

1Thessalonians 5:13-15

Rise and Shine

13 and that you esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Live in peace with one another. 14 We urge you, brethren, admonish the unruly, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with everyone. 15 See that no one repays another with evil for evil, but always seek after that which is good for one another and for all people.

Plymouth Lutheran Church

Pastor Ryan Kandoll

June/July 2023

11015 County Road 15, Plymouth, MN 55441 Telephones: 763-544-7248 & 763-544-9170

From the Pastor's Office

My wife Carmen has gone the way of many other millennial suburban moms and taken to making sourdough bread as a hobby. It's an archaic method and the process is interesting. The leaven for sourdough is made by allowing the dough to sit and collect bacteria and yeast that is naturally in the air. Eventually, it will collect enough to ferment and become a starter. A small amount of this starter can be added to new dough and it will spread through the whole lump causing the bread to rise by the same process of fermentation.

Our Lord Jesus used leaven to teach an important lesson that Christians need today as much as we ever have before. Matthew 16:5–12 (ESV): When the disciples reached the other side, they had forgotten to bring any bread. 6 Jesus said to them, **“Watch and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees.”** 7 And they began discussing it among themselves, saying, **“We brought no bread.”** 8 But Jesus, aware of this, said, **“O you of little faith, why are you discussing among yourselves the fact that you have no bread? 9 Do you not yet perceive? Do you not remember the five loaves for the five thousand, and how many baskets you gathered? 10 Or the seven loaves for the four thousand, and how many baskets you gathered? 11 How is it that you fail to understand that I did not speak about bread? Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees.”** 12 Then they understood that he did not tell them to beware of the leaven of bread, but of the teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees.

The Pharisees and Sadducees were two sects within Judaism at Jesus's time. The Sadducees (sometimes called Herodians) were the elite, rich, political class. They had wealth and status because they had sold out to the Roman occupiers in the beginning. They were rich, they were liberal in morality, and they were skeptical of the mysteries of God. They didn't believe in an afterlife, angels, or miracles. They were much like today's liberals.

The Pharisees were men who saw a lot of immorality in their culture and had a desire to follow God's word. In reaction to that they sought to be set apart. They were common men in their economic status. The problem is they were legalistic and made a show of their formal religion. They were much like today's legalists.

In Jesus' day, the liberals denied that the miracles happened. The legalistic hypocrites denied their source. Both denied God's Word. The legalist did it by adding to it, and the liberal by taking away from it.

Jesus instructs us to beware of their leaven. Both sects had the same leaven that caused them to deny God and reject Jesus. Legalism and liberalism are not two opposite ends of one spectrum. They are both in the same camp and working against God just like the Pharisees and Sadducees tried to at the time of Christ.

(Continued on page 4)

Church website: www.plymouthapostolic.org

Church email: secretary@plymouthapostolic.org

Prayer Chain: plcprayerchain2021@gmail.com

If you would like to receive this by email, please send a message to secretary@plymouthapostolic.org

June 2023						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

June at PLC

Sundays:

- 4** 10:00am Church service & Picnic at French Park
- 11, 18, 25** 10:30am Worship service
also via YouTube & FB live
- 11** 11:30am Coffee Fellowship
- 18** 11:45am VBS Planning meeting
- 18** **FATHERS DAY**
10:30am Worship service -Communion
- 25** 11:30am Abbreviated Communion

Tuesdays:

- 13** 6:00pm Mission Committee meeting
6:30pm Board of Trustees meeting

Wednesdays:

- 9:00am Men's & Ladies breakfast @ Perkins on HWY 55 & 494

Thursdays:

- 29** ALCA Convention

Fridays:

- 30** ALCA Convention

**Summer Church Office Hours will be
Tuesdays and Wednesdays
9:30am – 3:30pm
Starting the week of May 28th**

Celebrate Our Congregation

June Birthdays:

Steven	Madison	6/8
Anita	Aho	6/11
Bill	Graunke	6/15
Myrt	Larson	6/19
Nova	Ellis	6/22

June Anniversaries:

Pietro & Sara	6/7
Joel & Lois	6/12
Brian & Leeanna	6/14
Kevin & Mary Kay	6/17
Larry & Sharon	6/29

July 2023						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

July at PLC

Sundays:

- 2,9,16,23,30** 10:30am Worship service
also via YouTube & FB live
- 11:30am** Coffee Fellowship
- 2** **ALCA Convention**
- 16** 10:30am Worship service with Communion
- 11:45am** VBS Planning meeting
- 23** 11:30am Abbreviated Communion
- 30** 11:45am VBS Set-up

Tuesdays:

- 4** **INDEPENDENCE DAY**
- 11** 6:00pm Mission Committee meeting
6:30pm Board of Trustees meeting

Saturdays:

