

St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church, School and ECC

(The Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod)



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

Worship Schedule: *Saturday 5:00 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"*

July 22nd & 23rd, 2017

Rev. Lance Armstrong O'Donnell, Senior Pastor
Rev. Steven Scharnell, Associate Pastor
Rev. Paul Borgman, Pastor Emeritus
Jonathon Pickelmann, Principal
Volume 23

Adam Tanney, Youth Director
Diane Bleke, Organist/Choir Director
Christine Flores, Early Childhood Center (ECC) 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 7th 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.

Pastor: Steve Scharnell

Theme: *A World of Weeds*

Traditional Worship

Lutheran Service Book, Divine Service 4, pg. 203

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 Ken Dinnauer in praise to God for his family and St. Paul's. 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 by Dorothy Duchow in loving memory of her husband,



SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

Our summer office hours will be 8:00 am to 2:00 pm, effective June 5th - August 25th. Please make a note of it.

PUBLIC RECOGNITION OF HOLY BAPTISM

We publicly recognize **Hadley Charlotte** into St. Paul's church family during the 5:00 pm Worship Service. She is the daughter of Travis & Erin (Gartzke) **McCormack**. Her sponsors are Amanda Hishmeh, Shannon Marquardt & Jim Johnson. We will keep Hadley in our prayers.

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

REACHING DISCIPLES

FAMILY PROMISE VOLUNTEER SIGN UP AUGUST 13TH-20TH

Our Savior's and St. Paul's volunteers will be welcoming families without shelter to stay for food, fellowship and overnight shelter at Our Savior's Lutheran Church from August 13th-20th. Help us welcome guests and live out our faith during these beautiful summer months. **Currently we are at capacity with 4 families in the program-a total of 5 adults (one is 5 months pregnant with a baby girl) and 7 children (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 years-old).** Please sign-up for any of the service opportunities (making food, serving the food, spending some time in the evening with the families, setting up on the 13th or taking the stuff down on the 20th, or staying overnight) by going to our church website: www.splco.org or contact Mary Hickenbottom 414-333-3421 or mary@splco.org. They also need volunteer drivers. *Thank you for your willingness to serve and please continue to pray for these families and for the volunteers that are changing lives in our community!*

SERVING DISCIPLES

LORD'S CUPBOARD SCHOOL SUPPLIES AND SHOPPING BAGS

It's that time of year for families getting ready for the new school year. Please pick up some extra school supplies for our kids that come to the Lord's Cupboard. Place the items in the basket in the narthex or in the Lord's Cupboard box in the Fellowship Hall. Or put a gift card or a cash donation in an envelope in the offering plate marked for Lord's Cupboard school supplies or take it to the office and we can purchase school supplies. Also, we are getting low on plastic shopping bags-recycle them through the Lord's Cupboard! Thanks for helping out these families in our community!

CONGREGATIONAL DOLLAR-FOR-DOLLAR MATCH CHALLENGE

At our last Special Voters' Meeting, as part of the 2017/2018 Financial Ministry Plan, a salary reduction of 5% (\$36,825) for the teachers and pastors was presented to the congregation. A generous member came forward with a dollar-for-dollar challenge and has agreed to match (up to \$18,000), which will allow our teachers and pastors to not have to undergo the reduction in salary. Please join us in showing our faculty and pastors how valued and important they are to us. Donations need to be above and beyond weekly offerings and *Free to Serve* commitments. They should be earmarked: *Dollar-for-Dollar Challenge*. To date, we have raised \$1558. Praise be to God!

GROWING DISCIPLES

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY AT WHELAN'S

We will begin our next series, *Living the Chocolate Life* by Deb Burma on August 5th and we would like to have people register so we can order books at a discounted price. They can register by emailing Cheryl Tesch at cheryl.tesch@ymail.com or calling [920-285-3628](tel:920-285-3628).



HIGH SCHOOL Laser TAG

Join us for an evening of fun at Lasertag
Adventure.

- ▶ July 30, 2017 from 4 p.m. -7:30 p.m.
- ▶ Drop off and pick up at the St. Paul's parking lot.
- ▶ Enjoy Laser Tag, Laser Frenzy, Dodgeball, pizza, soda, fellowship with friends, and a devotion.
- ▶ \$20 per person

If you have questions or are interested in driving to the event, please contact Adam Tanney (adam@splco.org)

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
The 7th Sunday after Pentecost: A World of Weeds
July 23-30, 2017

A World of Weeds (Pastor Scharnell)

The good Seed, which is "the Son of Man," Jesus Himself (Matt. 13:37), brings forth a harvest of faith and bears good fruits in "the sons of the kingdom" (Matt. 13:38). Whatever is sown apart from His Word is of the devil, who plants the weeds of unbelief and sin, even among the people of God. Thankfully, the Lord is patient and He does not uproot the weeds, lest the plants also be destroyed. He lets "both grow together until the harvest" (Matt. 13:30), while He continues to preach repentance and forgiveness of sins. Thus, He preserves His Church in righteousness. For "the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God" (Rom. 8:19), and in this hope we also wait with patience. Though we do not yet see it, "the Spirit helps us in our weakness" (Rom. 8:26) and, in truth, "the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us" (Rom. 8:18).

