

THE CHURCH ON THE HIGHWAY

Where Life and Jesus Intersect

St. Paul Lutheran Church

June 2021 Edition

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From Our Senior Pastor

Rev. Larry Krueger

pastorkrueger@splcwaco.com

Reports

In this issue of the newsletter, one will find reports from the chairpersons of the various boards of the congregation. Reports, in general, contain information about past and upcoming events. Of course, we have learned over the course of time, especially since March of 2020, that while reports of the past are certain, plans for the future may change based upon yet unforeseen circumstances.

When I consider the ever changing environment around us, I take much comfort in knowing that there are some things in the future that are certain based on the reports of the past. One can be certain of these future realities because these are those that are promised by God in His Word. In fact, it is God's past reports that assure us of the certainty of future events yet to come...guaranteed!

One of the foremost past reports that makes us certain of a future event to come is the resurrection of Jesus. The reports of this event abound in the Scriptures, noting especially the reports in the Gospel accounts and the testimony of the apostles recorded in the Book of Acts. Of course, one of the crowning summaries of Christ's resurrection was reported by the Apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians 15, which report was, as follows:

[3] For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, [4] that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, [5] and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. [6] Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. [7] Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. [8] Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. (1 Corinthians 15:3-8, ESV)

This report from the past provides us the base and certainty of a future event, namely our own resurrection. While unforeseen occurrences may change some future planned events, this one is certain and will not change. This is what the Apostle Paul also records in 1 Corinthians 15, as follows:

[20] But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. [21] For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. [22] For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. [23] But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. (1 Corinthians 15:20-23, ESV)

There it is...the report of the future that is certain. Since Christ has been raised from the dead, so, too, "those who belong to Christ" will be raised. This report is most certainly true. The day of the resurrection of the saints will be an amazing day, no doubt!

The older I get, *turning 65 this month (Yikes!)*, the more I love the report of this certain future, especially connected to all the other promises, e.g. receiving a "glorious body" (Philippians 3:21), no more crying or pain (Revelation 21:4) and others. This good report surely does give us hope for a great, eternal future.

Love God and love your neighbor,
Pastor Krueger



Worship With US

WELCOME

Sunday Worship
8am & 10:30am
Bible Class/Sunday School
9:15am



A Message From Our DCE Intern

Megan Harcrow

Email: DCEMegan@gmail.com

Have you ever seen ants that march all in a line? They have one goal in mind, to get food and bring it back to their nest. Even when things try to distract or deter them, they keep marching and never look back. Whenever I see a line of ants, I always think about Jesus. Jesus came to earth with a purpose, to save us from our sins. His energy was directed to God's plan. When things happened, being tempted, storms, healing the sick, etc., he did not stop and look back but carried out God's plan.

Jesus wants us to do the same. The Bible tells us so in Luke 9:57-62:

“⁵⁷ As they were walking along the road, a man said to him, “I will follow you wherever you go.”⁵⁸ Jesus replied, “Foxes have dens and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head.”⁵⁹ He said to another man, “Follow me.” But he replied, “Lord, first let me go and bury my father.”⁶⁰ Jesus said to him, “Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and proclaim the kingdom of God.”⁶¹ Still another said, “I will follow you, Lord; but first let me go back and say goodbye to my family.”⁶² Jesus replied, “No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God.” (ESV)

We should all want to follow Jesus, then once we start to follow Him, we should never look back. We should commit to our faith and strive to be the person God wants us to be. Like the marching ants, we should stay our course and follow Jesus like our commitment in confirmation, even unto the point of death.

Dear Jesus, thank you for coming to fulfill God's plan. Help us to be faithful and devoted servants to you. Amen

Children's Application:

Find a way to relay the message to your child. It could be as simple as telling them how we should always follow Jesus, even when it is hard. Try using “ants on a log” (made with celery, peanut butter, and raisins/chocolate chips) to show your children how the ants march in a line. Shake the celery every which way and tell how the ants still march in a line. Use this example to relate the lesson above to your little ones, and enjoy a tasty snack!

BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S BOARD REPORTS

President's Report

- The Call Committee has completed the “Information Gathering Stage” in the process of calling a senior pastor. Since the committee's first meeting, January 11, 2021, the committee has gathered information requested by the Texas District Office. Following several meetings in January thru April, that included discussion and review of the information being gathered, the packet of information was forwarded on May 7, to the Texas District Office including our letter to President Michael Newman, requesting a call list. In addition to our letter, the packet of information included the congregational self-study, demographic profiles, nomination forms submitted by members of our congregation, and the pastoral profile survey report including the executive summary. In 4-6 weeks, the District Office will provide Personal Information Forms (PIF's) for the pastoral candidates on the call list. The committee will meet during this 4-to-6-week period (prior to receiving the information from the District Office) and discuss the process moving forward. On behalf of the congregation, I thank the call committee for the time, work, and input that each of you have contributed as the requested information was gathered and reviewed during this part of the call process. I especially thank Jennifer Lynch, a member of the call committee, and Cindy Byrd for the research and data collecting that the District Office requested. Please continue to keep the call committee and the St. Paul Family in your prayers as we begin the next stage of the call process.
- Congratulations to Duane Schwarz, Bill Clark, Kayla Kubitz, Mark Borchardt, Isaac Cox, Douglas Galler, Eric King, and Lloyd Swiggum, who were recently elected to the Board of Directors; and to Jerry Tucker who was elected for a second term as Chairman of Youth Ministry. We extend our appreciation to Keith Koester, Raymond Fleischhauer, Charlie Morgan, Brian Strickland, Julie Hahn, and Gene Bode for their faithful service as they complete their terms on the board. The new board members will begin their terms in September.
- Thanks to the committee who continue to plan the dedication of the Family Center honoring Pastor and Mrs. Albers, chaired by Mark Borchardt. An update is included in this report. We look forward to this special dedication.
- Appreciation goes out to Charlie Morgan and Jerry Tucker who are serving as St. Paul's representatives to the Central Texas Mission Task Force (Church Plant). Thanks for keeping us informed and for the presentation by Rev. Gerry Harrow on May 23. This is a wonderful mission opportunity for St. Paul.

Reports continue on page 3

BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S BOARD REPORTS, CONTINUED:**President's Report continued**

- We are grateful that we are gradually moving back to normal worship and pray that soon, we will be able to return to our previous fellowship gatherings. I continue to reflect on the words of Pastor Kruger that remind us that regardless of what is happening in our world or in our personal lives, "God is in Control." We are grateful for the members who continue to volunteer and serve the St. Paul family physically at the Church, others from their home, computer, and telephone. While there are too many to name, we thank those who continue to ensure the worship and ongoing business of St. Paul during this pandemic that have continued keep the St. Paul Congregation informed as we return to a more normal worship and fellowship with each other.

Albers Family Life Center Committee Update - May 2021

One hundred sixty upholstered chairs were purchased for the Albers Family Life Center and have been used since last fall. These chairs were purchased with memorial funds and a special gift. The committee has selected the fabric for all the sound boards as well as the carpeting on the two ends of the family center. Andrews Furniture Services completed work on the sound board recovering in May, and black cove baseboard will be installed all around the family center. Volunteers painted the walls the weekend of May 14-15 to give it a fresh look. A memorial plaque was created for the entrance of the Family Life Center to honor Pastor and Mrs. Albers service to St. Paul. The rededication will be held at some point later this year once we are able to meet in a large group again. A list of those serving on this committee is available in the church office.

Treasurer's Report

- **Balances:** (this information is available in the church office)

Expenditures:

- As of April 30th, regular contributions are under budget by 8% and total expenditures are under budget by 15%. Most of this is due to limited activities due to COVID-19. This should change as we are seeing more and more things get back to normal.
- In the March Board of Directors meeting the board voted to provide \$12,000.00 to support the Central Texas Mission Task Force in starting a Church plant in the Waco area.

