



From the Desk of Pastor Meyer

“Thou Shalt Have No Other Busy-ness Before Me”

Isn't that a strange title? I'm riffing off of the First Commandment, obviously, but what does busy-ness (that is, being busy) have to do with God?

Among clergy, Presbyterian pastor Eugene Peterson is well known for his teaching in the classic art of pastoral care – what the German Lutherans called *seelsorge*. His writing is grounded in the Scriptures and he leads pastors back to what the Lord says about what pastors are to do according to God's Word and away from modern expectations which often distract a pastor from the holiness of his calling. I'm currently re-reading his book, *THE CONTEMPLATIVE PASTOR* (Eerdmans Press, © 1989). He begins by exposing one of the gods (note: lower-case) that pastors often worship: busy-ness.

We are busy, he says, (p. 18) because we clergymen are vain: we want to appear important and significant. *Ouch...* We load up our calendars and hustle place to place and meeting to meeting to prove we are vital to the church. Or, alternatively, we get busy because we are lazy. We let others dictate our duty for us and things that don't require pastoral care get sluffed off on us. I have to admit, being busy is an easy way to justify myself and my relative importance. On the one hand I grumble; on the other hand, I boast. From what other pastors share, I think they might have the same struggle as me.

This is also true for the average lay person. Listen to how people talk – with a sigh, we complain about how busy and crazy our lives are. Dare to ask someone, “What's going on?” and you get a full litany and itinerary of events. It makes us feel important, or at the very least, we feel like *at least we're doing something!*

This book came to mind over the last few weeks as in the Gospel readings, Jesus often is either going away to pray, either by Himself or with the disciples. At other places, the demands on the disciples' time and attention were so great that they were worn out – they didn't even have time to eat! Although this well-intended rest gets interrupted by the crowds that track and follow along, as soon as He can, Jesus again retreats for solitude and prayer.

Ahem...perhaps I need to put some of this into place, myself.

Let me borrow a question from Peterson: If no one asked you to do anything, if your calendar was suddenly wiped clean (with no risk of reprimand), if you could get rid of your busy-ness, what would do? Take a few minutes and reflect. I realize that such a thing is nearly impossible. It's an exercise to demonstrate that it is possible to make time for things that are important.

Since I'm already borrowing from Peterson, allow me to borrow again and share three things to make time for each day: Rest, Prayer and Listening.

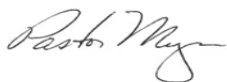
1. Rest. Rest in the arms of Jesus. He says "Come to me all who are weary and heavy laden and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28). Find a quiet place, open your Bible and rest in His Word and His promises for you. If you are more of a listener than reader, there are plenty of free apps and websites that can be used to hear the Word.
2. Pray. While the entire Christian life is one of prayer, this is deliberate, focused prayer that is grounded in the Scriptures. Taking what you have just read or heard, reflect that back to God in prayer. In what you just read, what leads you to adore God, or confess your sins, or give thanks, or express a need? Then, include special, "situational" prayers.
3. Listen. Having listened to God in His Word, now practice listening also to others. Listening is in short supply these days. People aren't used to being listened to. Stop, and with complete seriousness and importance toward the other person, listen to what is being said and what is not said. I like Peterson's statement – "How many people have you listened to in Christ this week?"

Sounds so easy to do...but we all know how difficult it is. Let me offer a final suggestion to help you with these three goals. Actually, it's probably something you already use to a greater or lesser degree. Use your calendar (or calendar app) and set time for these things – especially resting in the Word and praying the Word. Start with twenty minutes – fifteen for reading and five for prayer – a day. Do it when you're freshest and most at peace – for some, this will be morning; for others, the evening – and find a place where you won't be disturbed. Leave the cell phone in another room. Turn off the TV. The world will not stop turning if you "tune out" for twenty minutes. Don't be surprised if you find yourself stretching that time to 30 minutes or more as you look forward to this time each day!

These things are all possible when you're not busy. When the calendar is crowded, we can't rest. When our minds are cluttered, we can't focus in prayer. When we're zeroed in on our own needs, we can't listen. Our god becomes our busy-ness and God's voice gets lost in the noise.

