



St. Paul Ev. Lutheran Church  
508 North Chicago Road  
Thornton, IL 60476

Address Service Requested



# The Glad Spirit

## St. Paul Ev. Lutheran Church

### June – July 2017



Dear Friends in Christ:

Have you ever thought of buying a used trophy? That is not such a far out idea. I have been to some rummage sales in which I have seen used trophies for sale. Just think about it. If I would have bought used trophies at various times in life, I could have a shelf lined with trophies for starring in football, basketball, baseball, track, soccer, volleyball and who knows how many other sporting ventures. I could also have trophies for excelling in other ventures such as baking or speaking among others. In the end, I have to wonder, “Who would really buy a used trophy?”

That thought also brings up the question, who would sell a used trophy? Trophies are representative of one’s personal accomplishments. They are very personal with one’s name inscribed along with a mention of the particular accomplishment.

I suppose that after a number of years, trophies become meaningless. The reasons for which trophies were given drift far into confused memory. The trophy itself becomes a piece of clutter which one no longer needs. They just get taken out with the trash, or end up at rummage sales.

The situation of old trophies illustrate the truth expressed long ago by King Solomon: “Vanity of vanities, says the Preacher, vanity of vanities! All is vanity.” Ecclesiastes 1:2 (ESV) Most translations of Scripture use the word “vanity” in that verse. Some use the word “meaningless,” indicating that many things in life is just that, meaningless.

At the time they may seem worthwhile and important. In the end, however they are meaningless. No wonder, the hymn, “The Old Rugged Cross,” contains the phrase, “When my trophies at last I lay down.”

Dear Friends, one thing and only one thing matters in life. That is, life that is lived with Jesus Christ at the center. Keep Christ at the heart and center of your life.

In Jesus’ Name,  
Pastor Wahl



# Sunday School Corner

We have completed another year of Sunday School, my how the year seems to fly right by! We want to thank our amazing teachers, Mrs. Hudson, Mrs. Allen, Mr. Bloom, and Mrs. Gribbin for encouraging our children and helping them come closer to God with their faith.

As we have this summer time off, we are asking that you prayerfully consider how you are involved with Sunday School, and maybe how you can become more involved. We are asking the whole congregation, but especially families with children in Sunday School, to think about Sunday School and offer us your thoughts and ideas to help our Sunday School grow. Feel free to drop notes in the church office, or Sunday School mailbox if you would like to give your thoughts or ideas before the meeting in August. We are just looking to improve Sunday School to better fit the needs of our congregation.

Be on the lookout in the next newsletter for more information regarding the meeting and start up for next year! Have a wonderful summer we can't wait to see you again soon! :)

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Blessings,  
Dana Krieger  
dana.krieger@eastporter.k12.in.us



Searching *SCRIPTURE*

## THE PRODIGAL FATHER

by Ben Eder

Sunday, June 15, is Father's Day. A familiar Bible text regarding fathers is the Parable of the Prodigal Son. Although this story is usually told from the perspective of the "lost son," what about the father in the story? What was his responsibility? And how does he respond to the wanderings-and return-of his son?

The word *prodigal* means being "rashly or wastefully extravagant," or "giving in abundance." With those definitions in mind, the father could be said to be "prodigal," too-generous in bestowing mercy and grace upon his wayward son.

The parable is found in Luke 15:11-32. Please read it first; then answer the following questions.

According to verse 12, the younger son asks for his portion of his father's estate. Under Mosaic law, the younger son was entitled to one-half of what the older son would receive (Deut. 21:17). When the younger son asks for his portion, what, in effect, is he saying to his father? \_\_\_\_\_

The son goes off to a "far country," where he spends his money in extravagant living. Broke and despondent, he comes to his senses. What conclusion does he come to (vv.18-19)? \_\_\_\_\_

When the father sees his son approaching, what does he do (v. 20)? \_\_\_\_\_

By providing a robe and other accessories, and throwing a party, what is the father saying to his son (vv. 22-24)? \_\_\_\_\_

The older son is indignant. He protests the gracious treatment his brother is receiving. He refuses to call him "my brother," instead referring to him as "this son of yours." The older son probably represents the Pharisees and other self-righteous individuals who believe they earn God's favor through their character or works (see Luke 15:2). Rather than chastising his older son, what does the father say to him (vv. 31-32)? \_\_\_\_\_

