



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. 10

March 2016

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From the Pastor:

Ephesians 4:32 (NIV) ³² *Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.*

When someone causes us to have to leave our comfort zone, it can be difficult. If you aren't used to talking to strangers, it isn't easy when guests come to our worship service. But just as you would want to be made to feel comfortable in strange surroundings, so are those who worship with us for the first time. I ran across this article that has some merit to it. Think about how you can make a guest at our worship service feel more comfortable and more apt to return.

Seven Things Church Members Should Say to Guests in a Worship Service

~ Thom Ranier (May 20, 2015)

1. "Thank you for being here." It's just that basic. I have heard from numerous church guests who returned because they were simply told "thank you."
2. "Let me help you with that." If you see someone struggling with umbrellas, young children, diaper bags, purses, and other items, a gesture to hold something for them is a

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Holy Week/Easter

Next week is Holy Week. On Maundy Thursday our worship service will be at 7:00 PM with the celebration of Holy Communion. On Friday we will celebrate our Good Friday service at 7:00 PM. Then on Easter Sunday we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and Savior. Once again we will have a sunrise service at Devil's Kitchen on the National Monument. It will begin about 6:30 AM. The sun should start peeking over the mountains around that time. It was beautiful last year! Bring warm clothes as the early morning temperatures are still quite low. You may want to bring a lawn chair along (or you can sit on the picnic table benches... or just stand). Flashlights might be useful as well as the start of the service may still be in the darkness.

Easter Breakfast will be potluck. Bring a dish of food to share. Any type of breakfast item will be welcomed and enjoyed. The

breakfast will be at 8:00 AM. Then the festival service will be held at 9:00 AM. Come and join us as we celebrate the resurrection of our dear Lord and Savior, Jesus.

Quarterly Voters' Meeting and Open Forum

Our next congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, April 10 at 10:30 AM. We will bring members up to date on council business as well as what is happening with the fellowship hall addition plans. Come and hear what is happening.

Planned Giving Sunday

Pastor Michael Dietz, the planned giving counselor from the WELS will preach and present information on estate planning and innovative ways to plan for giving to your

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huge positive. Of course, this comment is appropriate for member to member as well.

3. "Please take my seat." I actually heard that comment twice in a church where I was speaking in the Nashville area. The first comment came from a member to a young family of five who were trying to find a place to sit together.

4. "Here is my email address. Please let me know if I can help in any way." Of course, this comment must be used with discretion, but it can be a hugely positive message to a guest.

5. "Can I show you where you need to go?" Even in smaller churches, guests will not know where to find the nursery, restrooms, and small group meeting areas. You can usually tell when a guest does not know where he or she is to go.

6. "Let me introduce you to _____." The return rate of guests is always higher if they meet other people. A church member may have the opportunity to introduce the guest to the pastor, other church staff, and other members of the church.

7. "Would you join us for lunch?" I saved this question for last for two reasons. First, the situation must obviously be appropriate before you offer the invitation. Second, I have seen this approach have the highest guest return rate of any one factor. What if your church members sought to invite different guests 6 to 12 times a year? The burden would not be great; but the impact would be huge.

Building Addition update

The drawings are done! The bids are in. The Council has reviewed the bids and are in the process of determining which bids to further pursue. We will

also have some soils samples extracted to help determine what type of footings we will need for the foundation and floor. That can make a difference of a few thousand dollars, depending on the results.

Pray for our mission churches and missionaries

Remember to Pray for Pastors Daniel S. Olson , Timothy C. Bourman, and the Sure Foundation congregation.

The first WELS missionaries were sent to New York City in 2000. Since then, Sure Foundation Lutheran Church has had the unique opportunity to be a world mission field at home. NYC is a melting pot of diverse culture and ethnicity. Our congregation is no different—membership represents 16 different nationalities. Despite our differences, we have been blessed to see how the message of the gospel breaks down cultural and linguistic barriers and unites us in Christ.

We hold worship services in two languages, English and Spanish. We have a number of aggressive outreach events. Some of our favorite programs and events include English as a Second Language, Art in the Park, Street Festivals, Soccer Camp, Labor Day Retreat, and Advent by Candlelight. There are even more! We do all of this outreach with thought and prayer that we will meet one or two families who want and need to hear the gospel. We thank God that we have the opportunity to be on the front lines of evangelism where we can see people's lives being changed through Jesus. Pray that God continues to bless our efforts in the future.

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church or synod or charities in a way that will maximize the gifts that God has given to you. He will be coming on Sunday, April 17th. Then on April 24th, Mr. Carl Leibener will follow up with more information on estate planning. God wants us to be good stewards of the possessions he gives to us. These men can provide valuable information that you may not have thought of before.

Member Survey

The Stewardship Committee is working on putting together a long range plan for our church. To help facilitate this, you are asked to fill out a survey. It can be done by paper or on the internet. A separate page in this newsletter contains the information. Please take the time to share your thoughts with us.

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

St. Paul Member Survey

This survey is also available online at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DJDY5HK>.

Use whichever is convenient for you. We would like to survey all of our members young and old. Please share with your family members.

In all of your responses to the questions posed below, please give prayerful consideration to your comments and please share your comments with a Christian Spirit in mind.

⇒ List three things which you believe are STRENGTHS of our congregation.

⇒ List two or three things which you believe our congregation can improve upon.

⇒ What opportunities does our congregation have for reaching out to the people of our community?

⇒ What obstacles are there which stand in the way of our reaching out with the gospel and growing?

Please check following categories:

Under 15 15-25 26-35 36-45 46-55 56-65 66-75 Over 75

Male Female

We wish to express our appreciation for the time, thoughtfulness and prayerful consideration you have given to these questions. Please return the form at church. You can give to ushers or put in offering plates.

Address Service Requested

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



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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our website access

Want this in digital format rather than having it printed or mailed to you?
Drop a note off to the pastor and you will be notified each month when the
newsletter is ready and you can read it online.