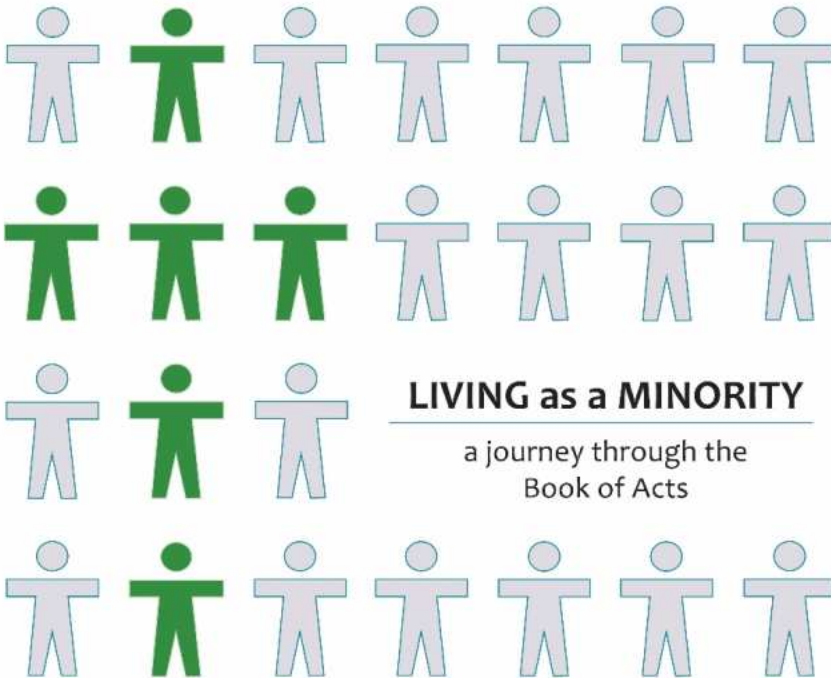


St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church, School and Kinder Place

(The Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod)

“What Does It Mean to Be a Martyr?”



210 East Pleasant Street
Oconomowoc, Wisconsin 53066
Church Office: 262-567-5001 Website: www.splco.org

Worship Schedule: *Saturday 5:30 pm * Sunday 8:00 am Traditional *
* Sunday 10:30 am Contemporary * Wednesday 6:30 pm Lakeside*

St. Paul's Mission Statement: *“Reaching, Serving and Growing Disciples”*

June 25/26, 2016

Rev. Lance Armstrong O'Donnell, Senior Pastor
Rev. Steven Scharnell, Associate Pastor
Rev. Paul Borgman, Pastor Emeritus
Jonathon Pickelmann, Principal
Volume 22

Ben Mueller, Youth Director
Diane Bleke, Organist/Choir Director
Christine Flores, Kinder Place Director

Office Hours - 8:00 am - 2:00 pm

Number 28

WELCOME to everyone, especially our guests.
Your presence is important to us.

St. Paul's is an evangelical Christian congregation, embracing historic Christian teaching on all doctrines, centered on Jesus Christ. Our desire is to bring the Gospel both to those who are searching for answers to the meaning of life and to those who desire a closer relationship with God. We here at St. Paul's have chosen to align ourselves with the teachings of the Lutheran Reformation, due to the clarity with which these help us to see the true meaning of God's Word. Specifically, St. Paul's is a ministry of the Lutheran Church -- Missouri Synod, one of America's truly biblical churches!

- **Members and guests:** please fill out an attendance card and place it in the offering plate to indicate your presence today. For Holy Communion, please read our confession and indicate your agreement with our beliefs by checking the box next to the names of those communing.
- Those sharing our beliefs, especially from parishes in fellowship with us, are welcome to receive.
- If you desire Holy Communion but hold a confession differing from that of this congregation, please speak with a Pastor or an Elder.
- Non-communing, baptized children are welcome to come to the table for a blessing.

Please note: Half the inner circle of individual glasses in each tray contains water with **one drop** of communion wine for those hesitant to drink larger amounts of wine. Those glasses with wine are rose in color.

