



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. 9

August, 2018

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From the Pastor:

Psalm 148, ¹*Praise the Lord. Praise From the Heavens Praise the Lord from the heavens. Praise him in the heights.* ²*Praise him, all his angels. Praise him, all his armies.* ³*Praise him, sun and moon. Praise him, all you bright stars.* ⁴*Praise him, you highest heavens and you waters which are above the heavens.* ⁵*Let them praise the name of the Lord, because he commanded, and they were created.* ⁶*He caused them to stand forever and ever. He gave a decree, and it will not pass away.* ⁷*Praise the Lord from the earth, great sea creatures and all the depths,* ⁸*fire and hail, snow and fog, storm winds that obey his word,"* (Evangelical Heritage Version)

Fire! Smoke! Who's in control?

With all the wild fires around and the smoke that they have created, one may wonder when will it all end? Tremendous devastation has plagued many states. Beautiful forests up in smoke. Homes destroyed. People displaced. It messes up people's lives and schedules.

It isn't "mother nature" orchestrating all these happenings. We must direct our attention to God who created it all. Sometimes one has to wonder what is God's plan. Some say the

Fire! (Continued on page 2)

Paying down building loan

We have been blessed to be able to use our new **fellowship hall** area. It has been used in many different ways. As we continue to **pay down the loan** on the project, we would like to remind everyone that you can help with this endeavor by giving an **extra amount** of donation towards retiring the debt. The quicker we pay it off, the less interest we have to pay.

Parent/children gathering

On Sunday, August 26 at 5 PM, all parents and their children are invited to St. Paul for a gathering to network with each other and to enjoy fellowship and food. Sometimes members don't know other members very well and it can certainly be uplifting and encouraging for them to get together to discuss things. How many other

parents are there? What are the ages of their children? Letters of invitation have been sent out. If you are a parent of an eighth grade or younger member, then you should have gotten one. If not, please contact Pastor Strong.

We will have a Bible Study on parenting and talk about ways to interact with one another on a regular basis.

Support Food Shelf

There are many who because of unfortunate circumstances are in need of extra help with food and supplies. While we can't feed the world like Jesus could, we can be generous and help those near us. On the first Sunday of each month we designate as Food Shelf Sunday. You bring food items to church and we take it to the local Food Shelf.

Food Shelf (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, September 15.
All the ladies of the congregation are
invited to attend.

(Continued from page 1) Fire!

fires are part of God's judgment. While the Bible does talk about fire as part of judgment, I'm not so sure that is part of what is happening. And then there are the Global warming folks that say that man has indeed contributed to the climate change problems this earth faces. If only we could fix it all!

When I was growing up on the farm, there were people that came around and said they could make it rain. All they needed to do was collect money from the area farmers and then they could "plant" seeds in the clouds and it would rain. I don't believe it got off the ground. If it did and was a success, we could make it rain in Colorado and help put out fires. The only man-induced "rain" are the planes and helicopters carrying water to the fires.

What we need to do is to trust that God does have a plan and that he is in complete control. He created all things. He knows what to do with his creation. "If only it would rain!" While God has his plans in motion, it doesn't hurt for us to pray to him and ask for his mercy upon us. We seek relief from the problems that face us and the world. Why not ask God to intervene and provide blessings? And he does. How

often do we hear about miraculous rescues and heroic efforts of people? Think of the tireless hours firefighters are putting in to save homes and lives. They are using their God-given abilities to serve the communities.

When will the fires end? Only the Lord knows. We will have to continue to put up with the smoke and continue to pray for those who are fighting fires as well as those who are victims of the fires.

By the way, Arby's just started advertising a "Smoke Mountain" sandwich. Wonder if it is a coincidence??

Next Bible Study

Beginning September 9, our Sunday morning Bible Study called "Doctrines that Divide" will help us explore what makes us different from other Christian churches. How can we know who is telling the truth and abiding by the Bible and who are not? What makes our Lutheran church unique in the world of Christianity? Come and find out.

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

“Standing up for children”

A new training program to help people recognize and respond to child abuse has been released by Freedom for the Captives, a WELS organization that works to protect children and empower survivors of abuse.

The program—entitled “*Standing up for Children: A Christian Response to Child Abuse and Neglect*”—consists of four videos that review dealing with physical, emotional, and spiritual abuse and provide a theological basis for the importance of protecting children. The course also highlights how to create and enforce a child protection policy for a church, school, or organization.

“We want to make it as easy as possible for pastors, teachers, and lay leaders to get some fundamental training on how to keep children as safe as possible,” says Rev. Ben Sadler, chairman of the Freedom for the Captives committee and pastor at Goodview Trinity, Goodview, Minn. He recommends that all pastors, teachers, and lay leaders for children’s ministries go through ongoing training like this. Sadler says that having a child protection policy in place at a congregation or school and having ongoing training for those who work with children also encourages survivors. “When going through this training, it raises awareness in the congregation on how we might better help people who’ve been abused,” he says. “It lets those who are suffering in silence know that [the church] cares about them.” Sexual abuse is widespread in our communities. The CDC-Kaiser Permanente Adverse Childhood

Experience (ACE) study (1997) shares that 1 in 4 women and 1 in 6 men were sexually abused as children. “I think there is still the idea that this is somebody else’s church’s problem,” says Sadler. “Avoiding the issue won’t make it go away. We need to offer hope that we can encourage and help people who have gone through these difficult situations. And we need to provide the tools to keep our children safe.”

Funding from Antioch Foundation helped make this training program possible. This funding also is allowing committee member Mr. Victor Vieth, founder of the Gunderson National Child Protection Training Center, and member at St. John, Lewiston, Minn., to present at congregations, schools, and conferences in person.

St. Paul will be conducting this seminar during September. Tentatively, we will meet on Wednesdays, Sept. 12, 19, 26 and October 3 beginning at 7:00 PM. This is for any of our members that may come into contact with children while at our church or any parents that may be interested in this topic. Once completing the video course, each participant will take an online test and receive a certificate showing that they have completed the training.

If you would like to participate, please contact Pastor Strong.

You can’t beat the power of a personal invitation!

(Continued from page 1) **Food Shelf**

Consider that and even put it on your calendar for each month. But you don’t have to wait until the first Sunday. You can bring food shelf items any Sunday and we will gather it all together and take in that first week. So when shopping, buy an extra can of soup or vegetables or box of hamburger helper or what ever you see. As God has blessed you, so you can be a blessing to others.

Sunday School

We will begin our fall schedule on Sunday, September 9. All children of the congregation 4 years old through 8th Grade are encouraged to attend.

Address Service Requested

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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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