

# THE CHURCH ON THE HIGHWAY

*Where Life and Jesus Intersect*

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## St. Paul Lutheran Church

August 2019 Edition

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### From Our Senior Pastor

Rev. Larry Krueger

[pastorkrueger@splcwaco.com](mailto:pastorkrueger@splcwaco.com)

#### Real. Present. God.

In July, I was able to attend the LCMS National Youth Gathering in Minneapolis for a few days. The theme of the gathering was "Real. Present. God." Each day at the gathering each of the words of the theme was addressed in Bible study with the youth and emphasized at the nightly mass gatherings. The themes are relevant, however, beyond youth, being just as pertinent for any age person. This month I share a few of the thoughts developed at the gathering for your consideration.

First of all, the theme Bible verse was primarily from Psalm 46:1-2, which reads, as follows:  
 [1] God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. [2] Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way, though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea. (ESV)

**REAL:** It is only in Christ, through whom we can have a right relationship with the Father, that we are truly able to encounter the REALness of this world. In Christ, we encounter God coming among us. Descending to our level, the Son, is REAL in that He encounters us in a physical, earthly, tangible manner. God stands before His creation and we before Him in all our REALness, which is all too often revealing the REAL nature of the broken mess that life can become. Into the midst of that vulnerable brokenness, Christ steps in. His REAL overshadows our own. He is PRESENT with us for the good days and the bad.

**PRESENT:** While it is clear that in the context of Psalm 46, the PRESENT nature of God is seen as a source of security, it is interesting to consider the reaction that Isaiah has to God being PRESENT with him. "Woe, is me!" Isaiah says, "For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!" (Isaiah 6:5). There is both comfort and awe involved when God is truly PRESENT in our lives. When the holiness of God is PRESENT before us, our true sinful nature is bound to be exposed. But, also, He is PRESENT in Christ with mercy and forgiveness.

**GOD:** GOD is all powerful. There is nothing beyond the reach of GOD. He commands the angels (Luke 1:26), just as he commands the elements (Mark 4:35-41). At the same time this all powerful GOD is deeply personal. He is the GOD of Jacob (Psalm 46:7). As such, GOD personally relates to Jacob in relationship, just as we relate to GOD in relationship today. He is not a distant GOD, uninterested in our daily lives. That is not the GOD we encounter in the Scriptures. GOD sent His Son to us. In Christ, He suffered, bled and died for us. This GOD demonstrates His love and ultimate desire to spend eternity personally and physically with us in heaven.

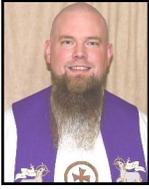
#### Real. Present. God.

May the Real, Present God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be with and bless you richly.

Love God and love your neighbor,  
 Pastor Krueger



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



## A Message From Our Associate Pastor

Rev. Matthew Hardaway

Email: [pastorhardaway@splcwaco.com](mailto:pastorhardaway@splcwaco.com)

Jesus In The Psalms - Psalm 14 (NLT)

<sup>1</sup>Only fools say in their hearts, "There is no God." They are corrupt, and their actions are evil; not one of them does good! <sup>2</sup>The Lord looks down from heaven on the entire human race; he looks to see if anyone is truly wise, if anyone seeks God. <sup>3</sup>But no, all have turned away; all have become corrupt. No one does good, not a single one!

<sup>4</sup>Will those who do evil never learn? They eat up my people like bread and wouldn't think of praying to the Lord.

<sup>5</sup>Terror will grip them, for God is with those who obey him. <sup>6</sup>The wicked frustrate the plans of the oppressed, but the Lord will protect his people <sup>7</sup>Who will come from Mount Zion to rescue Israel? When the Lord restores his people, Jacob will shout with joy, and Israel will rejoice.

People are gullible, easily fooled, just look at verse 1! It almost seems as if people want to be fooled. People will believe what they want regardless of their senses or their common sense. People will believe anything. Just present it correctly, package it properly, and people will believe anything. We're gullible, easily fooled. Don't believe me? Maybe you will believe Cuba Gooding Sr. and the Main Ingredient when they say,

"Everybody plays the fool sometime  
There's no exception to the rule  
Listen, baby, it may be factual, may be cruel  
I ain't lyin', everybody plays the fool"

Of course, there's no shortage of those who would take advantage of the gullibility of others (verse 6). There's always someone out there willing to help you believe what you want to believe, and they're more than willing to convince people they've discovered a better way - a better way to health and wealth, a better way to live, a better way to fulfillment, a better way to God.