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

Christ-Centered Theme: At harvest time, all will be gathered. Through Jesus Christ you will be spared from the fiery furnace.

Verse: Romans 6:6-7—Our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. For he who has died has been freed from sin.

Psalm: Psalm 19 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 | 110 | 62 | 13 | 96 | 116 | 85 | 61 | 103 |
| Evening | 66, 23 | 73, 8 | 36, 5 | 132, 134 | 26, 130 | 25, 40 | 138, 98 | 117, 139 |

Catechism—The Sacrament of Holy Baptism: What does baptizing with water indicate? Where is this written?

| | |
|---|---|
| <p><i>What does such baptizing with water indicate?</i> It indicates that the Old Adam in us should by daily contrition and repentance be drowned and die with all sins and evil desires, and that a new man should daily emerge and arise to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.</p> | <p>3rd Grade +</p> |
| <p><i>Where is this written?</i> St. Paul writes in Romans chapter six: We were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Romans 6:4</i></p> | <p>1st grade + Kindergarten + 2nd grade +</p> |

The 7th Sunday after Pentecost: A World of Weeds

| Day | Bible Stories for the Family & School | Daily prayer readings from LSB, p. 299 | |
|--------------|---|--|------------------|
| Sun. | Christ Fulfills the Law—Matthew 5:17-26 | 1 Sam. 8:1-22 | Acts 21:15-36 |
| Mon. | The Pharisees and Sadducees Seek a Sign—Matthew 16:1-12 | 1 Sam. 9:1-27 | Acts 21:37-22:16 |
| Tue. | The Confession of Peter and His Rebuke—Matthew 16:13-23 | 1 Sam. 10:1-27 | Acts 22:17-29 |
| Wed. | Take Up Your Cross and Follow Me—Matthew 16:24-28 | 1 Sam. 12:1-25 | Acts 22:30-23:11 |
| Thur. | The Transfiguration—Matthew 17:1-13 | 1 Sam. 13:1-18 | Acts 23:12-35 |
| Fri. | A Boy Is Healed—Matthew 17:14-21 | 1 Sam. 14:47-15:9 | Acts 24:1-23 |

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

O God, so rule and govern our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that, ever mindful of Your final judgment, we may be stirred up to holiness of living here and dwell with You in perfect joy hereafter; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

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 – Duane Olson—kidney cancer; Sue Lindemann; Bob Tetzlaff—hospice; Todd Gartzke; Duane Peterson; Carol Fellin—cancer; Larry Hansen; Bill & Margaret Voss; Ken Groenke; Laura Gruen—brain tumor; Esther Hart; Louise Lang; Marguerite Schneider; Ethan Meyer—brain tumor; Mabel Fredrick; Agnes Thurow; Linda Hansen (Steve's wife); Marian Faltersack; Iris Jahnke—hospice; Rick Ware; Ed Krelwitz; Harry & Dorothy Peterson (Shorehaven); Barb Krug; Crystal Parker

FAMILY & FRIENDS OF MEMBERS – **Those with cancer:** Audrey Nigh; Liz (Barb Allwardt's sister)—colon cancer; the sister of a member with breast cancer; Dylan Coughlin—3 year-old with brain tumor; Kevin Kloss (John Tesch's nephew)—Leukemia; Judy (Amy Hackbarth's friend)—lung cancer; Grandpa Dave (family friend of Nagel's)—bladder cancer; Beth Etzel—stage-four pancreatic cancer; co-worker of Michelle Pagenkopf; Mike—cancer in bones; Roy Hyatt—cancer returned; Daina Boppr—breast cancer; Quinn—breast cancer; Dan Rogers (Jon Schmeling's brother-in-law)—bladder cancer; Julie; Joanne Montanegro-Greinke; Michael Graham; Jenny Lemke (friend of the Uttech's); Kayla (7 years-old)—brain cancer; Cheri (Tina Gartzke's friend); Linda F—breast cancer; Jack Anderson; Kim B.—breast cancer; Brian Keller; Jeanie; Karen Peskie (Mike & Cheryl Reiner's sister-in-law)—Lymphoma; Lea Acord (Pat Borgman's friend); Donald—bladder cancer; Jan; Mike Ball; Jessica; Chris Moha—breast cancer; Amy (Heather Gartzke's friend); 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-four prostate cancer); Crystal Schultz; Joann Romain—kidney cancer; Ron Rafalski—throat cancer; Nancy—breast cancer; Sarah Beine (stage 4 cancer)

