



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. 5

December, 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**

**Committee on
Stewardship
Chairman**
Phil Wiechman

Long-range Planning
(Part of Stewardship)

Pastor
Dennis K. Strong

Office Secretary
Denise Blair

Bookkeeper
Gretchen Fenske



From the Pastor:

The true Gift-giver is announced

John 3:16 16 *"For God so loved the world that he gave his only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish, but have eternal life.*

Santa Claus, Father Christmas, St. Nick—no matter the name, everyone knows the story of this plump, jolly, bringer of gifts. Or do they? How did this St. Nicholas turn into the North Pole-dwelling bringer of Christmas gifts? Behind the jolly, red-suited, shopping mall Santa of today lies a real person—St. Nicholas of Myra, a Christian monk who lived in the third century A.D., in what is now Turkey. We know very few historical details of St. Nicholas' life. Even the year of his death is uncertain, although both the Catholic and Eastern Orthodox churches have celebrated December 6—the date of his passing—for more than 1,000 years. Within a century of his death, the much-admired Nicholas had become the center of a series of folk legends. He was credited with stopping a violent storm to save doomed sailors, donating money to a father forced to sell his daughters into prostitution, and even restoring to life a trio of boys who had been dismembered by an unscrupulous butcher. Today, Nicholas is considered the patron saint of sailors, children, wolves and pawnbrokers, among others.

Our true Gift-giver (Continued on page 3)

Christmas Eve worship

Our Christmas Eve worship will be at 6:30 PM. The theme will be: The Christmas Narrative in Song. It will be based on the new Evangelical Heritage Version of the Bible for the Luke 2 Christmas narrative. We will have a number of other Christmas song selections to round out the evening. Come and worship with us. Bring a friend, family member or neighbor. Share with them the joy in celebrating Jesus' birthday.

Christmas Day meal

If you do not have any plans to be with anyone on Christmas Day, you are invited to come to the church for a potluck lunch. Ham and drinks will be provided. Bring another side dish or dessert to share. A sign up sheet will be posted in the Fellowship

Hall to give us an idea of about how many will be attending. Even if you don't sign up, you can still come and enjoy the fellowship with other members. The meal will begin at Noon.

New Year's Eve worship

We will celebrate Holy Communion on New Year's Eve. The worship service will be at 6:30 PM. Join us as we thank the Lord for 2019 and look forward to his blessings in 2020.

Fifth Sunday Potluck

December 29 will be the fifth Sunday of December. Time for a potluck! Join us following the worship service and bring a dish of food to pass.

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 January 18 at 11:00 AM.

Notes from November meeting

\$200 be sent to the Lutheran Mobile Medical Clinic in Malawi in answer to the request for layette/baby items.

New paraments are needed for the altar, a set of white and a set of green. Ladies Fellowship will purchase the materials and make them.

Paula suggested that the ladies visit a tea farm that is located in Hotchkiss and have Lunch following the tour. Paula will talk to the tea farm owners and get a date that will work for them; either January 11 or 18.

A Friendship Dinner will be held on February 16th at 4:00 p.m. with a Valentine Theme. More information will be coming

Offering envelopes

If you would like to continue to use the offering envelopes for 2020 or would like to start using them, please contact Gretchen Fenske, our bookkeeper. You can give her a note or email at church@stpaulgj.org.

Change of membership

The James Deck family has transferred to Living Word Lutheran Church in Montrose as they live closer to Montrose and it is more convenient for them. We wish them God's blessings as they worship there.

Council updates

The Dorothy Hessler family gave \$500 to our church. The Council decided to designate it for a future landscaping project.

Nominations are being sought for the 2020 Church Council. If you would like to nominate someone to be

on the Church Council, please let Pastor Strong or Phil Wiechman know.

Our Annual Voters' meeting will be on January 19th. We will vote the new Church Council members and approve the 2020 budget.

Our CEF Building Fund loan stands at \$14,552. We would like to see that drawn down some by the end of the year. If you would like to donate to the Building Fund, there are envelopes in the entryway on the shelf. The goal will be to pay off the loan a year from now, December 31, 2020.



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

Worship updates

We are now using the Evangelical Heritage Version of the Bible (recently published translation by conservative Lutherans, both from the WELS and ELS church bodies) for our Scripture readings. Let the pastor know what you think of the readings.

We have recently been having problems with the worship slides because the signal from the laptop to the TV wasn't always working well. We have since plugged directly into the TV from the laptop to avoid that problem. Thanks to Tom Bargsten for helping to run the wire and install the shelf in the Sacristy.

Shoes, socks and mittens for the homeless

We were able to pack goodie bags with toothbrushes, toothpaste, a New Testament Bible, lip balm, Christmas greeting, nutrition bar and socks to give out to the homeless. We took them to Homeward Bound and they will distribute to those that stay in their facilities. We had extras of many items as well as mittens that were not packaged up that we gave to them to distribute as needed. We pray that the Lord will touch their hearts and fill them with his Word.

Cross Wall:

The Ladies' Fellowship continues to collect crosses for the "cross wall." Each family may donate a cross which will be placed on the wall in the Fellowship Hall. It can be something that you love or have made. wood, ceramic, metal. You can put your family name on the back of the cross. It can also be given in memory of a loved one. It can be a lasting "memorial" that will enhance our Fellowship Hall. Bring your cross and a committee will place them on the wall. We will start putting them up after Christmas.

(Continued from page 1) Our true Gift-giver

While St. Nicholas is a real person and gift giving is attributed to him, we know there is a person who is an even better gift-giver. He, too, was a real person. But he was a real person from eternity. Jesus gives us the gift that is beyond compare, beyond this world into eternity.

Gift-giving is something we like to do to show our love, concern, thanks to others. God showed his love to us by giving us the eternal gift that will never spoil, fade, wear out, run out of battery life, grow old, or be

Book Club/Bible Study

Ladies Fellowship has decided to start a Women's Book Club/Bible Study in the new year. It will be held at church on Tuesday afternoons from 1 to 2, followed by Crafty Chatters. Our first book is entitled "God Is In the Laundry Room". We invite all women of the congregation to join us! A sign-up sheet to help us know how many books to order can be found in Fellowship Hall. For more information contact Kathy Strong.

Monday Bible Studies

We will begin a study on the book of Jeremiah. Who is he? When did he live? To whom did he write? Why did he write? What's in it for us? We will explore all these questions and see why God felt it important to share Jeremiah's words with us. We will start this series on Monday, January 6 at 7:00 PM.

Sunday Bible Study

We will be finishing up our video series on the Mormons called "Building Bridges not Barriers." On January 5, we will start a new series of studies. It is called, "What's going on Among the Lutherans?" Some will think that since we are Lutheran, "all Lutherans are the same." Yes, there are many Lutheran Church bodies. Why is that? What are the differences? With whom are we in fellowship? We will want to arm ourselves with what other Lutherans are teaching so that when asked, we can tell others why we believe differently from them. We will explore the basics of the teachings of the Bible to fortify our faith and thinking. Then we can compare with other Lutheran Church bodies. Come and learn. Come and let us know what you have found about other Lutheran churches.

forgotten.

May your Christmas celebration have Jesus in the forefront and be on your mind not only on Christmas Day but every day.

Jesus
is the
Reason
for the
Season

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

- ✓ Advent by Candlelight, page 1
- ✓ Helping the homeless project, page 2
- ✓ Cross Wall, page 3



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.