



# 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. 5

October, 2016

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## From the Pastor:

From WELS Daily Devotions Online, October 5, 2016

*"How long, O LORD, must I call for help, but you do not listen? Or cry out to you, "Violence!" but you do not save? Why do you make me look at injustice? Why do you tolerate wrong? Destruction and violence are before me; there is strife, and conflict abounds." Habakkuk 1:2-3*

## Justice in Due Time

Was God's prophet preaching this 2,500 years ago or just last week? When Habakkuk looked out his front window, he saw violence and injustice. The bad guys just did whatever they wanted to. All of Habakkuk's neighbors seemed OK with injustice and violence. They took advantage of evil to advance their own cause without any concern for the people getting hurt. Habakkuk could not understand how God allowed all this wrong to happen. Wasn't he a just God? Wasn't he a loving God? Habakkuk prayed and prayed

*Justice in due time (Continued on page 2)*

## Wednesday Bible Study

We will be continuing on the theme of Martin Luther as we delve into the history of the man. Following the Interactive Faith online Bible study, we will view a series on Martin Luther. Join us for some very informative insights on the man.

## Craft, Bake and Used Book Fair

The Craft, Bake & Used Book Fair will be held before and after the worship service on Sunday, November 6th. An early announcement will hopefully encourage people to begin working on craft items, can their specialty items, and choose their favorite recipes for tasty bakery.

## Fall Quarterly Voters' Meeting and Open Forum notes:

Some of the items discussed at the voters' meeting included an update on the building addition. As everyone can see, it is coming

along nicely. Skelton Construction's Robert Ras has worked hard to keep on task and has provided much detail on every step. The Architect Frank Wagner's son, Mark, has been overseeing the project from the architect's perspective and also offered suggestions that fit well with what we want. During the last week of October, the carpet will be installed in the new addition. This is being donated by Al and Lola Ledebur. Please thank them for their generosity. There was discussion on the preschool's future. At this time we will not plan to have a preschool. Rather we will wait until a time when it is more viable (students and WELS director).

## Lawn Mower Fund

Our present riding lawn mower is about 10 years old. While it still runs well, it has had to have some repairs over the last couple years. We have decided to start a fund so that in a couple more years we can purchase

*Lawn Mower Fund (Continued on page 3)*

(Continued from page 1) **Justice in due time**

the Lord would set things right, but nothing happened. Sound familiar? Today people abuse their authority to take advantage of others. People disrespect authority to hurt others. People jump to conclusions and ignore facts just to prove their point. No one seems concerned about the people getting hurt. Most people just want to win the argument and advance their personal agenda. Why doesn't God punish the evil doers? Why does God tolerate all the destruction and violence we see in this world? Why doesn't he bring an end to conflict and peace to strife-torn hearts? God answered Habakkuk's prayer by explaining he would bring justice in his own time and way. God told Habakkuk to be patient and trust that God would do the right thing at the right time—which God did. Do we really want God to bring justice in our time? Think about it. Have I lost my temper? Have I cut people down with my words? How concerned am I really about people getting hurt by others? What am I doing to help relieve the pain of the suffering? If God pays back people what they deserve, will he be paying me a visit? Do I really want to beg God to bring justice to the world?

Our God already has. On a cross outside of Jerusalem 2,000 years ago, God brought justice to this world. He blasted Jesus with all the punishment deserved by all the violence and evil and wrong committed by the human race. God's Son unjustly suffered in our place. Jesus took that burden because he did not want us condemned. He wanted us forgiven.

On the cross, God's justice collided with God's love. On the cross, God punished all wrong-doers by punishing Jesus. On the cross, God forgave all wrong-doers by punishing Jesus. Relying on Jesus as our Savior, we can look forward to meeting God without any fear. Because of Jesus, God will welcome us into heaven.

God will also take care of justice here on earth—in his

own time and his own way. Sometimes we will have to wait patiently for God to act. Most importantly for us, we know God has already acted to forgive our sin. We never have to fear that he will punish us. Jesus took our place!

**Prayer:**

Lord, bring about justice in your own time and way. Give me patience when I am troubled by injustice. Give me a stronger faith that you will never condemn me, despite my sin. Jesus died in my place, for which I am eternally grateful! Amen.

## Mission work in Alabama

It has been just over two years since I arrived at Abiding Word in Dothan, Alabama. The years have been filled with excitement and challenges. We started off by worshiping in people's homes, but after a few months moved into a school. Then in April 2014, we held our Grand Opening at Highlands Elementary School. The weekend was great with many visitors and prospects to follow up on.

