



ST. PAUL'S SCOPE

Faithful and Welcoming Church

Volume 49, Issue 7

July 2022

From Our Interim Pastor ~ Rev. Rick Mortimer

As a closing word for my interim time with you, I believe that it is important to leave you with a word of warning about false teachers. It is not a new problem. Jesus, Peter, and Paul all mentioned that there would be people who would teach things that would contradict what Scripture clearly sets forth. A teaching about “false teachers” could take up a lot of space, since there are so many warnings concerning their proximity and influence. I offer here just a few of the tell-tail signs that characterize a “false teacher” (as distinct from a fallible human teacher who might happen to be wrong on a particular point)

First and foremost, a false teacher can be identified by their promotion of doctrine (teaching) that is contrary to the teaching of Scripture. We should be on guard against any who “teaches a different doctrine and does not agree with the sound words of our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Timothy 6:3). False teaching is dangerous precisely because it is often subtle. As we read in 2 Peter, such people “secretly bring in destructive heresies” (2 Peter 2:1) and are quite good at twisting Scripture to make it say (and mean) what THEY want it to say (and mean) (2 Peter 3:16). That is why it is always important for YOU to be constantly growing in your Bible study and knowledge.

As we follow Peter’s word of warning (2 Peter 2:3,14-15), he identifies a few other signs of false teachers. Some might make money, earthly prosperity, the primary aim of, and motivation for, their teaching. If ministry is JUST a means to make money or earn their living, you’ve got to wonder why they are in ministry at all. Jesus’ focus was on the glory of God, not the temporal blessings of His hand.

Peter reveals that they will also appeal to the desires of the flesh in order to entice their hearers away from sound doctrine. The apostle writes: “And many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the way of truth will be blasphemed.” (2 Peter 2:2). Further on in his letter he states that: “speaking loud boasts of folly, they entice by sensual passions of the flesh those who are barely escaping from those who live in error” (2 Peter 2:18-19). When once we begin to twist Scripture for our personal gain or pleasure, we can easily excuse our own sin and encourage others to join us. Whereas the true Gospel brings freedom from sin, a false one leads you into it. False teachers indulge in sin and minimize the seriousness of disobedience.

This error goes hand in hand with another trait of false teachers: denying God’s coming judgment. Was this not the first false teaching to enter the ear of mankind? “You will not surely die” the serpent told Eve in Genesis 3. Such a denial of God’s judgment is a primary feature of what Peter is combating in this epistle:

...scoffers will come in the last days with scoffing, following their own sinful desires. They will say, “Where is the promise of his coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all things are continuing as they were from the beginning of creation.” (2 Peter 3:3-4)

This scoffing is not aimed merely at rejecting Christ’s return, but also at the impending judgment that He will bring with Him when He comes. The logic is simple: if Christ was not going to be returning, what should hinder the false teacher from indulging in their sensuality or any other practice or habit they deemed permissible... and teach others to do the same?

As Bible commentator Warren Wiersbe stated:

Why do these apostates scoff? Because they want to continue living in their sins...If your lifestyle contradicts the Word of God, you must either change your lifestyle or change the Word of God. The apostates choose the latter approach, so they scoff at the doctrines of judgment and the coming of the Lord.

Many false teachers preach a God who is all love and no wrath, all forgiveness and no holiness. Beware of those who downplay or teach against the reality of hell and divine judgment against sin.

Marilyn & I have been truly blessed for having been at St. Paul’s. “Thank you” is an inadequate expression of our gratitude. If you accord your new pastor the same kindnesses you have shown to us, he will be blessed, and St. Paul’s will have a marvelous future!

In Jesus’ love, Pastor Rick & Marilyn.