Board of Elders

The Board of Elders continues to monitor health concerns of COVID-19.

Board of Building & Grounds

The Board of Building & Grounds recently purchased scaffolding to safely replace all of the light bulbs in the hanging light fixtures in the sanctuary and to paint in the Family Center. We also recently added an additional handicap height commode to the ladies restroom by the Family Center. Following the recent winter weather, we did have a water leak that affected the Youth Room restroom and the Altar Guild storage. We are in the process of finishing the repairs - but that restroom remains out of order until all repairs are finished. We are also working on a refresh of the Family Center, including painting that took place on May 14-15. We are grateful to those who took time out of their schedule to help with that repainting project, especially to John Ed Mach for loaning us his lift to reach the high walls. John Banta continues to keep up with maintenance projects around the building and on the church grounds. Some of lawn crew are preparing to retire and we are looking for new volunteers to join them on Thursday mornings to keep the grounds mowed and clean.

Board of Fellowship

The Fellowship Committee was grateful to be able to serve coffee and pastries on Easter Sunday, cookies for Mother's Day, and is anxious to start planning more events in the future.

Board of Outreach

The Board of Outreach served a meal for "Church Under the Bridge" in March, and we are currently collecting donations to benefit CareNet Pregnancy Center (Mother's Day thru Father's Day).

Board of Children's Ministry

We resumed Sunday School classes for children, and At-Home Sunday School materials continue to be emailed to families that requested them on a weekly basis. In May we had planned a trip to the Cameron Park Zoo for nursery to age 6 children that was canceled due to weather, and in June we are planning a pizza and painting event for grades 1-6. We are also in the planning stages for VBS, scheduled to take place July 18-21.

Board of Youth Ministry

The Youth group continues to hold Sunday morning Bible classes in the Youth Room each Sunday. We have a 6 week Re-Boot camp planned for June 2-July 7 for grades 7-12, as well as a beach trip in July.

Board of Ushers

- We are still asking for a minimum of two ushers on communion Sundays and one usher on other Sundays. When this changes head ushers will be notified.
- A reminder for 8:00 a.m. usher teams - you are responsible for getting coffee ready in the family center. There are directions for making coffee in the pantry. If you aren't familiar with the process please reach out to one of our 8:00 a.m. head ushers for details.
- We have posted an usher contact list in the elder/usher closet in the foyer. Please review the list and update your contact information if necessary. We also ask for head ushers to mark through any team members listed that are no longer ushering for your team.
- We are looking for usher volunteers, particularly for the 8:00 a.m. service. We have one 8:00 a.m. usher group that is down to two members. If you are interested in ushering for either service, please text or call David Reinke.

Board of Stewardship

The Board of Stewardship continues to make regular deposits of offerings and gifts.



**“The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears them;
He delivers them from all their troubles.” Psalm 34:17**

Lord, Hear Our Prayers:

- † We pray for continued healing for all those who have suffered physical problems in the last month, including: (a complete list is available through the church office). We pray the Lord lay His healing hand upon them.
- † We pray for all who struggle with ongoing health concerns, including: (a complete list is available through the church office). We pray the Lord keep His healing hand upon them.
- † We pray for all who are home-bound, in nursing care or assisted living facilities, including: (a complete list is available through the church office). We pray the Lord give them comfort and peace with their living situation.
- † We pray for those who have lost loved ones in the last month: (a complete list is available through the church office). We pray the Lord give them comfort in their time of sorrow.
- † We pray for those serving in our Armed Forces (a complete list is available through the church office). We pray the Lord keep them safe in their stead as they defend our freedom and safety.
- † We pray for those serving in the mission field ... may God continue to bless and keep them safe as they minister to the world as an extended outreach of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Waco, Texas.

