



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 4, No. 4

October, 2018

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From the Pastor:

Acts 1:8 (NIV)⁸ *But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."*

To the ends of the earth!

That is the theme of the last in a series of movies our Synod has produced. It is taken from the words of Jesus in Acts 1 and also reiterated by God to St. Paul in Acts 13:47 (NIV) *"For this is what the Lord has commanded us: " 'I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth.'"*

We have purchased a number of the movie DVDs and you are invited to take one and watch and share with someone you know that needs to hear the message of forgiveness and promise of eternal life. Give it away as a Christmas present. Let people know you are thinking of their spiritual lives in a non-confrontational way. This will spill over into the Christmas emphasis that our Synod is putting together called C18. Here is information on that:

WELS C18 Campaign

Here are two facts about Christmas time.

Fact number one. Multiple mental health studies have demonstrated Christmas time is the most likely time of year for one to experience depression and anxiety. The suicide

C18 (Continued on page 2)

Trunk or Treat

This will take place this Wednesday, October 31 from 4 to 5:30 PM. This will be our opportunity to provide not just candy but also handouts that will tell about the Savior and our church. You prepare bags to hand out to children, decorate your trunk, and hand out the bags as children come by. We will set up in our parking lot. You can also speak to Pastor Strong about ideas for your bags. There is still time. Let Pastor Strong know if you are planning on participating. Suggestions for decorating your trunk are available on the piano in the Sanctuary and was also email blasted a few weeks back.

Craft-Book-Bake Sale

The annual craft, book, and bake sale hosted by the Ladies' Fellowship will be on Sunday, November 4. If you would like to donate items to be sold, you may bring them on Saturday, the 3rd or before worship service on Sunday morning.

Thanksgiving Worship

We will celebrate Thanksgiving on the Sunday after Thanksgiving Day, Sunday, November 25 with the theme: "Come with thanksgiving in your heart." Join us to consider the many ways we show our thanks to Jesus.

Future activities (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, November 17.

All the ladies of the congregation are invited to attend.

Council looking at landscaping project

Because the grass does not grow very well along our property and 26 1/2 Road, the Council is looking at ways to beautify the area with less-maintenance landscaping. This would include a walkway (that would link the sidewalk to the north end of the property and possibly around the back property line). If you have ideas, please contact Rod Christ or one of the Trustees: Justin Amdahl, Tom Bargsten or Jason Wilbur.

(Continued from page 1) **C18**

rate spikes in the last week of the year. There are multiple factors for this, some of which are obvious. For many, Christmas time is extremely joyful, an opportunity to spend time with family and other loved ones. That joy can make those who feel alone more acutely aware of their pain. The end of the year also provides a natural time for self-reflection. As some consider the perceived failures of the past year, the weight becomes too much to bear. Christmas time is extremely difficult for millions of Americans. It is not a time of hope and good cheer, but darkness and gloom.

Fact number two. Christmas Eve has surpassed Easter as the church service that unchurched or de-churched individuals are most likely to visit. A few years ago, LifeWay Research conducted a survey of 15,000 unchurched adults. **63% of those adults say that a personal invitation from a friend or neighbor would "be very or somewhat effective" in getting them to visit a church. That number jumps to close to 80% when the invitation is for Christmas Eve.** Invite ten unchurched friends to join you at your congregation for Christmas Eve, and eight of them will be at least somewhat encouraged to accept your invitation.

Put those two facts together. Christmas Eve is a fantastic, natural opportunity for believers to reach out to their community.

So, in WELS Congregational Services, we've set a goal to reach **one million souls**. It is aggressive, but given the size of our church body, realistic. Some of those one-million will hear the gospel as they accept an invitation to join one of our congregations on Christmas Eve.

Some will hear the gospel as our members take up Christ's call to be witnesses. They will look for friends or neighbors or co-workers who are experiencing that seasonal depression, and they will share the reason we are *never* alone... the reason why our failures do *not* crush us.

Still others will hear the Christmas gospel through online devotionals we will be providing.

What will come of us sharing the gospel with one-million souls? Might some join your congregation? That is entirely up to the Holy Spirit. He alone can create and strengthen saving faith. So, we let him do his job. And we will zealously do our job—preach to all the good news of the Light that pierces the darkness. C18 will help you do just that. Start thinking now of who you are going to invite to your church this Christmas Eve. Keep the C18 initiative in your prayers.

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



WHERE WE ARE

WELS Missions is reaching out with the saving message of the gospel in the United States, Canada, and 58 foreign countries. Missions continues to plant churches, train leaders, and mentor fellow Lutheran Christians here and abroad. Exploratory evangelism continues throughout the world.

HOME MISSIONS

- New Missions
- Campus Ministry
- Antigua
- Canada
- St. Lucia

JOINT MISSIONS

- Hispanic Ministry
- Pastoral Studies Institute (PSI)
- Hmong Ministry
- Sudanese Ministry
- Vietnamese Ministry

AFRICA

- Cameroon
- Malawi
- Nigeria
- Zambia
- Medical Mission

APACHE RESERVATIONS

- San Carlos Apache Reservation
- White Mountain Apache Reservation

ASIA

- Asia Lutheran Seminary
- East Asia
- India
- Indonesia
- Pakistan
- Philippines
- Thailand
- Vietnam - Hmong Outreach

EUROPE

- Albania
- Bulgaria
- Russia
- Ukraine

LATIN AMERICA

- Bolivia
- Colombia
- Ecuador
- Dominican Republic
- Haiti
- Mexico

(Continued from page 1) **Future activities**

Advent by Candlelight

Ladies, you won't want to miss this year's Advent by Candlelight on Sunday, December 2nd at 3pm. Please plan to join us for an afternoon of visiting, beautiful music and delicious dessert. All women of St Paul are invited, and are encouraged to invite your female family members, friends and neighbors for a Christ-centered preparation for the holiday season.

Want to ensure you have a seat at this year's Advent by Candlelight? Volunteer to be a table hostess and we will reserve a chair for you! Hostesses provide table settings for a table of 6 to 8 ladies, holiday decorations, candles and a dessert. Many partner with one or two others to host a table. It is lots of fun, and requires only a few hours of your time for planning, baking (or buying) and decorating. If you want to host a table this year (or need more information before committing), please contact Kathy Strong or sign up on board in Fellowship Hall.

Christmas for Kids

We will be hosting a day for children to join us as we provide parents a Saturday to do their Christmas shopping without the kids tagging along. It will be on Saturday, December 15, from 1 to 4 PM. If you would like to help out, please contact Pastor Strong.

New sidewalk!

With the heaving and the makeshift repairs on the sidewalk leading up to our entrance, it was determined that the best way to remedy the situation was to replace the sidewalk. That has been done and it looks very nice. It will be much safer with the tripping hazard and cracks removed.

Address Service Requested

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



Located just north of the corner of
26 1/2 Road and Horizon Drive

Church Office: 970-243-3626
Fax: 970-822-1020
Pastor's Cell: 612-709-4772
Website: www.stpaulgj.org
Email: church@stpaulgj.org
pastorstrong@stpaulgj.org

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

- √ Activities coming up, page 1,3
- √ Christmas 2018, page 3
- √ WELS—Where are we? page 3



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access to our website.

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Drop a note off to the pastor or office manager and you will be notified each
month when the newsletter is ready and you can read it online.