Worship With Us

Attendance for the month of June

Date	8:00am	10:15am	Sunday School
June 5	68	32	14C, 7A
June 12	69	106	18C, 24A
June 19	56	36	13C
June 26	58	42	14C, 20A

Sunday Volunteer Schedule

Time/Date	Council	Lector
8:00 July 3	Brian Rippelmeyer	Mary Wandling
	Debbie Ross	
July 10	Stan Niemann	Tami Hughes
	Kim Borja	
July 17	Scott Weber	Lynn Gipson
	April Nail	
July 24	April Beisiegel	Jeanie Stumpf
	Brian Rippelmeyer	
July 31	Debbie Ross	Donna Smoker
	Stan Niemann	
August 7	Kim Borja	Scott Weber
	Scott Weber	
10:15 July 3	Vicki Helms	Julie Rickert
	Julie Rickert	
July 10	Amy Walton	Amy Walton
	Dale Fiedler	
July 17	Chad Lindauer	Donna Asbridge
	Vicki Helms	
July 24	Julie Rickert	Vicki Channer
	Amy Walton	
July 31	Dale Fiedler	Dale Fiedler
	Chad Lindauer	
August 7	Vicki Helms	Noella Frevert
	April Beisiegel	



Tuesday morning Bible Study will be taking a break during the summer and will resume in September.

Scope

The *deadline* for articles to be included in the August SCOPE is the **25th of July**.



Blood Pressure Checks

July 10	Donna Asbridge
August 14	Mary Wandling
September 11	Jeanie Stumpf

If you are scheduled to serve, please remember that we are counting on you! If you cannot attend, switch with another volunteer and let the office know. Thank you.

Communion Set-up/Clean-up

Date	Set-Up	After 8:00 am	After 10:15am
July 3	Karen Neff	Jill Kettler Debbie Ross	Jim & Charlene Jacobs
Aug 7	Jim & Charlene Jacobs	Sandy Dickens Jeanie Stumpf	Karen Neff



*Welcome to St. Paul's!
We're Glad You're Here!*

Rev. Andrew Lovins, the pastoral candidate recommended by the Pastor Search Committee and affirmed by the Church Council, was our guest on June 12th to lead both worship services. A special congregational meeting was held at 11:15 am to vote to affirm or not affirm the call. We counted 115 votes submitted by paper ballot. Tally: 113 yes, 0 no, 2 abstain. With the 98.26% affirmation, Rev. Andrew and his wife Brenda accepted the call to a ministry partnership with the church at St. Paul's. This partnership will begin August 16, 2022.

Please pray for the church at St. Paul's, Pastor Andrew and Brenda, and Pastor Rick and Marilyn as we prepare for this transition to our next full-time, settled pastor.

Scriptures For Worship In July

Date	Theme	Scripture Reading
July 3	Reconciled by Christ	Colossians 1:18-23
July 10	Anxiety	Proverbs 12:25, 15:13 (NASB), Mt. 6:25-27 (RSV), Psalm 86:1,3-5; 94:19 (NKJV), Psalm 55:16-17,22 (KJV), Phil. 4:7, Isa. 26:3 (KJV)
July 17	Preparedness	2 Corinthians 5:1-10
July 24	People Need the Lord	Numbers 26:42—51
July 31	Prize Winning Fruit	John 6:35-68