THE 6th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Come to worship. As the prelude begins, worshippers are encouraged to conclude conversation and quietly prepare to enter into the experience of worship.

Guest Pastor: John Kelling

Theme: *Living as a Minority*
Part 8: What Does It Mean to Be a Martyr?

Traditional Worship

Lutheran Service Book, Divine Service 2, pg. 167

Contemporary Worship

Special Order

BIBLE STUDIES

A Walk Through the Bible

567-5001 Sun. - 9:15 a.m. Fellowship Hall
Salvation

567-8195 Tues. - 7:00 p.m. Muecke's Home

The **radio broadcast** is sponsored by Mabel Fredrick in memory of loved ones. St. Paul's 8:00 am church service can be heard Sunday over WTKM (104.9 FM) and worldwide at wtkm.com. The **altar flowers** are sponsored Wilbur & Barb Pieper in praise to God for their 49th wedding anniversary on June 24th.



SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

Our summer office hours will be 8:00 am to 2:00 pm, effective May 30th - August 26th. Please call prior to coming to the office (262.567.5001), incase of fluctuations in the schedule.

BAPTISM

We welcome into St. Paul's church family during the 8:00 am Worship Service, **Evan Lloyd**. He is the son of Edward & Sheri (Thompson) **Kranick**. His sponsors are Andrew Kranick and Nicole Thompson. We will keep Evan in our prayers.

***Flash photography is not allowed during a baptism which takes place during the worship service. The pastor may reenact the baptism after the service for picture-taking opportunities.**

REACHING DISCIPLES

FOOD, FELLOWSHIP 'N FIREWORKS ON SATURDAY, JULY 2nd!

This is coming very soon to St. Paul's backyard on Saturday, July 2nd! Come and enjoy a day downtown with a community parade and the fireworks display at dark. We will be offering food for sale this year! We will have brats and hot dogs and drinks available for sale between the parade and fireworks, with all of the proceeds going to support the Fred Boldt Fund-a-Family. Come one and all for some good food and fellowship!

SERVING DISCIPLES

TRUST ME

Has someone ever told you, "trust me", and then let you down? Our Stephen Ministers are people who you really can trust. They are committed to providing the best Christian care possible to their care receivers. They are people you can trust and depend on.

For more information on how to request a Stephen Minister to help you or a loved one through a difficult time, please contact one of our Stephen Leaders: Jeff Stache (262-567-1302); Steve Hansen (262-646-4049); Bobbie Scheuer (262-354-0033); or Carol Allen (262-468-4292).

LEGION BAND CONCERT WITH THE COMMUNITY CHORUS

On Wednesday June 29th, at 7:30 PM to 8:45 PM, at the Rhodee Memorial Band Shell, City Beach, the Oconomowoc Legion Band along with the Oconomowoc Community Chorus will be presenting a special Patriotic Concert to help start off the July 4th Festivities. The Legion Auxiliary will be giving American Flags to the audience. Many patriotic favorites will be sung and played by the two groups!

GROWING DISCIPLES

OVER \$27,000 WAS RECENTLY RAISED FOR THE FRED BOLDT FUND-A-FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP FUND!

"Let the Children Come to Me..."
FRED BOLDT
FUND-A-FAMILY
SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Jesus called to them saying, "Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God."



Luke 18:16

On May 20th, seventy-five people attended a benefit dinner and Live Auction for St. Paul's School's Scholarship Fund at the Red Circle Inn. We are pleased to announce, that over \$27,000 was raised, including donations of sponsors and donors that were not able to attend the event. Our school currently has 154 children enrolled for the 2016-2017 year. **We heartily thank all of our sponsors, donors and volunteers.** They are listed on our website and in our August Epistle: <http://www.splco.org/st-pauls-lutheran-school-oconomowoc/af2-2/>

As our school grows, so does the need for financial assistance. Our scholarship fund mission comes from Luke 18:16, *"Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for they belong to the kingdom of God."* Our school is the #1 mission of *St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church*. NO child is barred entry to our school because of financial hardship. Please note: there is a rigorous, confidential application for families requesting assistance. Families must provide proof of financial need. Church and school families can feel confident that those that receive aid truly need it. Contributions to the Scholarship Fund are welcomed throughout the year. Make checks payable to "Fred Boldt Family Scholarship Fund." Annual, weekly, or monthly donations can also be made at our secure on-line donation site: <http://www.splco.org/st-pauls-evangelical-lutheran-church-oconomowoc/online-giving/>. Memorials and planned estate giving are also ways to help assure that all children can attend our school.