So, set aside the busy-ness and make time to "Go away by yourself to a desolate place and rest a while," (Mk. 6:31) – even if it is the back porch in the evening or the living room early in the morning. In doing so, your Lord delivers His gifts to you in the pages of Holy Scripture, and you hear His voice speaking to you.

Peace & joy,



Pastor Meyer



LWML
Lutheran Women in Mission

CIRCLE MEETINGS

Chancel Circle

Meets at 6:00 PM on Monday, September 14th

1701 Mimosa

Community Service Circle

Meets at 7:00 PM, on Tuesday, September 1st

2018 Lantern Lane

Service Circle

Meets at 1:00 PM on Wednesday, September 2nd

Church Basement

Visiting Circle

Meets at 12:30 PM on Wednesday, September 2nd

Room #108

All are warmly invited to attend any of our circle meetings. The next General Meeting is Monday, October 26, 2026 at 6:00 PM in church basement



Through **January 2027**, the LWML will be collecting new or gently used shoes. The donation box will be in the narthex for your convenience. Please tie the pair together if the shoes have ties. If not a shoe with ties, bind the shoes together with string or a rubber band.

We cannot accept ice skates or roller blades.

Coming in October:

- ◇ LWML Sunday
- ◇ Fall Fest
- ◇ General Meeting
- ◇ Mite Month



Chancel Circle

welcomes the gift of flowers

Living flowers and plants are a beautiful way to honor our Lord and enrich our time together in worship.

If you feel called to place flowers on the altar, we would be delighted to hear from you. Please contact the church office at

(580) 234-6646



Thank you for helping us recycle HP and Canon ink cartridges! Please save your original box to pack the used cartridges OR use a Ziplock bag. Also, we continue to collect the special Commemorative postage stamps. For a complete list of items to collect, go to **www.oklwml.org**





FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT

"WHITE WOLVES: A CRY IN THE WILD II"

is the movie for Family movie night on **Sunday September 27** in the **church basement**.

On a wilderness trip, a troubled teenager finds himself at odds with a group of affluent teens. When one of them unjustly accuses him of stealing her food, he isolates himself even further from the group. But after their leader is seriously injured, to save his life and survive, they must all pull together. Join us at **5:00 pm** for a free evening of

popcorn and good family films, suitable for the whole family.



Balance & Strength



Meet in the Music Room every
Tuesday & Thursday at 11:00 AM



Children's Ministry

Meets **Wednesday**
September 16th at 12:30



Men's Breakfast &
Bible Study

Meet's every **Friday**
7:00 AM at
Boomerang Diner
721 S. Oakwood Rd.



Pinochle Group
meets the **1st and**
3rd Tuesdays of
each month at
1:00PM

3005 Forrestridge



Dominoes Group
meets the **1st and**
3rd Mondays of
each month at
9:45AM

3005 Forrestridge Pl



Ladies Bible Study

Wednesdays, 9:30AM or 6:30PM
Begins August 26th, 2026
St. Paul's Library
Questions? Contact Adola Stocker
at (210) 385-1272

ATTENTION

Ladie's Bible Study is canceled
on **Wednesday September 2nd**
and will resume the following
Wednesday.

SAM's Lunch will be
September 30 at 12:30
at Linda Ragoss'
2121 Wilshire Drive



School News

DINE OUT



WHEN: THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17TH

10:30AM-8:00PM

WHERE: TACO BANDITO

MENTION ST. PAUL'S



CHEROKEE STRIP

9/17 | CELEBRATION

9/19 | PARADE



The St. Paul's Lutheran Church and School Reading Buddy – Mentor Program

The program begins late **September 2026** and will continue through early **April 2027**.

Approximately 20 Reading Buddy sessions during this eight-month period.

Please, prayerfully consider becoming a Reading Buddy / Mentor. A Reading Buddy / Mentor Orientation will be held on **September 16, 2026, at 10:00am or 2:30pm**, or by appointment.

