

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 29th & 30th, 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 29

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 8th 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: Lance Armstrong O'Donnell

Theme: *The Kingdom Supreme*

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 a St. Paul's couple to the glory of God. 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 David & Louise Lang in praise to God for their 66th wedding anniversary on July 30th.



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.

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!

LIFE THOUGHTS IN THE CHURCH YEAR

God proclaims every human person His treasure (Deuteronomy 7:6, Matthew 13:44), whatever contrary appearances they may be hidden under. He loves them and you enough to bind Himself inseparably (Romans 8:38-39) to you and your circumstances. He will give heaven and move earth itself to bring you into His joyful kingdom. *O Lord our God, give us patience until You graciously give us all goodness even through hardship. Amen.*

CONGREGATIONAL DOLLAR-FOR-DOLLAR MATCH UPDATE

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. Congregation members came forward with a dollar-for-dollar challenge and have agreed to match (up to \$18,000), which will allow our teachers and pastors to not have to undergo the reduction in salary. Thank you very much for your generous donations. **Our challenge has been met—we have raised \$18,738.00. To God be the glory!** We are still continuing to accept donations, to help lower our projected deficit for the remainder of the fiscal year. Donations need to be above and beyond weekly offerings and *Free to Serve* commitments. Please earmark: *Dollar-for-Dollar Challenge*.

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 8th Sunday after Pentecost: The Kingdom Supreme
July 30-August 6, 2017

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).

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

Christ-Centered Theme: Jesus Christ and His forgiveness, His Kingdom, is of such supreme value that all impediments to it must be cast away.

Verse: Romans 6:22-23—But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life. For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Psalm: Psalm 33:1-11 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	103	5	42	89:1-18	97	51	104	19
Evening	117, 139	84, 29	102, 133	1, 33	16, 62	142, 65	118, 111	81, 113

Catechism—The Second Article of the Creed

<p><i>The Second Article</i> And [I believe] in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate Was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.</p>	<p>Preschool +</p>
<p><i>What does this mean?</i> I believe the Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord.</p>	<p>2nd Grade +</p>
<p><i>What does this mean? (continued)</i> Who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death.</p>	<p>2nd Grade +</p>

The 8th Sunday after Pentecost: The Kingdom Supreme

Day	Bible Stories for the Family & School	Daily prayer readings from LSB, p. 299	
Sun.	The Feeding of the 4,000—Mark 8:1-9	1 Sam. 15:10-35	Acts 24:24-25:12
Mon.	Jesus Predicts His Death and Resurrection—Matthew 17:22-27	1 Sam. 16:1-23	Acts 25:13-27
Tue.	Who Is the Greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven—Matthew 18:1-14	1 Sam. 17:1-19	Acts 26:1-23
Wed.	If Your Brother Sins—Matthew 18:15-22	1 Sam. 17:20-47	Acts 26:24-27:8
Thur.	The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant—Matthew 18:21-35	1 Sam. 17:48-18:9	Acts 27:9-26
Fri.	Jesus Teaches on Marriage and Divorce—Matthew 19:1-12	1 Sam. 18:10-30	Acts 27:27-44

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

Almighty and everlasting God, give us an increase of faith, hope, and love, that, receiving what You have promised, we may love what You have commanded; 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; Bob Tetzlaff—hospice; Todd Gartzke; Duane Peterson; Carol Fellin—cancer; Larry Hansen; Bill & Margaret Voss; Ken Groenke; Laura Gruen—brain tumor; Esther Hart—hospice; 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: Nan—spinal vertebrae repair; Thomas Atkielski—hospice; 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: John Stenson and family movie to Latvia; 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; Michael—mental health issues; John Stenson and family moving to Latvia—help as the children adjust to a new language and culture and help the family to make an impact for Christ; 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: David & Louise Lang—66th—July 30th

Wedding: Michael Gartzke & Mackenzie Metcalf—August 5th

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

Hymn of the Week: "In Thee is Gladness"

LSB 818

Looking forward to The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

July 29/30, 2017

Hymns: 648, 642 (774, 633, 806) 584

Christ Jesus, the Living Bread from Heaven, Feeds the Children of God
(Pastor Kelling)