- 1** ALCA Convention
- 8** 9:00am Church Work Day

Celebrate Our Congregation

July Birthdays:

Alaura	Hansen	7/4
Joel	Baker	7/6
Jennie	Rintala	7/10
Deb	Sunnarborg	7/12
Allison	Bulthuis	7/12
Cole	Wempen	7/12
Ryan	Kandoll	7/19
Kris	Walters	7/20
Mary	Sunnarborg	7/22
Amanda	Sunnarborg	7/27

July Anniversaries:

Earl & Karen	7/7
Brad & Bev	7/12
Tom & Christina	7/16
Garrett & Caroline	7/19
Ryan & Carmen	7/22
Daniel & Terri	7/26
Stewart & Joyce	7/30

Save The Dates

Church Family Picnic

Sunday, June 4th @ French Regional Park, 12605
Rockford Rd, Plymouth, MN 55441

Moraine Picnic Site-Worship Service @ 10:00am
Everyone is Welcome!

Church will provide Hotdogs/buns, chips & drinks

<u>Last Name Begins with:</u>	<u>Please Bring:</u>
A – N	Cookies or Bars
O – Z	Salad or Fruit

ALCA Convention – June 29th – July 2nd being hosted by New York Mills ALC

There are a few copies 2023 ALCA Convention
packet & Schedule of Events available on the
Narthex Desk.

LBF Bible Camp at Lahti Retreat Center



Theme: Ambassadors for Christ
July 19 – 23, 2023

Directors: Josh & Alaura Hansen
Registration is open. Follow the link
below.

<https://sites.google.com/view/welcometolbf/home>

Full camp ages 9 and up: \$210

Full camp ages 5-8: \$160

Under 5: Free

Counselors: \$100

There is an \$800 cap on the cost per family. "Family" refers to
immediate family only (parents and dependent children). **There is
a reduced rate for staying on the grounds in your own RV or
tent. You may customize your rate with varying meal and
camping arrangements. Contact the registrar to discuss
options that are available.**



Vacation Bible School

If you are willing to
help with the 2023
Vacation Bible School,
please attend June 11th &
16th @ 11:45am

THEME: The Keepers of the Kingdom

Standing Strong in Today's Battle for Truth

Answers VBS –

Preparing Children to Survive in Today's World

**10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the
strength of his might. 11 Put on the whole armor of
God, that you may be able to stand against the
schemes of the devil. EPH 6:10-11 (ESV)**

We are engaged in an epic battle for the hearts
and minds of our youth. Every day, they're
bombarded with lies about who they are, who their
Creator is, and where their salvation comes from.

Thankfully, God has given his children armor to
wear in this battle between truth and lies, light and
darkness, good and evil

With this VBS, your kids will learn how they can
be part of God's kingdom through salvation in his
Son and will be equipped with the armor of God to
become Keepers of the Kingdom who stand strong
in today's battle for truth.

**WHEN: VBS will Be July 31st – Aug 4th
9:00am – 11:30am**

Please pray about helping in some way.

Thank you for considering!

<https://2023plcvbs.myanswers.com/keepers-of-the-kingdom/>

Organist/Pianist position Available

"Plymouth Lutheran Church is now accepting
applications for a paid pianist and/or organist to lead
us in song as part of our worship service on Sunday
mornings at 10:30am and special times
throughout year such as a mid-week services during
lent.

We are also looking for substitutes to help fill in during
our search.

You can find out more about us
at <https://www.plymouthapostolic.org> and by coming
to visit on a Sunday"

Contact us at secretary@plymouthapostolic.org

(Continued from page 1)

The timing of Jesus' teaching this lesson is fascinating. Jesus had just multiplied 7 loaves and a few small fish to feed 4,000 people. Immediately after, the Pharisees and Sadducees demanded a sign and Jesus said none would be given except the sign of Jonah.

The feeding of the multitudes is one that liberal scholars try to explain away by saying that Jesus didn't actually multiply the loaves and fish but instead got people to open their packs and share their lunch so that everyone including those less prepared could be fed before going home. If that's the case then how did He manage to collect so many baskets from a crowd only recently convinced away from their stinginess? Also, why does our Lord use it in this lesson? This lesson follows soon after to show the liberal that they are wrong. Jesus himself confirms that He performed the miracle. The liberals make Jesus into a liar or a lunatic while calling Him a prophet and teacher.

The religious hypocrite or legalist doesn't like the narrow way of Christ being the only way and tries to somehow work their own righteousness and require others to do the same. They reject the imputed righteousness that is given to us in Christ and try to present their good works to God.

