

# The Good News of St. Paul

## Pastor's Page

**Welcome to summer.** The Fourth of July is upon us, a day we celebrate freedom from the tyranny of Britain's control, the signing of the Declaration of Independence by members from our thirteen original colonies and the catalyst which began this country as we now know it. It is a day that families come together, barbeques, watermelon, fireworks and community celebrations happen.

These activities were most profound for me after returning from living in Europe for eight years and spending a year in the Middle East. Returning to the United States, I was in Oklahoma for our July 4<sup>th</sup> celebration, with the community gathered at a local park overlooking a small lake, eating, and enjoying each other's company. Pickup trucks were backed in with lawn chairs and beds in the beds of the trucks as evening drew near. The community listened to the singing of the national anthem in preparation for the soon to come fireworks. The anthem was followed by "I'm Proud to be an American" by Lee Greenwood blaring through loudspeakers as fireworks began. I looked around to see families with heads turned skyward, laying down, sitting, and standing. There were young and old who had diverse backgrounds and experiences, but all celebrated their patriotism with the freedoms provided.

To me, it was weightier than any fourth of July experience in my lifetime. My time in other parts of the world had allowed me to see my own country from a new place and perspective. I had a welling up of appreciation for my country and for the freedoms that are provided regardless of background and experience. These revelations of blessing are similar to my realization of God's ongoing forgiveness.

In Paul's letter to the Galatians, chapter five begins; "For freedom Christ has set us (you) free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery."

The Galatians were a Gentile community who were battling church leaders' 2:11-14(Cephas (Peter) and others) conditions on having a "right" relationship with God by fulfilling the requirements of the law (613 laws of the first five books (Torah) of the bible). In this case the law was about the requirements of circumcision, but for Paul it had much broader implications. Paul also describes their former way of living as one where they were enslaved by "elemental spirits," 4:9. Paul further states they formerly were "known by" God, but now they "know God."

In these few excerpts, Paul declares our freedom from bondage of the laws' requirements, freedom from ignorance of God's reality where by people were in bondage to the ways of the world (flesh and self-gratification) and declares a new relationship with God founded not on our actions, but on faith, 3:8.

Of course, all these are directly applicable to Christians today. No one who has been freed from bondage desires to be enslaved again, and yet we do this to ourselves and others when we declare requirements to follow "God's Law."

*(From the Pastor, continued)*

We also lock ourselves in chains of bondage when we continue to act in ways that are contrary to the Way God directs us.

So what am I saying... I am saying that God calls us to freedom by calling us to a different Way. A Way defined by forgiveness. A Way absent of judging through an established list of acceptable behaviors. God is calling us to a Way that declares God is present regardless of background, sin, experience, past, etc. A Way that declares God loves. A Way in which God declares every person as special, unique and wonderful. A Way that is defined by your love (God's love) being demonstrated through your/our actions. Perhaps, this is why Paul writes... "the only thing that counts is faith working through love (5:6) and "for the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself,"" (5:14).

The Statue of Liberty, a gift from our ally France, and a profound symbol of our freedom, has July 4, 1776 inscribed in its base. More recently (1883) the following poem by Emma Lazarus was added. It profoundly states the values to which this country is rooted and deeply coincides closely with our Christian values.

### **The New Colossus**

*Not like the brazen giant of Greek fame,  
With conquering limbs astride from land to land;  
Here at our sea-washed, sunset gates shall stand  
A mighty woman with a torch, whose flame  
Is the imprisoned lightning, and her name  
Mother of Exiles. From her beacon-hand  
Glows world-wide welcome; her mild eyes command  
The air-bridged harbor that twin cities frame.  
"Keep, ancient lands, your storied pomp!" cries she  
With silent lips. "Give me your tired, your poor,  
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,  
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.  
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me,  
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"*

I wish you a blessed holiday on our day of freedom and remembering that every day is a freedom do for you and me.

"For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another" (5:13). - Pastor Norm

### **Kid Summer Meals**

We are in the second week of serving meals for the summer and are happy to report that an average of 40-50 are coming in to be fed. St. Paul is responsible for two more weeks - July 29 - August 2 and August 12 - 16. Help is always welcome to prep, serve, and clean up. If you can spare some time to share in this ministry, please contact Clarence Knutson, or sign up here at the church.