Father's Day Scavenger Hunt Winners



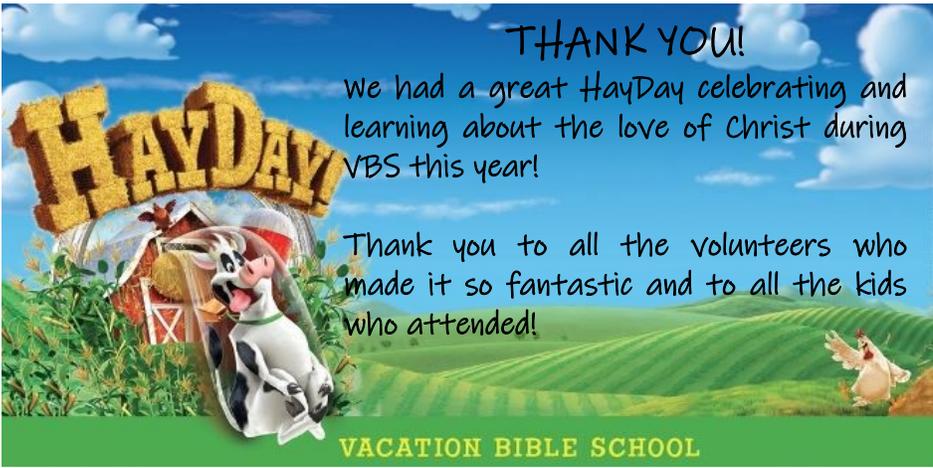
1st Place: Nik & Koleson Skaer



2nd Place: Walt Borja (Nick, Tino and Bella)



3rd Place: Shane & Quinn Brueggemann





Second Mile Benevolence Offering

The Benevolence offerings that you mark on your envelopes each month are Second Mile offerings for special mission projects.

Our **May** offering for **Family Care Ministries** was \$210.00. Thank You!!!

July Second Mile Benevolence **Freeburg Terrace**

Freeburg Terrace is a 16 bed, not for profit, intermediate care facility/group home for developmentally disabled adults. The residents participate in active treatment consisting of therapeutic in-house and community activities.

The residents of Freeburg Terrace vary in age, but are all very energetic and enjoy various activities.

The residents have very limited income. They are allowed \$30 per month. This money goes toward clothing, activities, and personal items. The only way a vacation is possible is through various donations and fundraisers.

July Sunday School Offerings

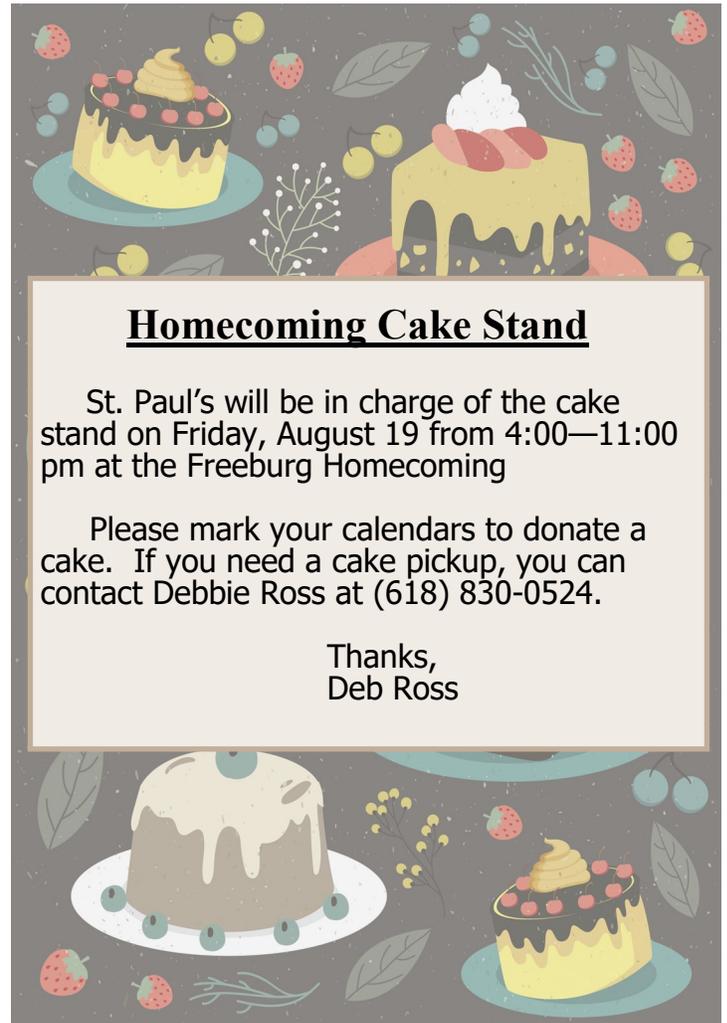


Food Pantry Needs

Donations for the Freeburg Food and Clothing Bank's "Needs Menu" will be collected on the 2nd Sunday of each month.

