

## Pastor's Ponderings **Spring Is Here - At Last**

One thing most folks around this part of Nebraska can agree to is that this last winter season was a doozie! Some of us were snowed-in for a while last December, and we had to cancel our Christmas Day service here at St. Paul. We reminded ourselves that, "spring is coming," even as the snow cover lingered into March. But spring is here, now in all of its glory. Things are green again, and we are reminded that life goes on, and God still blesses and sustains His creation.

When I remarked about how quickly things are growing, all around us, one of our ever-cautious farmers made the comment, "It's been a good season for dandelions, so far!" That brought up the topic of weed control in general, and around the church property in particular.

That got me thinking about what the Bible says about weeds. The first mention of weeds in the Bible is in Gen 3:17-18, when God said to Adam, after his fall into sin, "Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat of it all the days of your life. It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field."

Jesus mentions weeds (tares, darnel, etc.) in some of his parables. Back in the days before expensive herbicides, the tares were usually left in the fields until harvest time, then separated from the wheat during winnowing. Jesus used tares growing with wheat as a parable to illustrate evil in the world (Matthew 13:25-30, 36-40). He assures us that even as the tares were separated from the wheat at harvest time, so also, God would gather to Himself only those who have true faith, on the Last Day.

As food for thought, the next time we notice one of those annoying dandelions peeking out over the grass in the lawn, perhaps we could take a moment to consider what evidence of sin still makes its presence known in our own lives. A weed might be described as something which is growing where it doesn't belong, and as such, needs to be removed. So also, we Christians are called,

in Ephesians 4:31-32, to "Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you." (NIV)

To the weeds in our life, God urges us to apply His word—the Law to guide us and the Gospel to motivate us to faith and forgiveness. The good result that comes from this will be the fruit of the Spirit, as listed in Galatians 5:22-23: "The Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control." Even as our farmers are hoping to see abundant fields of corn and beans this summer, God is looking for these things in our lives. May we enjoy the summer as we walk in the warmth of God's love.

With you, In Christ,  
Pastor Richard Bringewatt

## Fellowship in the Park

Mark your calendars! Sunday, June 27 is our Fellowship in the Park. Formerly Praise in the Park, our worship service this year will be at 9 am at the church. Music will be popular favorites from the hymnal. There is no coffee and fellowship, Sunday school or Adult Bible classes that day.

Starting at 10:30 am in Neligh Park there will be activities for all ages and a pot luck picnic at 11:45 am. Drinks will be provided by the Elders. Bring your own table service and a dish to share. Come enjoy food, fellowship, and fresh air.

## Ladies Aid

Ladies Aid met April 1 which coincided with our oldest member's 101st birthday. Delilah Abendroth joined us for her special day and was given our special attention for such an event. Delilah has given many devoted years to our organization.

Ladies Aid and several volunteer helpers were busy the past month serving a total of 350 people at two funerals. We also served Fellowship Coffees in March with part of the proceeds given for a camera supply fund for church use. An anonymous donor gave a small heater for the kitchen and a large coffee maker was purchased with memorial funds so designated. Ladies Aid sponsored both a St. Paul and Lutheran Hour radio broadcast.

At our May meeting, we chose to provide the St. Paul School children with an ice cream treat at the end of the school year. We also voted to give \$500.00 to St. Paul General Fund to help with current expenses.

We invite all ladies of the congregation to attend one of our meetings as a guest, and if the spirit so moves you, to join us in our monthly activities. We meet the first Thursday of the month at 2 pm. Meetings begin with a devotion/lesson, then business at hand followed by a time for socialization and then lunch. We would be happy to have

## LWML Bus Trip

LWML is taking a bus to Mission Central in Mapleton, IA, Tuesday, June 8. We will leave the church parking lot between 5:00 and 5:15 p.m. All men and women are welcome to go along. Cost is approximately \$20.00 which includes a gratuity for bus driver. We will not stop for supper. We go directly to Mission Central, tour the facilities and hear the 7 pm presentation by the Wasmund family (missionaries in Taiwan). If interested or for more information contact Linda Meyer at 372-2864 by Sunday, June 6. Payment can be made June 8.

## 531 area code

Beginning June 26, West Point and the surrounding area will be included in the area serving both 402 and 531 area codes. Local calls will now need to be dialed using the area code with the usual seven digit number. During the first six months, your call will still be completed if the area code is not dialed, but after February 26, 2011, your call will not go through. Long distance calls will continue to use 1 + 10 digit number.

## St. Paul Fair Stand

Plans are underway for our St. Paul Lutheran Fair Stand, August 12-15, during the Cuming County Fair.

