



# The Pilot

**"JESUS, SAVIOR, PILOT ME  
OVER LIFE'S TEMPESTUOUS SEA ...  
CHART AND COMPASS COME FROM THEE:  
JESUS, SAVIOR, PILOT ME."**

Volume 1, No. 1

June 2015

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## From the Pastor:

Getting to know you. I think I am getting to know many of the members. There may be momentary relapses as the fog clears away but I'm sure we all have days like that.

With a couple months under my belt, I am learning about the way the church works. But I still want to learn how the members think and what is important to them. I have visited a few families and hope to visit everyone by the end of the summer. I will be gone a few weeks in July for my son's wedding back in Minnesota. But other than that, I hope to call and schedule time to visit and get to know you better.

I am also working at getting a database program updated so that we know who all the members are, their birthdays and wedding anniversaries so that we can keep statistics about our congregation. I also want to learn how involved you want to be with congregational activities outside of worship and how you can use your God-given abilities to serve the Lord. As I set up appointments to visit, I will ask you how together we can serve the Lord and reach out to the community and world with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

**Vacation Bible School  
See page 2**

## Inaugural newsletter

We are starting up the newsletter again. It will have a new look and even a title in the masthead. "The Pilot" depicts someone who is guiding and showing the way. With our church's name St. Paul, we are reminded how St. Paul was guided by the Lord in his missionary work. He did much traveling on ships and God was always there for him even when shipwrecked off the coast of Italy on the island of Malta (Acts 28). The hymn writer Edward Hopper wrote the hymn (433 in our hymnal). Edward Hopper was a pastor in New York City at the "Church of the Sea and Land" and wrote this hymn and used it for the anniversary of the Seaman's Friend Society of New York on May 10, 1880. He had written this hymn

for sailors. It certainly reflects the sentiments of St. Paul. This newsletter will serve to guide us in the activities that are going on at St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church. It is important to keep everyone informed about what is happening at our church. It is not a substitute for not attending worship and meetings, but a companion of members to follow the activities that you may not normally take part in. Pastor Strong will be the editor at this time. If you would like to submit articles that pertain to our church, please pass the articles along to him at [pastorstrong@stpaulgj.org](mailto:pastorstrong@stpaulgj.org). May Jesus always be our chart and compass in life and in making decisions.

## Scrip Cards

Scrip cards are an excellent way to give to the building fund. You get the full amount purchased and the company donates a percentage to the church. The standard grocery store cards we keep on hand along with special cards if we know you want them.

An order can be placed for cards on the list, but you must plan ahead. The list is posted on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall.

Currently on hand are the following cards:

- Ace Hardware \$25
- Albertsons \$100 & \$25's
- Applebees \$25
- Del Taco \$10
- Dairy Queen \$10
- Lowes \$100 x2
- Pet Smart \$25
- Safeway \$100 x2
- Sprouts \$25 x2
- Subway \$10
- Walgreens \$100's & \$25's
- Walmart \$100's & \$25's
- Wendy's \$10 x2

Please contact Marie Neuberger on Sundays or call 242-8428 to purchase or order.

## Vacation Bible School



Vacation Bible School will be held on Monday, June 29 through Thursday, July 2 from 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM. The theme is "Making Tracks". The students will learn that Jesus has all the power and helps them physically and spiritually; that God's Word is the

spiritual food they need daily to grow in faith; that people are precious to God; and, that God wants them to tell others about the Savior so that they believe in him and arrive safely home in heaven.

If you would like to help, please contact Pastor Strong. If you would like to donate food snacks, contact Carol Rice.

Invite your children's friends and neighborhood friends to our VBS. Get on the train and go for a ride.

## Stewardship

As you consider ways to support the work of the Lord here at St. Paul and throughout the world through missions, there is always the question of "how much can I help?" And the finance people always ask, "How will we pay the bills?" Money is the medium to accomplish the work of the church. Giving is something that God has given Christians the privilege to carry out. Good stewardship means that you have to weigh what God has given to you as blessings and how to use those blessings. Every person searches their heart to decide how to "give cheerfully" (as St. Paul writes to the Corinthians).

At St. Paul, every member has the opportunity to give. We have even expanded how you can give. Some like to use the offering envelopes. Through these envelopes the finance people can keep a record for you of your giving throughout the year. Some are not concerned about the church keeping track for them so they just put cash into the offering plate.