Needs for the month of July are: shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste, bar soap, dish detergent, and laundry detergent.

Food Collection Sunday is **July 10**. The Pantry appreciates your donations and support!!!



Homecoming Cake Stand

St. Paul's will be in charge of the cake stand on Friday, August 19 from 4:00—11:00 pm at the Freeburg Homecoming

Please mark your calendars to donate a cake. If you need a cake pickup, you can contact Debbie Ross at (618) 830-0524.

Thanks,
Deb Ross



St. Paul's Women's Guild

St. Paul's Women's Guild will be meeting on Tuesday, July 12th. DeeDee Lhamon of Covering House will present the program.

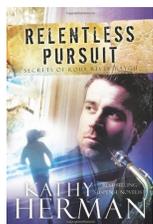
The hostesses will be Rita Baker and Gloria Niebruegge.

All women of St. Paul's are invited to join.

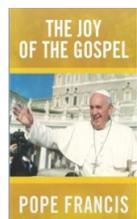
Sincerely,
Rita Baker



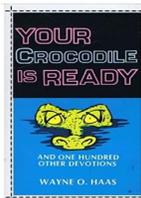
The
Library
Nook



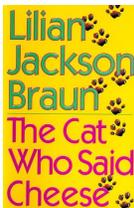
Christian Fiction: *Relentless Pursuit - Secrets of Roux River Bayou*, by Kathy Herman — Sax Henry left home at seventeen to escape his father’s abuse, leaving his mother and sister to fend for themselves. Now, twenty-eight years later, both parents are dead, and guilt compels him to find his sister and make peace. His search leads to Les Barbes, Louisiana, where authorities fear a bioterrorist has injected cyanide into water bottles at the local market. People are dead. It’s not safe. But Sax continues searching for his sister, his fear of dying not nearly as strong as his fear of living another day without peace. A divine appointment is about to change all of that—forever.



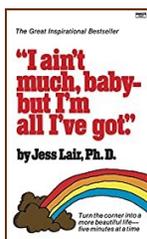
Religious/Spirituality: *The Joy of the Gospel*, by Pope Francis — The joy of the gospel fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus. Those who accept his offer of salvation are set free from sin, sorrow, inner emptiness, and loneliness. With Christ, joy is constantly born anew.



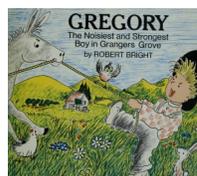
Prayer/Devotional: *Your Crocodile is Ready, and One Hundred Other Devotions* by Wayne O. Haas — A collection of 101 slice-of-life reflections and modern parables by a Lutheran parish pastor and former world missionary.



Fiction: *The Cat Who Said Cheese* by Lilian Jackson Braun — Jim Qwilleran and his cats investigate a hotel bombing that killed a housekeeper and the disappearance of a mysterious woman after the blast.



Non-Fiction: *“I ain’t much, baby – but I’m all I’ve got.”* by Jess Lair, Ph.D. — From his experience comes "I Ain't Much, Baby -- But I'm All I've Got." Lair originally wrote this book for his students, but when it gained widespread popularity he rewrote it for publication. It is a book meant to help people share in the success of finding themselves.



Children/Young Adult: *Gregory - The Noisiest and Strongest Boy in Grangers Grove* by Robert Bright - In attempting to help Grandma, Gregory demonstrates how noisy and strong he is, only to learn that quiet, gentle ways often work best.



“Books are the quietest and most constant of friends; they are the most accessible and wisest of counselors, and the most patient of teachers.”