The committee has met, letters to school parents are out with a good response already, and sign up sheets are in the back of church. Volunteers are needed for the many available spots. There are a few short shifts available for those unable to do a full shift.

Spots are also available during the busy supper times for anyone able to help with clean up during this time. Keeping trays, roasters, utensils, etc. washed is a great help.

While it does get busy at times, workers enjoy fellowship with each other and greet many people from the community and surrounding areas, and many who return to West Point for the fair.

Donations of pies from the congregation are needed and can be homemade or purchased from a bakery. All pies should be brought to the church kitchen where they are cut, packaged and then delivered to the stand.

Pies may be purchased from B&B bakery by ordering and paying at the church office.



## Membership Changes

**Transfers In:** Donna Ehrisman from Immanuel, Beemer

**Affirmation of Faith:** Kenneth & Marilyn Haas from United Lutheran, Scribner.

**Confirmations:** Wyatt Cooper, Elizabeth Eckmann, Trevor Hasenkamp, Shania Hass, Michaela Lindsay, Jacob Luebbert

**Courtesy Confirmations:** Tyler English, Mitchell Zobel (Members of Zion Bancroft)

**Transfer Out:** Owen Schmoldt to Our Savior Lutheran, Sulphur Springs, TX

**Released:** Stacy Kaup and Cassidy to St. Mary's, West Point.

**Death:** Virgil Bettenhausen, Allan Wittrig

**Non Member Burial:** Charles Wickert

**Marriage:** Bill Hasenkamp and Lizabeth Stapp.

## Orphan Grain Train

Volunteers collect, sort, restore and prepare for shipment educational material, medical equipment and supplies, food and climate-sensitive clothing. These materials are arranged for shipment and stored in warehouses located across the country.

During the 2008-2009 fiscal year, OGT donors and volunteers filled 62 semi-loads of humanitarian aid and relief supplies for projects in the U.S. and 66 more semi-loads to international recipients. Fifty-one smaller trailer-loads and van loads were sent for flood and tornado relief in the U.S. Disaster Response.

Five ladies from St. Paul congregation volunteer the first Tuesday of each month at Orphan Grain Train in Norfolk. They help pack boxes with clothing and items that are shipped to areas of the United States and other countries. Donations of clothing can be taken to OGT at 130 S. 5th St. in Norfolk, or contact Margaret Krause at 402-260-5077 to have clothing taken for you. Volunteers to go along to OGT are welcome. Monetary donations may be sent to Orphan Grain Train, PO Box 1466, Norfolk, NE 68702.

## Work Day

The trustees will hold a work day Sunday, June 13, 1-4 pm. All congregation members are invited to assist with removing broken and uneven concrete and other smaller items needing to be done around the church. Please mark your calendars to help with these important projects. Thanks.

## Mousie Got A Chuckle

Mousie hustled down to the Community Center because she heard that St Paul School was performing. It was worth the few blocks of scurrying. Those kids were good.

But she was especially amused by the little boy in the front row whose new jeans must have been a mite big. Instead of doing all those gyrations and actions with the others, his hands were glued to his waistline, trying to keep the pants from falling down.

At one point, he disappeared. After a quick trip down the hall he came back, and joined in the singing as if he'd never been gone. But he must not have gone for a pin, because his grip remained tight on the trousers.

Great performance from all the kids! Keep it up, especially Cooper!

## Library

Thank you to the anonymous donor of the numerous books given to the church library in the past months. They are appreciated very much. Books from Love Inspired Series: Inspirational Suspense romance series are: Deadly Vows, Mountain Peril, On Thin Ice, Calculated Revenge, Dead Ringer, Secret Agent Father, Covert Pursuit, Fatal Secrets, Risky Reunion, Troubled Waters, End Game, and Sabotage. One More Sunrise, by Michael Landon JR, was also donated recently.

The Library will sponsor the fellowship coffees after church in July and again in November. Donations of goodies from our St. Paul members will again be appreciated. We have such good bakers in our midst. I do thank all of you who helped me when I was gone to the Netherlands for my daughter's retirement from the Armed Forces.

## Pictorial Directory

Our pictorial directory should be arriving in early June. The directory was delayed a bit due to an extra day of photography added to make up for the snow days we had in January. Watch the bulletin for an announcement when it arrives.

## **SURFING THE WEB—**

+ Prairie Fire is July 24 in Omaha in conjunction with the Int'l LLL convention. Register at [www.ndlcms.org](http://www.ndlcms.org) by clicking on Prairie Fire.