By the Gospel of "*the Christ, who is God over all, blessed forever*" (Rom. 9:5), we are "*the children of God*" (Rom. 9:8), "*not because of works but because of him who calls*" (Rom. 9:11). Therefore, "*listen diligently*" and "*hear, that your soul may live.*" By His sacrificial death in His flesh and blood, He has made "*an everlasting covenant*" for us. Since He now calls us to Himself, we come to Him "*and eat what is good, and delight ... in rich food*" (Is. 55:2-3). He has come with divine compassion to save us from sin and death and to feed us with Himself. As our Lord Jesus once took bread, "*said a blessing,*" broke the loaves "*and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds*" (Matt. 14:18-19), He also now takes bread, blesses it by His Word to be His very body, and distributes it to His Church by the hand of His called and ordained servants. Just as "*they took up twelve baskets full of the broken pieces,*" there is more than enough for His whole Church to eat and to be satisfied (Matt. 14:20).

LEGION BAND CONCERT

On Wednesday evening, August 2nd, at 7:30 - 8:30 at the Rhodee Memorial Band Shell, 324 W. Wisconsin Avenue, the Oconomowoc American Legion Band will be presenting its 8th concert of the season. The theme will be "Music Masters" and Lucas Jaeger will be the vocal soloist. Some of the selections will be: "The Blues Brothers Revue", "Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory", "The Exodus Song", "Les Miserables", "Theme from Patton", "Jersey Boys", "The Wizard of Oz", and "Colonel Bogey March". Walter Rich is the director, Ralph Garcia is MC and Legion Post 91 presents the colors each week.

JOY OF STEWARDSHIP

He who walks with wise men becomes wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm. Proverbs 13:20 *Dear Father; help us not to be wise in our own eyes but to see this world through your eyes. 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 31st – August 5th
ADVANCE THE MISSION

REACHING, SERVING & GROWING DISCIPLES

TUESDAY August 1 st	Praise Team Practice	Church	7:00 pm
WEDNESDAY August 2 nd	Lakeside Worship	Backyard	6:30 pm
THURSDAY August 3 rd	Praise Team Practice	Church	7:00 pm
SATURDAY August 5 th	Women's Bible Study Traditional Worship AA Meeting	Whelan's Church Fellowship Hall	7:30 am 5:00 pm 8:30 pm
SUNDAY August 6 th	Traditional Worship Blood Pressure Screening Adult Bible Study Contemporary Worship	Church Church Office Fellowship Hall Church	8:00 am 9:15 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 22/23/26

Church Attendance:

5:00 pm—105

8:00 am—138

10:30 am—153

Wednesday Lakeside—27

423 Total; 23 visitors; 400 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	Look2Him
Special Music	Aidan O'Donnell	Aidan O'Donnell	
Acolytes	TBD	TBD	Elsi Scheuer
Altar Guild	Jamie Stache	Donna Andrus	Audrey Martens & Gerri Zwieg
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

NEXT WEEK

5:00 PM

8:00 AM

10:30 AM

Readings	Isaiah 55:1-5	Romans 9:1-5	Matthew 14:13-21
Acolytes	TBD	TBD	TBD
Altar Guild	Mary Ann Ashworth	Dorothy Duchow	Barb Star
Elders	Wilbur Pieper	Bryan Polinske	Scott Kalien
Greeters	Rick Zastrow	Jim & Marlene Steinberg (church) Jim & Judy Braatz (school)	Darlene Adams
Lectors	Chad Eberhardt	Gary Ketchum	
Power Point	N/A	N/A	Erik Benes
Radio	N/A	Cheryl Tesch	N/A
Ushers	Wilbur Pieper	Gary Flanagan	Scott Kalien

THE 8th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Deuteronomy 7:6-9

Pew Bible pg. 193

"For you are a people holy to the Lord your God. The Lord your God has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth. It was not because you were more in number than any other people that the Lord set his love on you and chose you, for you were the fewest of all peoples, but it is because the Lord loves you and is keeping the oath that he swore to your fathers, that the Lord has brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. Know therefore that the Lord your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations."

Romans 8:28-39

Pew Bible pg. 1201

We know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified. What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

St. Matthew 13:44-52

Pew Bible pg. 1041

[Jesus said:] "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it. "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and gathered fish of every kind. When it was full, men drew it ashore and sat down and sorted the good into containers but threw away the bad. So it will be at the close of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Have you understood all these things?" They said to him, "Yes." And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house, who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

July 29/30, 2017