The father's reaction to his younger son's return is in line with what Jesus says about the sheep that strays but returns. What happens in heaven when the repentant sinner returns to the fold (Luke 15:4-7)? \_\_\_\_\_

The graciousness of the father in this parable reflects the disposition of the heavenly Father toward His children. In fact, Scripture uses the word *Abba* (Aramaic for "Father") to describe the loving nature of God (see Mark 14:36; Rom. 8:15). Do you view God as "Father"? \_\_\_\_\_

The father in the Parable of the Prodigal Son shows us how God the Father relates to His children. God is merciful, for He does not give us what we deserve (His wrath and punishment for sin), and He is gracious, for He gives us what we do not deserve (forgiveness and restoration through faith alone in Jesus Christ). Although this parable speaks to all people, it contains a special message for earthly fathers: What kind of father are you? Do you reflect the love of the heavenly Father, or do your children see something else? May the love of God be found in all earthly fathers!

Rev. Ben Eder is pastor of Pilgrim Lutheran Church, Kenmore, N.Y.

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**Release from Membership** - Mr. Brett Hall has been released from membership in our congregation.



On Sunday, May 21 we received five new communicant members into our congregation by means of the rite of Confirmation. They are, as pictured with Pastor Wahl, Ethan Schassburger, Dakota Gaut, Nathaniel Conway, Tiffany Reichert, and Payton VanDommelen. We welcome these young people to our midst and pray The Lord's richest blessings upon them

throughout their life. "Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life." Revelation 2:10 (ESV)



Congratulations to members of our congregation who are completing various milestones in their education as they graduate this year. The ones we know about are:

Cheyenne Plecas and Melanie Shadley from Thornwood High School

Nicole Reichert and Danielle Zander from Illiana Christian High School

Dominique Sella from Lockport High School

Alec Schassburger from Indiana University – Northwest

Sean Zander graduating from the Echo-Able School in Riverdale, IL



We are flying the flag as a tribute to Memorial Day. We thank Jerry Smith, Bill Sommer, Jerry Wiltjer, Diana Carr, Shirley Wahl and Dave and Debbie Bloom for the effort they contributed for this project. It looks great.







Asleep in Jesus - Mr. Frank Bodza (age 85) of our congregation entered eternity on Sunday, April 23. We extend deepest sympathy to his children, Sandy and Rob as well as many other relatives and friends. Pastor Wahl officiated at a service of Christian burial on Wednesday, April 26. We also rejoice with Frank's family in the blessed assurance of resurrection in Christ. Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, even though he die, yet shall he love." (John 11:25)

## St. Paul Ev. Lutheran Church



### SUNDAY WORSHIP

9:45 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.

### SUNDAY SCHOOL

8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.  
September - May

### ADULT BIBLE CLASS

8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.

Rev. Harold Wahl, Pastor  
508 N. Chicago Road  
Thornton, IL 60476  
Voice & Fax (708) 877-6564

www.splcms.org  
www.facebook.com/splcms  
office@splcms.org  
pastor@splcms.org

Church Office Hours  
9 to Noon Monday thru Friday.

Bulletin Deadline  
Thursday by 10 a.m.

Contact the church office to submit personal testimonials about what God has done for you. Or original art that is inspirational or humorous to the artist.

## CONGREGATIONAL OFFICERS

<b>Chairman</b>	Bill Sommer
<b>Vice Chairman</b>	David Bloom
<b>Recording Sec.</b>	Tracy Middleton
<b>Financial Sec.</b>	Robert Brandy
<b>Treasurer</b>	Chris Carr
<b>Elder</b>	Ed Hoeksema Steven Michels Henry Sella Jack Swan Brian Wiltjer Jerry Wiltjer
<b>Trustee</b>	Dean Bloom Earl Bloom Jerry Smith
<b>Stewardship</b>	
<b>Evangelism</b>	Debi Brandy
<b>Social Ministry</b>	Norma Allen Sandy Budde
<b>S. S. Super.</b>	Kathy Dejonowski
<b>Asnt. Super.</b>	Dana Krieger
<b>Adult Director</b>	
<b>Youth Director</b>	