We are now offering a program called "Simply Giving." It is a way for you to give regularly, even if you are not able to get to church on a particular Sunday. The program allows you to designate your offering to be deducted from your checking or savings account on the time frame you wish and in the amount you wish. This then gets deposited directly into the church's checking account. It save you writing out a check (or forgetting to bring envelope to church) and saves the counting teams time and paperwork.

It uses the same means as if you were paying bills online. It can be good stewardship because it may help you in systematically and regularly giving more consistently.

At anytime you can make changes to the amount or frequency (with about a week's notice). Forms are available at church or if you want one emailed to you or sent to you, contact the office. To make changes, contact our bookkeeper, Carol Rice.

The Pilot is a monthly newsletter of St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church. Articles are to be submitted to the editor by the 10<sup>th</sup> of each month. Pastor Strong serves as editor. The Pilot serves to inform St. Paul members of the events that are taking place in our congregation. Keeping the communication lines open is very important. Your comments are welcomed.

St. Paul Web Page location is [www.stpaulgj.org](http://www.stpaulgj.org). You may e-mail at [pastorstrong@stpaulgj.org](mailto:pastorstrong@stpaulgj.org)

## Evangelism

A big part of my work will be evangelism and outreach. This is an effort that has been identified by the congregational leaders as important for our congregation. We have had a couple of evangelism meetings to determine what our focus is on.

While some feel we “need” younger families with children to boost our membership and attendance, I would say that should not be a singular focus. We live in a city that is fast becoming a place for retirees. Why not focus on them as well? They may be part of the older generation, but they are still breathing and still need the Word.

We can also focus on the college students. Many are here in town just for the years that they are attending college. But they need the Word.

The Preschool is recessing for the next school year. Shall it start up again? There are children who need the Word.

God’s Word is for all ages. We have the Word. We can offer it to any and everyone who will listen. We will neglect no one as we plan our outreach into the community.

Only God knows what the results will be but remember what St. Paul wrote: 1 Corinthians 3:6–7 (NIV) *“I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow.”* <sup>7</sup> *So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow.*

God has assigned our church to plant the seed. We will trust that God will make it grow in some way. Never underestimate the power of God and his Word.

## Preschool Update

While the preschool will be closed this coming school year, we are looking at what we can do to reopen in the fall of 2016. First and foremost we will need a teacher who can be certified by the state of Colorado and Mesa County as well as being a member of the WELS. This is important so that we know that the teacher is firmly committed to the teachings of the Bible and principles of our church. We are looking

into what would be necessary for a member to become certified and able to teach in our preschool. We are also looking at modifying the name of the preschool from “Precious Lambs Christian Preschool” to “St. Paul’s Precious Lambs Preschool.” This will help us to align our name and our congregation to the preschool in our advertising materials. We will also share with members how the focus of using our preschool as a mission goes beyond just future membership to carrying out the “Great Commission” that Jesus gave us. This certainly plays in with Evangelism and reaching souls doesn’t mean just gaining members at St. Paul but gaining souls for heaven.

## Fellowship Hall Expansion/Building Fund

We are in the stage of getting final architectural drawings completed. Once they are done, we can go ahead with our building plans and plan ground breaking. At the Quarterly meeting and open forum on Sunday, July 26, the Council will talk about how we should proceed. You may share your thoughts with any of the councilmen or pastor.

Many have been donating to the building fund in anticipation of the expansion. Please continue to do so. If you haven’t done so yet, you may certainly start. Through the Simply Giving online giving, there is a way of regularly contributing to the building fund.

## Western Slope Circuit Conference

The pastors and congregational delegates to the Synod Convention will be gathering at St. Paul on Monday and Tuesday, June 22-23 to discuss issues that will be coming up at the WELS convention that will convene at the end of July. St. Paul will host with snacks throughout the day and an evening meal on Monday. The Ladies’ Fellowship is organizing the meal. Contact Darlene Almandi if you wish to help.

**ST. PAUL IS A PART OF THE  
WISCONSIN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD.**

[www.wels.net](http://www.wels.net)





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Church Office: 970-243-3626  
Pastor's Cell: 612-709-4772  
Website: [www.stpaulgj.org](http://www.stpaulgj.org)

**Worship Services:**  
Sunday mornings 9:00 AM  
Fellowship: 10:00 AM  
Sunday School: 10:15 AM  
Bible Study: 10:30 AM

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