

THE PORTLIGHT

A newsletter for members and friends of Portland Avenue United Methodist Church



July 2024

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Join us for

Outdoor Worship with



& Ice Cream Social on

Sunday, July 21, 10:00am

*Bring a lawn chair, a cool beverage, and invite
your friends and neighbors to join us!*

~ All Are Welcome ~

Our Mission

*"To grow followers of
Jesus who change the
world."*

Our Vision

*"To be a safe harbor
along life's journey."*

The **PORT**
A safe harbor along life's journey.

Pastor's Message

Greetings Members and Friends of The PORT,

Summer came too fast. It seems some of us are having a blast at cabins, camping, and time away. While others are busy. Whatever the situation please find time to study, obey, and teach scriptures. There are countless resources out there. You can start with Genesis or Matthew. I am reading Acts.

To make my point, I came across Ezra 7:10. In this verse Ezra sets his heart to study the Law of the Lord, and to do it and to teach his statutes and rules in Israel.

He set his heart. Studying God's Word is not something which happens automatically. My guess is lately you might have asked someone "how are you doing?" to hear them reply, "I am very busy." In fact, almost every person says they are very busy. The world is full of stuff to do. Some of these things are worth doing. But the world is also full of distractions, vying for our attention. It is easy for us to be diverted from serious Bible study. Many people spend more time (or we could say waste more time) on passing pleasures than they do on the Bible. How much time do we spend on television and movies compared to studying Scripture? How much time do we spend surfing the internet and social media compared to studying Scripture? How much time do we spend on our hobbies compared to studying Scripture?

If we want to make spiritual progress like Ezra, **we must set our hearts** on learning God's Word. It is first a desire, a commitment. Then this desire will lead us to action.

We need to study. The first step in following God is knowledge. A person must know God. A person must have knowledge of the truth. We find that in the Bible. The Bible is an amazing thing. The infinite, eternal, Creator of the universe is completely different than us. He exists outside of our realm of comprehension. And yet, He has chosen to make Himself known to us. He has chosen to reveal His nature, His plans, and His purposes to us. That is an amazing privilege.

Scripture is God's inspired Word, breathed out by Him. It is a priceless treasure. And it is worth diligently studying. Studying God's Word is one way you can grasp God's Word, standing firm on the truth in the

midst of the tidal forces of cultural change and relativity. Without a firm understanding of the Bible, you will be like a person who builds his house on the sand.

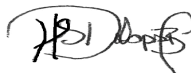
In addition, Ezra set his heart to study God's word and **to do it. Friends, to do it** means to obey it. Knowledge by itself does not help anyone. Ezra set his heart to study God's Word and to **do it**. Without action, the knowledge is worthless. James calls out people who are "hearers" of the Word, but not "doers," comparing them to people who look at a mirror and forget what they look like (James 1:19-25). We can do it as we set our heart to study God's Word.

Furthermore, **to teach it.** Friends, Ezra 7:10 gives us a wonderful model. It wasn't enough for Ezra himself to study and obey God's word. His vision was then to teach others to do the same. That is spiritual reproduction. That is multiplication.

Let's set our heart to study God's Word by obeying it and teaching it. Be Blessed and know that God loves you and there's absolutely nothing you can do about it.

Blessings,

Pastor Henry



JULY Schedule for Sunday Volunteers

	July 7	July 14	July 21 Outdoor Worship	July 28
Welcomers	Heather Anderson Tim Hagerty	LaVonne Robinson	Barb & Clint Andrus	Lynn Livingston
Ushers	Bruce Benson Kathy Soucy	Trenton Olson Myron & Ginny Karki	Bruce Benson Pam Rose	Scott Swenson Wayne Andersen Sharon Beckler
Reader	Pam Rose	Neil Anderson	Trenton Olson	Greg Jurek
Sound	Leo Castro	Tim Madsen	Eric Richardson-Mahre	Leo Castro
Media	Tim Madsen	Tim Madsen	N/A (Outdoors)	Nancy Hagerty
Livestream	Daisy Castro	Scott Swenson	Tim Hagerty	Tim Hagerty
Closer	Steve Knopp	Wayne Andersen	Clint Andrus	Tom Wellman
Counters	Pam Rose Jon Krogsrud	Pam Rose Trenton Olson	Pam Rose Trenton Olson	Tom Wellman Trenton Olson
Communion Stewards	Daniel & Tracy Baker			

July Holiday Office Hours

The church office will be open Monday, 7/1 through Wednesday, 7/3, and closed in observance of the holiday on Thursday, July 4th.

Have a safe and happy holiday!



Upcoming Special Worship Sundays at The PORT:

July 21: Outdoor Worship & Blessing of the Animals followed by an Ice Cream Social

August 18: Outdoor Worship with a Cook-out Lunch

September 8: Rally Sunday

Congregational Care

Birthday Blessings to our July Friends!

If you have a birthday during the month of July but your name isn't on our list, PLEASE LET US KNOW, so we can update our records for next year.

- | | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 01 - Nancy Hagerty | 25 - Linda Knopp | |
| 07 - Katy Fischer | 26 - Samantha Baker | |
| 16 - Dorothy Baker | - Jocelyne Medzagoh | 27 - Tim Madsen |
| 22 - Steven Johnson | 27 - Wayne Andersen | 28 - Henryssa Dolopei |



Mission Outreach

July's Mission Outreach Project — School Supplies for Valley View Elementary

It's that time of the summer to start thinking about the new school year. During July we are collecting school supplies for Valley View Elementary School.

