



# 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. 6

February, 2020

## Church Council

**President**  
Eric Kjeldgaard

**Secretary**  
Rod Christ

**Treasurer**  
Kevin Schulz

**Financial Secretary**  
Tom Bargsten

**Board of Elders**  
Steve Davis  
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Phil Wiechman

**Board of Trustees**  
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**Committee on  
Education  
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**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:

Check out this article from **Time of Grace, December 23, 2019**

## If church were a gym

By Linda Buxa

"Physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come" (1 Timothy 4:8). The more I'm at my CrossFit gym, the more I apply their unwritten rules to my church life too.

Check your ego at the door. I am working out to get stronger, not to show off how awesome I am. But do I walk into church hoping everyone will admire my faithfulness? Arrogance has no place in the body of Christ.

Cheer for others. The people who finish the workout last and struggle the most don't get judged because they aren't in great shape. They get the loudest cheers. Yet sometimes I judge those who are struggling in life. Shouldn't my congregation be the place where the weak get the most compassion and support?

Tell your trainers about any injuries. How can they help you if they have no idea what hurts? Still, I walk into church and hide my struggles and pain. The people God put in your life are there to help you. Let them serve you.

*The church's gym (Continued on page 2)*

## Ash Wednesday/Soup Suppers

This year's Lenten season kicks off on Wednesday, **February 26**. Our Ash Wednesday worship will be at **6:30 PM**. We will once again have soup suppers starting at 5:30 PM. A sign up sheet will be posted on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall for those who wish to bring soup, bread or desserts. What a wonderful opportunity to share a bit of time with fellow members and not having to hurry to prepare dinner before the worship service. For our Lenten services each Wednesday, the pastors will be exchanging pulpits so that we get a variety of preaching styles.

## Special Video Presentation

On Sunday, February 16, during our Bible Study hour, we will watch a special video of a pastor, David Rosenau. He gave a

presentation at the WELS Leadership Conference in Chicago in January that over 800 church leaders attended, including your own pastor.

Pastor Rosenau has not always been a pastor. But what he experienced in life led him to become one. He chronicles what led him to become a pastor. It was very riveting and personal.

We will show this presentation after worship service on the 16th. It is just over an hour long, but the time will go fast. Consider staying for the presentation. You will be inspired and moved by his realization of God's hand in his life.

## Church offering statements

You will find your statements in your info boxes at church.

# 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 February 15 at 11:00 AM.**

Ladies Fellowship will be hosting a **"Friendship Dinner" on Sunday, February 16th at 4pm.** Everyone is invited to join us for dinner and fellowship. Ladies Fellowship will supply the meat and drinks, everyone should bring a side dish or dessert to share. A sign-up list will be posted in Fellowship Hall.

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*(Continued from page 1) The church's gym*

You get out what you put into it. Going through the motions doesn't change anything. Want your faith to grow? Get involved. Open up your Bible. Think about the words you are singing. Put the Word into practice. My gym is fabulous, but it's for this world only. Our churches have an infinitely more important message about eternal life.

## **Information please!**

Do you know what is on our bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall? Do you know what is in our newly installed tract rack in our entryway? Information is also in the cubby shelves in the entryway. Check it out. There may be things you'd like to know about and will find it there!

And don't forget our church library. There are many books and videos on various religious topics. Check out a book and "get educated."

## **A new hymnal is on the horizon**

At the Leadership Conference held last month, the participants were introduced to the makings of a new

hymnal that has been in the works for the last few years. Our present hymnal has been in use for 25 years (1993) and The Lutheran Hymnal of 1941 was the previous hymnal.

There will be many hymns that you are familiar with and many new hymns from the past and the present. More variety in singing will be available as well as more opportunities for smaller ensembles to sing and enhance the worship service.

While there is no mandate to purchase the new hymnal, our congregation will be able to discuss and look at samples of the new hymnal as the samples are made available.

The date for the new hymnal to be debuted is Advent 2021. We have time to discuss and determine if it might be right and the right time for us to change.

Until then, enjoy the worship services we have.

You can learn more about this new hymnal at:

<https://www.christianworship.com/> There is a wealth of information on this website.

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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)

## 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. Check out the wall when you are at church!

## Book Club/Bible Study

Our first book is entitled "God Is In the Laundry Room". We invite all women of the congregation to join us! For more information contact Miriam Grafe, Marie Neuberger, or Kathy Strong. It is being held at church on Tuesday afternoons from 1 to 2, followed by Crafty Chatters.

## Monday evening Bible Studies

We are studying the book of Jeremiah. No, he wasn't a bullfrog! But he could be bull-headed at times. He certainly wasn't afraid to mince words... words that God told him to tell the people. Never too late to find out what God's prophets are up to.

## Live streaming sermons

We have begun "live streaming" the sermons. That means that if you cannot make it to church for some reason, you can actually watch the pastor preach the sermon in real time. We are broadcasting through Facebook. But if you do not have Facebook, you can still watch by going to:

<https://www.facebook.com/stpaulgj>

No need to sign in. Just go to that site around 9:15 AM on Sunday mornings and as soon as the live feed

is started, you will be able to watch.

While you can also watch the archive of the sermon on Facebook, it is also archived on our website with high definition 4K video. Click on the "Sermon audio and video" link. (We will be going away from the audio portion since the video is up.)

We have been live streaming since New Year's Eve and there have been as many as 60 engagements (watching live, watching archived, clicking on to see what it is all about, liking, re-watching, etc.) Anytime someone clicks on the video in Facebook, it registers as an engagement.

This can be a blessing and a tool for outreach. How so? Invite someone to watch it. Watch it yourself, then "like." Talk about it. Anyone can access the sermons anywhere, anytime... even around the world! That is the reach of the internet.

## Sunday Bible Study

"What's going on among the Lutherans?" That is the theme of our Sunday Bible study. As we progress, we will see what other Lutheran church bodies are presenting to their people, what their pastors are taught to preach and teach, and how does that jive with the Bible. Not all Lutherans are the same. We would like to believe that our church is preaching God's Word in its truth and purity and practicing the same. The way to know is to analyze our work and see how it differs from others.

## The Meditations

The next quarter Meditations (starting March 1) is now available. You will find them on the back pew.

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## Council updates

At the Annual Meeting in January, the following were elected to office:

President: Eric Kjeldgaard

Secretary: Rod Christ

Treasurer: Kevin Schulz

Financial Secretary: Tom Bargsten

Elder: Phil Wiechman

Trustee: Mike McClimans

We thank the outgoing Councilmen for their years of service: Bob Grafe and Jason Wilbur.

To round out the Church Council, we have Steve Davis and Rod Christ on the Board of Elders. We have Justin Amdahl and Tom Bargsten on the Board of Trustees.

May God bless our congregation through the work of these men.

Address Service Requested

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

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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.