



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 2, No. 1-2

June/July 2016

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From the Pastor:

Genesis 6:5 (NIV) ⁵ *The LORD saw how great the wickedness of the human race had become on the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only evil all the time.*

Matters of the heart and the heart that matters. In the wake of the Orlando shooting, a pastor recently posted a blog on the internet that stated that it wasn't a heart problem but a gun problem. I thought it kind of odd that this person took the stance that those that kill do not do so because their heart is not right with God. He went on to explain that since guns and bullets are so readily available, that is the problem. His observation is that everyone has problems of the heart and not everyone is murdering others. Interesting enough, back in October, 2015 Chuck Norris wrote an article titled: "It's a heart problem, not a gun problem."

We hear arguments on both sides of the aisle. "If we take away guns from law abiding citizens, then only criminals will have guns." "If we keep guns off the street then we will *Heart or guns?* (Continued on page 2)

June and July news

This issue of the newsletter will cover June and July since the pastor will be on vacation in July. Enjoy your time with family and friends. But don't forget the Lord. Take Jesus with you wherever you go. (A Bible and Hymnal doesn't take up much room in the suitcase!)

Special WELS Synodical offering

Last month we had an article telling about the effort of our Synod to eliminate its debt. The council has designated Sunday, July 10th as WELS Debt Retirement Sunday. Our synod has been soliciting funds to pay off their debt of \$4.7 million since a year ago in July. Through special donations and generosity the debt has been reduced to about \$800,000! Being debt free means more dollars available for reaching out with the Gospel to the world. Our congregation will take up a special offering on the 10th to help eliminate the debt. Some may have already sent in donations directly to the

Synod. But for others, this will be an opportunity to help as God has blessed you.

Summer Bible Study

We will be putting our Bible studies on Sunday on hold during the month of July since the pastor will be gone most of the weeks.

Holy Communion for July

Since Pastor Strong will be gone on the 17th (third Sunday of the month when we have communion), we will move Holy Communion to the following Sunday, July 24 when we have a guest pastor conducting services. Please note that on your calendar as it has changed since the July calendar was printed. The online calendar has the correct update.

Congregational Meeting

Our next quarterly congregational meeting and open forum will be on Sunday, July 31

Congregational meeting (Continued on page 3)

all be safer.” “Guns are inanimate objects. They only fire when someone pulls the trigger.” “If a person didn’t have a gun, they would just use some other means to hurt or murder someone.” “We need more gun regulation and that will minimize the chances of mass murder.”

Whatever side you are on, you cannot deny the fact that it all stems from the heart.

Think about these additional verses:

Psalm 73:7 (NIV) ⁷ *From their callous hearts comes iniquity; their evil imaginations have no limits.*

Ecclesiastes 9:3 (NIV) ³ *This is the evil in everything that happens under the sun: The same destiny overtakes all. The hearts of people, moreover, are full of evil and there is madness in their hearts while they live, and afterward they join the dead.*

Matthew 15:19 (NIV) ¹⁹ *For out of the heart come evil thoughts—murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander.*

Jeremiah 17:9 (NIV) ⁹ *The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?*

So indeed, God says that gun violence is a heart matter as is every other evil.

I liked what Chuck Norris wrote: “Gun violence occurs for the same reason that every other act of violence occurs: because human nature is bent to wrongdoing and evil, and when provided the right – or wrong – circumstances, human tragedy often ensues.”

It started with Cain murdering Abel. And it hasn’t stopped. Nor will it. What we must do is continue to change hearts with the Word of God. Show Godly love in your life, set an example for your children and Grandchildren and pray that the Word will not be hindered from being shared with the world. And most of all, support the preaching and teaching of the Word. Since that is what changes hearts, that is what is necessary for the world. Tell others about Jesus. Even if they don’t want to hear it, tell them anyways. Maybe the Holy Spirit will soften their hearts and bring them around to faith.

Church Secretary/Office manager update

Thank you to Danyelle Wright for her service this past year. Due to health concerns she will be resigning as our office manager. Carol Rice and Kathy Strong will share the duties here on out.

