



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. 7

February, 2021

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From the Pastor:



Matthew 22:37-40 (EHV) ³⁷ Jesus said to him, " 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' ³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹ The second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' ⁴⁰ All the Law and the Prophets depend on these two commandments."

Should I or shouldn't I? That is the question. Is it safe or is it not? What will others think of me if I do or don't? What does God think? These are questions that are asked by many concerning coming back to worship in person at church. There is a plethora of information through all sorts of venues that are conflicting, misleading, or even actual informative common sense news.

As the colors of the dial change and less restrictions are put into place and more vaccinations are given, it is opening up the door to venture out and participate with the rest of the world. It means that there is less of a chance of contracting COVID-19. It hasn't been eradicated but there is a positive outlook in the near future.

Getting back to worship. The questions at the beginning of this article are valid questions. How does one know if it is the right time to return? Are there enough precautions to allow for return? It depends on one's vulnerability status and one's motivations or intentions. It goes back to the Bible verses above. First and foremost, the

Should I or shouldn't I? (Continued on page 2)

Midweek Lenten Series continues

Lent continues with worship services on Wednesdays at 6:30 PM. No soup suppers this season. Join us for inspiring worship on the theme: "Predicted,"

same. There will be no Easter Breakfast due to COVID restrictions, but the ladies' will provide fresh baked goods for a small fellowship gathering.

Church's 50th Anniversary

We have sent letters to two former pastors inviting them to be our guest preachers for the anniversary planned for June 12 and 19, 2022. We continue to solicit documents or photos that you feel could be used. Please consult with Mike and Lola Radeck, Zac Radeck, or Bob and Miriam Grafe. They are our committee.

Holy Week and Easter worship

We will worship on Maundy Thursday with Holy Communion at 6:30 PM. On Good Friday we will have two identical services with Holy Communion at 3:00 PM and 6:30 PM.

Easter Sunday worship will be at 7:30 AM and 9:00 AM. Both services will be the

WELS workings

(What does it mean to be part of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod?)

Have you visited www.wels.net lately?

Training Gospel Workers: Our synod's Christ-centered ministerial education system provides undergraduate training and continue education for our pastors, teacher, staff ministers, and missionaries. Post-graduate training takes place on our campuses and in various satellite venues. Called workers continue to grow in their knowledge of Scripture and how to present it to those they serve.

(Continued from page 1) Should I or shouldn't I?

question is what is in your heart? Are you staying away because you are validly concerned about your health or is it because you are used to not coming to worship and you have no desire to worship with fellow believers?

Only God knows what is in your heart. If you want to come to worship but are concerned, God knows that. He knows what is in everyone's hearts. Faith is first and foremost as Jesus says.

But if you are staying away because it is convenient and you have the attitude that God doesn't care that you don't join in worship, that is not a good reason.

Yes, there are some who stay away because they don't want to hear the Law preached at them. But then they miss the Gospel as well. God knows that as well.

It comes down to what is in the heart. If you feel that attending could still cause contraction, then you should remain safe. God understands. You will not be condemned for not worshiping when in your heart you want to but also want to stay healthy.

So the first and greatest commandment is aimed at your heart and your faith. The second is equally important for those who have returned to worship.

Everyone has a different opinion on mask wearing or not. The question is, how does wearing or not wearing affect those around you? How do you want to show

love to your neighbor?

Can we be like St. Paul, who wrote: 1 Corinthians 9:21-23 (EHV) ²¹ "To those who are without the law, I became like a person without the law (though I am not without God's law but am within the law of Christ) so that I might gain those who are without the law. ²² To the weak, I became weak so that I might gain the weak. I have become all things to all people so that I may save at least some. ²³ And I do everything for the sake of the gospel so that I may share in it along with others."

While not everyone agrees on the mask wearing, it may be of help to those who are on the fence as to whether to come to worship or not. As the County continues to relax the restrictions, it will be easier for those who long to come back to worship to do so. Not everyone will feel comfortable and that is okay. But if we can "love our neighbor" by the way we conduct ourselves in church, it will go a long way in fellowshiping with one another.