LORD'S CUPBOARD AND STUFF THE SQUAD

Thank you to everyone who bought a bag during the Pabst Farms Pick 'n Save Stuff the Squad event. There were 112 bags of food that we received :) Thanks for spreading the word and for supporting the Lord's Cupboard food ministry! Lord's Cupboard will not be open on Monday, July 4th-Happy Birthday and God's blessings America!! The food pantry will be open on Saturday, July 9th from 10:00 am-11:00 am.

LUTHERAN WITNESS

The Lutheran Witness magazine is available again this year. If you are currently on the list and receiving the magazine, please call the church office at 567-5001 to let us know if you would like to continue your subscription or cancel it. If you would like to start receiving *The Lutheran Witness*, please call the church office so we can get you on the subscription list. The cost for the magazine is \$15.96 for 11 issues (the June/July issue is combined). The deadline for renewal or new subscriptions is June 29th.

Register MY CHILD to attend VBS, Ocean Commotion!



June 27-30, 2016: 8:00 am - 11:00 am
(\$15.00 per child/\$35 family max)

Child's name _____ Gender: Male Female
Birthdate ____/____/____ Grade completed _____ Home phone _____
Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Parents/Guardian _____ Cell phone _____
Work phone _____ Email _____
Emergency contact _____ Relationship to child _____
Phone _____ Please place my child with _____
Name of home church _____
Food allergies Y ___ N ___ List _____
Medical concerns Y ___ N ___ Explain _____

Volunteer Registration (7th grade and older for the 2016-17 school year)

Before VBS, I would like to help by:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Praying | <input type="checkbox"/> Preparing craft materials |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Helping with administrative tasks | <input type="checkbox"/> Planning decorations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Decorating classrooms | <input type="checkbox"/> Painting banners, backdrops, set |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Building sets | <input type="checkbox"/> Sewing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Planning publicity | |

During VBS, I would like to help in one or more of the following areas:

- | | | | |
|------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---|
| Dive Club: | <input type="checkbox"/> Leader | <input type="checkbox"/> Helper | <input type="checkbox"/> Drama |
| Crafts: | <input type="checkbox"/> Leader | <input type="checkbox"/> Helper | <input type="checkbox"/> Photographer |
| Snacks: | <input type="checkbox"/> Leader | <input type="checkbox"/> Helper | <input type="checkbox"/> Sound/AV |
| Games: | <input type="checkbox"/> Leader | <input type="checkbox"/> Helper | <input type="checkbox"/> Clean-up Crew |
| Music: | <input type="checkbox"/> Leader | <input type="checkbox"/> Helper | <input type="checkbox"/> Teacher |
| Missions: | <input type="checkbox"/> Leader | <input type="checkbox"/> Helper | <input type="checkbox"/> Teaching Assistant |
| Nursery: | <input type="checkbox"/> Leader | <input type="checkbox"/> Helper | |

Name _____ Phone _____ Email _____

Days Available: Every day Certain days (please specify) _____

Age-Level Preference: _____

Scan the QR code with your smartphone to be directed to St. Paul's online giving webpage.