~ Charles W. Eliot

*Welcome Reception for
Pastor Andrew Lovins and
his wife, Brenda*





KNEEL, STAND, MARCH, OR FALL

I normally keep my political opinions out of things...

Don't worry, I'm still doing so!

I tried moving out of my house when I was seven years old. Yep. Headstrong from the start you could say...I've always been stubborn, strong willed, and very hard headed. All of my life is full of moments like these, maybe not always with a carebear suitcase present, but definitely with their baggage.

When I was a senior at Freeburg Community High School I was awarded the senior superlative of "FUTURE POLITICIAN" in the yearbook, due to my argumentative and questioning nature. You're surprised I'm sure! I actually had set a path working with the state comptroller as an intern, along with other opportunities up in Springfield that would one day lead to a bright future in Washington. I can't remember exactly when it happened, but midyear I changed paths and decided to go into special education instead. Like most people's paths, mine didn't follow the map I'd created. What I had dreamt up or designed for myself was hit with constant issues and interruption. What was I doing wrong? Why couldn't I reach my end destination? Simply put, I was doing what I WANTED to do. In all my plans and plotting I hadn't sought out God's design for my life, but instead thought I knew better. Where I am now is not what I had dreamed of, but in so many ways it has become a dream come true, and that's every bit thanks to God.

When I was in high school I was so certain I knew what was right for me. I definitely gave my Dad a 'run for his money' when it came to justifying my actions or beliefs. However, just like my Dad knew what was best for me, our Heavenly Father knows what's best for us. In the base of who we are, we are all just angsty teenagers being egged on by society to misbehave while the tiktok phrase "who's gonna know, no one's gonna know" plays on repeat in our minds. The truth is that God knows. In Psalm 44:21 "Would not God find this out? For He knows the secrets of the heart."



**I SAW
THAT**

"I saw that" with Jesus peeking in) on a sticker someplace, but it's true. Whether or not we want to admit what we did, are doing, or will do later, God is fully aware (omnipresent if you want a big word to chew on). We can deny ourselves the truth, but not God. The blessing is that in all of our failures and sin, Jesus still died for us and God wants to be in relationship with him. Even in the heat of a very strong argument, when I packed my carebear suitcase to move out on my own (as a seven year old), my dad still wanted me with him. He let me pack, he watched me walk out the door, and even let me walk a bit down the road. It wasn't until I turned back and saw him watching me I realized I wasn't making the right decision. Who's gonna know? I finally knew. Pretty bright for a kid. So from the wisdom of my seven year old self I share this with you. Know that in the midst of this messed up world, whether you kneel, stand, march or fall, God still loves you and wants to be in your life.

So walk down the road a bit... but know that when you turn away from your sin and look back, He was watching all along.

Love & Light,
Virginia "VA" Lugge
Youth Minister



Greetings,
At the June meeting of the church Council, we discussed the creative activities that are happening with our youth. These

have included a weekly scavenger hunt for clues which lead participants to gather at a destination. These destinations have included a restaurant, a park, and a home for refreshments and devotions. St. Paul's is so blessed to have these Spirit-filled activities!

In other reports, it was noted that year-to-date, we are over \$9,000 behind on our budget. While seasonally this does happen, we are encountering a bit of a shortfall. So, I would encourage us to take note of this financial position.

There were also extensive discussions related to the Building and Grounds Committee report. The major items included the discussion around the creation of a new maintenance/janitorial position and whether to sell or rent out the parsonage. Council is beginning an analysis.

Regarding the parish nurse position, it was indicated that one person has requested an application and that further recruitment efforts are underway. Council members who have not had AED/CPR training will receive training from Donna Asbridge on June 26.

The Council also happily discussed steps to take to prepare for welcoming Pastor Lovins.

Blessings,
Dale Fiedler



Mission Trip
Please be in prayer for our
15 members who will be
going out on mission to
Alaska at the end of July!