Yes, there's no place like religion for supporting quacks and crackpots, for throwing money at gurus and preachers, for discovering "new" amid that which was never lost and is unchanging. This is no new phenomena. Ask St. Paul. He writes to the Galatians, "I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different Gospel" (Gal. 1:6). Paul knew all about those who claimed "new" breakthroughs in religion. He knew all about those who claimed religion and faith needed to evolve over the years. He knew all about those who claimed that Scripture is outdated, at least incomplete. He knew all about those who claimed special revelation from God or a new discovery concerning God's purpose for us. He knew all about them because they were as alive and well in his day as they are in our day. So Paul says to the Galatians: "I cannot believe you're so easily fooled by all this!"

Do not be taken in! There will always be those who try to convince people that they've discovered these: A better way to grow a church, to build the Kingdom, to come to Jesus, to find purpose, please God, to believe and live.

It all sounds good on the surface, but as you peel away the layers of rhetoric, you find it always requires a tweaking of the Gospel. A little change here and there, a little nip and tuck, some theological plastic surgery, and there it is! Paul: "I am astonished that you are so quickly . . . turning to a different gospel." Any change of the Gospel is a different gospel and, therefore, is no gospel!

This is the Gospel of Jesus Christ - "Who will come from Mount Zion to rescue Israel? When the Lord restores his people, Jacob will shout with joy, and Israel will rejoice (v. 7). Or, as Paul references it in Romans 11:26 - Jesus "who rescues will come from Jerusalem, and He will turn Israel away from ungodliness."

Christ, who was, who is and who is to come, is the source of our faith, our hope and our knowledge. No matter how foolish we become, we are always drawn back to the simple message of His love for us.



## A Message From Our Deaconess

Dcs. Suzanne Krahn

Email: [dcskrahn@splcwaco.com](mailto:dcskrahn@splcwaco.com)

### DNA Genetic Testing

Have you ever wondered what your ancestral heritage makeup is? How accurate it is? How much it costs? According to the Genetics Digest, the DNA tests are very popular and getting increasingly more popular all the time. They are in very high demand. They are used for ancestry discovery, family history, community connections, health risks, and family planning. But how good are they?

Genetics Digest suggests that you should stay away from the cheapest ones, but there is no need to buy a very expensive one either. The average cost is about \$100.00 for ancestry only. If you want to learn about your health risks, the tests are about \$150-200.00. They also say that you don't need to buy the most popular brand. Some companies are more concerned about making a sale than delivering a quality product.

Don't be confused between "accuracy" and "precision." According to the Digest, most DNA companies can deliver a test that is 99.9% accurate, but they are often not precise. "Precise" has to be something that has an exact expression of details. The most precise DNA tests currently on the market have at least 20 unique regions they use in their ancestry reports. The best companies will have multiple regions on each continent in their reports (rather than having most of their tested regions all on the same continent).

The Genetics Digest lists three of the top most reputable companies for DNA testing. Those include: CRI (Cellular Research Institute) Genetics, Family Tree DNA, and Living DNA. They are ranked in the order of their highest ratings. They rated the companies based on company reputation, customer reviews, speed of results, detail in report, privacy level, and guarantee on a 1/5 scale with 5 being the best. They also listed each company's pros and cons.

So, if you are planning to get your DNA tested don't be fooled by the advertisement. Do some research on your own until you find the company that best suits what you are expecting to find. While on vacation, I learned that my sister next to me had her DNA ancestry test done recently. Much to my dismay, I found out that we were misled by our parents, though not intentionally. I am only 47% German, 39% Great Britain and Northwestern European, 5% Sweden, 3% Norwegian, and 6% other. We were always told that we were 100% German, because our ancestry back to the middle 1500's came from around the Luxemburg, Germany area, on my father's side. They have DNA tests now that can specify if you want a maternal side only or a paternal side only completed. It would be interesting to me now to have that type of test done. But, as I was trying to tell a priest that we were related on my father's side, his response was that we were all related because we all came from Adam and Eve.