Throughout the first year, God blessed us with many worship guests—a total of over 250! That has been the exciting part. The challenging part is getting these worship guests into our Bible Information Class and then joining the church.

They say Dothan is in the "buckle of the Bible belt" and I believe them. There is no shortage of churches in this city. But while there are many people who do go to church, there are also people who aren't hearing about Jesus. These are the people we want to reach. They are why we are here. We pray God gives us opportunities to identify them and chances to share with them the good news of Jesus.

~**Pastor Caleb K. Free**

Please pray that Abiding Word's prospects are filled with excitement in learning more about Jesus.

## Ladies' Fellowship

*"To share the good news of Jesus Christ at home and around the world through support of mission work, outreach, prayer, fellowship and love."*

Serve one another in love.

Galatians 5:13

If you worshipped at St. Paul on October 2<sup>nd</sup>, Mission Sunday, you heard a sermon based upon the Synod's One in Christ Mission program and its numerous mission endeavors throughout the world. Ladies' Fellowship has similar interests and sponsors a different mis-

sion each month. Over the years, we have donated to One in Christ and have sponsored the St. Lucia mission and Friends of China for many years. In addition we have supported missions in Peridot, AZ, Utah, Canada, Zambia, Feeding Jesus' Lambs (a Sunday school mission) in Pakistan, and Vicars in Missions. We have sent lap robes and prayer shawls to missionaries and their wives. We have also sent phone cards and Northwestern Publishing House gift cards to missionaries so that they can purchase study materials for their congregation and their own learning. Our small group at St. Paul has an acute awareness of the importance of mission work. We truly enjoy serving our Lord with gladness.

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a new riding lawn mower. If you would like to donate towards that or direct a memorial to it, please designate as "Lawn Mower Fund".

## SCRIP (ie:gift cards)

The holiday season is coming faster than we think and we will be rushing around buying food and gifts. Gift cards are easy to buy and send and ordering through the Scrip Program benefits the church building fund. Place your orders in the next month and you will have the cards in time for mailing. A list of cards available is posted on the bulletin board in fellowship hall. Cards kept on hand are Albertsons, Safeway, Walmart, Walgreens & Sprouts. Some restaurant cards currently on hand: Applebees, Chile's, Village Inn & Wendys. Need more information, please contact Marie Neuberger on Sundays or call me anytime.

## Membership Changes

We welcome into membership the following:

The James and Deanna Deck family John, Grace, and Malachi; and Mrs. Judy Timmerman. We look forward to enjoying fellowship and worship with them.



## Evangelism/Outreach

Still working on ideas to reach out to the community. While direct bulk mail can be one effective way to invite people to our worship services, the best way is by word of mouth. Why do you worship at St. Paul? Why would you want someone else to be here to worship with us? What is it that we have to offer that other churches may not have? Share your thoughts and feelings with your family and those around you. It is important to you and others will know it by your words and actions. Say what you believe. Live what you believe. God can use every member of St. Paul for evangelism. You are an evangelist and a missionary right in your own location.

## Luther Movie Night

On Sunday, October 30, at 6:00 PM we will be showing the original black and white movie about Martin Luther. "The original film classic of Luther's life was released in theaters world-wide and nominated for two Academy Awards. The film traces his life from a guilt-burdened monk through the monumental events that led to a break with the Roman Church. This film is in black and white and retains the stirring impact for audiences today that it enjoyed upon its first release." We hope to show it in our new fellowship hall addition. Bring your lawn chairs to relax in or if younger ones want to sit on the floor, bring pillows and blankets. Otherwise our comfortable padded chairs will suffice for most. Popcorn and drinks will be provided.



## Mission Statement update

The Stewardship Committee will be looking at the suggestions that have been offered to update our mission statement. After the review, information will be sent out for members to look at.

## Advent 2016

This year our series of Wednesday Advent services will delve into a few of the more familiar Christmas Scripture readings from the book of Isaiah. Advent starts on November 30 at 7:00 PM and goes for 3 weeks. We will have a soup supper prior to the worship service starting at 6 PM.

The Pilot is a monthly newsletter of St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church. Articles are to be submitted to the editor by the 10<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.stpaulgj.org). You may e-mail at [pastorstrong@stpaulgj.org](mailto:pastorstrong@stpaulgj.org) or [church@stpaulgj.org](mailto:church@stpaulgj.org)

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**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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