## **Vacation Bible School**

**July 29 - August 2**

“Friends Around the World” is our theme. We will join with the C.R. Methodist Church and promise a week of friendship, learning, and fun with games, crafts, and music. Open to all children ages 5-12. Will meet 9 a.m. - noon.

Volunteers are needed - especially in music. Any time you have would benefit you and the children. Volunteers - please see Leann Beall for more information or sign-up here at the church.

### **Thank You to:**

- Harriet Shero, who resigned as Funeral Committee co-chair in April. She’s been active with this committee on and off since 1965.
- Tiffany Seidl for stepping in to take Harriet’s place on the Funeral Committee.
- Transition Team members: Roxanne Knutson, Dayne Johnston, Jerod Vandehey, Neal Johnson, Laura Berg, and Kevin Rahn, for their work in completing the Ministry Site Profile.
- The Fellowship BBQ team: Clarence Knutson, Paul Schwinn, Jerry Borgaard, Janet Eiden, Leann Beall, and Sharon Blankenship.
- Cheryll Borgaard for playing the organ during this time in Philip’s absence.
- Community House volunteers: Sandy Catt, Jocelyn Pecher, Ron Blankenship and Al Black.
- Jackie Schwinn, Amy Agren, Shirley Cooper, and Corlan Small for decorating the church through multiple seasonal changes.
- David and Jacki Whittaker for synod assembly participation and representation.
- Earl Small for continual yard maintenance.
- St. Paul members who volunteered to help with serving Summer Kids Meals the last week in June: Clarence Knutson, Sharon Blankenship, Leann Beall, Earl Small, Al Black, Anita Gallow, Sandy Catt, Amy Agren, Pat Dick, Diana Rahn, Cheryll Borgaard, Kathleen Duysen, Carol Oswalt, Neil Agren and Paul Schwinn.
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### **Call Committee Update**

The Call Committee has been meeting and is waiting on synod approval of the Ministry Site Profile completed by the Transition Team.

Once approved, we can move ahead with potential candidates for pastoring St. Paul.

### **Walden Island Tea and Beef and Brew**

Both of these events will be held. The date is Saturday, August 10<sup>th</sup>. Times and details of the events will follow. Reservations will be needed for the tea and many great raffle items will be available at the barbecue.

**Stay tuned!**

You won’t want to miss it so be sure to mark your calendar!

## Welcome!

Theresa Schumacher has been hired as St. Paul's new organist and will begin here the first Sunday in August, the 4<sup>th</sup>.

She comes highly qualified with over 35 years of experience, skilled in a variety of styles of worship, experienced as a choir accompanist, and, along with the organ and piano, also plays the celtic harp, clarinet, and native flutes.

You can view videos of Theresa playing at:

**[YouTube.com/Spiritsongs1](https://www.youtube.com/Spiritsongs1)**

## Fellowship Ice Cream Social

An ice cream social is planned immediately following worship on July 28<sup>th</sup> in the Fellowship Hall.

Various toppings will be available to create your own custom treat. **Plan on it!**

## How to Pick Your Sunscreen

Recently I received this interesting information about sunscreen from my dermatologist. Did you know that there are two different types of sunscreen? Physical and Chemical!

- **Physical sunscreen** deflects sunlight with the active ingredients titanium dioxide and zinc oxide. Remember that thick white stuff we use to apply? Newer versions feel much better and aren't so thick.
- **Chemical sunscreen** uses chemicals like avobenzone and oxybenzone to absorb UV rays and make them less harmful. There is no conclusive proof they are harmful.

It is recommended that pregnant women, young children and cautious types go with the physical sunscreen.

To your health,  
K.C. Babcock, R.N.

## Media Evangelism

We're still looking... Are you tech savvy and willing to share your talent with St. Paul? We need someone to manage our Facebook page and keep it current with news.

## **Vacation Time**

Pastor Norm will be on vacation from Wednesday, July 10 and be back in the church office on Wednesday, July 24.

Rev. Linda Smith will be here leading worship the two Sunday's he'll be gone - July 14 and 21<sup>st</sup>.

## **Imagine Project Update**

The *Imagine Project* incorporates doing an Acts Bible study where the actions of the first disciples and God are highlighted.