We are all God's children no matter what ancestry we have. God Bless us all.

Resource: [www.geneticsdigest.com/best\\_ancestry\\_dna\\_test\\_b/index.html](http://www.geneticsdigest.com/best_ancestry_dna_test_b/index.html)



**“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, including: (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](mailto:wecare@splcwaco.com).



# Classes for All Ages

***Join us for Sunday morning Bible Classes at 9:15am each week:***

## **Adult Bible Class, in the Family Center**

This group is going through a study on the Epistle to the Hebrews.

## **Men's Bible Class, in the N4 Classroom**

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

## **Ladies Bible Class, in the Conference Room**

This group is going through the study: "God of Creation" a study of Gen. 1-11, by Jen Wilkin. Revisit familiar stories and historical figures, challenge your basic knowledge, and discover deeper meanings in the text. As God reveals Himself through Scripture, we can only begin to understand ourselves when we first glimpse the character, attributes, and promises of our Creator.

## **Nursery - Kindergarten (classrooms), Grades 1-6 in Parish Hall & classrooms**

These classes use the BUZZ curriculum which has a unique theme every quarter that teaches a mix of classic and uncommon Bible stories that kids haven't heard before—which impacts their faith and changes their lives. Music time uses song to reinforce the lessons and allows children to share their faith through occasional performances for the congregation.

## **Grades 7-12, in the Youth Room**

This age group is going through a tech-based Bible study.

## ***Other Bible Study Opportunities:***

## **Men's Tuesday Morning Bible Class, in the Parish Hall**

This group works through selected studies, meeting every Tuesday morning at 6:30am. They are currently utilizing Bible studies prepared by Rev. Walter Albers.

## **College Student Evening Bible Study/Fellowship**

This group will resume meeting in the Fall semester.

## **Young Adults Bible Study**

This group will resume meeting in the Fall.

## **Ladies Wednesday Morning Bible Class, in the Conference Room**

This group meets on the first and third Wednesday of each month.

## **Tuesday Evening Ekklesia Bible Study**

This group will resume meeting in the Fall.

## **Sunday Evening Bible Studies**

These groups will resume meeting in the Fall.

## **Youth Confirmation/Catechesis Training**

These classes will resume meeting in September. Please mark your calendars for a Confirmation and Midweek Parent and Student (grades 5-8) meeting on Wednesday, August 28, at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

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

**ST. PAUL SENIOR ADULTS** will come together on Wednesday, August 14, 2019 at 11:00 a.m. for Worship (with Holy Communion) followed by a fellowship luncheon in the Family Center.

## ST. PAUL SENIOR ADULTS AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

A complete list of member birthdays is available in the church office.

We do not publish this information on our Web site out of respect for the privacy of our members.

# Servants for August 2019

Out of respect for the privacy of our members, they will be identified by the initial of their first and last name only. If you have any questions, please contact the church office.

### Acolytes

#### 8:00am Worship

Aug. 4- T. L.  
Aug. 11- C. E.  
Aug. 18- R. H.  
Aug. 25- K. T.

#### 10:30am Worship

Aug. 4- J. S.  
Aug. 11- C. G.  
Aug. 18- H. H.  
Aug. 25- L. K.

### Nursery Volunteers

#### 8:00am Worship

Aug. 4- L. W.  
Aug. 11- H. K.  
Aug. 18- S. C.  
Aug. 25- A. P.

#### 10:30am Worship

Aug. 4- C. & H. T.  
Aug. 11- P. & K. G.  
Aug. 18- A. & J. T.  
Aug. 25- C. & K. W.

### Altar Guild, Group 3

V. S.  
B. S.  
G. H.  
J. H.

#### Flower Chart

F. R.

### Altar Flowers

Aug. 4- B. & N. L.  
Aug. 11- J. & J. L.  
Aug. 18- J. & B. S.  
Aug. 25- A. & J. P.

