



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. 6

November 2015

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From the Pastor:

"Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment, so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people."

Hebrews 9:27-28

(From WELS DAILY DEVOTION – NOVEMBER 10, 2015)

A man by the name of William Saroyan was known for a couple things.

For one, William Saroyan was a great American writer during the 20th Century. During his career in writing, he received both the Pulitzer Prize and the Academy Award. For another, William Saroyan was known for his extreme zeal for life. He once said, "Try to learn to breathe deeply, really to taste food when you eat, and when you sleep really to sleep. Try as much as possible to be wholly alive with all your might . . . You will be dead soon enough."

On one level his advice makes sense: Life is short. Death is coming. Savor the time you have.

When you study his later years, however, it appears that William Saroyan took this to mean that living life is a frantic race against time. As he grew older, he isolated himself in his own home so he could get more words down on paper. He drank gallons of coffee and

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Advent Services

Our Advent Services will start on Wednesday, December 2 at 7 PM and will continue on December 9 and 16. The theme of our Advent services this year is:

"Christ's Offices Foretold." The Old Testament foretold of

the work of the Messiah as a Prophet, Priest and King. Our sermons will expand on those offices.

We will also have a soup supper that will begin at 6 PM. A sign up sheet will be put out for you do donate soup and bread for the meals. Come and join us as we prepare our hearts for the celebration of the birthday of Jesus!

Preparing for Christmas



Prayer Chain

Would you like to keep our members and friends in your prayers when they are in need of prayers? If you have email, you can be added to the emailing list. Just let Pastor Strong know. (If you are on the list now, you have been receiving emails through "Mail Chimp" email services.) If you don't have email, please contact Pastor Strong and he will make sure that you are contacted when a prayer request goes out. Ephesians 6:18 (NIV)¹⁸ *And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.*

Maybe you would like to pray for our members on a daily basis... a family or two each day. There is a "Member Prayer List" that you can take home listing all the names of the members of our church.

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often worked for up to two days without sleep. And when he did sleep, it was on an army cot next to his typewriter.

One day relatives found him unconscious. They rushed him to a hospital. Within a short time, William Saroyan was dead.

On the one hand, you and I want to do exactly what William Saroyan advised. During our days on this earth we want to try as much as possible “to breathe deeply,” to taste life fully.

For us as Christians, however, there’s a difference. We savor this life not because this life is all we have. Rather, we savor this life because Jesus Christ has made it sweet.

In spite of difficulties, in spite of disappointments, this life is sweet because full forgiveness through faith in Jesus has made it so. In spite of troubles, in spite of pain, this life is sweet because God, in Christ, is using us to touch the lives of others. In spite of tragedy, illness, old age and death, this life is sweet because Jesus has turned the end of this life into the door to life eternal.

This means that, because of Jesus, you and I can savor the life he has given us, and know that the best is yet to come.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, you washed me clean in your blood and covered me in your perfection. Through faith in you my life is sweet. Move me to savor this life as I await the life to come. Amen.

(This and other devotions are available online at: WhatAboutJesus.com. You can subscribe and get devotions brought to your inbox on a daily basis. You can also subscribe to daily devotions at this website. And there is a wealth of other materials to be found there.)

Thanksgiving Worship and Pie Social

On Sunday, November 22 we will celebrate Thanksgiving in our regular 9 AM worship service. Join us as we give thanks to God and consider what we do the other 364 days of the year.

Along with the service, we will have our annual pie social. Bring a pie and share with everyone else. Get a taste of someone else’s creation. Sounds yummy!

Building Addition update

The architect is finishing up the drawings for the fellowship hall addition. As soon as that is done we can seek bids on the project. While the initial estimate was at \$250,000, many feel that that may be overstated. It may come in at a substantially lower cost. That would certainly help as we go forward with the project. More information will be shared as we begin the bidding process. This calendar year we have received \$20,424 from member donations so far. As the end of the year comes, you may wish to consider how the Lord has blessed you throughout the year and make a donation either to the building fund or to our general fund (which is about \$6,426 behind budget).

Christmas for Kids

On Saturday, December 19, we will be holding a one day Vacation Bible School type event called “Christmas for Kids.” It will be held from 1 PM to 4 PM. We will invite the community to drop off their children ages 3 through 5th Grade. Then the parents can do their last minute shopping without the help of their children.

Christmas for Kids (Continued on page 3)

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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We will be looking for volunteers to help out. Contact Pastor Strong if you would like to help in some capacity.

Christmas Eve Service

Our Christmas Eve worship service will be held at 7 PM. The service will be called "Repeat the Sounding Joy." It will take us back to the favorite Christmas hymns and songs that many grew up with. The children of the congregation along with the Choir will once again tell of the birth of Jesus in song and Scripture. We look forward to having as many of the children of the congregation as possible taking part in this yearly event as we repeat the joyous message that God has given to us.

New sign board on our outdoor sign

You will notice that we have replaced the preschool signage with a bright new panel that has the WELS logo and St. Paul's website on it. We hope that people driving by will be able to visit our website and also learn of the connection between us and our Synod.

My Son, My Savior

This evangelism DVD is now available for you to share with family, friends and neighbors who may not know Jesus. From the perspective of Jesus' mother Mary the video takes us through the life of Jesus in a way that helps one to learn of the "human-ness" of

Jesus. If you didn't see the video when it was presented in church, pick one up on your way out of worship next Sunday.

What Have You Done?

Letter from the WELS Kingdom Workers:

You have done a lot. You taught Bible stories to children at vacation Bible school, soccer camps and preschools in America. You delivered clean water to families who had no access in Asia, and spiritual water to thirsty souls on the Apache Reservation. You brought the Gospel as well acceptance to people with disabilities who had been ignored in Africa. You provided blankets and shelter to families who had lost theirs. People in nine countries were served by you this year.

- 2,289 Kingdom Worker Volunteers in 2015 so far
- 1,835 supporters funding \$1,600,000 of ministry work 2015 so far
- 27,550+ people served in communities around the globe so far
- 26,500+ Square Footage built this year

In this Update, as well Kingdom Workers social media channels and emails, you are seeing the outcomes of your work, your prayers and your gifts. Please accept my gratitude for your zeal for the mission our Lord gives us and the actions you take to fulfill this mission.

Thank you!

~ Bill Meier, Executive Director

**Live in such a way that
if anyone should speak
badly of you... no one
would believe it.**

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

www.wels.net



WELS
Christ's Love, Our Calling.



St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church

632 26 1/2 Road
Grand Junction CO 81506-1932

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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