



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. 2

September, 2020

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From the Pastor:



From WELS Daily Devotions (August 19, 2020)

Genesis 41:41-43,46-49 *So Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I hereby put you in charge of the whole land of Egypt." Then Pharaoh took his signet ring from his finger and put it on Joseph's finger. He dressed him in robes of fine linen and put a gold chain around his neck. He had him ride in a chariot as his second-in-command, and people shouted before him, "Make way!" . . . Joseph was thirty years old when he entered the service of Pharaoh king of Egypt. And Joseph went out from Pharaoh's presence and traveled throughout Egypt. During the seven years of abundance the land produced plentifully. Joseph collected all the food produced in those seven years of abundance in Egypt and stored it in the cities. In each city he put the food grown in the fields surrounding it. Joseph stored up huge quantities of grain, like the sand of the sea; it was so much that he stopped keeping records because it was beyond measure.*

Joseph saw a lot of ups and downs. By the age of thirty, he had been his father's favorite, then a slave; a trusted servant, then a prisoner. Most of those dramatic changes had been unforeseen, but when God gave Joseph the ability to interpret some

Be ready for lean years (Continued on page 3)

Open position at St. Paul

We will be in need of an office secretary and janitor in October. Denise has served us very well but will be moving out of state. If you would be interested, in both positions or one or the other, please contact Pastor Strong for a job description.

Prayer Chain

Would you like to know when a member or family member is not doing well and requests prayers? On our email list, you can opt in to be included. If you get our Friday news emails, you can go to the bottom of the email and click on "update your preferences." Then you will be able to opt in to the Prayer Chain. This way you will know for whom you can pray when someone is experiencing difficulties.

What does worship look like?

Presently, we have had an average of 30 in attendance on Sunday mornings. We have cordoned off every other pew. That has been adequate for the average. As the County Health Department takes us into the next phases (whatever they may be), we will open up more pews for more attendees. At this time, we have enough room... with "overflow" in the Fellowship Hall.

Locked out? Not!

The Council has decided to leave the Fellowship Hall door locked on Sunday mornings. This is for safety reasons. We don't monitor that door during worship and never know who may be entering unknown to the rest of us. We ask that on Sunday

Locked out? (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

you 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.

(Continued from page 1) **Locked out?**

mornings, everyone enter through the main doors.

We never expect a problem, but in society today, one never knows. We pray that nothing will disrupt our regular worship time and that we can concentrate on the Word

Technology helpers

We are putting together a few individuals to help with the worship slides and live streaming. If you would be interested in helping out, please let Pastor Strong know. We do have a couple individuals helping. Could always use more.

Member Photo Tree Update

Some of photos on our membership tree are a few years old. If you would like to update your photo, we can do that. Let Pastor Strong know and we will arrange that.

Christian Worship: New hymnal

Our WELS is in the process of publishing a new hymnal. This was mentioned in the newsletter from earlier this year. Over the next couple of months, we will be exposed to more of what will be in the hymnal. The Church Council will provide a time line for our voters to decide if we would like to move to the new hymnal. We have changed the "Educational Fund" to "Hymnal Fund". There is presently about \$1,100 in that fund that would be available for purchasing new hymnals and accompanying materials.

Landscaping Project

Having paid off our building fund loan, we can now turn our attention to landscaping. There are many things that we can do to make our campus more presentable. Most of the project will be the area between the church and 26 1/2 Road. That will involve changes in our irrigation system, lawn amendment, and making the hill along the road look nice. The building fund will now be called "landscaping fund." It presently has about \$2,000 in it.

Church's 50th Anniversary

In 2022 we will celebrate the 50th Anniversary of our church. A committee has been formed to start planning. They will meet in October get going.

Church work day

We are scheduling a church work day for Saturday, October 17, starting around 9 AM. Put it on your calendar to come and help spruce up our campus.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Jake and Mackenzie Druce. They were joined together in marriage on September 12. May God bless their life together with faith and love.

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

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.

New officers: Paula Walker, president; Miriam Grafe, vice-president; Carol Rice, secretary; Gail Meyer, treasurer.

**Next meeting will be October 17 at 11:00 AM
(after church workday is done.)**

Craft/Bake/Book Sale

Looking ahead, this event is being planned for November 8 and 15. Start planning!

(Continued from page 1) Be ready for lean years

important dreams, Joseph realized that seven years of abundance would be followed by seven years of famine. Pharaoh, the ruler of Egypt, realized it too, and he put Joseph in charge of making the most of those seven years of abundance.

We can learn a couple of things from the life of Joseph. When we are in the lean years, when things are going poorly, we can be confident that God will also give times of plenty. He did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all. Along with him, he will graciously give us all things. (See Romans 8:32.) When we are in the abundant years, it is prudent for us not to live in wild abandon, but instead to store things up for the lean years. We do not know how successful that will be, since moths and vermin destroy, and thieves break in and steal. But above all, we listen to the Word of God, and store up for ourselves treasures in heaven. (See Matthew 6:19,20.)

Are you financially secure?

When I read this devotion, I thought about how many people (and companies) that were not ready for the COVID-19 outbreak and the fallout from it. Financial experts tell us that we should have 6(?) months of income built up for emergencies. But how many don't? The evidence is seen in the calls for bailout from the government. There are many reasons why businesses close. There are many reasons why people

file for bankruptcy. There are many reasons why people lose their home and property.

But could reasons be lessened by preparing for the future? Not just retirement but for emergencies? Isn't that what God would want. A Wall Street Journal article from back in 1983 suggested that you save 10% of your income; give 10% to charity (church); and live off the other 80%. Even Dave Ramsey would advise something to this effect.

You might say, "Is that even possible... to live off only 80%? I am living paycheck to paycheck right now!" Or, "I'm on a fixed income. I can't afford to live off of only 80%." To quote Dave Ramsey, "Act your wage." (This is the name of a board game from his website.) I'm sure it can't be easy to change your financial habits. But perhaps you can make little steps towards being financially set for the future. "Save up for the lean years." Don't take on more debt than what that 80% can handle. Ask yourself, "If I don't get this product now, will it affect me down the road 2 years?" "Less is more" has been quoted many times. Is it all that bad to have less?

I'm sure you can live by the 10/10/80 formula. With prayer, common sense, and will-power, you can be prepared for the lean times... even while living in lean times. "I can't" sometimes means "I don't want to." Ask the Lord to help you find your financial balance. And ask him to help you to find spiritual balance as you trust him and stay in the Word to guide you.

Prayer:

When life is a roller coaster, Lord, give me stability in your promises. Amen.

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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