- **Below is a list of some of the values and attributes displayed by those first believers:**

Spirit-Led, Spirit-Seeking, Outward-Oriented, Prayerful, Praising, Witnessing, Testifying, Sharing, Scripture-Based, Encouraging, Perseverant, Diverse, Worshipful, Inspired, Obedient, God-Oriented, Hospitable, Different, Respectful, God-Centered, Joyful, Devoted, Compassionate, Giving, Generous, Fearless, Divine-Instruments, Inclusive, Faithful, Gospel-Carrying, Caring, Spirit-Driven, God-Fearing, Courageous, Expectant, Evangelistic, God-Glorifying, Tithers, Merciful, Supportive, Committed, Graceful, God-Oriented, Inspired, Bold, Risk-Taking, Hospitable, Diverse, Experience, Inclusive, Joyful, Worshipful, Faithful, Courageous, Fearless, and more.

- **Below are descriptions of what participants of the Acts study identified and attributed to God...GOD IS...**

Transformative, Healer, Saving, Inspiring, Refreshing, Love and Loving, Caring, Open, Creative, Empowering, Devoted, Faithful, Trusting, Big, Inclusive, Self-Giving, Joyful, Heart Changing, Graceful, Outward Focused, Downtrodden/Outcast, Focused, Sovereign, Reconciling, Relationship Builder, Miracle-Maker, Mender, Teacher, Guide, Chain-Breaker, Exorciser, Cleaner, Forgiving, Liberator, Life-Changing, Impartial, Barrier-Breaking, Bridge-Builder, Merciful, Committed, Loyal, Supportive.

## **Blood Drive Coming Monday - July 15<sup>th</sup>!**

Please consider giving this gift of life.

## **July Birthdays**

- 1 Jacob Schaafsma
- 6 Emily Ashby
- 7 Cristy Auckland
- 8 Danielle Small
- 9 Darlene Jackson
- 10 Betty Rose  
Kylie Vandehey
- 11 Brian Whitten
- 13 Pr. Shelley Willem
- 15 Michelle Oswald
- 16 Surina Davie  
Zaden Ross
- 18 Dale Erdelbrock
- 19 Marsha Gallow
- 20 Larry Hensley
- 21 Joel Anderson  
Jacob Jones
- 24 Kayla Gulliford
- 25 Megan Sturgill
- 27 Corrine Kuehner
- 28 Sharon Blankenship  
Sue Pulse  
Linda Moody
- 30 Josephine Davie

## **August Birthdays**

- 1 Clarence Knutson  
Pr. Olaf Gieseke  
Michael Bontoft  
Bocephus Johnson
- 3 Kathy Strain  
Betty Light
- 5 Pr. Becky Lee  
Connor Ness  
Beth Coleman
- 7 Brooke Hefley
- 9 Preston Foster  
Tom Cunningham
- 11 Cheryl Smith
- 12 Carol Oswald  
Jacob Rahn
- 13 Dan Hecker  
Howard Houser

- 14 Philip Portwood
- 15 Addie Ashby
- 16 Kathy Cooper  
Karen Cloke
- 17 Gary Wilbur  
Samuel Gallow  
Elle Gallow
- 18 Cassie Davis  
Jeanette Foster
- 21 Heidi Mitchell  
Jim LeMonds  
Alonzo Ogden
- 29 Blaine Lux
- 30 Cheyenne Smith
- 31 Cory Johnson  
Amanda Snow

### **July Anniversaries**

- 3 Neal & Shirley Johnson
- 7 Amy & Brian Whitten
- 14 Erika Agren & Cory Remmers
- 17 Glen & Gayle Agren  
David & Karen Ray  
Dan & Judy Hecker - 15 years
- 19 Paul & Jackie Schwinn - 50 years
- 23 Dave & Denise Foster
- 25 Mike & Katie Fowler

### **August Anniversaries**

- 3 Casey & Sarah Davis Bryan
- 6 Ken & Sandee Ness - 54 years  
Dave & Jacki Whittaker - 53 years
- 7 Eric & Susan Denison
- 11 Kevin & Debbie Lyon - 35 years
- 12 Molly & Troy Franklin
- 13 Brian & MIndy Kleine
- 16 Cory & Lisa Johnson
- 19 Lloyd & Heather Snow Jr. - 30 years  
Ryan & Katrina Hinesley
- 24 Boyd & Linda McCall - 57 years
- 26 Robert & Becky Danhauser