+ The sixth annual Christian Cross Festival is June 6 at Skyview Lake in Norfolk, from 12:45-10 pm. There's music, testimony, children's activities and fireworks. More info is at [www.christiancrossfestival.org](http://www.christiancrossfestival.org).

+ A GEO missionary serves from 1-2 years. Browse available opportunities at [www.lcmsworldmission.org/searchopps](http://www.lcmsworldmission.org/searchopps).

+ "Downtown," a free bi-monthly electronic newsletter, spotlights creative ways of ministry. View at [www.downtownlutheranchurches.org](http://www.downtownlutheranchurches.org).

Free subscription at [downtownchurches@aol.com](mailto:downtownchurches@aol.com)

## From the Principal

This is the summary of the accreditation report received by St. Paul Lutheran School. A copy of the full report is available at the church or school offices.

Dennis Rosenthal

### FORWARD

Becoming accredited is a strenuous process. St. Paul Lutheran School and its administration are to be highly commended for their efforts in this accreditation process. The self-study document and the various arrangements for the accreditation team were done exceptionally well. It is the hope and prayer of the members of the visiting team that the enclosed document is one that is accurate and helpful for the continued improvement of St. Paul Lutheran School.

The committee hereby expresses sincere gratitude to the faculty, staff and students at St. Paul Lutheran School for the opportunity to serve on the visiting team and for the many kindnesses shown to us during our visit. Each of us on the committee has grown as a result of the experience.

St. Paul Lutheran School obviously is a good school. This was reflected not only in your Self-Study but also in the comments and observations of the visiting team. We were delighted with the whole climate of St. Paul. The school speaks out for the Christian faith to the students and to the community very effectively.

This report is carefully written and includes specific recommendations that should be considered seriously by the school and the supporting congregations. Not every suggestion needs to be followed, but each should be considered.

The four members of the visiting team were divided into twenty committees. This report combines the talent of all members of the team and of the committees. The report has been written and edited by the team as a whole, with only minor editing done by the team captain. Each part of this report follows the following format: 1. Overview. This provides an introduction and a few observations in general terms about that particular aspect of the school program. 2. Compliance. This is a reassurance that all required indicators of success were met and that the total of the indicators meets the required minimum. 3. Strengths. These are the most obvious strengths of the topic of the report. 4. Concerns. The committee felt that the school should be aware of these items. They may not be weaknesses, but they gave members of the committee some concern. 5. Recommendations. Wherever possible, specific, practical suggestions have been made to help to remedy the concerns expressed.

The team captain, team members, and the consultant pledge their continued support and assistance should you care to call upon us in the implementation process.

May the Lord richly bless the faculty and constituents of St. Paul Lutheran School so that with the Lord's help they might continue to proclaim His Gospel ever more effectively through St. Paul Lutheran School.

Dallas L. Koffarnus  
Team Captain

## Second and Third Grades:

It is hard to believe that school has come to an end. It seems like yesterday we were just beginning. This year we learned how to overcome mountains that come into our lives. We learned that with God all things are possible and He will be with us through all things. We have an awesome God who blesses us each day.

As we learned cursive handwriting, multiplication, and how to become better readers, we also learned how to be kind in our words, good listeners, and be good friends. We grew taller and thought that was really cool.

I want to thank the parents who supported our class and school this year. We could not do what we do without you. Your help and prayers were appreciated. I was blessed to be able to have your children in my class. They touched my heart every day and made me laugh and enjoy being their teacher.

I pray your summer is a time of renewal and refreshment with family and friends. May you walk with God each day and know He will walk

## Golf Scramble

Mark your calendars for August 22 for the annual St. Paul Lutheran Golf Tournament. Watch the bulletin for more information as it becomes available.

## Plant Sale

Thank you to everyone who attended the St. Paul Lutheran School Plant Sale May 1. It was a beautiful sunny day and after a long winter I think that many of us were ready for a touch of spring. Steve Swanson and Swanson Nursery provided us with a nice variety of healthy, beautiful bedding plants, vegetables, and a few perennials. We had a wonderful plant sale with the proceeds to be used to update our reading curriculum. Again much gratitude and thanks for supporting the school plant sale.

## Youth for Christ Car Wash

The youth group has been very busy lately. April 18, we did highway cleanup, then relaxed with pizza afterward.

In preparation for our upcoming New Orleans trip, we are having Bible lessons and fundraising. June 19 we will have a car wash in the Alco parking lot from 10 am-2 pm. Thank you for your support with all our fundraisers and remember to stop by for a car wash.

Our summer meetings are the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month, 7 pm, in the youth room at St. Paul school. All confirmed high school youth are welcome.