Mentor Application forms can be found in the church office.



SMS—Sunday Morning Special. Oh no, not another abbreviation! As you know the Children's Ministry Team discontinued Sunday School, temporarily I hope, but we don't want to forget about our children. We keep trying to provide opportunities for them to continue to hear the Word of God. For that reason, we have recruited six teams of Bible Study leaders to lead six lessons throughout the year on the 2nd Sunday of every other month starting October 6. This experience will start promptly at 10:15 a.m., immediately after church, and conclude at 11:15 am. These lessons will be a 1-hour VBS experience. And parents, you don't need to drive away and then come back. You can spend an hour with Pastor Meyer in Bible Study in the basement. He presents a great time of discussion on the readings for the day.



NOISY OFFERINGS

The **Stewardship Chairman**, currently **Gerald Nolte**, is now responsible for scheduling the NOISY OFFERINGS. If your group wishes to participate in this MINISTRY, please contact your Stewardship Chairman. Currently the **LWML** has standing months to collect the noisy offerings and will be responsible for collecting these. They are January, April, July and October. Currently, two other scheduled participants are the **Building to the Future**, February, May, August and November and the **Hardship Fund** [memorials for Mrs. Holder], March, June, September and December. The Stewardship Chairman will be responsible for collecting these and giving them to the Finance Committee to enter them in the proper funds. If you would like to schedule a month for the noisy offerings [any month other than the LWML months] contact the Stewardship Chairman. It will be your responsibility to collect the monies.



We continue to livestream 9:00 AM Worship
at the link below:



<https://stpaulsenid.com/church-media/#LIVESTREAM>



We're happy to announce that the
new church directories are ready!
You can pick up your copy in the
narthex.



Church Office Hours Update

Danielle will be in the office on
Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday from
8:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Wednesday from **7:45 AM - 3:45 PM**

Danielle will be **out** of the office on **Fridays**.

Pastor will be **out** of the office on **Mondays**.



To help ensure your questions and requests reach the right person,
please use the following email addresses:

Annabelle, Business Manager

office@stpaulsenid.com

Danielle, Church Secretary

church@stpaulsenid.com

Rachel, School Secretary

school@stpaulsenid.com



September

Birthdays

2nd- Chad Fox
4th- Lennon Sims
6th- Merlin Decker
7th- Brian Hinrichs
10th- Pat Becker
12th- Hansons Hedges
13th- Rayden Lunday
16th- Joanne Crain
18th- Casey Sims
20th- Chase Courter
21st- Dennis Leavengood
22nd- Ginger Courter
22nd- Leah White

23rd- Vera Bradden
26th- Pat Lemke
27th- Richard Burdick
27th- Bryson Wiederkehr
28th- Laura Meyer
28th- Matthew Reed
28th- Natasha White
28th- Stephen Wiederkehr
29th- Everly Collins
29th- David McHenry
30th- Alison Collums
30th- Maverick Courter
30th- Peggy Luckenbaugh



Anniversaries

7th- Timothy & Ruth Dorsch
9th- Justin & Jennifer Biggers
12th- Gaylan & Teddie Stegeman
15th- Gary & Teresa Parsons
16th- Brian & Maisie Hinrichs
17th- Jack & Lorie Legere
17th- Sonny & Shirleen Otipoby
21st- Rick & Sherri Lunday
23rd- Gerald & Joyce Nolte
28th- Richard & Laura Burdick



