



The Pilot

St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran

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

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August 2015

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From the Pastor:

I read an article about how all believers are called to share the gospel. It told how everyone has a story or testimony about what God has done in their lives.

Everyone has a story, a testimony about what God has done for him or her. Your story may not come in a book with a yellow cover and a cute little boy on the front, but that doesn't mean it's not as real as our story is. We all have stories of what God has done in our lives, and by sharing that story we can inspire and encourage others who may be stuck in a crisis or heartbreaking part of their story. Combine that truth with what we tell audiences across the country: too often in the church we have a messed-up perception that pastors and missionaries are the only ones with a calling to share the gospel. Yes, God's call to pastors and missionaries is unique, but whether you're a plumber or electrician, hotel maid or restaurant dishwasher, schoolteacher or stay-at-home parent, building janitor or corporate executive, you have a calling too. There is not one person who doesn't have a calling to impact others with God's message of love, grace, and the promise of heaven.

(Continued on page 3) Everyone has a story

Quarterly Voters' meeting/ Open Forum

Our voters and other members of the church were able to meet on July 26 to discuss issues and plans for our congregation. A 3D drawing of the fellowship addition was passed around for people to look at. The practice of having Communion on the 5th Sunday of a month having 5 Sundays was discussed and will continue. Thanksgiving service will be on the Sunday before Thanksgiving with a pie social that day. Services will be on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve but not the following morning.

Preschool and Alternatives

As we look at alternatives, one idea has been brought forth that the Council is

suggesting we try is a weekly program for parents and children.

In keeping with the original intent of the preschool to do outreach and evangelism, this program would accomplish that mission.

The program has been called "Toddler Time" in other churches as it targets families with toddlers. But we would want to expand it to any age children up to kindergarten age. It would be a program that meets once a week for an hour. The parent would attend with the child. Parents come and actively participate with their children in a structured and educational program including the telling of Bible stories, musical activities, crafts, snacks, "Show and Tell" a dearly reading and math activities. Each week a different

Story Time (Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1) **Story Time**

theme is explored through these activities—such as animals, apples, community helpers or the five senses. But it's more than just fun and educational. Hearing the Gospel every week in this way, the seed of faith is sown and nourished.

This program would offer more than just the play-date and “moms clubs” groups in Grand Junction. It would offer families and children the one thing needful, Jesus Christ.

While teaching children the Word of God, the parents would also be involved as they re-read the stories and enjoy the extra support through parental articles that would be sent home for additional faith support.

Through the volunteers in the church, these children and parents would build relationships with church members, the community and most importantly with their Savior.

Cost wise, with volunteers helping out, there would just be the materials and snacks. We could provide those items through the present preschool funds or if parents would like to donate to the cause, they could. The Church Council discussed this program and would like to make it a recommendation at the next Quarterly meeting in October to implement it. The Education Committee can look into it more and explore its implementation if and when it is approved by the voters. It does not have to be licensed and volunteers would be trained to help out with teaching and supervising.

Assisted Living and Care facilities

Members of the Church Council met with the owner of the property to the south of the church along with developers, architects and management personnel of a new facility that is in the plans. A drawing is available for members to look at. The proposed facilities will alter our parking lot and views from the streets. But the members from the Church Council felt that this facility will not hinder our functionality and ability to continue our mission and work.

Their plans are to break ground next spring. We should benefit from the parking availability. We will keep a close watch and be in contact with the developers on this issue.

Sunday School

Our Sunday School fall session will begin on September 13, the Sunday after Labor Day. We would like all of our children in the congregation to participate to learn about events that took place in Bible times. This helps in preparation for Catechism classes where students will be able to focus on Biblical teachings with a background of knowledge of Bible events. Please make every effort to bring your children to Sunday School.

Church Picnic

The church picnic is scheduled for September 13, the same day as Sunday School starts. It will be a potluck meal with the church providing the meat. It is a time to kick off our fall Sunday School and Bible Study time.

Sunday Bible Study

During the summer we are conducting “19 Minute Bible Study” (which always goes over 19 minutes because of the enthusiasm in our discussions). In September we will start a new series on “God’s Got A Plan.” It is based on a series by Pastor Mark Jeske of Time of Grace Ministries. The first part of the series is entitled: “I’m Not Dead Yet.” Many Christians feel obsolete or useless. They think they have nothing to give or that no one really needs them. But God has a plan for each of his children, no matter what age, gender, or level of physical ability. The second part of the series is “Puzzling Paradoxes.” There are things in the Bible that seem to contradict each other. But working through those puzzles will help to see God’s purpose and plans.

What is your mission in life, your value to God, and your value to those around you? Come and find out.