Other: Dan George (Jamie's brother)—surgery; Sue Wolter (Pat Gartzke's sister); Karen Nicholson; Armin Tessmann—strength in walking; Michael Hamton; Karen Christenson—dementia & stroke; Regina Mills; Dory Schultz; Tina Hahn (BJ Lavota's sister)—heart stent; Phyllis Ecklor (Shirley Dibble's sister); Lois—hospice; Shawn—vascular problems; Jennifer—digestive absorption issues; Ken; Kat's mom—broken leg; Kristal—lung surgery; Jennifer (Rick & Kathie

Ware's daughter)—pray for complete recovery; Jonathan (Marilyn Marohn's nephew)—in need of a kidney; Doug—CCL; Megan Bertram; Jane Nordstrom (Lois Wolf's mom)—continued healing & good test results; Rose (Pastor Krug's aunt); Kelly Braswell (BJ Lavota's sister)—MS; Barb Schlomer (Dave's mom)—severe headaches; Cory—healing; Kathy Kraklau (Susan DeWitz's mom)—stroke; Brayden Stacey—2 year-old with brain tumor; Ken; Don; Curt G; Ashlin—stage 4 renal failure; Clem—high calcium heart; Ken (Kathie Ware's twin brother)—swollen lymph nodes and fatigue; Bob—prostate problems; Linda—diabetic dementia; Sharon—probiotic/kidney problems; Kelly; Brian Kloskowski—MS; Logyn; Pat—afib; TJ Easley (Dawn Lower's brother-in-law); Fred (Lynda Rades's brother); Lynne Kramer (Susie Meyer's dad); Joel (Tina Gartzke's nephew); Dwain Kline (Jennifer Truchan's grandpa)—hospice; Clarence; Pam Leimer (Pat Borgman's cousin)—stroke; Scott Kleist (Jim & Ann Duggan's son)—MS; Kelly Kulas; Charles Tuff (Alzheimer's); Paul Fellin

Those serving in the military-deployed: Tucker Stargard; PFC Nicholas Lang; Zach Howard, Theresa; Phil Preston; Captain Chad Kelling; 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; Mike to come to know Jesus as his Savior; for God's continued wisdom to direct as how to be faithful stewards in our congregation; David; those struggling with addiction—Bob, Andy, George, Dan, Dee; Sarah, Keri.

Anniversary: Kurt & Cheryl Oelsner—20th—July 26th
Casey & Kate Dodge—2nd—July 24th

Baptismal Affirmation: Hadley Charlotte, daughter of Travis & Erin (Gartzke McCormack) —July 22nd

Birthday: Florence Zastrow—87th—July 26th

Thanksgiving: Sue Lindemann for successful surgery, all the many well-wishes and visitors and especially to God our Father.

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

Hymn of the Week: "The God of Abraham Praise"

LSB 798

Looking forward to The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

July 29/30, 2017

Hymns: 850, 818 (673, 619, 830) 644

The Kingdom Supreme (Pastor O'Donnell)

The Lord our God has chosen us to be "his treasured possession," not because of any strength in us, but solely "because the Lord loves" us (Deut. 7:6–8). In His joy Christ has redeemed us by His cross and gathered us into His Kingdom by the Gospel. This Kingdom is the "hidden treasure" (Mt 13.44 and "pearl of great value" (Mt 13.45-46), of such value that any impediments to it must be cast away. To this end we are "conformed to the image of his Son" (Rom. 8:29). Since we "are called according to his purpose" (Rom. 8:28), and because Christ Jesus died, rose again and lives to intercede for us "at the right hand of God" (Rom. 8:34), there is nothing in all creation that can separate us from "the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Rom. 8:39).

LEGION BAND CONCERT

On Wednesday evening, July 26th, from 7:30 to 8:30, the Oconomowoc American Legion Band will be presenting a Concert and Food Drive at the Rhodee Memorial Band Shell, 324 W. Wisconsin Avenue. The Theme will be: "TV Trivia and Music Beats Hunger". Those attending are being asked to bring a nonperishable food item or two, if possible, for the Band Food Drive for our local Food Pantry. Some of the band selections will be: "Theme from The Cowboys", Theme from "The Mission", "Victory At Sea", "Cartoon Symphony", "Main theme from Dallas", "Hogans Heroes March", "Salute to Dick Clark" and "Happy Days". The band is directed by Walter Rich, Ralph Garcia is the MC and Legion Post 91 presents the colors each week.

JOY OF STEWARDSHIP

Psalms 62:7 On God rests my deliverance and my honor; my mighty rock, my refuge is God. *Lord Jesus, help us to rest in you and your promises. Amen*

How large is St Paul's?

We have **three** separate worship services each weekend.

Do members know all the events going on in this parish between the church and the school?