Those that feel comfortable to worship will do so. We look forward to the day when we can get back to full worship and do so without having to wear masks and social distance.

We are not making any mandates. We just want to be able to worship with fellow believers. Love God. Love neighbor. The Lord will guide us in doing so.

A passive way to support St. Paul church is to use the link to Amazon that will give back a percentage to the church. You must use the smile.amazon.com link. The regular Amazon website will not do it.

Copy and paste this link:

<https://stpaulg.us10.list-manage.com/track/click?u=c7181c81ce4e9446a28b37bd8&id=9f6cfaebb9&e=3fcbb58148>

Save it to your favorites and every time you place an order on Amazon, go to the Amazon "smile" page and St. Paul will receive a small percent. There is no added fees or costs to you. When you are on the correct website, it will show that you are donating to St. Paul Church. You can also click on the link on our Friday updates as well as the link on our website.



The Pilot is a monthly newsletter of St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church. Articles are to be submitted to the editor by the 15^h 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.

Next meeting will be March 20 at 11:00 AM.

Notes from January meeting

As mentioned in last month's newsletter, the Ladies' Fellowship has purchased white, non-festival paraments. They will first be used on Easter Sunday. Mission donation for February will be \$200 to the Truth in Love Ministries (TILM) that provides materials for witnessing to the Mormons and also aids former Mormons to transition to faith in Jesus as their only Savior. And they also reach out to the Mormon communities with the Bible truths that they don't have.

We will not be having an Easter Breakfast this year, but the ladies will provide fresh baked items between services for all to enjoy.

The ladies will go to lunch on March 18th at the Goat & Clover Irish Pub. They will meet at the church at 11:15 AM to carpool.

Befriend a Mission (BAM)

With a new year, comes new missions to support. For 2021, the Rocky Mountain Circuit will be focusing our attention on the following three missions:

Native American and Teacher Ruth Tainatongo

Ms. Ruth Tainatongo is the 4th grade teacher at East Fork Lutheran School in Whiteriver, Arizona. East Fork Lutheran School currently has K-8, while anticipating opening to 9th and 10th grades in the fall. Each grade is in its own classroom. There are many repairs that the school has to undergo before it can open in person again so any funds we are able to raise to assist with this is greatly appreciated. Ruth's family consists of Ruth, her husband, Darryl and two children, Kai who is 19 and Hali who is 17. Kai is a sophomore at Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff. He is hoping to pursue a career in nursing. Hali is a senior at Blue Ridge High School in Pinetop. She is hoping to go to school in North Carolina and pursue a career in teaching.

Living Hope Ev. Lutheran Church and Pastor Eric Melso

Living Hope is in Ooltewah, Tennessee and part of the South Atlantic district. Living Hope was officially launched in September 2018. They use a "church on wheels" system in order to set up the worship space each week in a hotel conference room. About half the

congregation comes for in-person worship and the other half watch the livestream service.

Pastor Melso and his wife Jennifer moved to Chattanooga in 2017 after being assigned on Call Day to start a new mission. In 2019, they welcomed their little girl Natalie who is just about to turn 2 years old. Jennifer is expecting, so they will have a new addition to their family, due to arrive July 21st of this year.

Living Savior Ev. Lutheran Church and Pastor Paul Zell

Living Savior is in Hendersonville, North Carolina and part of the South Atlantic district. In 2017 Living Savior Church of south Asheville started a new church in Hendersonville. The sister congregation is currently meeting in 4 Seasons Mall in temporary quarters.

Pastor Zell is married to Cathy and they have three grown children. Their son currently resides in Oregon and their two daughters (plus one son-in-law and granddaughter) live in Virginia.

St. Paul Lutheran Church has the opportunity to participate in the BAM during the month of April with prayers for these mission places.

The LWMS Rocky Mountain Circuit will meet on Saturday, April 24th in person at Christ Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Aurora, CO and virtually, online.

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pastorstrong@stpaulgj.org

Worship Services:

Sunday mornings 9:00 AM
Fellowship: 10:00 AM
Bible Study: 10:30 AM
Monday Bible Study: 7:00 PM

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