



St. Paul Lutheran Messenger

Volume 2020 Issue 4

April 2020

Our Mission Statement:

“To Grow in God’s Word and Share
God’s Love”

Our Core Values:

1. Building community inside and outside of our church building.
2. Nurturing and developing faith lives for all ages
3. Serving Others (in our neighborhoods, community, state and beyond)
4. Caring for our members and church building.
5. Investing in children, youth and their families.

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“But now, this is what the LORD says— he who created you, Jacob, he who formed you, Israel: “Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze. For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior” Isaiah 43:1-3a.

It's easy to feel overwhelmed each time you turn on the T.V., scroll through posts on your smart phone or read the paper. A great number of people are afraid and worried about their health, the well-being of family members and the economy. These were many of the same fears Isaiah was addressing in the passage above. He wanted the people of Israel to see that even though everything seemed pretty hopeless that it would pass and that God would be there with them through it.

We also need to remember that this pandemic will pass, and that God is ever present with us now. The Apostle Paul says in Romans 8 that there is nothing that can separate us from the love of God. We also need to remember that this is a sacred time, and the manner in which we turn to God now will impact the future that we will experience on the other side. Now is the time to be more intentional about our relationship with Christ and growing in our faith, hope and love – for God and others.

To help us through this difficult time and to prepare for the future, we've been active at church developing ministries to help us to worship, grow in our faith, stay connected, and support each other in our time of need and be more intentional. So what have we been working on?

Each day Pastor Carole, Nurse Linda and I have been calling people to check on you and to see how we can support you and pray for you. If you ever want to talk with me please call or email me. It is a great privilege for us to walk with you through this difficult time. You can also help by calling each other.

Worship

Currently my son-in-law, Alec, has been recording me and then uploading the message on YouTube – we're trying our best to get them out in time. After it is uploaded Kathleen sends out an email and posts it on Facebook. When you go the church website click on “News” and at the bottom you will see “sermons” - Click on that. Going forward our goal is to be able to live stream a message on Wednesday evenings and Sunday mornings that will also be saved to the website and shown at a later date and time on cable television. We are also checking into the possibility of recording the service on cassette tapes for those who do not have access to the internet or cable television. I have been working with Andy to see how we can incorporate music and liturgy into the message.

Faith Formation

Kathleen has set us up to use GoTo Meeting which is a networking platform that will allow us to do video conferencing, and online Bible studies. Beginning April 8th I will be leading a book study with the Holy Conversations Team (anyone is welcome to join us). We will be reading Inner Compass by Margaret Silf, and doing the exercises at the end of each chapter. Contact me if you're interested in signing up or want more information. The current video conference is Wednesday mornings at 10:00 a.m., but if needed we can add another 7:00 p.m. There would be a video conference every two weeks.

Later in April I would like to offer an online discipleship course developed by Greg Ogden and is entitled, “Discipleship Essentials: A Guide To Building Your Life in Christ.”

At this point the video conference study would be on Monday evenings at 7:00 p.m. The start date is still pending.

Connections

Pastor Carole, Parish Nurse Linda and I will be working with the Senior Committee to expand the work of the committee. Basically, the Senior Committee will become a calling tree. Each member will be giving a list of congregational members over 65 that they can call weekly. Primarily they will be calling to address issues of isolation and loneliness, but will also check to see if they need someone to run errands and if they can access the weekly messages. If not, the staff and senior committee will try and figure out ways to get the message to them.

If you have other ideas of how we can more intentionally connect with each other please let anyone on the staff know.

Supporting Each Other

Each day I will be posting a Bible verse and prayer petition on the church's website and Facebook, and everyone is invited to pause at 12:00 p.m. to lift up a silent prayer. If you know of someone who doesn't have access to the website or Facebook give them a call and share the verse and prayer petition with them.

Going forward if you have a financial need please contact me. In the books of Acts we read about how the early Christians held "all things in common so that there wasn't a need among them." One of the gifts of being a part of a faith community is that we are there to help each other holistically and will make every effort to do so.