## **Men's Night**

No meetings in July and August but will resume again in September. (8<sup>th</sup>)

### **Members & Friends**

Please remember these people with your prayers, phone calls, visits or cards:

#### **All God's people including;**

Al Black, Bob Bruner, Beth Hinesley, Crystal Hummel, Angie Boudier, Angie Manfreddi, Jean Jones, Eric Smith, Darlene Jackson, Don Miller, Katie Frei, Mary Mage, Peggy Droz, Lisa Hill, Gayle Agren, Dale & Glee Ann Erdelbrock, Stephanie Petkovich, DeLores Gillan, Barb Lane, Carol Adams, David Browning, Carolyn Kennington, Steve Babcock, Palma Jensen, Jessica Learned, Dr. Lane Oslund, Marion King ;

**All Caregivers and Care receivers:** Joyce LeMonds, Palma Jensen, Corrinne Kuehner, Vi Benham, Granville Oswalt; **Those serving in the Armed Forces:** Hunter Whitten, Sam Gallow, Tyler Kleine, Matthew Cogburn, Eddie Oswalt

### **Welcome and Congratulations!**

Faith Elizabeth Ogden born May 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:05 pm (7lbs 3oz. and 20 1/4" long). Congratulations to the new parents Tim and Katie Ogden who are both doing well.

Kellen Edward Highlander born May 15<sup>th</sup>, ( 8lbs 1oz, 20 1/2" long) to Nicki and Tavis Highlander. The proud grandparents are Neal and Shirley Johnson.

### **Thank You**

I so appreciate that I was allowed the extended time in MN with my family to help situate my mom during this time with changes in her health. Thank you all for your understanding, and Dayne Johnston who so willingly stepped in to the office position.

- Geri Skreen

### **Farewell**

Philip Portwood, St. Paul's organist/pianist for over the past 7 years, recently resigned this position. He brought beautiful music within the walls of our church and he will be missed. We wish him all the best in his new ventures.

## **Thank You**

*Dear St. Paul Council and Members:*

*I have made the decision to step down as your organist. It has been an honor to assist in the worship service for over seven years. Most of your members have been very welcoming. I will continue to 'keep in touch' as I do with several of the other churches I have played for.*

*My music career began in 1972 at First Christian Church. I will be returning to my home church to assist in our future as a congregation. I pray that both churches will see growth. The trend today shows differently at many congregations. I hope the younger people will step up to fill positions including organ and piano.*

Sincerely,  
Philip Portwood

## **Address Update**

Pastor Bob has accepted a call to St. John's Lutheran Church in Athol, Kansas and began serving the first of May. Deb will be joining him in July when they complete their move from Kelso.

**Their new address is:**

Pastor Bob and Deb Sinclair  
20012 J Road  
Athol, Kansas 66967

Phone number of the church is:  
785-476-2324

## **Kids Clothes Closet**

The annual Kids Clothes Closet Distribution will be Friday, August 23<sup>rd</sup> from 9 a.m. - Noon. Set-up will happen on Thursday, the 22<sup>nd</sup>.

More information will follow as the date nears.

## **FAMILY PROMISE**

On June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2018, St. Paul Congregation voted and approved to be a host congregation for the *Family Promise Program*. This program focuses on reaching families when they are most in need of assistance by helping them find new housing and employment. The average length of stay for families in the program is around 2 months.

K.C. Babcock has agreed to be the *Family Promise* Coordinator with the help of Jacki Whittaker, Cassie Davie, and Glen Agren. For the last year, we have been attending the *Family Promise* meetings, gathering information, and working to get things organized to be able to host families at St. Paul Lutheran Church. The program will begin the week of August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2019. St. Paul will host families the weeks of September 15-21, and October 27-November 2.

The *Family Promise Program* has found congregations to host families through the remainder of 2019. We will be getting in touch with the other Castle Rock churches to assist us when we host the families in September and October/November.

If you would like additional information, please see K.C., Jacki, Cassie, or Glen. More information about volunteers and needed items will be requested at a later date.

If you would like to read more about this organization, use the following link:

**<http://familypromiseofcowlitzco.org/>**