September



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Balance & Strength 11:00 AM Pinochle 1:00PM Community Service Circle 7:00 PM	2 Chapel 9:00 Ladies' Bible Study Canceled Visiting Circle 12:30PM Service Circle 1:00PM	3 Balance & Strength 11:00 AM	4 Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 7:00 AM	5
6 Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost Communion	7 LABOR DAY NO SCHOOL Dominoes 9:45AM Finance Board 10:00 AM	8 Balance & Strength 11:00 AM Elder's Meeting 7:00 PM	9 Chapel 9:00 Grandparent's Day Ladies' Bible Study 9:30AM/6:30PM	10 Balance & Strength 11:00 AM	11 Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 7:00 AM	12
13 Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost	14 Finance Board 10:00 AM Chancel Circle 6:00 PM	15 Balance & Strength 11:00 AM Pinochle 1:00PM	16 Chapel 9:00 Ladies' Bible Study 9:30AM/6:30P Children's Ministry 12:30 PM	17 Taco Bandito Dine-Out 10:30 -8:00 Balance & Strength 11:00 AM School Board 5:00 PM Church Council 7:00PM	18 Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 7:00 AM <u>Newsletter Deadline</u> NO SCHOOL	19 Cherokee Strip Parade
20 Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost Communion Voter's Meeting 11:15 AM	21 Dominoes 9:45AM Finance Board 10:00 AM	22 Balance & Strength 11:00 AM	23 Chapel 9:00 Ladies' Bible Study 9:30AM/6:30PM	24 Balance & Strength 11:00 AM	25 Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 7:00 AM	26
27 Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost FAMILY MOVIE	28 Finance Board 10:00 AM	29 Balance & Strength 11:00 AM	30 Chapel 9:00 Ladies' Bible Study 9:30AM/6:30PM SAM Luncheon 12:30 PM			

September Worship Service Duties

DATE	LESSONS	HYMNS	ACOLYTE	LIVESTREAM	SOUND	READERS	ELDER	COMMUNION ASSISTANTS	USHERS	GREETERS	CHILDREN'S SERMON	NURSERY
Sun. Sept. 6, 2026 Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost	Ezekiel 33:7-9 Psalm 32:1-7 Romans 13:1-10 Matthew 18:1-20	902, 655 [851, 606, 610, 576], 920	Paul Dunbar	Zach Wyant	Brian Hinrichs	Layton Heitfeld	Ron Young & Paul Dunbar	Ron Young & Paul Dunbar	G. Breitenkamp, G. Hollrah, R. Mueller, Richard Burdick	Teresa Peyton & Rhonda Fox	Pastor Meyer	Tammi Lieswald
Sun. Sept. 13, 2026 Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost	Genesis 50:15-21 Psalm 103:1-12 Romans 14:1-12 Matthew 18:21-35	814, 706, 537	James Wuerflein	Zach Wyant	Gerald Nolte	Layton Heitfeld	Gene Breitenkamp		Gene Breitenkamp, Gene Hollrah, Ray Mueller	Adda Stocker & Lacie Heitfeld	Stephen Wiederkehr	The Biggers Family
Sun. Sept. 20, 2026 Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost	Isaiah 55:6-9 Psalm 27:1-9 Philippians 1:12- 14, 19-30 Matthew 20:1-16	868, 826 [611, 563, 701, 761], 922	Charles Wyant	Zach Wyant	Gerald Nolte	Layton Heitfeld	Jonathan Becker & Ron Young	Jonathan Becker & Ron Young	Gene Breitenkamp, Bill White, James Wurflein, Richard Burdick	Martha Gabriel & Barbara Kroll	Kathy Wuerflein	Lorie Legere
Sun. Sept. 27, 2026 Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost	Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32 Psalm 25:1-10 Philippians 2:1-4 (5-13) 14-18 Matthew 21:23-27 (28-32)	549, 704, 857	James Wuerflein	Zach Wyant	Layton Heitfeld	Layton Heitfeld	Gene Breitenkamp		Gene Breitenkamp, Jere Courter, Chris Burdick, Chris Bauer	Carla Burdick & Jenny Smithson	Richard Burdick	Veta Wheeler
Sun. Oct. 4, 2026 Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost	Isaiah 5:1-7 Psalm 80:7-19 Philippians 3:4b- 14 Mat- thew 21:33-46	525, 691 [606, 634, 651, 650], 643	Paul Dunbar	Zach Wyant	Brian Hinrichs	TBA	Rick Lunday & Paul Dunbar	Rick Lunday & Paul Dunbar	G. Breitenkamp, G. Hollrah, R. Mueller, Richard Burdick	TBA	Pastor Meyer	TBA