Finally, I would ask that you pray for the staff and I. We are praying that God will ministry through us to support you, but there are days when we struggle too, but we draw encouragement and support from your prayers.

As difficult as this time is, I am grateful that I can journey through it with you.

May the love, grace and peace of Jesus be with you always.

PF

Thank you!

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Thank you to Mugs, Adele Urhammer, Lynn Lomen and Jan Stevens for providing treats for Sunday Morning Worship in March.

**Dan's Den**

Grace and peace to you all in this pandemic,

I have been praying for you all in this crazy time. As we settle into a new and for some, pretty awkward schedule of being quarantined and without much social interaction, some of us have been exploring ways to continue to stay connected with one another and all of you! For both Sunday School and Connect we are creating google classrooms where we will be posting devotionals, lessons, and hopefully more as we get off the ground, the links to join them are at the bottom of this page.

The Sunday School page will consist of the weekly lessons that would normally happen during Sundays but have been personally adapted by us Sunday School teachers to better fit the situations of in-home learning with the whole family! This page is being set up for the parents of children in Sunday School and elementary age group. There will also be questions posted that you could talk with your family about each week to come closer with one another and with God. Those questions will also allow you to post a response or reflection from your family's discussion to share with others what your family has discovered. I am also uploading devotions created by *Seeds Family Worship* which were created and geared for family prayer, study, conversation, and song! If you have any suggestions or ideas that you think would be a great resource to add to the page moving forward, let us know and we can explore how it can be added!

For Connect, we are creating a separate google classroom that will be a place for the youth to go to and post questions, prayer requests, and other thoughts with each other while we remain distanced. It will also serve as the place where the weekly lessons will be posted, and a link to connect via *GoToMeeting* will be posted (this is similar to zoom) where we can have a small live devotion with each other to stay connected through scripture. This page will also serve as a place for the High Schoolers as well! My hope is for the middle schooler's and high schoolers to connect here to continue asking questions and growing deeper in faith as a community. Like the Sunday School, if you have any suggestions or ideas that you think would be a great resource to add to the page moving forward, let us know!

Until we can meet, I hope and pray you are all finding times to rest and find peace with the people around you and in the virtual circles that are available to you!

In the love of Christ,

Daniel O'Brien



**Protect yourself – the Coronavirus  
[COVID-19]**

There is currently no vaccine to prevent coronavirus disease (COVID-19). There is no specific medication to treat it. The best way to prevent the illness is to avoid being exposed. The CDC recommends preventive actions to help prevent the spread of this respiratory disease, including:

- Avoid close contact with people - 6 foot social distance.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with your elbow or a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.
- Facemasks should be used by the people who show symptoms of COVID-19 to help prevent the spread of the disease to others. The use of facemasks is also crucial for health care workers and emergency workers.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds [sing Happy Birthday twice], especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing. AND after returning from an essential trip to grocery store, etc.
  - If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. Always wash hands with soap and water if hands

visibly dirty.

**STAY HOME if possible. Only essential trips for food, medical care, etc.**

**WASH YOUR HANDS - Centers for Disease Control guidelines:**

1. **Wet** your hands with clean, running water (warm or cold), turn off the tap, and apply soap.
2. **Lather** your hands by rubbing them together with the soap. Lather the backs of your hands, between your fingers, and under your nails.
3. **Scrub** your hands for at least 20 seconds. Need a timer? Hum the “Happy Birthday” song from beginning to end twice.
4. **Rinse** your hands well under clean, running water.
5. **Dry** your hands using a clean towel or air dry them.



*“And when they come from the marketplace, they do not eat unless they wash. And there are many other traditions that they observe, such as the washing of cups and pots and copper vessels and dining couches.” Mark 7:4 ESV*

Linda Peterson

Parish Nurse



## From the Office:

I heard a statement on the radio this morning on my way into work: “We stand strong on the Rock of Jesus”. Those words gave me comfort today, at a time when things are so unpredictable.

I wanted to share with all of you some of the things I’ve been working on along with some information, as we move into a more online virtual presence.

