



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. 10

May 2019

Church Council

President

Phil Wiechman

Secretary

Rod Christ

Treasurer

Kevin Schulz

Financial Secretary

Tom Bargsten

Board of Elders

Bob Grafe

Mike Radeck

Steve Davis

Board of Trustees

Tom Bargsten

Jason Wilbur

Justin Amdahl

Committee on

Education

Chairman

Rod Christ

Committee on

Evangelism

Chairman

Bob Graf

Committee on

Stewardship

Chairman

Phil Wiechman

Long-range Planning
(Part of Stewardship)

Pastor

Dennis K. Strong

Office Secretary

Denise Blair

Book keeper

Gretchen Fenske



From the Pastor:

Genesis 7:4 (NIV84) ⁴ *Seven days from now I will send rain on the earth for forty days and forty nights, and I will wipe from the face of the earth every living creature I have made.*"

As I pen these words, it is raining outside. Take your pick which day... it keeps on raining, and raining, and raining. Fortunately, I don't see anyone building an ark! With all the flooding going on in the heartland of America and the rain that has been falling in our neck of the woods, one can't help but think about the "Great Flood" of 2843 B.C. (give or take a few years or more). That flood reminds us of God's great power and might. While his purpose was to cleanse the earth of unbelievers as a one time thing, we also see how he controlled the catastrophic events that destroyed the world at that time. It wasn't a haphazard timing of an event that was completely random. There was no human intervention in this great deluge. It was all God. God controls everything, even the weather. Remember how the people marveled at Jesus' power when he calmed the storm on the lake (after being woken from his nap)? Matthew 8:27 (NIV84)²⁷ *The men were amazed and asked, "What kind of man is this? Even the winds and the waves obey him!"* We can only marvel at the power and wisdom of God throughout the year. As we watch the flowers bloom, the grass turn green and the trees shed their pesky pollen-filled seeds into the atmosphere, we see God and his handiwork. There are so many Bible verses that express how God continues to watch over creation and sustains the earth for us humans to enjoy.

What a blessing to know that God is in control and he uses us as his gardeners to take care of his wonderful creation. We don't have to fret that the earth will end tomorrow or 12 years from now due to human inability to care for the earth. God's got it under control. So enjoy the rain. It won't be long and we will complain about it being too dry.

Pregnancy Center Donations

June is our Pregnancy Center Donations month, here is the list of things they need this time:

- Always need sizes 4 & 5 diapers
- Fragrance free wipes
- Toilet Paper
- Sleepers
- 12 month clothing
- Onsies
- Socks for boys & girls
- Layette Items: Newborn to 6 months clothing & sleepers & they always are

in need of towels & wash clothes

- Also, volunteers needed for all positions, no experience necessary they will train to fit their unique curriculum.

Quarterly Congregational Meeting:

Some of the items that were discussed:

- We will have only one congregational meeting per year being the annual meeting in January. That will be when we vote on the budget and elect

Quarterly meeting (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.

Notes from May meeting:

May Mission Donation month – Car Seats for the Pregnancy Center. Diana & Lola talked about the new program at the Pregnancy Center that has just begun a few weeks ago called 'Earn While You Learn' It is a 25 week program that helps mom's with parenting no matter if this is their 1st or their next child. The points they earn for attending & doing the homework assigned will go toward getting them a brand new car seat at the end of the program. The Ladies Fellowship

will purchase & donate 2 new car seats, budgeting it at \$200 in total. A motion was made & seconded; all approved.

June's mission month will be for a children's Bible camp called, Kids Care. Ladies Fellowship will donate \$200 toward this summer camp.

Kathy brought up at the meeting a few new projects for us to work on in our church. Putting together new quiet bags for the children who attend services as the toys we have for the children are old & or noisy. She will also bring this decision up with the ladies on Tuesday during Crafty Chatters time & will look into what can go into them. Also she brought up having the chairs in the fellowship hall cleaned as they are in desperate need of attention, including a few that need repaired. We will rent a carpet cleaner with tools & also have the pew benches cleaned as well during that time. Carol & Miriam offered to help Kathy get this done. Thank you ladies.

Our annual Craft & Bake Fair will be slated again for November 3, 2019. While our annual Advent By Candlelight will be slated for December 1, 2019.

Nomination for officers was brought up & Carol Rice will be taking over as Secretary for the 2019-2020 year. Thank you, Carol. The rest of the positions will stay as is for the 2019-2020 year with Kathy Strong as President, Miriam Grafe as Vice President & Gretchen Fenske & Marie Neuberger as Treasurers.