A thing that the Pharisees and Sadducees have in common is a desire to "move beyond the cross and talk about deeper things." They say it is for maturity and growth but in reality, it is a desire to move away from it all together. It's a move away from our justification, which is the central doctrine of the Christian faith. The legalistic hypocrite wants to act like they are smarter than the apostles who focused on the cross and resurrection like Paul in Philippians 3:2-16.

When legalists point the finger to make a person struggling with same-sex attraction feel like an outcast and unwanted by God they show a distrust for the work of Christ. When liberals want to bless same-sex unions they are showing their distrust for the word of God. Both are wrong. The Bible is clear that homosexuality is wrong just like sex outside of marriage is wrong. The Bible is also clear that Christ died for the sins of the whole world. We need to beware of both. I can go on but this is a newsletter, not an exhaustive study.

This leaven as Jesus calls it is the perfect name for it. The Jews were used to working with leaven. You add a very small amount (like the cup of sourdough starter Carmen uses) to a lump of dough and it spreads and ferments the whole lump. To this day every year before Passover devout Jewish families get together and clean out all of the leaven from their house in preparation for the Passover. They throw away their sourdough starter, and all of their bread, and search in every nook and cranny of their whole house to clean out every last breadcrumb. They understood how a tiny bit of leaven could spread.

Both the legalist and the liberal deny the word of God. They misinterpret it to their own hurt. But did they wake up one day and say, "I don't want to believe what God says anymore, I think I know better,"? These things start small. False ideas creep into the heart. If not checked they grow and ferment. We fight against these ideas that creep into our own mind by reading the word of God often, praying, and living according to the word of God even if it goes against our evil desires.

False teaching can creep into a church in the same way when these false ideas spread from person to person. We must stay vigilant to study and hold onto the word of God.

The disciples in the boat with Jesus didn't get what Jesus was talking about at first. Sometimes we don't get it either and that's scary. If we treat false teaching as if it's no big deal the whole church could be led astray. Most of the Bible has been written in response to false teaching. It is not a new problem and it is not a crisis, but it is something to beware of. When false teaching occurs in the church, we fight it with the simple yet powerful acts of confessing the word of God, prayer, living out what the Bible teaches with meekness—not for show, and church discipline if needed.

We need to beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the Sadducees or the Liberals and the Legalists. We cannot take away from God's Word or add to it. We may not always understand it but need to be careful that we love, trust, and guard The Word of God. His ways are not our ways nor are His thoughts our thoughts. We have minds that have been corrupted by the fall. The Word of God is eternal. It was in the beginning with God (John 1:1) and it will never pass away (Matthew 24:35).

-Pastor Ryan Kandoll



THE BUZZ

FROM THEFIVEHIVE

May 2023: Traveling to & fro

Time is flying, and we are quickly approaching the end of our third term of supporting Bible translation in Ukarumpa, Papua New Guinea (PNG). Below are some highlights since our last newsletter, all of them just happen to revolve around a visitor who traveled to visit us. We'll also give you a sneak peek of our schedule for the next few months.



At the end of March, Kristy's brother Todd (the tall guy on the far left) came to visit us for ten days. It was so much fun to have him here! While we were out and about in the valley with Todd, giving him some authentic PNG experiences, we realized that so many aspects of life here have become “normal” to us. “Seeing” PNG through Todd’s eyes brought us renewed love for the PNG people and the mission: God’s Word in every language in every life.

Above: Todd and our family with the family of some special friends at their home in [Amamunta village](#).



Speaking of translation, we spent some time with Todd at the audio recording studio on our mission center. We were able to sit in on some of the final recording sessions of the Enga New Testament, which our friends, Adam (pictured above in the blue plaid shirt) & Martha Boyd, have been working on for over ten years. Because the Boyd's have become close friends and we've supported them since we arrived, witnessing this near-final step of the New Testament (NT) being translated was overwhelming.



One Ukarumpa tradition that happens every year is Banquet, which is a pseudo-prom experience for juniors and seniors and sponsored by the parents. One tradition of Banquet is the Parent Play, where each senior is played by one of his/her parents. Since we have two seniors, we weren't sure how that would work...until Todd showed up (and we were told that pre-recorded videos would be used this year instead of live acting). Todd played Nate and Derek played Grant in two different videos that poked fun at their personalities, which both the boys and their classmates thoroughly enjoyed. In the picture above, the fathers of the senior boys record a funny skit about what their weekly Community Group is like.



Now that our family is just 2.5 weeks from leaving Ukarumpa, Derek and Kristy have been focusing on finishing up projects and handing over their roles to the people that will be filling in for them. Grant and Nate have been processing through a lot of "lasts". (Above: Grant, Derek, and Nate with the rest of the seniors after their final basketball game back in March.) When seniors graduate and leave PNG, it is especially hard, because they know they will likely never return to PNG once they start their adult lives in their home countries.



