

# THE CHURCH ON THE HIGHWAY

*Where Life and Jesus Intersect*

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## St. Paul Lutheran Church

August 2020 Edition

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### From Our Senior Pastor

Rev. Larry Krueger

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#### O LORD, HOW LONG?

O Lord, how long? Has that question ever arisen in your thoughts or rolled off of your lips? It seems to me these days many are wondering about this very question, especially as it relates to the duration of COVID-19 and its related restrictions to our customary habits. O Lord, how long will this go on? O Lord, how long do I have to wear this mask? O Lord, how long before things are back to normal?

As I consider the “how long” question, however, another setting comes to mind. This one takes us beyond the earthly setting that preoccupies the minds of many these days. This one provides us a heavenly glimpse recorded in the Book of Revelation, which reads, as follows:

When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the witness they had borne. They cried out with a loud voice, “O Sovereign Lord, holy and true, how long before you will judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?” Then they were each given a white robe and told to rest a little longer, until the number of their fellow servants and their brothers should be complete, who were to be killed as they themselves had been. (Revelation 6:9-11, ESV)

The “how long” question in this setting moves us beyond the temporal concerns of the day. This “how long” poses a question of greater matters. How long will the saints and martyrs in heaven cry out for vengeance to occur on those who persecuted and murdered them for their faith on this earth? How long will it be before we encounter either the Last Day of this earth or the last day of our lives on this earth? How long will it be before Jesus returns as Judge of all the earth?

As many ponder the “how long” questions of this present age, which are not limited to COVID by any means, it seems to me the greater questions deal with the “how long” implications of the age to come. To borrow insights from Jesus, O Lord, how long will you put up with this perverse and evil generation? O Lord, how long will you allow us to test your patience and holy will with our impatience and unholiness? O Lord, how long? Thanks be to God who grants forgiveness through our Lord Jesus Christ!

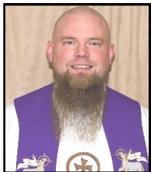
In the heavenly scene of Revelation those questioning were not answered with a timeframe. Instead, the response was “they were each given a white robe and told to rest a little longer.” Isn’t that how the Lord responds to our “how long” questions? He does not give us times and dates. Instead, in Baptism, He clothes us with the white robe of righteousness for the sake of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. He tells us to rest a little longer in His everlasting arms and not to fret about “how long.” He teaches us to “seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness,” and “do not be anxious about tomorrow.”

The Lord leads us to look beyond the “how longs” of this world and to focus on eternal matters. Thus, the Apostle Paul wrote, “For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us (Romans 8:18, ESV).” O Lord, how long? While we will not always know about the “how long” questions of this life, we trust that God does and know how long He will take care of us...and that, my friends, is for eternity!

Love God and love your neighbor, Pastor Krueger



**Sunday Worship**  
Streamed online at  
10:30 a.m. at  
[www.splcwaco.com](http://www.splcwaco.com)  
or the church  
[Facebook page](#).



## A Message From Our Associate Pastor

Rev. Matthew Hardaway

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

### Jesus in the Psalms - Psalm 24 (ESV)

<sup>1</sup>The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein, <sup>2</sup>for he has founded it upon the seas and established it upon the rivers. <sup>3</sup>Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord? And who shall stand in his holy place? <sup>4</sup>He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to what is false and does not swear deceitfully. <sup>5</sup>He will receive blessing from the Lord and righteousness from the God of his salvation. <sup>6</sup>Such is the generation of those who seek him, who seek the face of the God of Jacob. Selah <sup>7</sup>Lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. <sup>8</sup>Who is this King of glory? The Lord, strong and mighty, the Lord, mighty in battle! <sup>9</sup>Lift up your heads, O gates! And lift them up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. <sup>10</sup>Who is this King of glory? The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory! Selah

I think it is fair to say that on most Sunday mornings our worship services lean more towards subdued than excited. It is part of the reason we love days like Easter, Christmas and Reformation Day - each of these "high church" days are filled with excitement and energy that we just don't always have on a "regular" Sunday morning.

Now, I'm not complaining, or saying we need to change anything - I'm simply acknowledging the nature of our worship for what it is. As Luther would say it, "It is what it is."

In Psalm 24 David reminds us that no matter what Sunday of the church year it is, we have reason to be exuberant and excited that we get to "ascend the hill of the Lord" and "stand in His holy place" because we are in the very presence of the King of Glory!

One of my favorite hymns lends itself to this very idea - All Hail The Power of Jesus Name (LSB 549). I leave that with you now, and give you permission to sing loudly!

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|--|--|
| <p>1 All hail the pow'r of Jesus' name!<br/>Let angels prostrate fall;<br/>Bring forth the royal diadem<br/>And crown Him Lord of all.<br/>Bring forth the royal diadem<br/>And crown Him Lord of all.</p>             | <p>5 Sinners, whose love can ne'er forget<br/>The wormwood and the gall,<br/>Go, spread your trophies at His feet<br/>And crown Him Lord of all.<br/>Go, spread your trophies at His feet<br/>And crown Him Lord of all.</p> |
| <p>2 Crown Him, ye martyrs of our God,<br/>Who from His altar call;<br/>Extol the Stem of Jesse's rod<br/>And crown Him Lord of all.<br/>Extol the Stem of Jesse's rod<br/>And crown Him Lord of all.</p>              | <p>6 Let ev'ry kindred, ev'ry tribe,<br/>On this terrestrial ball<br/>To Him all majesty ascribe<br/>And crown Him Lord of all.<br/>To Him all majesty ascribe<br/>And crown Him Lord of all.</p>                            |
| <p>3 Ye seed of Israel's chosen race,<br/>Ye ransomed from the fall,<br/>Hail Him who saves you by His grace<br/>And crown Him Lord of all.<br/>Hail Him who saves you by His grace<br/>And crown Him Lord of all.</p> | <p>7 Oh, that with yonder sacred throng<br/>We at his feet may fall!<br/>We'll join the everlasting song<br/>And crown Him Lord of all.<br/>We'll join the everlasting song<br/>And crown Him Lord of all.</p>               |
| <p>4 Hail Him, ye heirs of David's line,<br/>Whom David Lord did call,<br/>The God incarnate, man divine,<br/>And crown Him Lord of all.<br/>The God incarnate, Man divine,<br/>And crown Him Lord of all.</p>         |  |

