful and frightening at the same time. Whatever your political persuasion, you will find this look at our society to be honest and insightful. As a pastor, I was struck at how much faith in God can or should play in what we face as individuals and as a nation. We need to talk, after reading this book.

★★★★

From the St. Paul's Library

The Great American Read

You may have recently seen the program "THE GREAT AMERICAN READ" on PBS channels. The introductory program was aired the week of May 22. Future programs will be aired during September and October. The series is about the 100 novels that were chosen as favorites by a poll conducted by a polling service for PBS of 7,000 readers. The list was then refined down to 100 novels by 13 literary industry professionals. "PBS designed a multi-platform digital, educational and community outreach campaign, designed to get the country reading and passionately talking about books." To learn more about this or get a list of the books you can go on line and google Great American Read.

The St. Paul's library has 21 of the selections in our library. They will be placed in The Commons on the weekend of **June 9 -10 for our Library in the Commons Sunday**. Some of the selections we have are in book form and some are DVDs or CDs. Come check them out. (Pun intended!) Books currently are on a mobile cart in the library.

The Legacy Windows continued from May 2018



Window Three

The Luther Seal

Dedicated in honor of the Family of William A. and Norma Nelson

Ephesians 2:8 *For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God.*

The Seal of Martin Luther is the symbol of Lutheran theology, showing a black cross, symbolizing the crucified Christ. The cross is in the center of a red heart, which even though mortified by the cross, lives on by faith in Jesus. The heart is on a white rose, the symbol of the joy and comfort and peace, which come through faith. The sky blue field foretells heavenly joy. The precious, golden ring depicts the endless bliss of heaven, which is the promised eternal gift of those who are saved by grace.

enly joy. The precious, golden ring depicts the endless bliss of heaven, which is the promised eternal gift of those who are saved by grace.

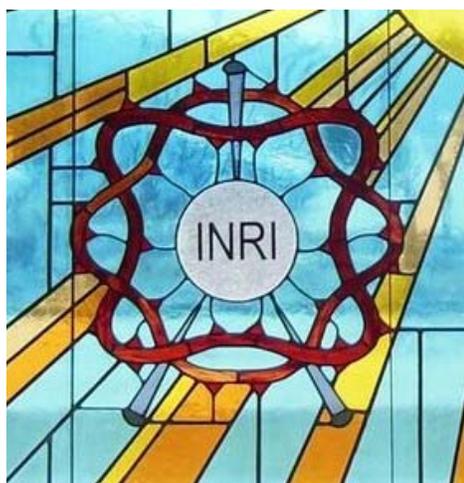
Window Four

The Victorious Lamb

Dedicated in memory of A. Gerald Jensen
and in memory of William Howard Fishko

Revelation 5:12 *Worthy is the Lamb that was slaughtered to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!*

We can join all creatures from all ages in declaring Worthy is the Lamb to receive blessing and honor and glory forever and ever.



Window Five *The Crown of Thorns and Nails with INRI*

Dedicated in memory of Robert H. Bartels

John 19:19 *Pilate also had an inscription written and put on the cross. It read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews".*

The words which were meant to mock our crucified Savior proclaimed the truth on the cross, that Jesus was the King.

Omaha Gives Benefits Lutherans Read Program

Omaha Gives! is the Omaha metro's 24-hour day of giving through the Omaha Community Foundation. As a participant in Omaha Gives, the focus of the monies raised goes towards the Lutherans Read program. This outreach program of St. Paul's currently occurs in two elementary schools: Rockwell Elementary School in the Millard Public School District and Miller Park Elementary School in the Omaha Public School District.

Readers visit the classrooms once a month for forty five minutes and read a book to the students which has been chosen by the teachers and reading coordinators at each school. At the end of reading time, each student receives a copy of the book to keep and take home, as well as place in the classroom library. By the end of the school year students receive nine books to take home.

This program, which has been going since 2014, has encouraged reading for over 2,000 students at the Rockwell and Miller Park Elementary Schools and has given away almost 12,000 books over the last 4 years.

Lutherans Read is a critical outreach program for the church as a way for us to foster a student's reading skills, hopefully increase family togetherness and create a love of reading. According to The Landscape, a project of the Omaha Community Foundation, when looking at the data for third grade reading level, "Students of color at all income levels are testing proficient at rates similar to lower income white students. Overall, test scores have risen for all groups since 2010, but students who receive a free or reduced lunch (FRL) test proficient at rates much lower than their higher income peers, indicating that there is an achievement gap based on socioeconomic status."

In addition, grade-level reading matters for success in school. If a

child does not read at grade level by the end of 3rd grade he or she is four times more likely to drop out of high school, six times if that child lives in poverty.

As a church, we know that we can't ignore the issues that are happening in our community and we have been told by students and teachers that the Lutherans Read program is having a direct impact in schools and on the reading scores in both Rockwell and Miller Park Elementary Schools.