For the most current information on St. Paul's happenings, please visit our website at splco.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS: June 27th - July 3rd
ADVANCE THE MISSION

REACHING, SERVING & GROWING DISCIPLES

MONDAY June 27th	Vacation Bible School Stephen Ministry Leaders Stephen Ministry Supervision	Various Rooms Room 201 Room 201	8:00 am 6:00 pm 7:00 pm
TUESDAY June 28th	Vacation Bible School Praise Team Practice (Look2Him)	Various Rooms Church	8:00 am 7:00 pm
WEDNESDAY June 29th	Vacation Bible School Summer Worship by the Lake	Various Rooms Backyard	8:00 am 6:30 pm
THURSDAY June 30th	Vacation Bible School Praise Team Practice (In His Light)	Various Rooms Church	8:00 am 7:00 pm
SATURDAY July 2nd	Food, Fellowship 'n Fireworks Saturday Evening Worship AA Meeting	Backyard Church Fellowship Hall	5:00 pm 5:30 pm 8:30 pm
SUNDAY July 3rd	Traditional Worship Adult Bible Study Living as a Minority Bible Study Contemporary Worship	Church Fellowship Hall Room 201 Church	8:00 am 9:30 am 9:30 am 10:30 am

Wednesday Summer Worship Services

Lakeside Summer Worship (in our backyard) is on Wednesdays at 6:30 pm. Bring your lawn chairs! Sermons will be from the prior Sunday. (If there is inclement weather, services will be moved into the sanctuary.)

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer

Living as a Minority, Part 8: What Does it Mean to be a Martyr?

June 26-July 3, 2016

Living as a Minority, Part 8: What Does it Mean to be a Martyr?

This is one of two really long sections: the arrest of Stephen (a deacon, not one of the original disciples), his defense (he knew his OT), his stoning, and Saul's approval. Obviously, persecution has now begun. Stephen imitates Jesus. I can't imagine how painful stoning could be, but Stephen prays for those stoning him and commits his spirit to the Lord. A parallel here is with the Confirmation vow to suffer all, even death, for Christ.

The Order of Meditation and Prayer

Pray and confess out loud as much from the order of meditation and prayer as you are able, or as your family size and ages dictate. Learn by heart the verse, catechism, and hymn of the week.

Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Apostles' Creed

Verse: Luke 9:51— When the time had come for Him to be received up...He steadfastly set His face to go to Jerusalem.

Psalm: Psalm 16 and/or the appointed daily psalms for General Psalms in Psalm Schedule LSB, p. 304

	Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.	Sat.	Sun.
Daily Psalms								
Morning	67	51	54	65	143	86	122	110
Evening	46, 93	85, 47	28, 99	125, 91	81, 116	6, 19	141, 90	66, 23

Catechism—The Third Article: *What does this mean?*

<p><i>What does this mean?</i> I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith.</p>	1 st Grade +
<p>In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.</p>	1 st Grade +
<p>In this Christian church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers.</p>	2 nd Grade +
<p>On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ. This is most certainly true.</p>	2 nd Grade +

Living as a Minority, Part 8: What Does It Mean to be a Martyr?

Day	Bible Stories for the Family & School	Daily prayer readings
Sun.	John 15:12-15	<p>For Daily Prayer Readings, please refer to the “Living as a Minority” weekly devotions found on St. Paul’s website at www.splco.org.</p> <p>The devotions can be found by clicking on CHURCH → LIVING AS A MINORITY → Weekly Guides or on the bookshelves in the back of the sanctuary.</p>
Mon.	The Parable of the Sower and the Seed— Luke 8:1-21	
Tue.	Jesus Stills the Storm—Luke 8:22-25	
Wed.	A Demon-Possessed Man Is Healed— Luke 8:26-39	
Thur.	A Girl Is Raised and a Woman Is Healed— Luke 8:40-56	
Fri.	The Sending Out of the Twelve—Luke 9:1-9	

Prayers: Collects for the Week, Daily Themes for Prayer, In Our Prayers at St. Paul’s

Collect for Living as a Minority, Part 8: What Does It Mean to be a Martyr?