When we arrive in Mora at the end of June, we hit the ground running with doctors and dentist appointments. A month later, we will host our first public gathering and YOU'RE INVITED. Grant and Nate's graduation party will be on Sunday, July 23rd

from 2-5pm at [Emmanuel Baptist Church](#) in Mora, MN. Come wish Grant and Nate blessings as they launch into adulthood.



Prayer requests

Praises

- Praise God that an interim Clinic Manager has been found to keep the momentum going that Kristy has worked hard to develop.
- All the plans for Grant and Nate's college journey have been finalized.

Prayers

- Pray for Grant & Nate's final three weeks of high school and remaining time in Ukarumpa.
- Pray for Trent's impacted tooth. It's status will be a critical factor in determining whether we can return to Ukarumpa in time for semester 2...or...???
 - Pray for travel mercies as we make our way back to Minnesota.
- Pray for our fundraising, as we are \$400 per month short of our Wycliffe ministry budget.

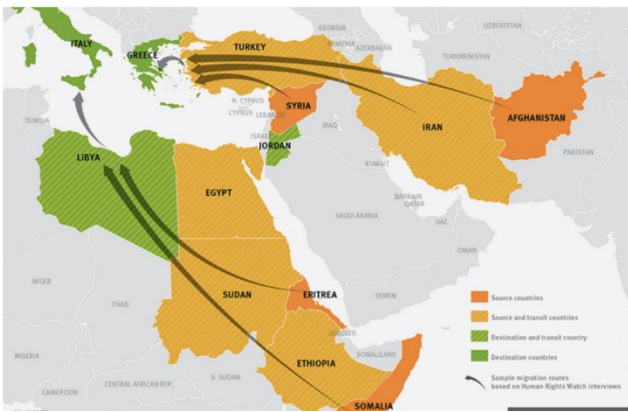


All the nations on the refugee highway

God desires to redeem people from all nations, every tribe and language, Revelation 5:9-10. We see his heart's desire from Genesis to Revelation. Psalm 86:9 says: *All the nations you have made shall come and worship before you, O Lord, and shall glorify your name.*

Pray with us for all the nations, peoples, tribes, and language on the refugee highway in Africa. May the Beyond Borders Niger team be the Lord's witness to those who are displaced due to war and genocide.

You can see from [the map below](#) that the refugees waiting in Niger for resettlement mainly come from Sudan, Ethiopia, Somalia, and Eritrea. They traveled to Libya with the hope of reaching Europe and were detained. From there they were sent by the [UNHCR](#) to Niger, a host country for assylum



seekers. Now they wait for resettlement to a second country.



An update from our team lead - David Kohen

"Beyond Borders Niger stands as a testament to the power of faith and

compassion in transforming the lives of refugees from many African countries. Through weekly Bible studies, baptisms, teachers' training, and inspirational stories of conviction, lives are being forever changed!

"As we pray for God's protection, the overcoming of fear, and the resolution of legal status, we celebrate the success of resettlement opportunities and give thanks for the positive impact of Beyond Borders Niger. May our work continue to shine a light of hope and bring transformation to those in need."

Here are some specific ways to pray for Beyond Borders Niger.

- **Weekly Bible studies.** These gatherings foster community, unity, and an opportunity to explore the teachings of Jesus Christ. Pray for many to confess with their mouths that Jesus is Lord and believe in their hearts that God raised him from the dead.
- **Upcoming baptism.** We praise God for the salvation of three young men from the refugee community. The transformational power of Christ's love is evident as they have chosen to accept Jesus as their Lord and Savior. Their decision to be baptized on June 3 signifies their commitment to their newfound faith.
- **Overcoming fear.** Alisha, one of the refugees, faces potential persecution for forced marriage. Pray for God's divine protection and provision, shielding her from harm and providing her with courage and strength.
- **Persecution.** Many refugees, despite their desire to accept Jesus, face fear of persecution. Pray for individuals to be empower and embolden by

the Holy Spirit, that Jesus' perfect love would cast out all fear, that new believers would stand firm in their decision to embrace Christ as their Savior.



A time to be born, and a time to die

During our home assignment, we have had the high of a new grandchild being born and the low of a death in the family. While visiting in Minnesota, Carmen's dad fell ill with pneumonia. Within days after our return to New York, [Earle D. Wormwood](#) passed away into eternity. We are so grateful for the Lord's kindness in allowing us those two weeks together before his death.

The last hymn we sang with him was [What a Friend We Have in Jesus](#). "*Are we weak and heavy laden, cumbered with a load of care? Precious Savior, still our refuge, take it to the Lord in prayer.*" Oh the wonder of our dear Savior!

In Christ's Love,

David and Carmen Gunderson

53 Sweden Hill Road

Brockport, NY 14420

dgunderson@teachbeyond.org

New York Phone +1 585 491 3855