### Sunday Morning Greeters

#### 8:00am Worship

Aug. 4- J. & B. S.  
Aug. 11- D. N.  
Aug. 18- R. & B. H.  
Aug. 25- C. & J. M.

#### 10:30am Worship

Aug. 4- K. & G. B.  
Aug. 11- M. & B. H.  
Aug. 18- M. G.  
Aug. 25- R. & L. T.

### Ushers for the Month

#### 8:00am Worship, Group 7

R. S., Jr., Hd.  
H. P., Asst.  
B. S.  
H. S.  
L. S.  
M. P.

#### 10:30am Worship, Group 8

V. N., Hd.  
P. P., Asst.  
D. P.  
D. T.  
D. G.  
G. H.



### Texas District Church Extension Fund:

How can you save for tomorrow and help save souls for God with the same dollar? Invest that dollar with the Texas District Church Extension Fund (CEF). Every dollar you invest with CEF earns a competitive rate of return and provides low-cost construction loans to Texas congregations for buildings that help enlarge God's kingdom of believers. Your investment is a wise personal savings plan that allows CEF to make loans that serve others and show God's love actively.

| <b>July Rates</b> | <b>(Fixed)</b> | <b>(Floating)</b> |
|-------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| One Year CD       | 2.40%APY       | 2.52%APY          |
| Three Year CD     | 2.52%APY       | 2.27%APY          |
| Five Year CD      | 2.78%APY       | 2.27%APY          |
| Flex Savings      |                | 1.00%APY          |
| Cong. Savings     |                | 1.26%APY          |



For more information call Texas CEF at 1.800.951.3478, online at [www.TexasCEF.org](http://www.TexasCEF.org).



## Attendance and Offering for July 2019

**A complete list is available in the church office.**

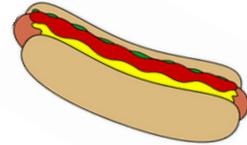
## Official Acts for July 2019

**A complete list is available in the church office.**

# Save the Date: Annual Church Picnic



**September 29, 2019**  
**following the 10:30 a.m.**  
**Worship Service**



We are planning this years annual church picnic in conjunction with our regular 5th Sunday Potluck. The church will provide hamburgers, hot dogs, and drinks; and we ask the members to please bring salads and desserts to share.

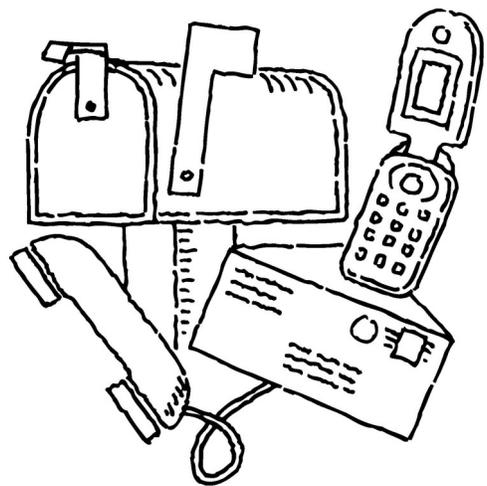
We will have our annual silent auction and bake sale, and will also offer activities for children on the grounds outside the Family Center.

Please bring your lawn chairs for outdoor activities!

If you have any questions, would like to inquire about volunteer opportunities, the silent auction or bake sale, please contact Lisa Wolfe.

## Directory Updates

**A complete list of updated  
contact information  
is available in the church office.**



Please contact the church office if your contact information should be updated and shared in an upcoming newsletter.



The Ol' Sew 'n' Sow Quilting Group has a closet FULL of runners, quilts, pillows, adult bibs, and other hand-sewn items! If you have a friend or loved one that would benefit from the love that is sewn into each of these items, please see Pam Schulze or Katherine Bode any time to pick out something to share!

These ladies love to sew and love to see their works go to someone in need! Anyone is invited to join them any Monday to see what they are working on. They meet in the Parish Hall at 10am and enjoy laughter, lunch, and fellowship together all day long!



## ST. PAUL SUPPER CLUB!

**SUPPER CLUB** sign-ups for the September thru December session will be in the foyer July 28, August 4, and 11. This is a great fellowship activity in which eight people meet monthly for supper for four months in a row at each other's homes, or a place chosen by that month's host. The host for the month provides a simple meal for the evening. The group enjoys meals and conversation together, getting to know each other better. Then, after four months, the groups are rearranged so you get to meet with different people.