God of love, through Your Son You have commanded us to love one another. By the guidance of Your Word and Spirit, deliver us from impenitence and teach us the truth that we might confess our sins, receive Your forgiveness, and be reconciled to one another; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Daily Themes for Prayer

- Sunday:** *Pray for the joy of the resurrection among us; for the fruit of faith nourished by the Word and Sacraments.*
- Monday:** *Pray for faith to live in the promises of Holy Baptism; for one's calling and daily work; for the unemployed; for the salvation and well-being of our neighbors; for schools, colleges, and seminaries; for good government and for peace.*
- Tuesday:** *Pray for deliverance against temptation and evil; for the addicted and despairing, the tortured and oppressed; for those struggling with besetting sins.*
- Wednesday:** *Pray for marriage and family, that husbands and wives, parents and children live in ordered harmony according to the Word of God; for parents who must raise children alone; for our communities and neighborhoods.*
- Thursday:** *Pray for the Church and her pastors; for teachers, deacons, deaconesses, and other church workers; for missionaries and for all who serve the Church; for fruitful and salutary use of the blessed sacrament of Christ's body and blood.*
- Friday:** *Pray for the preaching of the holy cross of our Lord Jesus Christ and for the spread of His knowledge throughout the whole world; for the persecuted and oppressed; for the sick and dying.*
- Saturday:** *Pray for faithfulness to the end; for the renewal of those who are withering in the faith or have fallen away; for receptive hearts and minds to God's Word on the Lord's Day; for pastors and people as they prepare to administer and receive Christ's holy gifts.*

In Our Prayers this Week

Those sick or hospitalized: MEMBERS – Anna Briggs - ongoing nerve pain in foot; Marilyn Runyard (hip surgery); Traci Anderson; Louise Lang; Marguerite Schneider; Hadley McCormack - premature baby born at 1 lb. 3 oz.; Joel - having medical tests; Shirley Dibble; Bob Klee - CIDP; Ethan Meyer - brain tumor; Peter Radulovich; Mabel Fredrick; Agnes Thurow; Alice Feldschneider; Linda Hansen (Steve's wife); Marian Faltersack; Esther Hart; Iris Jahnke; Rick Ware; Ed Krelwitz; Harry & Dorothy Peterson (Shorehaven); Barb Krug; Crystal Parker.

FAMILY & FRIENDS OF MEMBERS – Those with cancer: Kathy Strade (Paul Egger's niece); Daina Boppre - breast cancer; Peter Papa (Mike's dad) - prostate cancer in his spine; Quinn - breast cancer; Isiah Butler - Lymphoma; Dan Rogers (Jon Schmeling's brother-in-law) - bladder cancer; Julie; Laurie Farrell (Grant Hopkins's sister) - recovering from double mastectomy; Rebecca Paulson; Joanne Montanegro-Greinke; Ethan; Michael Graham; Jenny Lemke (friend of the Uttech's); Kayla (7 years-old) - brain cancer; Cheri (Tina Gartzke's friend); Linda F - breast cancer; Lloyd Crom; Jack Anderson; Patrick McNally; Kim B. - breast cancer; Jacalyn Balcuinas (Carol Lenz's daughter); Brian Keller; Jeanie; Karen Peskie (Mike & Cheryl Reiner's sister-in-law) - Lymphoma; Lea Acord (Pat Borgman's friend); Donald - bladder cancer; Korbin Berg - colon cancer; Jan; Mike Ball; Jessica; Chris Moha - breast cancer; Amy (Heather Gartzke's friend); Robert Counsell; Pat (Renee Ebert's aunt) - ovarian cancer; Ray Liska; Sue; Jim; Cheri Benz - breast cancer; Cami - healing; Tim - lung cancer; Pastor William Meyer (Don Meyer's brother) - Lymphoma; Dan (stage 4 prostate cancer); Crystal Schultz; Joann Romain - kidney cancer; Ron Rafalski - throat cancer; Nancy - breast cancer; Sarah Beine (stage 4 cancer)