Many members have children or grandchildren in our school, however, many do not, and are not aware of what those events were really like.

Our school and publicity committee both are working at getting the news out to the community of St. Paul's Parish (Church, School and Early Childhood Center).

However, there seems to be a need to also publicize St. Paul's from within.

So.....we would like to start off a program called "**Parish Event Awareness**", (**PEA**) to let members see what events they may have missed by visually seeing pictures of those events on the screen in the worship area before the worship service. To do this we are opening the invitation to the whole congregation, anyone with a smartphone camera.

Anyone with a smartphone can take a picture at a St. Paul's Event, and send that picture to the church office (heather@splco.org) where the pictures received will be screened and a limited number of pictures will be assembled into the visual presentation before the worship service. We need pictures of happenings or events (whether school or church), which are occurring at St Paul's; no selfies please.

So, who are the real photographers in your family? Will their pictures be used?

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: July 24th–30th
ADVANCE THE MISSION

REACHING, SERVING & GROWING DISCIPLES

| | | | |
|------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| MONDAY July 24 th | Stephen Ministry Leaders Stephen Ministry Supervision | Room 201 Room 201 | 6:00 pm 7:00 pm |
| TUESDAY July 25 th | Praise Team Practice | Church | 7:00 pm |
| WEDNESDAY July 26 th | Lakeside Worship | Backyard | 6:30 pm |
| THURSDAY July 27 th | Praise Team Practice | Church | 7:00 pm |
| SATURDAY July 29 nd | Traditional Worship AA Meeting | Church Fellowship Hall | 5:00 pm 8:30 pm |
| SUNDAY July 30 th | Traditional Worship Adult Bible Study Contemporary Worship | Church Fellowship Hall Church | 8:00 am 9:15 am 10:30 am |

Wednesday Summer Worship Services

Lakeside Summer Worship (in our backyard) will run through August 30th 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.)

ATTENDANCE

July 15/16/19

Church Attendance:

5:00 pm—123

8:00 am—91

10:30 am—155

Wednesday Lakeside—19

388 Total; 14 visitors; 374 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

5:00 PM

8:00 AM

10:30 AM

| | | | |
|----------------------|------------------|---|---------------------|
| Music Leaders | Diane Bleke | Diane Bleke | In His Light |
| Special Music | Bill Scheuer | Bill Scheuer | |
| Acolytes | Levi Benes | Megan Frosch | TBD |
| Altar Guild | Margie Hertneky | Wendy Tesch | Barb Star |
| Elders | Arno Kirchenwitz | Mike Tesch | John Melvin |
| Greeters | John Melvin | Karen Meyer (church) Ralph & Donna Andrus (school) | Tom & Denise Showen |
| Lectors | Russ Meyer | Dorothy Duchow | |
| Power Point | N/A | N/A | Jamie Stache |
| Radio | N/A | Jim Juneau | N/A |
| Ushers | Bob Bratz | Todd Leonhardt | John Melvin |

NEXT WEEK

5:00 PM

8:00 AM

10:30 AM

| | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|---|------------------------------|
| Readings | Deuteronomy 7:6-9 | Romans 8:28-39 | Matthew 13:44-52 |
| Acolytes | TBD | TBD | TBD |
| Altar Guild | Jamie Stache | Donna Andrus | Audrey Martens & Gerri Zwiig |
| Elders | Rick Zastrow | Bruce Bain | Erik Benes |
| Greeters | Roxie Gerlach | Gary Pribnow (church) Roger & Pat Gartzke (school) | Wayne & Diane Gartzke |
| Lectors | Rick Zastrow | Glenn Gartzke | |
| Power Point | N/A | N/A | Heather Scheuer |
| Radio | N/A | Jim Steinberg | N/A |
| Ushers | Rick Zastrow | Dan Friedrich | Truman Seifert |

THE 7TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Isaiah 44:6-8

Pew Bible pg. 769

Thus says the Lord, the King of Israel and his Redeemer, the Lord of hosts: "I am the first and I am the last; besides me there is no god. Who is like me? Let him proclaim it. Let him declare and set it before me, since I appointed an ancient people. Let them declare what is to come, and what will happen. Fear not, nor be afraid; have I not told you from of old and declared it? And you are my witnesses! Is there a God besides me? There is no Rock; I know not any."

Romans 8:18-27

Pew Bible pg. 1201

For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

St. Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Pew Bible pg. 1040

[Jesus] put another parable before them, saying, "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field, but while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared also. And the servants of the master of the house came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have weeds?' He said to them, 'An enemy has done this.' So the servants said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' But he said, 'No, lest in gathering the weeds you root up the wheat along with them. Let both grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Gather the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.'" Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples came to him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field." He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world, and the good seed is the children of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil. The harvest is the close of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are gathered and burned with fire, so will it be at the close of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers, and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear."

July 22/23, 2017