



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."**

Volume 1, No. 4

September 2015

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From the Pastor:

Psalm 78:4-7 (NIV) ⁴ *We will not hide them from their descendants; we will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD, his power, and the wonders he has done. ⁵ He decreed statutes for Jacob and established the law in Israel, which he commanded our ancestors to teach their children, ⁶ so the next generation would know them, even the children yet to be born, and they in turn would tell their children. ⁷ Then they would put their trust in God and would not forget his deeds but would keep his commands.*

Handing the church off to the next generation. Think about how things have changed in the last 25 years. What would have happened if you had not adapted to many of those changes? Some would say that those who don't change are living in the dark ages. What are reasons for not making changes? "We've always done it that way." "We don't have to change." "Change won't make it better." "Why change for change sake?" Every reason has some validity to it. In the church we know that there are some things that cannot ever change. One is the Word of God. As much as religions try to change the words and meanings God has given us, we must remain steadfast and not budge an inch in declaring the Bible as God's unchanging Word. Something else that cannot change is the great commission that Jesus gave in Matthew 28 that the church must continue to

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Men's Breakfast Bible Study

We will be providing an opportunity for the men of the congregation to get together to study the Bible and enjoy fellowship over breakfast. The Breakfast Bible study will be hosted once a month on the second Saturday of each month. It will start at 7 AM and go for one hour. It will be a breakfast potluck. You bring your favorite breakfast item to share with whoever comes, i.e. scrambled eggs, pancakes, French toast, crockpot oatmeal, fruit, pastries, etc. We will meet at church in the fellowship hall. Men, come and enjoy a hearty breakfast and hearty Bible study. The first date will be October 10 at 7 AM.

Welcome:

We welcome **Danyelle Wright** and **Carolyn Hercher** as members. We pray that we will be able to serve their spiritual needs

and that they will be blessed among us.

Church Cleaning

The Council has set the date for church cleaning and grounds clean up for Saturday, November 7th. More information will be forthcoming. Put that date down on your calendars to come and help keep our campus beautiful to the glory of God.

Update on fellowship hall building expansion

We have received some of the architectural drawings from our architect. There are still a few drawings that need to be done. The city of Grand Junction has okayed our basic plan. We are looking at the funding needs. A separate letter will be going out to all

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members in a few weeks to explain our financial situation and projected needs along with the rationale of our project.

Monday Evening Bible Study

We have begun our Monday Bible Studies again on Mondays from 7 PM to 8 PM. We are 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 "song".

Church Choir

Choir rehearsals start on Monday, September 21 from 6 to 7 PM. We will work on simple song selections to enhance our worship services. Come and join us to use your singing talents for the glory of God.

Membership Pictorial Directory

We are now in the process of getting members signed up for the pictorial directory.

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

You can sign up online by going to our web page and clicking in the photo picture or link. Or you may stop by church and get signed up as well.

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.

If you are unable to make it for those dates, you may call Lifetouch at 1-866-756-0281 and ask them to provide information on other locations and dates in an area you may be at. Their office will give you all the information you need and will make your appointment for you.

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 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.

If you would be willing to help in the process of making our photo directory, please contact Pastor Strong and he can let you know what help we will need in putting together the final copy of the directory. If you have recent photos of events at church, let him know as well as we will want recent event pictures for the directory activity pages.

Favorite Hymn Sunday

On Sunday November 1, Reformation Sunday, we will celebrate in song with your favorite hymns. You are invited to share with the pastor your favorite hymn. Based on the number of submissions, the top 10 will be used in the worship service. An explanation of the history of the hymn will be presented as well as the singing of the hymn. So please submit your favorite hymn to Pastor Strong by Sunday, October 25. Then come and celebrate the Reformation and our Lutheran heritage of hymn singing.

Next Quarterly Meeting and Open Forum

Put the next date on your calendar... Sunday, October 25 at 10:30 AM. We will be discussing the building expansion, Toddler/Story time, adoption of written marriage policy for our congregation,

"One in Christ"

At the WELS Synod Convention in July, the delegates approved of a synod wide fund drive to help to eliminate the synod's debt. In the early 2000's the debt was at \$22.4 million. We now have it down to \$4.7 million. The goal is to eliminate the debt by June, 30, 2016, two years ahead of schedule. Doing so would put our synod in a better financial position to continue our Christ-given mission of training and sending gospel proclaimers.

If you would like to participate in the special offering, you

may use the special brochure in this newsletter. This



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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

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preach and teach the Word and lead persons to faith in Jesus Christ as the only way to get to heaven. This is the message we are to hand off to the next generation. But how we do it can change. Some grew up with the King James Version of the Bible. The flowery language became difficult to understand for later generations because of words not in use in every day English. So other translations were produced. The translation we use in worship services is the New International Version. It had some minor changes from the 1984 version to the 2011 version. But it still conveys the Word.

Change in our hymnals took place from the 1941 hymnal to the present hymnal produced around 1993. Another hymnal is in the working for down the road. Technology has changed. Computers and copy machines have made the way we access information different from 50 years ago.

There will be more changes as years pass. Still, what has not changed is our preaching and teaching the truths of God's Word.

Once in awhile you may be against change because it is different and outside your comfort zone. But then, when the change happens, you find that it wasn't that bad at all! How many times has that happened?

Handing off the church to the next generation. Can we do so without changing the integrity of God's Word? The means we employ, the songs we sing, the form of worship we use... will invariably change over the years.

While one may say, "I don't want to change", one must also accept the fact that change may be good and necessary.

How our church reaches out to the community and still provides meaningful worship and teaching can change. But may we be sure we don't change the Word of God as we hand off the work of the church to future generations.

Stewardship Committee

Our Stewardship Committee will be reactivated shortly. Mr. Phil Wiechman will be the chairman and will be seeking out other committee members. 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?