## Thank You

Thank you for the generous amount of used yarn, rickrack and cash given to me for the afghans and projects I make for the needy and Orphan Grain Train. It's an ongoing project so as you find things, I can always use these items. God bless all of you. Thank you. Marilyn Paasch.

## Graduates

Eighth graders who graduated from St. Paul Lutheran School Sunday, May 16, are Elizabeth Eckmann, daughter of Rhett and Julia Eckmann; Trevor Hasenkamp, son of Bill Hasenkamp and Lynn Crawford; and Shania Hass, daughter of Dwight and the late Glenda Hass.

Our high school graduates are West Point-Beemer graduates Jennifer Garber, daughter of Daniel and Shu Garber; Kelli Luebbert, daughter of Brian and Gina Luebbert; Aaron Maas, son of Larry and Korri Maas; Joshua Persson, son of Kyle & Judy Persson; Dodge High School graduate Justin Lindsay, son of Wade and Rhonda Lindsay; Chesapeake, OH, graduate Christopher Huisman, son of Michelle Clark and Kansas City, KS, graduate Ryan Schademann, son of Lance Schademann.

College graduates include Emily Wiechman and Korri Maas, both graduated May 8, from Wayne State College.

## Vacation Bible School

VBS is Monday, July 12-Friday, July 16, at St. Paul Lutheran School. Registration forms for pre-school through fourth grade are available in back of church, or call the church office at 372-2111. This year's theme is Planet Zoom. Supper for children and parents is served at 5:30 pm with Bible school 6:00-7:30 pm. Volunteers to help make and serve food, and teachers and helpers are needed. Please contact Nila Hasenkamp 372-3606 to volunteer. Donations to help with costs are welcome.

## Newly elected officers

Installation of officers for the 2010-2011 year is Sunday, July 11. Newly elected officers are: Chairman, Paul Meyer; General Fund Treasurer, Steve Duncan; Special Fund Treasurer, Kari Haase; Board of Parochial Education, Larry Wegner and JoDene Stalp; Board of Stewardship, Maren Reppert and Linda Giese; Board of Trustees, Rodger Anderson and Brian Reiner; Board of Parish Education, Nila Hasenkamp and Stafford Hasenkamp.

## Easter Lilies

Easter lilies were given in loving memory of Donald Nielsen by Sarah Nielsen; Elaine Hedell by Dwaine Hedell and family; Bill & Alice Reeson by their children and grandchildren and families; Norman Paasch by Marilyn Paasch; Clarence, Ruth and Suzi Furstenau by Frosty Furstenau; Marvin, Jeanelle, Bill and Anna by Donald & Starla Ehrisman; Niel & Irene Heyne and Allen and Evelyn Reimers and loved ones by Jim & Carol Reimers; Fred and Anne Wegner and Vernitta Vanderworker by Vera & Vernelle Wegner; and in memory of loved ones by Bernice Miller, Karen Miserez, Dick & Julie Senden and Wayne & Marcia Beck and family.

June 2010

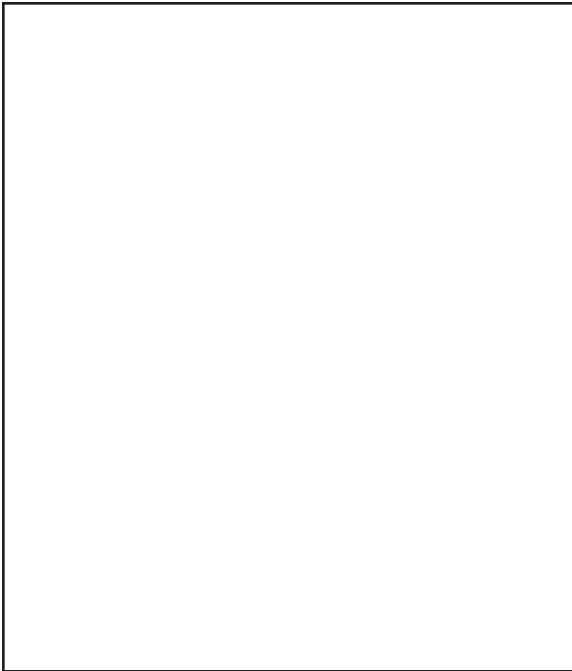
# ST. PAUL CHURCH REPORTER

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"Reaching Others  
For Christ  
Through Love."



## WORSHIP

Saturday • 6 p.m.

Sunday • 9 a.m.

Sunday School • 10:15 a.m.

Bible Study • 10:15 a.m.

web site: [www.stpaulwp.org](http://www.stpaulwp.org)

**Sr. Pastor**

Rev. Richard Bringewatt

**Dated Material -  
Useless if Delayed!**

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