### June

- |                       |                       |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 Debbie Bloom        | 19 Richard Reichert   |
| Taylor VanDommelen    | 21 Deneen Keith       |
| 2 Jennifer Saraivanov | Melanie Wiltjer       |
| 3 Jeanette Ramirez    | 22 Becci Steele       |
| 4 Ethan Smith         | 24 Jennifer Wisely    |
| 6 John Gibson         | 25 Kurt Altmann       |
| 7 Shirley Wahl        | Lucas Durkin          |
| 8 Shawn Young         | Camden Wisely         |
| 9 Travin Parker       | 26 Roberta Chiattello |
| 10 Barb Leone         | 28 Betty Wimmer       |
| 14 Lisa Niemann       | Sharon Zander         |
| 15 Betty Dixon        | 29 Jessica McCrary    |
| Melanie Hudson        | 30 Diana Carr         |
| 18 Matthew Plecas     |                       |



### July

- |                 |                    |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| 3 Dick Niemann  | 16 Zachary Sinise  |
| 4 Gail Baumgart | 18 Judith DeCamp   |
| Nicholas Durkin | 19 Jeanna Farris   |
| Helen Hoeksema  | 19 Tina Morse      |
| 5 Bryan Lively  | 21 Chance Sinise   |
| 7 Andrew Hoover | 22 Mark Brow       |
| 9 Bob Crocilla  | 24 Dave Bloom      |
| 10 Violet Rich  | 27 Samantha Gibson |
| 12 Bob Brandy   | 28 Kyle Burklow    |
| Joan Brow       | Isabella Ramirez   |
| Russell Budde   | 29 Jason Wiltjer   |
| Blake Hoeksema  | 31 Bev Oaks        |
| Rebecca McCrary | Levi Robinson      |



# Join us for Vacation Bible School 2017

Monday, July 24 through Friday, July 28  
9 a.m. to 12 noon

Hear Bible stories  
Make crafts  
Play games  
Sing songs  
Enjoy snacks

For children ages 4 and older.  
\$5 per child, three or more  
children in one family is free.

On Friday there will be a parent  
presentation by the children.

To register your child(ren), please go to  
<https://goo.gl/forms/VPyXAtfAsqdPF4Wv2>  
Questions, email [st.paulthornton.vbs@gmail.com](mailto:st.paulthornton.vbs@gmail.com)  
or call (708) 877-6564.



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# CLASSIC CAR SHOW

(Pre-80's Only)

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 6, 2017**

**1:00-5:00 PM (JUDGING AT 4:30)**

***St. Paul Ev. Lutheran Church***

508 N. Chicago Road • Thornton, IL 60476

Voice & Fax: (708) 877-6564

[office@splcms.org](mailto:office@splcms.org)

[www.splcms.org](http://www.splcms.org)

[www.facebook.com/splcms](http://www.facebook.com/splcms)

**\$10.00 ENTRY FEE FOR PARTICIPATING CARS**

**(Includes One Free Lunch per Car)**

**TROPHIES WILL BE GIVEN FOR:**

**PASTOR'S CHOICE**

**PARTICIPANTS CHOICE**

**PEOPLE'S CHOICE**

**50/50 SPLIT THE POT RAFFLE**

**FOOD FOR PURCHASE**

Popcorn, Snow cones, Hot Dogs, Walking Tacos, Water & Pop

**\*\* Rain date will be the following Sunday, August 13, 2017 \*\***



# JUNE 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 8:00am Parish Hall In Use
<b>4</b> 9:45am Worship Service	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 7:30pm Elders Meeting	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 7:00pm Book Club	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 9:00am Trustee Work Day
<b>11</b> 9:45am Worship Service	<b>12</b> 7:00pm Council Meeting	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> 9:45am Worship Service	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> 9:45am Worship Service	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	

# JULY 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						<b>1</b>
<b>2</b> 9:45am Worship Service	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 7:30pm Elders Meeting	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 9:00am Trustee Work Day
<b>9</b> 9:45am Worship Service	<b>10</b> 7:00pm Council Meeting	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 7:00pm Book Club	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> 9:45am Worship Service	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> 9:45am Worship Service	<b>24</b> 9:00am VBS	<b>25</b> 9:00am VBS	<b>26</b> 9:00am VBS	<b>27</b> 9:00am VBS	<b>28</b> 9:00am VBS	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> 9:45am Worship Service	<b>31</b>					