You may sign-up in the church foyer, on the church Web site ([www.splcwaco.com](http://www.splcwaco.com)).



In order to help keep the church network more secure, we have added a password to the GUEST wifi. Please see an usher or elder if you would like the password.

# DISASTER TRAINING EVENT

## SEPTEMBER 7, 2019

In order to help our congregation be prepared in the event of emergency situations, we will be hosting a Safety Training Event on Saturday, September 7, 2019. This event will be open to everyone!



In the midst of writing up a plan to train and pre-position congregations to respond to disasters, we realized that it is critical to prepare not only for natural disasters but for man-made ones as well. To this end, The Texas District LCMS has partnered with a Texas-based and board-certified security and firearms training organization to provide training opportunities throughout the state of Texas.

This training will consist of some classroom training covering the history of the active shooter, characteristics of the active shooter, active shooter response, medical care under fire as well as practical scenarios to test our abilities to respond. The event will be from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; with lunch and snacks included.

Please watch for a sign-up sheet in the church foyer in August. If you have any questions, please see Pastor Krueger or one of the church elders.



At the May Congregational Meeting, we discussed the possibility of changing the delivery method of the monthly church newsletter. We are beginning to move toward those changes and want to keep the membership up-to-date.

Beginning in September, we will move toward sending an electronic copy of the newsletter to ALL for whom we have email addresses and **only mailing** the printed monthly newsletter to our Home-Bound members (those who are physically unable attend worship). All other members will receive a printed copy in their church mailbox to be picked up.

If you currently do not have an email address on file at the church or would like to verify the address we have on file, please contact the church office (phone: 254.799.3211; email: [wecare@splcwaco.com](mailto:wecare@splcwaco.com)) no later than August 11th with your preferred email address for delivery.

If you have any questions about the upcoming changes, please see Pastor Krueger or contact the church office.

# Children & Youth Activities

email: [board\\_of\\_ed@splcwaco.com](mailto:board_of_ed@splcwaco.com)



Please plan to join us Sunday, August 25, for our Youth Sunday in the Family Center, during the Bible class hour (9:15 a.m.), the youth will share about their experiences at Camp Lone Star, the National Youth Gathering, and other events over the last year. This will be an excellent opportunity to see how God is working through the St. Paul family to support our youth!

## 2019-2020 Confirmation (Grades 5-8)

### Parent & Student Meeting

*All parents and students in grades 5-8, please plan to attend the Parent Meeting & Student Orientation on Wednesday, August 28, at 6:30 p.m., in the Sanctuary.*

*Acolyte forms have been mailed to students in grades 7-8. Please complete and return your form as soon as possible to aid in scheduling of acolyte service. If you did not receive a form, please contact the church office at 254.799.3211 or [wecare@splcwaco.com](mailto:wecare@splcwaco.com).*

*If you are unable to attend the meeting, please contact Pastor Krueger at 254.715.1707 or [pastorkrueger@splcwaco.com](mailto:pastorkrueger@splcwaco.com)*

*Classes will begin meeting in September.*

# THANKS

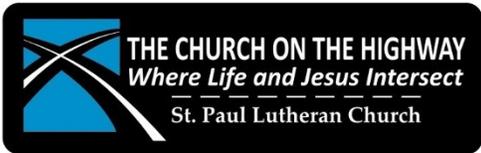
for Supporting our Youth



## SAVE THE DATE

- 🔊 8/18: NYG Sponsor Appreciation Lunch
- 🔊 8/25: Youth Sunday
- 🔊 8/28: Confirmation Grades 5-8 Meeting

If you have questions, would like to volunteer to help with events, or have ideas to share for possible future events...please stop by the Sunday School office.



1301 Hogan Lane • Waco, Texas 76705

Phone: 254.799.3211

Fax: 254.412.0529

[www.splcwaco.com](http://www.splcwaco.com)

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August 2019 Edition



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and updates!

[www.splcwaco.com](http://www.splcwaco.com)