Monday Evening Bible Study

We will start up our Monday Bible Studies on Monday, September 14 from 7 PM to 8 PM. We will be studying the Book of Psalms. Each week we will look at a different Psalm. Each week is a new lesson so if you miss one week you will not be missing a continuation but rather a new study. Each Psalm is unique and provides a lot of insight into God’s thinking. Come and join us to grow in your faith as you hear God speaking to us in psalm or “song”.

The Pilot is a monthly newsletter of St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church. Articles are to be submitted to the editor by the 10th 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. You may e-mail at pastorstrong@stpaulgj.org or church@stpaulgj.org

(Continued from page 1) *Everyone has a story*

Maybe your calling is to influence and encourage coworkers. Maybe it's an after-work calling, like Sonja's, to the children in your church.

Maybe it's to the folks living in nursing homes or assisted living facilities. Or maybe you're homebound and your calling is to pray for those in need.

Discover your own calling through prayer and by considering what you enjoy doing and who you enjoy being with. Then watch for God to open up opportunities for you.

I have shared my story of how I felt God calling me to be a pastor — and I enjoy preaching. But for most folks, having a calling has nothing to do with preaching. And even God's call to preachers isn't solely about preaching.

Instead, a calling means God asks us to live so that we touch others' lives for Him. That's how the most powerful sermons are shared...

Who knows how — or whom — your story, or your life, will impact? You might be leading someone to heaven. There's always room there for more!

Miss a Sunday?

Maybe you are out of town on a Sunday. Or not feeling well enough to attend worship. Or on vacation and not able to attend church. You can still read your Meditations for the day and use prayers out of your Hymnal. And... you can listen to the sermon that you missed! Just go to our website, click on the "Sermon Podcasts" and you will have all the sermons that have been preached previously. Usually the sermons will be posted within a couple of days after being preached. You can listen online or download and listen at your convenience.

You can also click on "Links" at the top of the website and then click on "What about Jesus?" and you will be taken to a website that has many different devotions that can be used while at home. You can even subscribe to get daily devotions from this website.

Miss a Sunday at church? Don't let that stop you from being fed with God's Word. (But don't use this media form as an excuse for not regularly attending worship!)

Church Choir

Do you like to sing in harmony with a Choir? Would you like to help add extra variety to our worship services? We will be starting Choir rehearsals on September 21 at 6 PM. We will have rehearsals every Monday at 6 PM except the first Monday (when the Education Committee meets) of each month. We will work on simple song selections to enhance our worship services. (This schedule is subject to change if the vast majority of volunteers are not able to make it.)

Membership Pictorial Directory

The last photo directory by Lifetouch was in 2011. We have an opportunity to once again participate in a photo directory for our members. Since the last directory there have been changes in membership...

some have gone to other churches and new members have joined.

The dates have been set for October 16 and 17 (a Friday and Saturday).

We can also invite non-members to have their family photos taken and they will receive a complementary 8x10 portrait. Non-member families would not be included in our directory. But what it does is brings non-members into our church building and they can get familiarized with our church and work.

Lifetouch will also be in Grand Junction in the fall for another church photo session and we will be able to schedule so that if any of our members cannot make it to our scheduled dates, perhaps they could schedule the photo shoot at the other church. We will also want to be able to include our shut in members as well as those in the armed forces who cannot be here and others who may be off to college out of town. The

Pictorial directory (Continued on page 5)

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www.wels.net



On Facebook?

You can get to our Facebook page by going to the church website and clicking on the “f” Facebook icon at the top of the web page. Then you can “like” the page and follow us. There will be thoughtful articles that are linked as well as news about St. Paul that can be shared. So become a follower of St. Paul on Facebook.

Outreach brochures and advertising

We have printed up new church brochures that can be shared with friends, relatives, acquaintances and neighbors. Being genuinely concerned about their spiritual welfare, you want to find ways to help them grow in faith in Jesus, our Savior. One way is to invite them to worship with you. You can give them a brochure that tells a little about us and points them to our website for more information.

There is nothing better than to personally invite someone to worship with you to show you really care about their eternal future.

Will they have questions and concerns? Yes! They should. Will you have the answers? You may have answers to many of their questions, but there will always be unanswered inquiries that will have to be researched. Tell them what you know and let them know that you will find answers for them... then consult with the pastor to help you in your endeavor. Concerning the outreach brochures... they will be available in the Fellowship Hall. Take as many as you need. When we run out, we will print more.

You can also take the brochures that are in the clear plastic door hanger bags and distribute in your neighborhood. Just go around and hang on the door knobs. You can also stick them in the newspaper boxes (but not mailboxes... against the law).

