



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 6, No. 1

August, 2020

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From the Pastor:



Philippians 4:1 (EHV) ¹ *So then, my brothers, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, in this way keep standing firm in the Lord, my dear friends.*

How long has it been since you were in the church building for worship? It seems like forever for some. And that is understandable.

The elderly and the vulnerable who are susceptible to infections have been told to stay isolated so as not to contract the COVID-19. Depending on the location anywhere in the world, there are reports of more cases identified and also locations where the trend is downward. The debate is whether to open up businesses and schools. Is it safe with the necessary protocols in place or not? How will businesses survive if this goes on indefinitely? What will education look like on all levels? Will not having college sports be good or bad for the players? Where would they be less likely to contract the virus. How does one keep kindergartners social distancing? How can high school hallways be social distancing proofed? Kids want to socialize again. But how?

There are so many questions with unsatisfactory answers or no answers at all.

Masks or no masks? Which are effective and which are detrimental? How long and far do the virus particles travel? Do I need to wear a mask if no one else is within my shouting distance? Must I wear a mask while I'm driving or bicycling? Who is right? Who is

Back to worship (Continued on page 3)

Live stream here to stay

Have you watched any of our services on Facebook? Yes, Facebook has its drawbacks but it also has its positives. We could use YouTube as an alternative live stream but we can't do both unless we pay a fee to do both at the same time. We can archive to YouTube but that takes time and if someone would like to use that medium, let the pastor know. If anyone has a preference, let that pastor know.

To watch the service live, you need to go to: <https://www.facebook.com/stpaulgj/live>. There, not only will you be able to watch live, but the previous Sundays are archived there. If you aren't attending, please consider making the time to watch.

Because this is an evolving experience, there were a couple of weeks where the live stream wasn't the best. There is a learning

curve for the sound and video. We did purchase a wireless microphone system that hooks into the video source which has made the sound quality much better. But there will be tweaks to be made over the next couple of weeks to get the best quality we can. The Lord not only provides the technology, he also has to provide the learning.

Now that there are shut ins and people outside our membership that have been watching regularly, we will continue the live streaming long after all restrictions are lifted.

There is some concern is that if we live stream our worship services, some members will think that they don't have to physically attend anymore. I hope and pray that is not the case. I would like to see the live

Live stream (Continued on page 2)

Friday updates

Have you been reading the Friday updates that are sent out by email? Are you getting them? Are they going to your spam folder? We have about 60 emails on file where the updates go. That is why there hasn't been a newsletter since February. The update provides more recent information than the newsletter. I know that not everyone has email. So I will try to be more on the ball with newsletters.

If you haven't been getting the Friday updates, check

your spam folder. You can also forward your email address to church to be included.

Our website is being updated and reformatted. There is usually some up to date information on there as well as the sermons.

There are many opportunities to keep up on what is going on at St. Paul. Utilize them and be in the know.

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streaming used by those who are unable to attend. While on vacation, Kathy and I were able to watch the services from where we were camping. Very enjoyable. (It was the first time I got to see a guest preacher conducting services while I was gone.)

If you are sick at home on a Sunday morning, live streaming would give you the opportunity to worship with your fellow members. (Better than watching televangelists and online heterodox preachers.)

Let's look at live streaming as a tool that the Lord gives to supplement our worship exposure. Don't use it as a crutch or excuse for not physically joining your fellow members in worship.

Until we meet again

For those unable to come to church, there are a few things that we have to do differently. If you would like the Meditations and Forward in Christ, please let pastor know and he will get them to you. If you would like to take part in Holy Communion and feel safe with pastor coming to your home or you coming to church during the week, let him know. He can schedule you in.

What will Sunday School look like?

As with the uncertainty of education in our community, we are looking at ways to keep our children safe and healthy. For the first quarter of the Sunday school year, we will be providing materials to those parents of Sunday school aged children with the intention of parents teaching their children the

weekly lessons. Northwestern Publishing House is working on videos that teach each lesson. Parents will be able to access those videos free. The videos will be teachers who will present the lesson online and then parents go over the lesson with their children.

Fall schedule

Monday evening Bible studies and Catechism classes will resume on September 21.

Next Ladies' Fellowship meeting will be Saturday, September 19.

