



# 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. 3

September 2019

## Church Council

### **President**

Phil Wiechman

### **Secretary**

Rod Christ

### **Treasurer**

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### **Financial Secretary**

Tom Bargsten

### **Board of Elders**

Bob Grafe

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### **Committee on**

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#### **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:

Matthew 28:18–20 (NIV84) <sup>18</sup> Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <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."

Mission work is easy and not so easy. Not so easy because it takes time, commitment, and boldness. You might say that the disciples were a bit timid when it came to witnessing about Jesus... that is, until they were filled with the Holy Spirit on Pentecost. Their boldness showed through as they stood up in the streets of Jerusalem and spoke about Jesus to all those within earshot. But it was 10 days before that Jesus gave them the "Great Commission" (as we call it). This command wasn't just for the disciples of Jesus' day but for all Christians until the end of time. As long as there is sin in the world; as long as there are people living on this planet; as long as there is the breath of life there will be a need for the message of Jesus and forgiveness. Everyday everyone sins. Everyday everyone needs forgiveness. Yes, Jesus provided the remedy by suffering for the sins of all people, past, present and future. But God also stated that those who believe in Jesus and his work will be saved for heaven. All others will spend eternity in hell. Hell is not a nice place, contrary to what the "church of satan" puts forth in their writings. Hell is not going to be a luxurious resort where all the sinful desires can be lived out without guilt. The Bible is very clear that hell will be a place of torment 24/7 for all eternity... forever and ever. But it doesn't have to be. When the Holy Spirit brings a person to faith, that status of "damned to hell" becomes "saved for heaven." The Great Commission is all about saving

*Being a true Christian (Continued on page 3)*

## Mission Sunday and potluck

Next "Last Sunday of the month potluck" will be this coming Sunday, 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.

## Favorite Hymn Sunday

Sunday, October 27 will be a Favorite Hymn Sunday. Members can submit their favorite hymns and the pastor will pick out the most popular for the service. Submit by email to [pastorstrong@stpaulgj.org](mailto:pastorstrong@stpaulgj.org) or drop off at the office. The service will emphasize the deep heritage we have in music that glorifies God and gives us hope and comfort in knowing Jesus as our Savior.

# 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 October 19 at 11:00 AM.**

## **Bake, book, and craft sale**

The plan is to have our annual bake, book, and craft sale on Sundays November 3 and November 10. You can start now deciding what you would like to donate to this event.

All ladies are invited to attend the Ladies' Fellowship and discuss things that they can do to support our church and mission projects. Come and learn more.

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## **Council updates**

We will be putting up a small wall and decorative rock at the corner of our parking area and 26 1/2 Road. It will tie in with the rock already in place. This will help to improve the look on the slope along our lawn. The trustees will set the date to install as well as setting a date for a church work day to wash windows, trim bushes and remove cut foliage. Stay tuned! And consider helping out as needed. Some of the wall blocks will appear in our parking lot awaiting installation.

## **Visit with the Pastor**

Out of the 103 members, Pastor Strong was able to visit with 93 of the members. He will still attempt to visit with the other 10 in the near future. It was very rewarding for the pastor to be able to sit down and talk to the members. Perhaps we will do this again in a few years.

## **Membership updates:**

We welcome Mike and Jackie McClimans who completed classes and was welcomed into membership on September 1. Mr. Jake Druce will be baptized later this month and join our church. Mark and Shelly Schaller, Mackenzie Schaller, and Megan Schaller will also be transferring into our congregation from the Denver area. May God bless them as they grow receive the Word and may we be blessed by their presence as well.

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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)

souls for heaven. It is all about defeating the devil's schemes and fulfilling God's show of love. That is why we must continue to do mission work or at least support it.

Missionaries go out in our name and on our behalf share the good news of Jesus and forgiveness.

Missionaries may be put in danger as anti-Jesus people egged on by the devil try to persecute those who would dare to share the Word of God. It may be through outright physical violence and harm or it may be psychological warfare on the mind. Whatever the case may be, they need the power of the Holy Spirit to guide them and sustain them.

Our prayers and offerings help to spread the Word.

We can do our part by supporting our missionaries since we ourselves are not out in the mission field.

Whether it be new churches being started in our United States or mission stations around the world in busy cities or the bushes of Africa, there are many missionaries who are carrying out the Great

Commission. We all are part of that work force.

I'm sure that you would find it difficult to go into a foreign land and teach about Jesus. You may have a hard time telling a friend, relative, acquaintance or neighbor! Thank God that there are those who will step forward and work on our behalf.

It is a necessary job. Jesus wants all people living on this earth to have the opportunity to hear the good news and come to faith so they can be saved for heaven.

On Sunday, September 29, Pastor Mark Birkholz will be our guest preacher. He serves as a WELS Mission Counselor. He works with mission congregations in the United States to get started and help them to continue their work with encouragement and the vigor of Jesus. He will tell about how the Holy Spirit works in the hearts of believers to share the Word in their communities and how God's church continues to grow.

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## 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). By October 6, 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. You may just put cash or check in an envelope marked for "New Beginnings-A Home for Mothers" if there are no baby bottles left. Learn more about this program at: [www.homeformothers.com](http://www.homeformothers.com)

## What do you know about the Mormon religion?

We are continuing our Bible Studies 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. "Building Bridges Not Barriers" 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.

## Trunk or Treat

Last year was our first year co-opting with Capella to host a Trunk or Treat. It was a big time and had many children coming through. This year we will do this again on Saturday, October 26 (Grand Junction Spook-tacular will be that day as well, so many kids will be out in full costume). You may park your vehicle and decorate trunks and pickup beds as you desire. We just park in our parking spots along the church and families come through. Fun times!

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](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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your smartphone/tablet for  
access to our website.

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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.