



# 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 3, No. 7

April, 2018

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## From the Pastor:

Every day [they] continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts.  
**Acts 2:46**

## Don't forget your team

It's game day. You know what you have to do, so you get out on the court or field to face your opponents. Then you realize something's wrong. You're all by yourself. The other team is there, looming over you like a dark storm cloud from the other end of the field. However, not one of your teammates can be seen. Not on the court. Not on the bench. Nowhere. You have no one on your side.

Do you ever feel like that is your *spiritual* situation? Maybe you feel like the only Christian at your school facing the whole science department that teaches evolution as truth. Maybe you're the only one at your job who doesn't want to take a longer break than allowed. Maybe you're the only one at a party who doesn't want to drink because you're underage.

In those situations, you may feel alone and unable to handle the pressure. You know his

*Team Work (Continued on page 2)*

## Summer Sermon Series

Over the next 10 weeks or so our sermons will focus on the Liturgy. This is the order of service that we use in worship each Sunday. Why is there an order? What are the different parts of the service?

Why are certain hymns and Scripture readings used? It is important to understand our worship service because it is about the Lord and not about the person.

We don't come to be entertained but to worship. Worship comes from an old English "weorthscipe" meaning worthiness or acknowledgement of worth.

We could say "worth-ship." When we worship we are proclaiming that which is worshiped (meaning God) worthy of our time and we acknowledge his worthiness. The sermons will help us to understand how we show God's worthiness in Word, song and prayer.

And God graciously blesses us with what we take away from the worship service. He fills us with hope, optimism, and fortitude to carry on the next week.

As the writer to the Hebrews puts it: Hebrews 10:25 (NIV) "[Let us] not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching."

Yes, we find encouragement and knowledge in worship but let it be God that is glorified in all that we do.

## WELS Assignments

This month the Lord will be overseeing the assignments of new pastors and teachers from our Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary and Martin Luther College. As these young men

*WELS Assignments (Continued on page 2)*

(Continued from page 1) **Team work**

promise to always be with you, yet the present situation makes you question God's presence. That's one of the reasons God surrounds us with the church and puts other Christians in our lives. God does not want us to be alone. He wants us to be together.

God equips your Christian friends to help you through all kinds of life's problems, earthly or spiritual. Whether you have questions about the Bible or about your homework, whether you're trying to pick a college or what to wear to school tomorrow, Christian friends can help because they (like you) know where to find answers to life's critical questions. Christian brothers and sisters can remind you of God's promises and give encouragement, comfort, or even correction from God's Word. And not only do you get to enjoy these benefits, but to share them! God calls

you to be that encouraging, supportive Christian friend to others too.

Most importantly, when you do crack under the pressure and give in to sin, your Christian friends are there to point you to Jesus. Your Christian friends are there to show and give you Jesus's forgiveness. His perfect life and innocent death paid the penalty for all your sins. That's the message you need to hear most of all. That's also the message your friends need to hear from you most of all.

Do you have Christian friends? Thank God for them! Surround yourself with them. Then be one for them!

**Prayer:** Dear Lord, thank you so much for blessing me with Christian friends so we can encourage each other to stay close to you. Forgive me for the times I haven't been the friend you want me to be. Thank you for being the perfect friend. Amen.

(Continued from page 1) **WELS Assignments**

and women graduate, they have prepared to go out into the world and our communities to preach and teach God's Word to those whose souls have been saved by the blood of Jesus Christ. Assignees do not have the opportunity to decide where they want to serve and live. They leave it up to the WELS Conference of Presidents, who know where pastors and teachers are needed. The faculty of the schools also give input as they have worked with the students for a number of years in their education and have an

idea where their talents may be useful. And of course, it goes without saying that prayers to the Holy Spirit to guide these decisions is important as well. The day the assignments are made is called "Call day" when the students are given their "calls" to serve. Martin Luther College Call Day will be May 12 for teachers and staff ministers. Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary Call Day will be May 24 for pastors.

Keep our future pastors and teachers in your prayers as they begin their service to the Lord in the spiritual harvest fields.

## Evangelism Update

The Evangelism Committee is working on ways to get the word out about our congregation and the work it is doing in spreading the Gospel. We have used the digital bulletin board on Redlands Parkway for commuters to observe.

We are now in the process of producing an promotional video which will be available on YouTube. It will also be on our website. Once it is completed, it will be ready for the public to see. A preview will be shown in church. Then we will produce business cards with a link to the video. These cards can be handed out to family and friends and acquaintances. It will help to promote the Lord's work that we do here at St. Paul.

The thought is: *"If you could spend 2 minutes viewing a video that could change your life, would you?"* How would you answer that question? We pray that it will lead others to think about it as well and seek out the Lord.

We will donate to the Community Concerts of the Grand Valley which has 7 concerts throughout the year. They have an insert that shows donors and so we would have our church name in front of around 1000 people.

We are looking into producing a flyer that can be inserted in the local newspaper at a reasonable cost for subscribers in the community to learn more about our church.

What would a community garden look like? We would like to explore this idea for our property behind the church and playground area. What are the logistics? How would it be managed? If you have insight on this type of project, please let Bob Grafe, Rod Christ or Pastor Strong know.

We are also looking into planning an event for National Night Out. This will be on August 7, 2018. National Night Out Day is observed annually on the

*Evangelism (Continued on page 3)*

# Ladies' Fellowship

*Mission Statement:*

*"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*

The ladies of the congregation have this opportunity to network with each other in devotion and fellowship to carry out God's work in our church at home and in the world. If you have not attended in the past, feel free to stop by. There is no obligation past just wanting to join sisters in the faith for encouragement and Christian dialogue. You may have suggestions for projects and work that can be done in service to the Lord.

Next meeting will be Saturday, May 12.  
All the ladies of the congregation are invited to attend.

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first Tuesday in August. It is a community police awareness-raising event in the United States. National Night Out was created to increase awareness about police programs in communities. Some of these programs include:

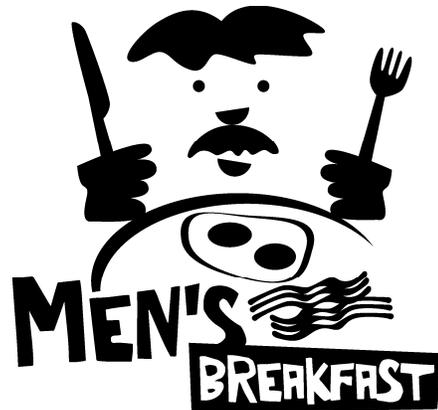
Drug prevention, Town watch, and Neighborhood watch

Events around the country are normally organized by block watches, not-for-profit organizations, companies and police departments. These events can be as simple as backyard barbecues or as large as full-blown festivals.

We are also going to plan a summer event for all of our member families with children to provide networking and brainstorming to lead younger families to worship with us and share Bible events with their children. Stay tuned for more information at the end of May.

## Men's Breakfast Bible Study

On May 12, we will have our next Breakfast Bible Study. We will take a look at who Jude was and what his contribution to the Bible has for us. We start at 7:30 AM with breakfast items that everyone is invited to bring. We always have plenty of food and a wonderful variety.



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  
Monday Bible Study: 7:00 PM

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