Please contact the church office if you, someone in your family, or a family friend is in need of prayer. Please keep the church office advised of the status of those you add to the prayer list, so that our list remains up-to-date. If you have any questions, please contact the church office at 254.799.3211 or by email to: wecare@splcwaco.com.



How can we Pray for You?

Classes for All Ages

**Join us for Sunday School and Bible Class at 9:15 a.m. Sunday mornings
(Masks are optional for all classes/events).**

Adult Bible Class, in the Family Center

This group is studying the book of Genesis.

Men's Bible Class, in the Conference Room

This group is studying various topics, applicable to everyday life; utilizing archived sermons by Rev. Walter Albers.

Ladies Bible Class, in the Parish Hall

This group is utilizing the study examining the things we say that get in the way of our relationships with God and with others. Each chapter uses humor, anecdotes, and observations to introduce Scripture passages that address common behaviors and attitudes.

Nursery - Grades 6 in classrooms

Due to the sizes of our Sunday School classrooms, we ask that both teachers and children, nursery age thru 6th grade, remain masked the entire class time. We are so very grateful for our teachers!

Nursery - Kindergarten: Willie Vandolah

Grades 1-2: Linda Mitchell

Grades 3-5: Melissa (Owen) Brownlow

Grade 6: Angel Breton

If you have any questions, please contact the Board of Children's Ministry Chair, Ashlee Peacock, or DCE Intern, Megan Harcrow.

Grades 7-12, in the Youth Room

This age group is using a blend of regular Bible studies including music and videos.

Other Bible Study Opportunities:

College Student Evening Bible Study/Fellowship

This group will resume meeting in the Fall semester.

Sunday Evening Bible Study, in the Family Center

This group is planning to resume in September.

Youth Confirmation/Catechesis Training

Wednesday evening Confirmation/Catechesis classes will resume in the Fall.

***There's a place for EVERYONE to be immersed in
God's Word and fellowship with other Christians!***

Thank



You!

Jimmy & Janice Payne extend their heartfelt thanks to the St. Paul family for all of their love and support over these past few months of her recovery following her accident. The calls, cards, prayers, and gifts have been overwhelming and greatly appreciated! While recovery continues, we continue to place our trust in the Lord...and are grateful to have such a loving and supportive church family! We pray the Lord continue to richly bless you all!

UPDATE FOR ON-SITE WORSHIP: We continue to hold on-site worship at St. Paul Lutheran Church. We do so with the safety of attendees in mind. With the new CDC recommendations now in place, the Board of Elders met to discuss possible changes to our Sunday morning worship protocols. While the discussion considered the new CDC guidelines, it also gave due consideration to the fact that the COVID-19 virus has not been eliminated and is still prevalent in our community. Given those considerations, the following paragraphs outline the new worship setting practices, effective immediately.

- › **The wearing of masks at worship will remain optional.** The use of hand sanitizer is still encouraged.
- › **On the pulpit side of the sanctuary** seating will be fully opened. This means every row of pews will be available for seating on that side of the sanctuary. *NOTE: This side of the church will not be sanitized between services.*
- › **On the lectern side of the sanctuary** we will continue the practice of having only every other row open for seating. Alternating rows will continue to be taped off. *NOTE: This side of the church will be sanitized between services. [NOTE: The goal of this new practice is intended to provide a comfort level for those who may not yet have been vaccinated or who are more comfortable with the familiar distancing practices we have had in place. At the same time, this will open up more seating for those who have been vaccinated or who feel comfortable with a closer environment in worship. On both sides of the sanctuary, all are invited please to be considerate of those seated around them, practicing safe distancing as much as possible and being respectful of the space of others around them.]*
- › **On-line reservations will no longer be requested**, since there will be greater capacity in the sanctuary with the aforementioned seating changes. Registration cards will be placed in the pew racks with the request that every attendee please register. ***Registration will be of utmost importance for purposes of tracking, just in case notice of a COVID case needs to be sent to those in attendance.***
- › **Communion practice** will continue as it has been practiced for the current time, including drive-thru communion. This will include pastor and the distribution elders wearing masks and gloves. Plus, all will still be encouraged to stand at the communion rail.