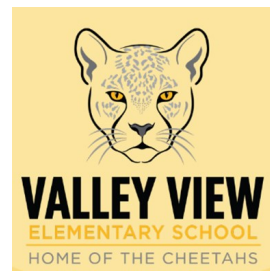
Most needed items are:

- Crayola markers
- Dry erase markers
- Glue sticks
- Crayons
- Colored pencils

- Wide-ruled notepads
- Ear buds or headphones
- Clorox wipes
- Kleenex

Please bring these items to church and put them in the shopping cart in the narthex.

Thank you for your continued support of Valley View Elementary School.



- - Nancy Hagerty and Pam Rose,
Mission Outreach Co-Chairs

Church Comics

'Lord Help Me' Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father,
So far today, I've done alright. I haven't gossiped or lost my temper. I haven't been greedy, grumpy, nasty or self-centered. I'm really happy about that so far. But in a few minutes I'm going to be getting out of bed and then I'm going to need a lot of help. Thank you! Amen.



Congratulations to our Class of 2024

PAUMC's High School and College Graduates were celebrated on Sunday, June 2nd during the worship service and with a reception afterward. Pastor Henry and the congregation honored their achievements, reminding each of them that God's love and The PORT's prayers go with them.

Pictured left to right are Dorothy Baker, Daisy Mae Castro, and Janea Medzagoh.



PAUMC's Graduating Class of 2024

Dorothy Baker, from University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire with a Bachelor of Science degree in Journalism and Creative Writing. Her parents are Daniel & Tracy Baker
Uncle, William (Bill) Baker

Daisy Mae Castro, from Bloomington Jefferson High School. She will be attending Normandale Community College to complete her general classes with a major in Event Planning & Hospitality.

Her fathers are Blaine Daniels and the late Les Castro
"Aunts" Lori and Lynn Livingston

Janea Medzagoh, from Bloomington Jefferson High School and Normandale Community College. Janea plans to attend the University of Minnesota and double major in Interior Design and Business and Marketing Education.

Her parents are Jocelyn and Josia Medzagoh.

Nathan Lemke, from Simmons University, Boston, with a Master of Library and Information Science degree.

Parents Andrea & Rob Lemke
Grandparents Ginny & Myron Karki

Christina (Chrissy) Wells, from Bloomington Kennedy High School. She will be attending St. Cloud State University.

Her parents are Matt & Nicole Wells
Grandparents are Terry & Sue Wells

Congratulations!

Youth and Family Ministries

Thankful for our Sunday School Teachers

We are blessed to have a dedicated group of volunteers to teach our Sunday School classes during the school year. We recognized and thanked them during our worship service on June 2nd.

Elementary Teachers

Traci Darnell
Janene Haugen
Christine Hortenbach
Laurette Lawson
Lynn Livingston
Becky Rice

Middle/High School Teacher

Beth Cameron

Our Sunday School year runs from September through May each year. We hope all of our teachers are enjoying some well-deserved time off this summer! Thank you, teachers, for all you do!



Trustees News



Our Trustees have been very busy this spring, as always, maintaining our church building and property.

Thank you to our dedicated team: Wayne Andersen, Don Anderson, Clint Andrus, Harvey Erstad, Steve Knopp, Paul Richardson, Scott Swenson, and Tom Wellman. **We are very grateful for all that you do for The PORT!**

Here are some of the many jobs that these faithful volunteers have been doing:

- Kitchen garbage disposal repairs. The Trustees removed the unit to make the necessary repairs, put in new plumbing for the unit, repaired a broken switch and reinstalled everything to working condition. Their hard work and volunteer time saved the church around \$2,000.00.
- Replaced the front office phone system. Don Anderson and Pam Rose interviewed two phone vendors to find a badly needed replacement for the archaic phone system that was failing. Installation was completed on June 14th.
- Roof leak repairs in Sanctuary and South entryway. They cleaned out the space over the south entry door and found the cutter was plugged which caused water to leak through that ceiling. The Sanctuary roof has leaked from the heavy rainfalls we've seen this spring so that requires regular attention to address the wet carpet and pew cushions to dry them as quickly as possible.
- Lawn maintenance, weed control, removing tree roots. The church has a commercial service that maintains our lawns, but the Trustees have to mow the courtyard and keep up with the weeds and the tree roots that sprout where they're not wanted.
- A special thanks to Julie and Jake Rasmussen for their hard work on a very hot day as they refreshed the landscaping in the planted areas around the bicycle racks on the island between the church and the parking lot. It looks so much nicer. Thank you Julie and Jake!



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4 Church Office Closed 	5	6
7 10:00 am Worship / Communion 11:00 am Coffee Fellowship	8	9 6:30pm Bazaar Workshop	10	11	12	13
14 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am Coffee Fellowship	15 August Newsletter Deadline	16 6:30pm Bazaar Workshop	17	18	19	20
21 10:00 am Outdoor Worship & Blessing of the Animals 11:00 am Ice Cream Social	22 6:30pm Church Council (Zoom)	23 6:30pm Bazaar Workshop	24	25	26	27
28 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am Coffee Fellowship	29 6:30pm Worship Leaders (Wesley Rm)	30 6:30pm Bazaar Workshop	31			

Portland Avenue United Methodist Church
8000 Portland Ave S, Bloomington, MN 55420



GIVE+
Electronic Giving Options



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

DATED MATERIAL
PLEASE EXPEDITE

Join us for in-person and livestreaming worship on Sundays at 10:00am.

Staff

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