The total yearly cost for Lutherans Read is \$7,000 (which is ultimately the goal for Omaha Gives!) In 2016, we had over \$3,500 in gifts, in 2017

a little over \$1,500. The May 23rd Omaha Gives! Campaign netted \$2,060 towards the program. If you'd like to contribute to this program, please make your donation to St. Paul's and designate it for the Lutherans Read program or you can find the St. Paul's Omaha Gives website by going to www.omahagives.org and search for St. Paul's Millard. Consider giving the minimum donation of \$10.00.

Omaha Gives! is one of the main supports of this program. We pray that many folks, both in and outside the congregation, will support this powerful outreach.

A Good Read from the Book Club

Brewster's Millions by George Barr McCutcheon is an easy, enjoyable read. What would you do if you inherited a million dollars? Possibly have some fun? BUT what if you then learned about a second much larger inheritance that put stipulations on the use of the first million! Quite a conundrum! Would friends influence you? Would your reputation be a factor? Find out what Brewster did in this short read available in St. Paul's library on the Book Club shelf.

Please join us for a discussion about the book on Wednesday June 13 at 10:00 in the church library. Have a cup of coffee or tea and a snack and relax with friends from the church and community.



The St. Paul's
CONNEC **ION**

June 2018 Volume 1, Issue 6

The St. Paul's Connection
is a publication of
St. Paul's Lutheran Church
13271 Millard Avenue
Omaha, NE 68137
402-895-3366

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

Follow us
www.splcomaha.org
<https://twitter.com/splcomaha>
<https://www.facebook.com/splcomaha/>
<https://www.pinterest.com/splcomaha/>
www.instagram.com/stpaulsomaha/



St. Paul's Lutheran Church
Calendar of Events

June 2018

*Sharing Christ's message to
transform all generations*

ST. PAUL'S EVENTS

Church Council Meeting	6:30 p.m. Mon.	11
Church Staff Meetings	9:30 a.m. Tue.	5, 12, 19, 26
Facility Team Meeting	6:30 p.m. Tue.	5
Faith Bible Study	6:30 p.m. Thur.	21
Finance Team Meeting	6:30 p.m. Thur.	7
Grace Circle	6:30 p.m. Mon.	25
Library in the Commons	8:00 a.m. Sun.	10
Hope Circle	1:00 p.m. Thur.	21
Library Team Meeting	9:30 a.m. Wed.	13, 27
Love Circle	11:30 a.m. Wed.	20
Memorial Committee Meeting	2:00 p.m. Wed.	20
Mission Quilters	9:00 a.m. Mon.	4, 11, 18, 25
Monday Night Quilters	6:30 p.m. Mon.	4, 11, 18, 25
TheoLocal	6:30 p.m. Mon.	4, 18

MEMBER CARE

Cards in the Commons	12:30 p.m. Tue.	12, 26
Exercise Class	8:15 a.m. Mon.	4, 11, 18, 25
	8:15 a.m. Fri.	1, 8, 15, 22, 29
Health Ministry Team Meeting	6:30 p.m. Mon.	4
Home Communion at Millard Manor	11:00 a.m. Thur.	7
Tai Chi	9:00 a.m. Tue.	5, 12, 19, 26
	9:00 a.m. Thur.	7, 14, 21, 28

EDUCATION SCHEDULE

Spirit	7:00 p.m. Wed.	6, 20
Tuesday Morning Bible Study	11:00 a.m. Tue.	5, 12, 19, 26
Thursday Morning Bible Study	10:00 a.m. Thur.	7, 14, 21, 29
Son of David Bible Study	6:30 p.m. Tue.	5
Thursday Morning Bible Study	6:30 a.m. Thur.	7, 14, 21, 28
Wednesday Morning Book Club	10:00 a.m. Wed.	13

MUSIC OPPORTUNITIES

Worship Team Rehearsal	4:30 p.m. Sat.	2, 9, 16, 23, 30
Worship Team Rehearsal	7:00 p.m. Wed.	6, 13, 20, 27

SPECIAL EVENTS AND MEETINGS

Community Meal	9:00 a.m. Sat.	9
Houston Gathering Fun Night	6:30 p.m. Sun.	3, 9
Library in the Commons	8:30 a.m. Sun.	10

PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

"Church Chat" Deadline	9:00 a.m. Mon.	4, 11, 18, 25
"Connection" Deadline	12:00 p.m. Thurs.	21

WORSHIP SERVICES

Wednesday Worship Service	6:30 p.m. Wed.	6, 13, 20, 27
Saturday Evening Worship Service	5:30 p.m. Sat.	2, 9, 16, 23, 30
Sunday Worship Service	9:30 a.m. Sun.	3, 10, 17, 24
Nursery	9:30 a.m. Sun.	3, 10, 17, 24

**SEMI—ANNUAL
CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
ON
JUNE 24
AT
10:30 A.M.**

Worship Servants for May, 2018

June 2—5:30 9.m.