As Pastor stated we now have the capability to do web conferencing through GoToMeeting. This will allow us to have meetings where we can screen share as well as do video conferencing so we can see people’s faces 😊. You do need a web cam on your computer in order for both of these to work. If you have smart phone, you can download the GoToMeeting app and log in through that.

**A note:** It’s possible that when you accept an invite through GoToMeeting and log in for the first time, you may be asked to “download the app”, please reply yes if you are asked (this is for computer log-in only).

Our plan for office hours moving forward is to do our best to keep the office open during our regular hours. One of us staff members will try to be here to answer questions, pick up the mail and answer the phones. However, should there be a case where no one is here and you need one of us, please feel free to reach out to me or Pastor Fred. My phone number is 763-772-2500

Each week Pastor Fred will be sending me the Daily Reading, a mid week video and a Sunday Sermon video.

That information will be distributed 3 ways: Email, on our website and on our Facebook page.

To access the Daily Reading on our website do the following steps:

- 1) Type [www.stpaulc.org](http://www.stpaulc.org) in your browser. This is our web address and Google is the most common browser.
- 2) Once you are on our webpage go to the **News** tab. When you click on that tab there is a drop down menu. Click on the Daily Readings menu item to see the daily reading. I will keep the weeks readings there until the following Monday.

To access the Mid week message and the Sunday Sermon do the following:

- 1) Go to our web page and click on the **News** tab. This time click on the Sermons menu item. You will see a mid week link and a Sermons link for the week. I will post the mid week and Sermon for that week under the appropriate week heading

If you want to follow us on Facebook you will find us at: **“St Paul Lutheran Church Stillwater, MN.”**

Thanks to Mugs, we now have some (6) extra copies of Portals of Prayers here at the church. However, if you go to the [Concordia Publishing House website \(www.cph.org\)](http://www.cph.org) you will find a daily devotion there, plus if you go to the **For Home** section on the website you can download a free special Portals of Prayer.

God Bless all of you,  
Kathleen Peterson  
Office Coordinator  
763-772-2500



## God's Creation

### Ways to be good stewards of His world!

“April showers bring May flowers.” Did you know that when it rains, polluted storm water from dirty streets, and run-off from fertilizer can make it into our ponds, streams, lakes, and rivers? This can pose a health hazard for people as well as wildlife and fish. Is there something that you and I could do to help prevent storm water pollution? YES, there is! Using Rain Barrels that are attached to your gutters-downspout catches rainwater which would otherwise flow into our sewers and over dirty streets sending pollutants to our local ponds, streams, lakes, and rivers. Your Rain Barrel then can be used for the water needs in your yard and garden(s) which will reduce the stress placed on municipal water systems during the dry months. The Rain Barrel approach works in connection with nature to collect and filter runoff, reduce flooding, and minimizes pollution in our rivers and streams while helping to save money and energy too.

Rain Barrels can be purchased at any stores like Menards, Home Depot, or Lowes, but can also be purchased through the Washington County Environmental Center, if you are a Washington County resident. <https://www.co.washington.mn.us/2813/Backyard-Composting>

#### Rain Catcher Rain Barrel

\$79 full price | \$59 sale price



*Pre-ordered items are available for pick-up at the [Environmental Center](#) during normal business hours.*

**Will you consider helping to be good stewards of God's Creation with Rain Barrels?**

## Upcoming Events and Updates

### **From the Fellowship Committee:**

We had another great cribbage tournament at SPLC on March 7th! The big winner was Woody with five wins and he skunked three people! Thanks to all that played and especially to Missy, Adele and Vida who don't even play cribbage but hang out and take care of all of us that do!



### **From Stewardship, Grants and More**

Straight Talk from Kevin Shoeberg

A number of things have happened in the last two months, both in the church and around the world. On a local, state and national level the COVID-19 pandemic has taken center stage and dominated the social, economic and political arenas. A number of things have also happened to impact us as a congregation. On February 21, 2020, Nancy Grebis, resigned as President and withdrew as a member of St. Paul Lutheran Church. We can all speculate as to what happened, but given the circumstances we find ourselves in, we would encourage you to pray for Nancy and our congregation. We want to thank her for her service as chair of the worship committee, a choir member and in her role as Vice President and President, and pray for her well

being as she moves forward.