Concerning the parsonage, our new pastor will not be living there. It is yet to be decided if the congregation chooses to sell or rent. We are continuing to ready the house for either event. New kitchen countertops, stove and sink have been donated by a member of the church and will be installed soon. The window trimming in the "office room" has been mitered, painted and placed by a committee member who also put a fresh coat of paint on the breezeway. Baseboards were trimmed and placed in the small bedroom. A new mirror has been installed

in the bathroom.

The leak in the roof of the ministry center has been repaired by Himstedt Roofing.

The lights and housing on the billboards north of town were purchased at a cost of \$356.00. A committee member has changed them.

Two team members have been faithfully watering the newly placed landscaping at the Ministry Center, parsonage, and church proper.

The Church Calendar - July 2021

Normal Sunday Schedule

8:00 am & 10:15 am Worship

9:05 am Sunday School and Fellowship Hour

First Sunday of the Month - Communion at both services

July 3 - Sun	Communion Sunday	July 19 - Tue	Freeburg Care Center Church
July 4 - Mon	Office Closed - Independence Day		Service 3:15pm
July 5 - Tue	Cedar Trails Church Service and Communion 1pm	July 21 - Thur	Church Council Mtg 7pm
	Food Pantry 2-4pm		Painting 9am
July 7 - Thur	Painting 9am	July 22 - Fri	Food Pantry 5-7pm
July 10 - Sun	Blood Pressure Checks	July 25 - Mon	F & C Clothing Sale 9-11am
	Food Collection Sunday	July 26 - Tue	Scope Deadline
July 11 - Mon	B & G Meeting 7pm	July 29-Aug 5	Stephen Ministries 6:30pm
July 12 - Tue	Women's Guild 12pm		Alaska Youth Trip
	Food Pantry 2-4pm		
	Stephen Ministries 6:30pm		
	Food/Clothing Board Mtg 7pm		

C. S. Lewis Bible Study: Monday 7:15 pm

Bible Study: Sunday at 9:05 am, Tuesday at 7:00 pm (Zoom)

Quilting: Tuesday & Wednesday 8:30 am, Thursday 6:00 pm (Ministry Building)

Boy Scouts: Tuesday 7:00 pm (Basement)

Faith Journey: Wednesday 6:00 pm (Church)

Choir: Wednesday 7:00 pm (no Choir during the summer)

The Outlet: Wednesday 6:30 - 8:00 pm (Youth Room)

Reconfirmation/Adult Bible Class: Thursday 7:00 pm (Ministry Building)

Happy July Birthdays!

July 1 Sandi Haege
 July 2 Tara Beisiegel
 Beverly Groh
 Brittany Kaiser
 Shane Reinneck
 July 3 Bree Bird
 July 4 Dustin Endsley
 Pam Kramer
 Sabrina Rhutasel
 July 5 Adam Payne

July 6 Hank Oldehoeft
 July 7 Andy Channer
 Kristine Schopp
 July 9 Duane Endsley
 July 12 Lindsey Niebruegge
 July 14 Paige Nowak
 July 15 Yvonne Tritt
 July 16 Tami Hughes
 Richard Kessler
 July 17 Betsy Clossen
 Charles Harbaugh

July 18 Barb Joseph
 Jill Kettler
 July 21 Elinor Egelston
 Alyssa George
 Rallye Lugge
 July 22 Heather Savage
 July 23 Keira Freebairn
 Kyle Lickenbrock
 July 24 Jeanne Hartmann
 Billie Menn III
 Megan Nail
 July 25 Matt Amann
 Emily Kaiser
 Connor Stein
 Shirley Tewell
 July 26 Sarah Becker
 Cal Clossen
 July 28 Jim Jacobs
 Martha Kraft
 Gloria Niebruegge
 July 29 Beau Adamson
 July 30 Henry Sosa

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**Faithful and Welcoming
Church**

Worship Services:

Sunday 8:00 & 10:15 AM
Sunday School 9:05 AM

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