Acolytes—Alex Karloff, Tori Karloff
Communion—Vicky Marquardt
Kristi McKamy, Carolyn Badtke
Greeter—Mary Holland
Prayers—Karloff Family
Reader—Vicky Marquardt
Video—Sid Rames
Audio—Jim Rames
Usher—Bill Jaquith, Gary Norenberg

June 3—9:30 a.m.

Acolytes—Sofia Schommer, Ellie Woehler
Communion—Jerry & Naomi Warner,
Cal & Anna Mae Wamre, Judy Gray,
Joel & Colleen Christensen, Judy Petersen
Greeter—Joel & Colleen Christensen,
Jerry & Naomi Warner
Hospitality—Anna Mae Wamre
Prayers—Stieren Family
Reader—Wilma Nelson
Video—Gabe Saighman
Audio—Arno Neben
Usher—Norm Bensinger, John Keim,
Jeff Hohenstein, Cory Juma

June 6—6:30 p.m.

Acolytes—As Assigned
Communion—Erica Peek, Karen Hansen,
Stacy Kreun
Reader—Erica Peek
Video—Gabe Saighman
Audio—Chris Berger
Usher—Dave Smith

June 9—5:30 p.m.

Acolytes—Laci Abendroth
Greeter—Mike & Wanda Johnson
Prayers—Tom & Jan Wilson
Reader—Bev Steinbaugh
Video—Jeanette Swope
Audio—Jayson Swope
Usher—Denny Verdick, Dave Smith

June 10—9:30 p.m.

Acolytes—Ellie Woehler, Sydney Bauer
Greeter—Patrick Runge, Sally Runge,
Craig & Wendy Adelson
Hospitality—Mary Holland
Prayers—Karen Hansen
Reader—Janet Henthorn
Video—Gabe Saighman
Audio—Doug Rothgeb
Usher—Norm Bensinger, Brock Flowers,
Jay Schroeder, Gary McDonald

June 13—6:30 p.m.

Prayers—As Assigned
Reader—Pastor Paul

June 16—5:30 p.m.

Acolytes—Katie McGraw
Communion—Karla Neemann,
Jim MacDonald, Marie Witthoft
Greeter—Karla Neemann
Prayers—As Assigned
Reader—Marie Witthoft
Video—As Assigned
Audio—Bill Koile
Usher—Bill Jaquith, Gary Norenberg

June 17—9:30 p.m.

Acolytes—As Assigned
Communion—Cathy Bourne, Ginny Janis,
Ardis McDonald, Donna Luedke,
Amy Oberdin, Melanie Smith,
Darlene Stine, Tammy Aden
Greeter—Denise Winter, Sharla Fitzgerald,
Cal & Anna Mae Wamre
Hospitality—Joy Marshall
Prayers—Scott & Conlan Custard
Reader—Steve Oberdin
Video—Renate Witt
Audio—John Snowdon
Usher—Ted Luedke, John Bourne
Norm Bensinger, Gary McDonald

June 20—6:30 p.m.

Acolytes—Alex Karloff
Communion—Susie Stieren, Maia Young,
Erica Peek
Prayers—Maia Young
Reader—As Assigned
Video—As Assigned
Audio—Chris Berger
Usher—Doug Wallace

June 23—5:30 p.m.

Acolytes—Ellie Woehler, Sofia Schommer
Greeter—Pat Whitham
Prayers—As Assigned
Reader—Jodie DeSordi
Video—Sid Rames
Audio—Jim Rames
Usher—Doug Wallace, Denny Verdick

June 24—9:30 a.m.

Acolytes—Katie McGraw
Greeter—Phil & Barb Hough,
Tim & Jennifer Collins
Hospitality—Marvin & Corinne Wastell
Prayers—Barb Hough
Reader—Jennifer Collins
Video—Gabe Saighman
Audio—Bryan Kreun
Usher—Ted Luedke, Norm Bensinger,
Scott Custard, Alex Williams

June 27—6:30 p.m.

Acolytes—As Assigned
Prayers—As Assigned
Video—As Assigned
Audio—Chris Berger
Usher—Todd Whitham

June 30—5:30 p.m.

Acolytes—Ally DeSordi, Alex Karloff
Communion—Pat Whitham,
Kristi McKamy, Vicky Marquardt
Greeter—Dale & Donna Pickering
Prayers—DeSordi Family
Reader—Vicky Marquardt
Video—Jeanette Swope
Audio—Jayson Swope
Usher—Todd Whitham, Dave Smith

July 1—9:30 p.m.

Acolytes—As Assigned
Communion—Ginger Hansen, Sue Kuehl,
Steve and Nancy Steil, Betty Neben,
Barb Saighman, Donna Snowdon,
Toni Flermoen
Greeter—Ken & Karen Mass,
Bob & Pat Mennenga
Hospitality—Toni Flermoen
Prayers—As Assigned
Reader—Ken Mass
Video—As Assigned
Audio—John Snowdon
Usher—Norm Bensinger, John Kuehl,
Bill Averman

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.