On March 17, 2020, Jeff Thomsen, became President of the congregation and the council is in the process of appointing a Vice President to serve the congregation. The Vice President will serve as Vice President in 2020 and President in 2021. Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton, presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), said that even though "this is a time of disruption. It is also a time to live and act as faithful people of God."

"Circumstances now are forcing a change in our behavior," said Eaton. "But let's see this as an opportunity for us to pause and reflect, to breathe, and to think about what it means to be the body of Christ. How do we stay connected when gathering is discouraged? How do we care for our neighbor?"

Stewardship is more than financial support. The ELCA states as follows:

"As members of the ELCA, we believe that we are freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor.

How do we respond to God's call to serve and love our neighbors? We faithfully steward the gifts God has so abundantly given to us. Although some think of stewardship as only a financial response to God's love, stewardship encompasses so much more than money. It is about how we use all that God has entrusted to our care — our time, our talents and our treasures — to love God and our neighbors, both inside and outside of the church walls



and our homes.

We have taken steps and are investigating additional ways to allow providing our financial gifts through electronic means.

Currently, you can make donations through simply giving and Vanco. However, our experience is that a lot of our members prefer to write a check for their gifts. We encourage you to give in whatever means is most convenient for you. Given the stay in place orders, please feel free to mail your gifts as we will ensure that those gifts are properly deposited and accounted for. Your gifts are important to allow us to continue to make a difference in our community. Even though services have been suspended we need your support. We will also be discussing how we can use your time and talents in this new age of limited accessibility. We continue our efforts to support the various missions both locally and around the world. None of those things are possible without your generous support.

On an immediate basis, St. Paul Lutheran Church has taken steps to provide protocols for interaction of people and cleanliness of the church facility. Memorial and Grants has also taken steps to assist with the needs that high unemployment and the loss of income will have on our economy, our congregation and the world. Our Church through the Memorial and Grants Committee provided \$1,000 to Valley Outreach which is an increase of over 40 percent from the last gift provided. Memorial and Grants anticipates an increase in the number of HCM grants applied for seeking assistance with rent, utilities, food and medical expenses. Fortunately, in March, St. Paul Lutheran received its yearly grant from the St. Paul Foundation in the sum of approximately \$44,000.

These funds allow us to distribute money to those in need including members of our congregation.

The Memorial and Grants committee received scholarships which will be given out through Stillwater High School. While we may not participate in recognition activities (as there is likely to be none) we are making sure that the recipients of the scholarships are aware of our church activities and our role and efforts to build community. Memorial and Grants will announce the winners of the scholarship in May.

On February 22, 2020 the Synod Assembly was held at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church which I attended along with Pastor Hanson. The Bishop addressed the Synod Assembly and requested that we share the Statement of Purpose 2016 which was adopted by the St. Paul Area Synod. The Statement of Purpose 2016 provides as follows:

“The Saint Paul Area Synod is made up of congregations, mission starts and institutions committed to growing in faith and trust in Jesus Christ. Living out of our identity as Lutherans, we recognize we are grasped by grace and are free to devote our energy to being church in a way that is rooted in tradition and open to experimentation.”

This means we will show up where we have not been before. We will walk with those who have felt excluded, hurt or indifferent to the witness of the church. We will act with the confidence that God calls us to meet Christ in every one of our neighbors.

Christ has begun this good work among us and is renewing us today for -

deeper faith in the living God; wider engagement in God's world; and a bolder trust in God's work through us.

In our common work we will: build partnerships that are local, global and mutually transformative; embolden our public witness to justice and service; welcome possibilities for being church in a new day.

"We are not there yet. We are on the way together."

St. Paul Lutheran Church utilized this Statement of Purpose over the last four years in determining that we would undertake to build community both inside the church and in our community. We have experimented by developing our partnership with St. Croix Family Resource Center in establishing the Youth Drop In Center. Our partnership with our sister congregation in Tanzania has allowed us to have an impact on a global basis.