Next Men's Breakfast Bible Study will be Saturday, September 19.

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|----------|---|---------------------------|
| Q | - | Quiet your SOUL |
| U | - | Utilize BIBLE study tools |
| A | - | Abandon ANGER |
| R | - | Radiate JOY |
| A | - | Ask for FORGIVENESS |
| N | - | NOURISH to flourish |
| T | - | Talk with GOD |
| I | - | INTERCEDE for others |
| N | - | Navigate NEW horizons |
| E | - | Enjoy CREATION |

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

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wrong? Once again, so many questions with unsatisfactory answers or no answers at all. The only real answer we can give is, "Only the Lord knows." And that is the truth though many consider that a stock answer and unhelpful. But it still is the truth. We all long for some sense of normalcy. Personally, I do not like the phrase "the new normal." The media uses that phrase ad nauseum. They make it seem like we can never shake hands again or hug or take off our masks. They make it seem that students will never again be able to be in the crowded hallways and fans will never be able to fill stadiums to their capacity. I liked the "old normal" to a certain extent. Yes, we probably need to be more cognizant of washing our hands more often and covering our sneezes in our elbow and not coughing towards someone else. These are the common sense approaches. In the meantime, we await a vaccine that will save the world... at least to stifle the spread of COVID-19. We continue to practice good hygiene. We pray that the Lord will provide the means to come up with a solution.

Now to the Bible passage. *So then, my brothers, whom I love and long for...* St. Paul was imprisoned because he was always talking about Jesus and the way to heaven through him. He longed for the day he could visit many of the mission congregations that he had been instrumental in starting or reviving. He wanted to know that they were surviving and thriving. He wanted them to be strong in their faith and that they continued in the Word.

Today, I have some of the same thoughts. It wasn't easy in the early stages of the stay at home era where I preached in front of a webcam and to empty pews. When we were given the green light to assemble again, it was so nice to see a few faces. We have actually been worshipping in person for two and a half

months. Before that, from March 22 to May 10, we were only "on the air" with live streaming. Then we got back together. It was refreshing to see the smiling faces and hearing the singing and seeing the expressions on faces during the sermon. We have been averaging 30 in attendance since we have gotten back together. Those that are in the category of vulnerable or elderly have been encouraged to watch the live stream each Sunday. Those who are not in that category have been encouraged to return to worship and many have. We are practicing some of the protocols given. We have blocked off every other pew. Hand sanitizer and tissues are available at the door... on back pew. We try to limit 3 to a pew unless family who can sit more. We have room for a number of worshipers in the Fellowship Hall where people can watch on the TV monitor with safe distancing. We encourage wearing masks into church but not necessarily while singing. After worship, we still gather for fellowship and Bible Study. I hope and pray that everyone who can, will return to worship. I don't want anyone to get into the habit of sleeping in or doing something other than worshipping. I would love to see more faces that used to worship with us.

I also want those who are in the vulnerable category to remain safe and to watch the live stream if able to. One day, God willing, all restrictions will be lifted and we can be confident that our worship will be uplifting, joyful and fellowship (new word I made up).

I truly want all to stay connected with our Lord and our church. I long for the day when everyone can return to worship in the house of God.

Say a prayer for our church, our members, you, and the rest of the world. God will be waiting and listening.

~ Pastor Strong

The Pregnancy Center

We support The Pregnancy Center in town. Did you know you can give financially to the Center without it costing you a cent? If you have a City Market card, you can designate the Center to receive community rewards. Every time you use your City Market card, rewards build up and are sent to them. This will cost you nothing and won't affect your fuel points or reward points. Just designate The Pregnancy Center of Grand Junction online or call 1-800-576-4377 for them to receive your community rewards. City Market does the rest. This is a great way to support the Center without it costing you anything.

Of course, we will still have dates where we collect items needed for the center. That will be promoted at the designated times.

The Pregnancy Center is located at 930 Main Street. They plan on expanding service with some medical, mentoring and parenting class services. This would include services geared not only women but men as well. They are looking at ways to expand education on sexual purity classes in our schools. Keep them in your prayers as they serve the community with Godly direction.

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
Bible Study: 10:30 AM

Monday Bible Study: Summer recess

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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.