How will people learn about our church? They won't if no one tells them. The devil doesn't want you to tell anyone. What do you say to that?

Prayer Shawl Ministry

A “Prayer Shawl Ministry” began as a way to reach out and provide something that would bring comfort, hope and encouragement to others. The original members were also interested in the fellowship opportunity and as a way to learn and teach new skills. A number of our members are “expert” knitters and excellent teachers of crochet. We have provided shawls to individuals who are celebrating a new birth, a wedding, a graduation and other happy occasions. We have provided shawls to those needing comfort at the loss of a loved one or facing a serious illness. Every shawl is prayed over and given with love and wishes for comfort and encouragement. Won't you join us! We welcome new members, new ideas, and

new friends. We meet on Thursday evenings at 7:00 p.m. for about one hour at St. Paul Ev. Lutheran Church.

Stewardship Committee

Our Stewardship Committee will be reactivated shortly. The purpose of the Stewardship Committee is to encourage good stewardship of what God has given us to care for. That includes our time, our abilities, our money and our witness. How do you use what God has given to you? Does all that you do glorify God? The way you handle that which God has entrusted to you show you trust him? Is your love for the Lord shown in how you live your life and use his gifts?

Marriage under assault

This is the title of an article in the August, 2015 Forward in Christ newspaper (in your information box at church) that deals with how churches and pastors will be tested concerning laws that try to make homosexuals feel better about their sinful relationships. Since they want everyone to validate their sinfulness, they expect that churches will roll over and give in to their unbiblical desires to be coupled together in “marriage.”

Our Synod has put together a policy statement which is in the article that is recommended for all congregations to adopt to lessen the chance of litigation should a homosexual couple foist their demands upon the church to perform their sham marriage.

This policy will give a bold and clear statement of our stance on Biblical marriage. Please take the time to read this article. The Church Council is recommending adoption of this policy to be taken up at the next Quarterly Voters' Meeting in October. It would be included as an addendum to our Constitution and Bylaws.

Scrip program

Scrip Card profit now goes toward the building fund. They are ideal for groceries, prescriptions, gifts for family and friends special occasions. On hand are Safeway, Albertsons, Walmart, Walgreens, Sprouts, Lowes, and other miscellaneous cards. A list of available cards is on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall or ask me. Have a Blessed Month.

~ Marie Neuberger

Behind the lines

There is a lot to be done to keep up our worship facilities and grounds. The sanctuary is inviting because we have people that clean it every week. Our fellowship hall likewise has to be cleaned and looks good every week.

Look at our grounds. The grass is nice and green because the sprinkler system is maintained and we have water to keep the grass green. The sprinkler heads are very old and are in the process of being replaced. When one breaks, it has to be fixed.

We don't have grass knee-high because the lawn is cut every week by member volunteers. The lawn mower has wear and tear and needs maintenance and repairs regularly.

Bulletins, newsletters, flyers, brochures and other printed material are printed, folded and stuffed when needed.

It takes work and help to accomplish so much on our campus.

We could try to list the names of all those who help out but at the risk of leaving someone out, say a prayer of thanksgiving to God for those that do help, from the big things to the little things that happen. Our Church Council oversees everything that takes place. Thank them. When you see someone doing something at church, thank them.

And ask God to continue to provide volunteers to maintain our campus. If you have a special skill that could help out our church, please talk to Pastor Strong. As he gets to know the members, he wants to tap into the gifts that God has given to our congregation. What a blessing that can be to all members together!

(Continued from page 3) **Pictorial directory**

goal is to get as many of our members into the directory and help us to foster a Christian family and Christian fellowship and a feeling of Biblical membership.

Catechism Classes

I will be putting together the schedule for the upcoming Catechism class school year. Members of St. Paul in grades 7 and 8 are expected to attend the Catechism classes. We would also invite non-member students as well if there was a desire.

I am planning Wednesday afternoons from 3:30 PM to 4:30 PM.

If you have a son or daughter going into grades 7 or 8, please email to me that information so that I can contact everyone with more details.

~ Pastor Strong



Men's Group Bible Study

Would there be an interest of men of the congregation getting together for a Bible Study? Perhaps once a month getting together for fellowship and Bible Study and possibly even eating breakfast! If you would be interested in something like this, maybe a Saturday morning or early weekday morning or some other time, talk to Pastor Strong. Come up with ideas that we can work with.



St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Address Service Requested

Located on the corner of
26 1/2 Road and Horizon Drive

Church Office: 970-243-3626
Pastor's Cell: 612-709-4772
Website: www.stpaulgj.org
Email: church@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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