A number of things have been postponed or cancelled for this year. As you are aware, the organ is in need of repair at a cost of \$60,000. We have raised approximately \$17,000 and we need to raise the balance so repairs can be made in 2021. Obviously, our current situation takes precedence, but keep in mind our goal, and please pray for the church, our pastor and the congregation members.

As we move forward, we anticipate there will be changes in how we operate and how we continue moving forward with meeting the needs of those less fortunate while continuing to build community. I know that if we work together, there is nothing that we cannot do

If any of you find that you are in need of anything, please contact the church at [SPLC@stpaulc.org](mailto:SPLC@stpaulc.org), or call the office and leave a message. Someone will return your call, and every effort to help with whatever need you may have, will be made. In the meantime, stay safe and help in our fight against the COVID-19 virus.

In Christ,

Kevin K. Shoeberg

Member

# Easter Word Search

E A T R C H O C O L A T E G H  
 G J G E G E A S T E R J E B N  
 S G E S A T L H H O D A Y S U  
 T F A L N G D E C O R A T E D  
 R L E R L A D A B I P O Y S C  
 G O G G R Y A C A R R O T E H  
 D W E S G I B B U N A N Y S I  
 U E P A R A D E J E L T S P C  
 C R J L A I N S A H O L I Y K  
 K S G E S J R S U N D A Y O A  
 L C A R S T A S B A S K E T N  
 I K S H J H B U N N Y E G S I  
 N G S A U I B L A T I P G S N  
 G I N J E N I J E L S O N G G  
 S P R I N G T U L I P A G D S



BASKET  
 BUNNY  
 CARROT  
 CELEBRATION  
 CHICK  
 CHOCOLATE  
 DECORATED

DUCKLINGS  
 EASTER  
 EGGS  
 FLOWERS  
 GRASS  
 HOP  
 HUNT

JELLYBEANS  
 PARADE  
 RABBIT  
 SPRING  
 SUNDAY  
 TULIP



CRAYONSANDCRAVINGS.COM

## Song for the month:

Jesus loves me this I know  
 For the Bible tells me so  
 Little ones to Him belong  
 They are weak but He is  
 strong.  
 Yes Jesus loves me  
 Yes Jesus loves me  
 Yes Jesus loves me  
 The Bible tells me so  
 Jesus loves me He who died  
 Heaven's gate to open wide  
 He will wash away my sin  
 Let His little child come in  
 Yes Jesus loves me  
 Yes Jesus loves me  
 Yes Jesus loves me  
 The Bible tells me so

# April

| Sunday                                                                                                                                                                                    | Monday | Tuesday                                                                         | Wednesday             | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|----------|--------|----------|
|                                                                                                                                                                                           |        |                                                                                 | 1<br>April Fool's Day | 2        | 3      | 4        |
| 5<br>Visit our website<br>or Facebook<br>page for Daily<br>Readings and<br>Pastor Fred's<br>Message                                                                                       | 6      | 7<br>6:30pm<br>Business Mgmt<br>Meeting<br>7:30pm<br>Executive<br>Committee Mtg | 8                     | 9        | 10     | 11       |
| 12<br>Visit our website<br>or Facebook<br>page for Daily<br>Readings and<br>Pastor Fred's<br>Message<br> | 13     | 14<br>7pm Church<br>Council Meeting                                             | 15                    | 16       | 17     | 18       |
| 19<br>Visit our website<br>or Facebook<br>page for Daily<br>Readings and<br>Pastor Fred's<br>Message                                                                                      | 20     | 21                                                                              | 22                    | 23       | 24     | 25       |
| 26<br>Visit our website<br>or Facebook<br>page for Daily<br>Readings and<br>Pastor Fred's<br>Message                                                                                      | 27     | 28                                                                              | 28                    | 29       | 30     | May 1st  |



We invite you to worship  
with us online by going to  
our website  
[www.stpaulc.org](http://www.stpaulc.org) or our  
Facebook page.