Other: Curt G.; Jean Schiellach (Shirley Dibble's sister-in-law) - 5 fractured vertebrae; Laurie DaFonte (Dina Tanner's sister) - gravely ill; Donald Ryan (Gail Frosch's dad); Ashlin - stage 4 renal failure; Gary Haimerl; Clem - high calcium heart; Phyllis Ecklor (Shirley Dibble's sister) - fractured back; Ken (Kathie Ware's twin brother) - congestive heart failure; Kelly Braswell (BJ Lavota's sister) - MS; Brian Kloskowski - MS; Logyn (1 1/2 year old) - unknown health issues; Pat - afib; Noah - medical issues; TJ Easley (Dawn Lower's brother-in-law); Margaret Bauman (Pat Menden's sister) - hospice; Mora; Carol Duchow (Dorothy's sister-in-law) - hospice; Fred (Lynda Rades's brother); Lynne Kramer (Susie Meyer's dad); Joel (Tina Gartzke's nephew); Dwain Kline (Jennifer Truchan's grandpa) - Alzheimer's; Clarence; Pam Leimer (Pat Borgman's cousin) - stroke; Scott Kleist (Jim & Ann Duggan's son) - MS; Kelly Kulas; Ray (Michelle Schlomer's grandpa); Charles Tuff (Alzheimer's); Paul Fellin

Those serving in the military-deployed: Sgt. Tyler Peartree; Zach Howard, Theresa; Phil Preston; Captain Chad Kelling and his unit VMM-223; Casey, Phil, Andy & Steve Koth; Luke, Jacob, Brian, Randy, Kyle, Jake, Jeff, Matt, Tom, Brad, Ben, Mike & Rob

Those serving God as missionaries: Christie Nelson (China), Ray Wigdal (China), Dennis Denow (Thailand), Bob & Chris Prouty (Australia), Pastor Reinke (Deaf Ministry), Rev. Bud Palmer

Those in need: Our Shut-Ins; the family of James Wilson, who died last week; Josh, for help with alcoholism; Daniel to come back to the Lord; those struggling with addiction--Bob, Andy, George, Dan, Dee; Sarah, Keri.

Anniversary: Wilbur & Barb Pieper - 49th - June 24th

Baptism: Evan Lloyd, son of Edward & Sheri (Thompson) Kranick - June 26th

Birthday: Bobby Edwards - 8th - June 25th

Confirmation: Jon Brooks - June 26th

Thank You: A special "thank you" to Ebert's Greenhouse Village for donating the flowers for the flower beds at St. Paul's and for the flower barrels. We greatly appreciate their generosity!

Thank you also to those who helped with the gardens: Marcus & Carolyn Pankow for organizing volunteers to help and for their hard work maintaining the gardens throughout the summer, Ralph Andrus for rototilling, MaryAnn Ashworth, Don & Judy Gauerke, Al & Kathy Mueller and Mark & Debbie Prange for planting the flowers and spreading mulch, Ladies Aid for purchasing the mulch, Gary Flanagan for delivering the mulch and Don Schmitt for trimming bushes. And we *thank the Lord* for sending the sun and the rain which helps our gardens grow!

Lord's Prayer and Morning or Evening Prayer from the Catechism

Hymn of the Week: "By All Your Saints in Warfare"

LSB 517

Looking forward to Living as a Minority, Part 9

July 2/3, 2016

533, 591 (856, 866, 919) 501

We Are the Scattered

Using the examples of Philip in Samaria, the conversion of Simon the sorcerer, and the conversion of the Ethiopian eunuch, we need to realize that, wherever we are - with family, at work, or re-creating - our words and examples have the Power (the Holy Spirit) to bring Christ into the lives of people in need of Christ.

ATTENDANCE

June 18/19/22

Church Attendance :

5:30 pm - 60

8:00 am - 123

10:30 am - 136

Lakeside - 21

340 Total; 28 visitors; 312 members

ST. PAUL'S JUNE/JULY EPISTLE IS
NOW AVAILABLE ON OUR
WEBSITE AT SPLCO.ORG.

FAMILIES WITH SMALL CHILDREN

We rejoice to have families with small children participating in our worship services. There are baskets available with items that might be helpful for your children behind the back pews.