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special offering ought to be "above and beyond" your regular offerings to our congregation.

Evangelism/Outreach efforts

As our Evangelism Committee looks at ways to reach out to our community, we have considered proposals that are in motion at this time. The Pictorial Directory sessions opened up to the community is one way.

Another is the program of "Toddler Time/Story Time" that will be voted on at the Quarterly Voters' meeting.

What are other ways we can "advertise?" Pastor has found an online apparel store where we can purchase polo shirts, t-shirts, sweatshirts, jackets and caps with our church's logo embroidered on them. The apparel is reasonably priced and they have almost daily deals to reduce costs. Pastor will have a sample polo shirt

on display at church. We will be putting together an order form for anyone who would like to advertise our church through clothing.

We will also be planning a "Christmas for Kids" day on Saturday, December 19, giving parents time to do shopping without the children in tow. It will be a one day VBS format.

"My Son, My Savior"

This is the theme of the latest Evangelism video that the WELS is putting out. It follows after the "Come, Follow Me" and the "Road to Emmaus" videos produced in the past. The date for distribution will be early October. We will have copies available for outreach efforts. More information will be available in early October.

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

www.wels.net



Church Directory



Photograph Sign-Up

Our Church Photography Dates:

Friday - October 16, 2:00 PM—8:50 PM

Saturday - October 17, 10 AM—4:30 PM

HOW DO I SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT?

You can sign up 2 ways:

- 1) After church service on Sundays
- 2) There is a scheduling link on our website: www.stpaulgj.org

YOU SHOULD TAKE THIS PERSONALLY!

Lifetouch encourages you to bring something that says who you are to your portrait session. Perhaps a hat.. pin.. scarf.. musical instrument.. Bible.. sports gear.. whatever it is that's important to you!

Lifetouch also does generational photography. It's a great opportunity to get all the family together for one big portrait! Capture the memories for a lifetime!

There is no sitting fee - just for participating, you will receive a complimentary 8"x10" portrait and a free church directory! And... Lifetouch has promised us that there will be no pressure to order additional portraits!



We Need Photos!!

If you have photos of any church activities/events from the last few years - please drop them off at the office. We may use them for the activity pages at the beginning of our new directory.

We can't promise to return them, so be sure to keep a copy!

Don't Forget...To Bring Your Pet!

Do you have a special little furry friend at home? We want to encourage you to bring him/her with you for your portrait session!

HELP US MAKE THIS DIRECTORY COMPLETE! IT WON'T BE THE SAME WITHOUT YOU!

**We want to make this a complete representation of our church family -
PLEASE be a part of it!**

Time to Plan for the Fair!

Ah autumn crisp, cool air and falling leaves! Does this put you in the mood to bake some pies and cookies or do some more canning? Have you been itching to try a craft idea you saw in a magazine? Is your supply of books dwindling?

Well ... this means that you are now ready to consider what you will donate to the Ladies' Fellowship Craft, Bake, and Book Fair. We have some wonderful bakers at St. Paul and it is always difficult to decide which item looks the tastiest.

With Thanksgiving and Christmas on the way, craft projects may be purchased for gifts or you may find something you just cannot live without. Our members are avid readers, so the gently used book sale is a great way to easily increase home libraries. The Fair will take place **Sunday, November 8th**, and it



promises to have something for everyone! Please note/remember the date and begin planning your contributions!

Ladies' Fellowship

It's fall already and that means that it's time for Ladies' Fellowship to resume its monthly luncheon meetings. Each meeting includes a Bible study on the women in the Bible, a business meeting (which includes mission work opportunities, planning events (the bake, craft, and book fair is coming up the beginning of November), ways to help the congregation and its outreach). Each meeting includes lots of laughs and just a good time. The meetings are held the 3rd Saturday of each month (this coming Saturday will be the next one). The meeting begins at 11 AM and the potluck lunch follows at noon. This is a great time to sample and exchange recipes!

Article from "What About Jesus?" daily devotional

"Do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." **Matthew 6:31-33**

True Contentment

"If only I had _____, then I'd be content." No matter how we might choose to fill in that blank—better health, a better job, a bigger house, more money, more friends—this statement is a lie. It's a lie that the devil daily tries to get us to believe, because buried in this statement is an attitude that accuses God: "God, do you not have enough power to meet all my needs? Or maybe you just don't know what it is that I need? Or is it that you don't love me enough to provide?" When the devil gets us to believe those lies, he quickly chimes in, "Can you really trust a God like that, whose power and knowledge and love for you might all have limits?" There is only one thing that can successfully combat these lies of Satan, and that is the truth of God's Word. For God's Word reveals the truth that God is, indeed, limited by

nothing. He is the All-Powerful Creator of all things, the All-Knowing Ruler of all things, and the Ever-Loving Giver of all things. God's Word also shows us how God demonstrated those characteristics most meaningfully. He gave us the gift of his Son, who entered our world to show us the ultimate display of his power and love by taking care of our greatest need, the forgiveness of our sins. Through his perfect life and innocent death on Calvary's cross, Jesus did just that. So heed your Savior's call today, "Seek first his kingdom and his righteousness." Through regular and faithful meditation on God's Word, remind yourself of who God truly is and what he has done for you in Christ. Such a pursuit will center your life on Christ and, along with it, will lead you to true contentment. For true contentment is based, not on what you might have or not have, but in knowing that the All-Powerful, All-Knowing, Ever-Loving God has already saved you from your sins and has promised to meet all of your other needs as well.

What a joy it is to know that, in Christ, we have no blanks in life left to fill in. Instead, the Spirit of God leads us to say, "Hearing God and knowing his promises, I am content.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, I have many needs. You know them all, and you promise to take care of them. Grant



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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