In addition to these changes in the worship setting, **the mask optional protocol will now also be the practice for children's Sunday School classes.** This concurrent guideline change in conjunction with Children's Ministry means the mask optional provision will be consistent across all of our regular Sunday morning activities.

As we continue to move through the stages of COVID-19 among us, the worship protocols will continue to be evaluated. For now, it is hoped that these changes will provide opportunity for more people to attend onsite worship, while still striving to maintain a safe worship environment. Thank you for your continued understanding and cooperation as we journey through these days.



Children ages Nursery - 6th Grade are invited to join us!
A science lab conducts experiments that explain how things are possible.
In Jesus' ministry, He did things that are impossible. His greatest miracle
of all was dying on the cross and rising from the dead for our salvation.
At God's Wonder Lab, discover that Jesus does the impossible for us.

Dinner will be served nightly, from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m.,
with a free-will offering collected to offset expenses.
VBS activities will begin at 6:00 p.m.

Registration will be available on the
church Web site: www.splcwaco.com

SERVANTS FOR JUNE

(Listed by first Initial to protect their identity)

ACOLYTES:

6/6 H Gerik (8:00am)
 Z Ferguson (10:30am)
 6/13 E Amber (8:00am)
 H Hays (10:30am)
 6/20 H Strickland (8:00am)
 W Wolske (10:30am)
 6/27 J Holder (8:00am)
 C Tindle (10:30am)

USHERS

8am Worship: Group 7
 10:30am Worship: Group 8

ALTAR FLOWERS:

6/6 D & L Wolfe
 6/13 R & N Schmedthorst
 6/20 M & S Jugert
 6/27 **OPEN**

NURSERY VOLUNTEERS

6/6 J & R Reinke (8:00am)
 K & M Sjolander (10:30am)
 6/13 J & R Reinke (8:00am)
 D & P Reinke (10:30am)
 6/20 J & R Reinke (both)
 6/27 J & R Reinke (8:00am)
 K Dieterich (10:30am)

ELDER OF THE MONTH:

B Luedke

Congrats Class of 2021

We are very proud of the 2021 Graduates and wish them all success as they follow the path God has created for them!

A list of graduates is available in the church office.



Baby Bottle Boomerang ends on Father's Day, June 20, 2021

Baby bottles are available in the church foyer to fill with your loose change, cash, or check. **Please return your filled bottle by Father's Day, June 20.** All proceeds will directly benefit CareNet Pregnancy Center of Waco, Texas. If you have any questions, please see Beth Hassell. Why do we support the CareNet ministry? Because CareNet is on the frontline to affirm the Sanctity of Human Life right here in Waco.

Psalm 139:13-16 ESV: For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well. My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them.

CARE  NET
of Central Texas
www.PregnancyCare.org

Vacation Bible School
July 18-21, 2021
Volunteers Needed!
Please sign-up in the church foyer if you would like to help!
GOD'S WONDER LAB
JESUS DOES THE IMPOSSIBLE

Children & Youth Activities

Youth SUMMER (Re)Boot Camp

Wednesday evenings
June 2 - July 7, 2021

After a year of COVID interruptions, youth are invited to join in a special six-week youth ministry experience we are calling, "Summer (Re)Boot Camp."

Students in grades 7-12 are invited to join us on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. for games, snacks, and Bible study (*The Bible study will be based on the new drama series The Chosen*).

Please contact Jerry Tucker with any questions.

*Coming Event: Beach Trip to Surfside Beach
July 23-25, 2021 (more details coming soon).*



All students in grades 1-6 are invited to join us in the Family Center following our 10:30 a.m. worship on Sunday, June 6, 2021. A pizza lunch will be provided. If you have any questions, please contact Ashlee Peacock or DCE Intern, Megan Harcrow.