Just a update on Scrip Cards

As of June the profit is \$217.18 for the building fund. Thank you to all who purchase scrip cards. Remember these are just like gift cards you purchase in any store but through Scrip the church receives a

rebate.

On hand cards are Walgreens, Walmart, Safeway, Albertsons, Pet Smart and some odds & ends. A list of local scrip card participants is posted on bulletin board in fellowship hall.

You can always contact Marie Neuberger on Sundays or call her any day if you have questions.

Vacation Bible School

Thanks to all who helped out with Vacation Bible School: Halley Hathaway, Zoe Beall, Alan Amdahl, Miriam Grafe, Carol Rice, Marie Neuberger, and Diana Bargsten. Also, thanks to Tom and Val Tessman for the use of their rowboat.

We had 8 participants (4 members and 4 from the community). All had fun.



(Picture provided by Maureen Worland)

(Continued from page 1) Congregational meeting

after the worship service. We will hear about the business of the church and God-willing be able to see progress on our building addition.

Building addition update

We have selected Skelton Construction out of Grand Junction to be our contractor for our addition. As soon as we get the plans approved by the city, we will be able to get started.

Ground breaking ceremony was held on Sunday, July 3 after the worship service.

Thoughts from a WELS District Convention

I was given the opportunity to attend the 50th convention of the WELS Nebraska District in Waco, Nebraska on June 6th, 7th, and 8th. The convention began with an opening service on Monday evening at Bethel Lutheran Church in Kork, NE.

Almost from the beginning I was overwhelmed with God-sent emotion. Have you ever heard over 200 pastors, teachers and lay people singing simultaneously at the top of their lungs? Literally my breath had been taken away and I could not sing. I could only listen with a profound tingling going up and down my spine.

If ever I have been filled with the Holy Spirit... it was then. The sermon was given by our WELS Synod president, Rev. Mark Schroeder based on Joshua chapter 4.

Our day on Tuesday began at 7 AM, when we traveled from York to Waco and to the Nebraska Evangelical Lutheran High School where our meetings were held.

We heard various committee reports about activities that are going on in our Synod at large as well as things happening in our district (churches in Kansas, Nebraska, South Dakota, Wyoming, Colorado, Utah and New Mexico). Dr. Wade Johnston, professor of Theology at Wisconsin Lutheran College, Milwaukee WI presented a paper entitled: "Lutheranism's First Identity Crisis: The Struggle to Preserve Luther's Uncompromising Gospel and Lessons for Today."

The following excerpt is, among many, an outstanding example of Luther's thoughts and our beliefs as Lutherans: "The law says 'do this' and it is never done. Grace says, 'believe in this' and everything is already done."

In the interest of keeping this report short and concise, over those two and a half days, I was overwhelmed, inspired, humbled, and grateful to have had this opportunity to attend as a lay delegate from St. Paul Lutheran of Grand Junction. Thank you for the opportunity.

~ Bob Grafe.

(Want to know more about what happened at the convention? Talk to Bob and he would be glad to tell you.)

Pray for our mission churches and missionaries

Remember to Pray for... Malawi may be a country most Americans have never heard of, but within its borders lives something every WELS member should know about. Malawi is home to the largest synod in the world which had its beginning as a WELS mission, the Lutheran Church of Central Africa-Malawi Synod (LCCA-M). Five vicars graduated from the seminary in 2014. Between them, they serve 22 congregations. But even when these vicars are ordained as pastors, we will have over 60 vacancies in the LCCA-M. We are praying that the 10 men in the current seminary class will all graduate in another two years for full time ministry. How marvelous it is to see the house of God being built up! With trained pastors, it will be built squarely on the foundation of God's testimony. Jesus Christ will be the cornerstone to whom all look for forgiveness and salvation. But we need more workers. And we need congregations who are willing to commit to pay their pastor as they ought. Peter Martin, former missionary to Malawi.

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



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

- ✓ [Communion date changed, page 1](#)
- ✓ [Guns or hearts? page 1](#)
- ✓ [Thoughts on a District Convention, page 3](#)



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