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## Church Office Elections

Normally election of church officers would have been held during worship on the last Sunday in April. However, with gathering restrictions due to the COVID virus the elections have not taken place this year. In the Board of Directors meeting on July 20, the current board members agreed to continue to serve in their offices until such time that a formal election can be held. At this time no date has been scheduled to hold the elections. We will continue to keep the congregation informed about any plans for the election. The Board of Directors is very grateful for your support during this time and is happy to continue their service to the St. Paul family.

**Other Board News:** The Board voted to send \$5,000.00 to assist Camp Lone Star and an additional \$5,000 to the LCMS Texas District for Missions.

## 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, especially our seniors and others in the high risk category. The current practice is to wear masks while entering and exiting the sanctuary and to practice safe self-distancing while seated in the sanctuary. Masks are optional while seated.

We ask that everyone please continue to register on-line for on-site worship attendance. This registration process serves several purposes. It assures that we can accommodate on-site worship attendees. It helps us plan for ample worship folders for the services. And, finally, if we were to have a case of COVID-19 reported by one of our on-site worshippers, the registrations will help us contact all attendees at that service in an expedient manner.

Thanks again to all of you for your patience in this process. Our goal remains to maintain a safe worship environment for those attending on-site worship. Admittedly, we have been overly cautious, not wanting to find ourselves in a situation as has been reported with other churches who did not establish safe practices and suddenly had large numbers of coronavirus outbreaks among their ranks. As we all know, dealing with a pandemic is uncharted territory. Please know we are trying to do the best we can to provide a safe on-site worship environment each step of the way. Also, please continue to pray that the Lord will bring this COVID-19 pandemic to an end sooner rather than later.

## ST. PAUL WORSHIP REGISTRATION:

On-site worship available with **28** family units in attendance. **Families will need to [register](#) on the Web site.** When **28** family units have registered, registration will be closed. Seating may be assigned to ensure safe distancing, as necessary.

- ♦ **Sunday, Aug. 2 & 16, 2020** – On-site worship with limited attendance to accommodate Safe Distancing in accord with current Safe Distancing Guidelines. *Holy Communion will be offered on these Sundays.* Drive Thru Communion will also be available on the church parking lot from 11:30 am (after 10:30 am worship) until 12:30 pm for those who do not attend onsite worship.
- ♦ **Wednesday, Aug. 12, 2020** – **SENIOR ADULTS ONLY Service of the Sacrament**
  - ♦ 11:00 am – Senior adults only special service of the Sacrament (Holy Communion) with **28** family units at a time. If more than **28** family units come, the service will be repeated to accommodate all who come. This will be an abbreviated service (with no sermon) for the purpose of Holy Communion. **No registration is required for this service.**
- ♦ **Sunday, Aug. 2, 23, & 30 2020** – On-site worship with limited attendance to accommodate Safe Distancing in accord with current Safe Distancing Guidelines. *No Holy Communion will be offered on these Sundays.*



## Listening Devices are available!

We have sound amplifying devices available for those who have trouble hearing during our on-site worship. If you would like more information, please see an elder or usher prior to worship. For your safety and peace of mind, this equipment is sanitized following each use.



**“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 all nations as the battle to combat Coronavirus (COVID-19) continues. We pray for world leaders, healthcare workers, public service workers, and all those who have been affected by this disease. We pray for healing, patience, and calmness during this time of uncertainty.
- † 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).

*How can we Pray for you?*

## CARE NET BABY BOTTLE BOOMERANG

Ordinarily we would have participated in the annual baby bottle fundraiser for Care Net Pregnancy Center of Central Texas from Mother's Day to Father's Day. However, with the COVID virus and restrictions we were unable to continue our tradition. This non-profit organization depends upon donations to help those in our community, so we are asking anyone who would like to support them to please use the form below and remit their donation to the church. Donations can be dropped off at the church office or mailed to the church (1301 Hogan Lane, Waco, TX 76705). All proceeds received benefit Care Net Pregnancy Center. Please return all donations by Sunday, August 23.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

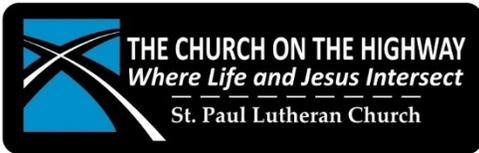
Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

*All checks should be made payable to: St. Paul Lutheran Church. Your donation will not be included in your tax deductible gifts to the church.*



- † Don & Vickie Savage extend their thanks to the St. Paul family for their calls, cards, and prayers following his recent surgery and through his recovery. We are very blessed to part of such a loving church family!
- † Pastor & Kristin Hardaway and family thank everyone for their calls, cards, and prayers during the recent COVID-19 diagnosis for Kristin and Eliana. Both are recovering well and thankfully no one else was infected in their family! What a blessing to be loved so well by the St. Paul family!



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

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