THIS WEEKEND

5:30 PM

8:00 AM

10:30 AM

Music Leaders	Diane Bleke	Diane Bleke	In His Light
Special Music	Alyssa Dinnauer	Alyssa Dinnauer	
Acolytes	Leann Wolf	TBD	Josie & Annalee Duchow
Altar Guild	Jamie Stache	Leslyn Mueller	Barb Star
Elders	Dave Meyer	Bruce Bain	Scott Kalien
Greeters	John Melvin	Chuck & Jenny Laabs (church) Ralph & Donna Andrus (school)	Tom & Denise Showen
Power Point	N/A	N/A	Erik Benes
Radio	N/A	Cheryl Tesch	N/A
Ushers	Wilbur Pieper	Gary Flanagan	Scott Kalien

July 2/3

5:30 PM

8:00 AM

10:30 AM

Readings	Acts 8:4-40		Matthew 15:21-28
Acolytes	TBD	TBD	TBD
Altar Guild	Wendy Tesch	Donna Andrus	Sarah Neff
Elders	Mike Tesch	Dave Meyer	Scott Kalien
Greeters	John Melvin	James & Judy Braatz (church) Karen Meyer (school)	Shirley Smart
Power Point	N/A	N/A	Jamie Stache
Radio	N/A	Steve Hansen	N/A
Ushers	Todd Leonhardt	Mike Papa	Scott Kalien

ACTS 6:8—8:3 ~ ESV

Pew Bible pg. 1163

⁸And Stephen, full of grace and power, was doing great wonders and signs among the people. ⁹Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), and of the Cyrenians, and of the Alexandrians, and of those from Cilicia and Asia, rose up and disputed with Stephen. ¹⁰But they could not withstand the wisdom and the Spirit with which he was speaking. ¹¹Then they secretly instigated men who said, "We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses and God." ¹²And they stirred up the people and the elders and the scribes, and they came upon him and seized him and brought him before the council, ¹³and they set up false witnesses who said, "This man never ceases to speak words against this holy place and the law, ¹⁴for we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place and will change the customs that Moses delivered to us." ¹⁵And gazing at him, all who sat in the council saw that his face was like the face of an angel.

¹And the high priest said, "Are these things so?" ²And Stephen said:

"Brothers and fathers, hear me. The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham when he was in Mesopotamia, before he lived in Haran, ³and said to him, 'Go out from your land and from your kindred and go into the land that I will show you.' ⁴Then he went out from the land of the Chaldeans and lived in Haran. And after his father died, God removed him from there into this land in which you are now living. ⁵Yet he gave him no inheritance in it, not even a foot's length, but promised to give it to him as a possession and to his offspring after him, though he had no child. ⁶And God spoke to this effect — that his offspring would be sojourners in a land belonging to others, who would enslave them and afflict them four hundred years. ⁷'But I will judge the nation that they serve,' said God, 'and after that they shall come out and worship me in this place.' ⁸And he gave him the covenant of circumcision. And so Abraham became the father of Isaac, and circumcised him on the eighth day, and Isaac became the father of Jacob, and Jacob of the twelve patriarchs.

⁹"And the patriarchs, jealous of Joseph, sold him into Egypt; but God was with him ¹⁰and rescued him out of all his afflictions and gave him favor and wisdom before Pharaoh, king of Egypt, who made him ruler over Egypt and over all his household. ¹¹Now there came a famine throughout all Egypt and Canaan, and great affliction, and our fathers could find no food.

¹²But when Jacob heard that there was grain in Egypt, he sent out our fathers on their first visit. ¹³And on the second visit Joseph made himself known to his brothers, and Joseph's family became known to Pharaoh. ¹⁴And Joseph sent and summoned Jacob his father and all his kindred, seventy-five persons in all. ¹⁵And Jacob went down into Egypt, and he died, he and our fathers, ¹⁶and they were carried back to Shechem and laid in the tomb that Abraham had bought for a sum of silver from the sons of Hamor in Shechem.

¹⁷"But as the time of the promise drew near, which God had granted to Abraham, the people increased and multiplied in Egypt ¹⁸until there arose over Egypt another king who did not know Joseph. ¹⁹He dealt shrewdly with our race and forced our fathers to expose their infants, so that they would not be kept alive. ²⁰At this time Moses was born; and he was beautiful in God's sight. And he was brought up for three months in his father's house, ²¹and when he was exposed, Pharaoh's daughter adopted him and brought him up as her own son. ²²And Moses was instructed in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and he was mighty in his words and deeds.