SAVE THE DATE

- 🔊 June 2, 2021: Youth Summer (RE)Boot Camp, Grades 7-12 will meet at 6:30pm for Bible study, games, and snacks.
- 🔊 June 3-July 15, 2:30 p.m.: Summer Arts & Crafts Camp: Thursdays from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m.
- 🔊 June 6, 2021: Grades 1-6 Pizza, Painting & Games
- 🔊 June 13, 2021: Youth Lunch & Topgolf Outing
- 🔊 July 18-21, 2021: VBS (details coming soon, **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED** - sign-up in the church foyer or contact Ashlee Peacock to volunteer)
- 🔊 July 23-25, 2021: High School Youth Beach Trip (more details coming soon)

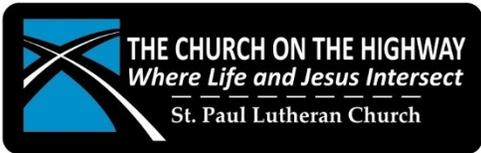
If you have questions, would like to volunteer to help with events, or have ideas to share for possible future events, please contact DCE Intern, Megan Harcrow, Ashlee Peacock, or Jerry Tucker.



Students in grades 1-4 are invited to join us this summer for a six week arts and crafts camp at St. Paul Lutheran Church. Each child will be given the opportunity to work on short or long term arts and crafts projects and learn new skills! A snack will be provided.

**Dates of Camp: June 3, 10, 17, 24, July 8, 15
2:00 to 3:30 p.m.**

For more information or to register, please visit the church Web site (www.splcwaco.com) or contact DCE Intern, Megan Harcrow.



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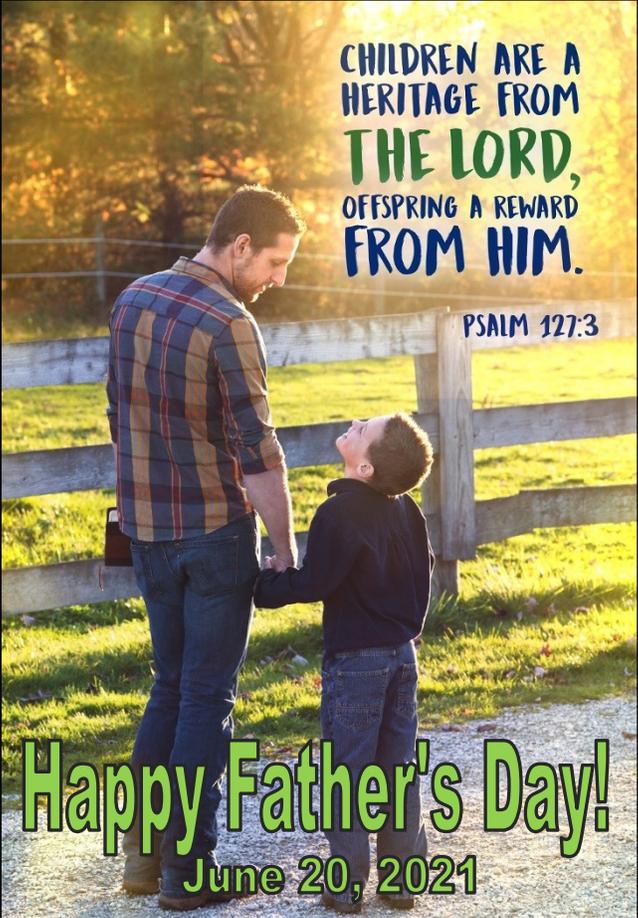
June 2021 Edition




Streamed Live

Live-stream Worship on Sunday mornings at 10:30 a.m. at www.splcwaco.com or on Facebook ([StPaulWaco](https://www.facebook.com/StPaulWaco)).

(Archived copies of Sunday morning worship are available on the web site.)



CHILDREN ARE A HERITAGE FROM THE LORD, OFFSPRING A REWARD FROM HIM.

PSALM 127:3

Happy Father's Day!
June 20, 2021