



# 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 5, No. 2

August 2019

## Church Council

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**Long-range Planning**  
(Part of Stewardship)

**Pastor**  
Dennis K. Strong

**Office Secretary**  
Denise Blair

**Book keeper**  
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## From the Pastor:

*Time of Grace, July 25, 2019*

When I gave my wife jumper cables as a Christmas gift one year, she didn't look particularly touched. Truth be told, those cables were more for me—to give me peace of mind. She had no interest in learning how to use them. And when she "gave" me a new grill for Father's Day one year, she would cheerfully admit that she wanted a new grill. If we are 100 percent honest with ourselves (and with God), our religious practices and observances might sometimes be more self-serving than God-worshiping. The prophet Zechariah spoke God's words of warning: *"Then the word of the LORD Almighty came to me: 'Ask all the people of the land and the priests, 'When you fasted and mourned in the fifth and seventh months for the past seventy years, was it really for me that you fasted? And when you were eating and drinking, were you not feasting for yourselves?'"* (Zechariah 7:4-6).

When you go to church only to hang out with friends or just to hear music you like or out of boredom or habit or to get attention or power for yourself, the worship value shrivels up. The motions and the actions and the rituals have no value in and of themselves. Here's what matters: Did the Word hit your heart? Did the Word change your heart? Did the Word change your life? Were you seeking to please and honor your Savior by what you said and did?

## Pastoral Visits

Visits have been going well. I'm over half way through our membership list. If you haven't signed up yet, please do so at <https://stpaul.setmore.com>. Still shooting for finishing by September 1st.



## Change for Life

New Beginnings-A Home for Mothers is a WELS based ministry that helps single mothers pave the way to self-sufficiency in

a Christ-centered home. They have a program called "Change for Life." New Beginnings provides baby bottles for collecting change (similar to the LWMS mite boxes). At the end of September, those participating may bring the bottles back to church and we will collect the coins, dollar bills, or personal checks and send to the New Beginnings to help support their ministry. They are supported by donations from individuals and churches. We will have the bottles available September 1 and

*Pastoral Visits (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.

**There will be no meeting in August.  
Next meeting will be September 21 at  
11:00 AM.**

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## Council updates

We have been looking at how to improve our landscaping along 26 1/2 Road. We had a landscape specialist draw up a couple of ideas for us. Those plans are on the bulletin board leading into the Fellowship Hall. Due to the cost, we will not pursue the total plan but will look at smaller chunks of ideas to implement. The Trustees will bring back to us a plan and costs to provide some changes at the corner of the parking lot extending towards the church sign. This will give us a start to changes in the landscape.

Martin Luther College has started a campaign to collect funds to help future pastors and teachers as they study for the public ministry. We will be closing our Calvert Funds account that has been dormant for a number of years and send that money to MLC for supporting the students and their tuition costs.

## Mission Sunday and potluck

Next "Last Sunday of the month potluck" will be September 29. This will also be our Mission Sunday. The emphasis of the service will be on mission work in our Synod. Pastor Mark Birkholtz is a Mission Counselor who visits and helps out mission congregations. He will be our guest speaker on that day.

## Membership updates:

We welcome William Koepke as a new member, transferring from the Front Range. Julius Perez was baptized on August 11th. He joins his siblings: Alycia, Chelsea, Kaylana, and Enrique and mom Amber Green.

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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)

will be collected at the end of the month. If you would like to participate, grab a baby bottle, take home and fill up. Or you may just put cash or check in an envelope marked for "New Beginnings-A Home for Mothers" Learn more about this program at: [www.homeformothers.com](http://www.homeformothers.com)

## Evangelism update

Video interviews have been going well. The compilation will be shown to congregation once it is done. If you would like to give a testimonial as to why you are a member at St. Paul church, let the pastor know.

Thank you to Bob and Miriam Grafe and Ham and Paula Walker for going through the evangelism materials that we have and filing everything in the filing cabinet. We will continue to provide materials and direction for our members to share with friends, relatives, acquaintances and neighbors.

## Fall schedule

September brings us a return to our fall schedule. On Monday, September 9, we will begin Catechism classes for our 7th and 8th Graders. That will be at 5:30 PM. Choir will be at 6:30. Monday Bible Study will be at 7:00 or 7:15 (depending on if Choir spills over its half hour spot).

For our Bible Study, we will continue our study of the book of Romans.

## How much do you know about the Mormons?

Our Sunday Bible Study in September will be based on a video series put out by the Truth in Love Ministries. Pastor Mark Cares has been serving the Lord in Idaho by sharing our faith with Mormons. Over the years he has put together different types of materials that help us to understand the Mormons and how to witness to them.

"Mormonism's Plan of Salvation" is a Bible study that will explore what is the plan that Mormons have and how it runs counter to what Scripture tells us. The study will help us to understand why they think as they do and give us some talking points to help them towards the Scriptural truths.

## Time of Grace Ministries

Time of Grace is for people who want more growth and less struggle in their spiritual walk. The timeless truth of God's Word is delivered through television, print, and digital media with millions of content engagements each month. We connect people to God's grace so they know they are loved and forgiven and so they can start living in the freedom they've always wanted.

You can find out more about them at [www.timeofgrace.org](http://www.timeofgrace.org)

There you will find information to get on their mailing and email lists as well as connecting to Facebook and getting daily devotions. They also have information on their daily blogs and Sunday morning TV programs.

**A lack of church programs and entertainment is not why our youth are leaving the church. Our youth have no relationship with Jesus and that begins at home. Until we focus on fixing that all the entertainment in the world won't keep them.**

**Agree or disagree? What other factors plan into the decline of young people in our churches?**

Address Service Requested

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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](http://www.stpaulgj.org)  
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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