²³"When he was forty years old, it came into his heart to visit his brothers, the children of Israel. ²⁴And seeing one of them being wronged, he defended the oppressed man and avenged him by striking down the Egyptian. ²⁵He supposed that his brothers would understand that God was giving them salvation by his hand, but they did not understand. ²⁶And on the following day he appeared to them as they were quarreling and tried to reconcile them, saying, 'Men, you are brothers. Why do you wrong each other?' ²⁷But the man who was wronging his neighbor thrust him aside, saying, 'Who made you a ruler and a judge over us?' ²⁸Do you want to kill me as you killed the Egyptian yesterday?' ²⁹At this retort Moses fled and became an exile in the land of Midian, where he became the father of two sons.

³⁰"Now when forty years had passed, an angel appeared to him in the wilderness of Mount Sinai, in a flame of fire in a bush. ³¹When Moses saw it, he was amazed at the sight, and as he drew near to look, there came the voice of the Lord: ³²'I am the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham and of Isaac and of Jacob.' And Moses trembled and did not dare to look. ³³Then the Lord said to him, 'Take off the sandals from your feet, for the place where you are standing is holy ground. ³⁴I have surely seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt, and have heard their groaning, and I have come down to deliver them. And now come, I will send you to Egypt.'

³⁵“This Moses, whom they rejected, saying, ‘Who made you a ruler and a judge?’ – this man God sent as both ruler and redeemer by the hand of the angel who appeared to him in the bush. ³⁶This man led them out, performing wonders and signs in Egypt and at the Red Sea and in the wilderness for forty years. ³⁷This is the Moses who said to the Israelites, ‘God will raise up for you a prophet like me from your brothers.’ ³⁸This is the one who was in the congregation in the wilderness with the angel who spoke to him at Mount Sinai, and with our fathers. He received living oracles to give to us. ³⁹Our fathers refused to obey him, but thrust him aside, and in their hearts they turned to Egypt, ⁴⁰saying to Aaron, ‘Make for us gods who will go before us. As for this Moses who led us out from the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.’ ⁴¹And they made a calf in those days, and offered a sacrifice to the idol and were rejoicing in the works of their hands. ⁴²But God turned away and gave them over to worship the host of heaven, as it is written in the book of the prophets:

“Did you bring to me slain beasts and sacrifices,
during the forty years in the wilderness, O house of Israel?

⁴³You took up the tent of Moloch
and the star of your god Rephan,
the images that you made to worship;
and I will send you into exile beyond Babylon.’

⁴⁴“Our fathers had the tent of witness in the wilderness, just as he who spoke to Moses directed him to make it, according to the pattern that he had seen. ⁴⁵Our fathers in turn brought it in with Joshua when they dispossessed the nations that God drove out before our fathers. So it was until the days of David, ⁴⁶who found favor in the sight of God and asked to find a dwelling place for the God of Jacob. ⁴⁷But it was Solomon who built a house for him. ⁴⁸Yet the Most High does not dwell in houses made by hands, as the prophet says,

⁴⁹“Heaven is my throne,

and the earth is my footstool.

What kind of house will you build for me, says the Lord,

or what is the place of my rest?

⁵⁰Did not my hand make all these things?’

⁵¹“You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you. ⁵²Which of the prophets did not your fathers persecute? And they killed those who announced beforehand the coming of the Righteous One, whom you have now betrayed and murdered, ⁵³you who received the law as delivered by angels and did not keep it.”

⁵⁴Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth at him. ⁵⁵But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶And he said, “Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.” ⁵⁷But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together at him. ⁵⁸Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹And as they were stoning Stephen, he called out, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” ⁶⁰And falling to his knees he cried out with a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

¹And Saul approved of his execution.

And there arose on that day a great persecution against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles. ²Devout men buried Stephen and made great lamentation over him. ³But Saul was ravaging the church, and entering house after house, he dragged off men and women and committed them to prison.

THE 6TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

JOHN 15:12-15 ~ ESV

Pew Bible pg. 1147

[Jesus said:] “This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lays down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. .

June 25th & 26th, 2016