



# 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. 5

November, 2018

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## From the Pastor:

Matthew 28:20 (NIV) <sup>20</sup> ... *and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.*"

Loneliness. That can be the diagnosis for many problems that continue in our society. Suicide, murder, adultery, pornography, and abuse are some of the results of loneliness. What causes loneliness? There are any number of factors. Children are left alone while parents work (used to be called latch-key kids) or parents are out on the town with no one watching the children. Social media has increased loneliness... seems counter intuitive since people can be more connected. But it just takes away from the face to face interactions that humans are wired to need. Technology has caused an increase in loneliness. When people get addicted to video games, they tend to spend an inordinate amount of hours each day with their eyes glued to the screen/monitor. No social interaction there! Cell phone usage in restaurants are on the rise. Imagine two people sitting across from each other with their faces buried in their smart phones while waiting or their entrées to arrive, oblivious to their surroundings. Human interaction is at an all-time low in my estimation. The results are alarming. How can that change? It isn't necessary to throw out technology all together. But it would be beneficial to recognize that it can cause problems. We need to make more effort to converse with one another. We need to be available to listen and talk face to face.

*Loneliness (Continued on page 2)*

## 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.

## Advent Worship and Soup Suppers

We will worship our Lord during Advent in midweek services on Wednesdays, December 5, 12, and 19. Service time will be 7:00 PM. Along with that, we will once again host a soup supper. That will begin at 6:00 PM. If you would like to provide soup, bread, crackers or desserts, please sign up

on the sheet on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall. The Advent series will be entitled: Advent— First Person Perspectives.

## 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.

*Future events (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.

## 2019 Scripture Calendars

The Ladies' Fellowship is once again providing Scripture calendars for 2019. They are available in the Fellowship Hall. If you would like to purchase one (or more), they will cost \$7.00 each and you can deposit your money/check in the envelopes provided.

## Crafty Chatters

Ladies (men could too!) are invited to share craft ideas, work on crafts and do a lot of chatting each Tuesday from 2:00 to 3:00 PM. It is a lively social gathering where some work gets done. Invite a friend as well.

(Continued from page 1) **Loneliness**

Another means to combat loneliness is to be reminded that we are never actually alone. When Jesus ascended into heaven, he gave his promise that we would always be with us. Hebrews 13:5 states:

<sup>5</sup> *Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."*

When Jesus is part of one's life, one can be assured that no matter what happens, we are still cared for by him. St. Paul wrote: Romans 8:38-39 (NIV)

<sup>38</sup> *For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, <sup>39</sup> neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

Combat loneliness with God's Word. Share the message of Jesus' love. The statistics say that Christmas time is a time of loneliness for many. Do you know someone who may be prone to loneliness at this time? Invite them to our Christmas Eve worship. Invite them to all of our worship services. Invite them for a meal. Share your Christian love in a meaningful way. Then continue to look in on that person(s). This

is the love that Jesus wants us to share and display. As a family of believers we ought to make sure that there isn't loneliness amongst us and in our community. Jesus is with us. Let us be with others.

## TV monitors for worship

An anonymous donor will provide the technology for viewing the music, Scripture readings and liturgy in large print format from monitors placed on the wall in front of church (where the hymn number boards are now). Worshipers will have the option of viewing from the screens or still using their hymnals and pew Bibles. The Church Council approved to accept this donation.

## Budget concerns

Our church attendance is up. We have more people worshipping with us than the past number of years. What a wonderful blessing. But at the same time, our offerings are down. People are not contributing to the work of the Lord as much. Consider how you are blessed and how you can help our ministry. You are the supporters of our church. How can you help?

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)

(This article was posted in last month's newsletter but still is apropos this month as we draw nearer to Christmas.)

## 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 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.

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

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. Flyers will be available. Pick up one or more and share with families in your neighborhood. Information will also be on our website along with online registration.

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.

## Invite someone to our Christmas Eve Worship Service!

If you would like to help out, please contact Pastor Strong.

### Church Christmas Decorating

On Sunday, December 2 after the worship service, we will decorate our church for the Christmas season. Please plan on staying after church for about an hour to help with decorating. Many hands make for shorter set up.

### New Year's Eve Worship

We will worship the Lord on New Year's Eve at 6:00 PM. Reminisce the old year as you prepare for the new year thinking about the blessings God has showered you with in 2018.

Address Service Requested

632 26 1/2 Road  
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Located just north of the corner of  
26 1/2 Road and Horizon Drive

Church Office: 970-243-3626  
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Email: [church@stpaulgj.org](mailto:church@stpaulgj.org)  
[pastorstrong@stpaulgj.org](mailto: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

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