Every member visit

Pastor Strong will be putting together a schedule to visit every member of the congregation (excluding out-of-state members which will be addressed in a different way). The goal is to accomplish this by September 1. There will be an opportunity to schedule online or by phone or personal contact. Pastor will meet you either at your home or at church. More information will be coming soon. Most visits will be conducted in late July and August due to vacation time and setting up the online scheduler.



Some questions to think about:

- √ What is it about your congregation that makes it special and something that you would like to share with other people? (What do you enjoy about membership at St. Paul?)
- √ How can we better partner together for the sake of the Gospel?
- √ Name two strengths of St. Paul
- √ Name an area of St. Paul where we can improve.
- √ What would you need to have in hand to invite a neighbor to church?

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

councilmen. Then, we will have 2 open forums in the spring and fall for members to voice their opinions on various matters. We also have the mechanism to hold special congregational meetings if needed throughout the year.

- Our evening worship time, i.e. Lent/Advent will start at 6:30 PM from now on.
- The voters approved to enlarge our entryway according to the drawings shared. It is well underway and moving along smoothly, as many have noticed.

Shepherding Network

Our Elders have discussed for a few months the idea to have a way of keeping in touch with all of our members, not just the ones who are always at church for all the functions. We hope to implement the Shepherding Network beginning in August. You can look over the enclosed brochure to see how it works. We will be seeking volunteer shepherds to help us out in this endeavor. If you would be willing to serve as a shepherd/shepherdess, please speak to Pastor Strong.

Building loan repayment

With our appeal to work at paying down our loan to the Church Extension Fund on our Fellowship Hall addition, we have been able to collect around \$2,000. Along with what we have in our local Building Fund account, we will be sending \$14,000 to help pay towards the loan. That will leave us with about \$18,000 to pay off. We are doing well! If you still want to donate towards the payoff, designate it on a check or use the building fund reduction envelopes on the back pew at church.

50th Anniversary

St. Paul Ev. Lutheran Church was incorporated in 1972. Three years from now will be 50 years of service to God by our congregation.

Because time goes by fast, we will want to start planning what we would like to do for this momentous occasion. We will need to set a date, time and guest speaker. Will we want to plan a meal, cater or potluck? What kind of information will we want to gather?

Many questions. None have to be answered immediately. But think about what we can do. If you have suggestions, let Pastor Strong know.

We will formulate an anniversary committee some time in the future. Volunteer if you would like.



Special Donation

A new camcorder has been donated to the church. It provides a much clearer picture on our TV in the Fellowship Hall.

But the TV in the Fellowship Hall quit working. So the Council authorized the purchase of a new TV for under \$350. At the present time, the video is broadcast to a smaller TV until the larger one is purchased and installed.



Evangelism update

What do you like about St. Paul church? What brought you here? What would you want to say to anyone who wants to know? We will be video-taping interviews of less than 2 minutes from members who will express their thoughts on our church. If you would like to take part, contact Bob Grafe. Or, he may contact you. We do have members already willing to do this. We will be seeking more. The videos will be compiled into a YouTube presentation and will be available for people inquiring about our church on our website.

Grace-Hmong Outreach in Vietnam

From the Missions Operations Director, Sean Young: Together, with the help of your gifts, we will be reaching out to many people in Vietnam and other parts of the world who need to be fed the good news of the Gospel message. What a privilege it is to feed the hungry with God's grace and to give the water of life to thirsty souls! Thank you for your gift, and please pray for God's blessing, for open doors, and open hearts to hear the message.

GJ Rockies Outing

On Friday, June 28th @6:40pm, the Grand Junction Rockies are playing a home game. Pastor Frey and members at Living Word Lutheran Church have planned an outing for our churches to get together.

Specifics:

Group Tickets Reserved Seats \$7 per person

Group Ticket Add-ons \$6 (Hot Dog, Chip & Large Soda) \$7 (Hamburger, Chip & Large Soda)

Please contact Pastor Frey by June 1 to indicate if you would like to join in. Let him know if just tickets or the meal plan as well. Should be a good time! It was last year. Contact Pastor Frey: freymp@hotmail or call (970) 497-6738 by June 1.

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
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

- ✓ Pastoral visits, page 3
- ✓ Ladies' Fellowship news, page 2
- ✓ 50th Anniversary, page 2



Click on the QR code with
your smartphone/tablet for
access to our website.

Want this in digital format rather than having it printed or mailed to you?
Drop a note off to the pastor or the office and you will be notified each month
when the newsletter is ready and you can read it online.