

THE CHURCH ON THE HIGHWAY

Where Life and Jesus Intersect

St. Paul Lutheran Church

February 2021 Edition



From Our Senior Pastor

Rev. Larry Krueger

pastorkrueger@splcwaco.com

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

TOPIC	Page
Pastor Krueger Article	1
Lenten Worship Schedule	2
New Church Plant	
Altar Flowers	
Pastoral Call Committee	3
Servants for the Month	
Kids Activity	
Prayer Guide	4
Deaconess Krahn Article	5
Worship on the Web	Back Cover

Day by Day with Jesus

What do you think it would have been like to have spent a day with Jesus while he was present in human flesh on this earth? What lessons could have been learned? What insights into life could have been gleaned? During the season of Lent this year the special midweek Lenten services will focus on those kinds of questions, but with very specific days in mind. Those will be the days of the week leading up to Jesus' crucifixion.

Thus, the question gets more specific. What would it have been like to be with Jesus day by day during the week before His crucifixion? On our Lenten journey, we will explore what Jesus did in those last days, learning the lessons he taught and gleaning insights from His life as he journeyed that last week to the cross.

Beginning with Ash Wednesday, February 17th, the following will be the weekly topics (noting the day of that last week leading to the crucifixion): Jesus Anointed at Bethany (Friday), Jesus on the Sabbath (Saturday), Jesus Enters Jerusalem (Sunday), Jesus Clears the Temple (Monday), Jesus Teaches at the Temple (Tuesday), Jesus at Rest (Wednesday), Jesus and the Last Supper (Thursday), and Jesus is Crucified (Friday).

Of course, the lessons we absorb from Jesus will be valuable for our lives. As we strive to live out our sanctified lives as the people of God there is no one better from whom we can learn than the Master himself, our Lord Jesus. Plus, when one considers the promise that comes with holding to Jesus' words, time spent with Jesus is always rewarding. As Jesus said, "If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him" (John 14:23, ESV).

So, I invite you to spend "Day by Day with Jesus" this Lenten season at these special services. I look forward to walking with you on this journey. The words from the hymn, "Jesus, I Will Ponder Now," seem to be a fitting reflection for this theme:

Jesus, I will ponder now on your holy passion;
 With Your Spirit me endow for such meditation.
 Grant that I in love and faith may the image cherish
 Of your suffering, pain, and death that I may not perish.
(Text: Public Domain)

Love God and love your neighbor,
 Pastor Krueger



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



The Lenten season will begin on Ash Wednesday, February 17, this year. We invite you to join us for our mid-week Lenten worship services, "Day by Day with Jesus." The words from the hymn, "Jesus, I Will Ponder Now," seem to be a fitting reflection for this theme:

*Jesus, I will ponder now on your holy passion;
With Your Spirit me endow for such meditation.
Grant that I in love and faith my the image cherish
Of your suffering, pain, and death that I may not perish. (Text: Public Domain)*

Feb. 17 - Ash Wednesday Worship

12:00pm & 6:30pm (Holy Communion, both services)
Confirmation Class follows evening worship

Feb. 24 - Lenten Wednesday Worship

12:00pm & 6:30pm
Confirmation Class follows evening worship

March 3 - Lenten Wednesday Worship

12:00pm & 6:30pm
Confirmation Class follows evening worship

March 10 - Lenten Wednesday Worship

12:00pm & 6:30pm
(Holy Communion at **Noon** worship; the monthly Seniors lunch will follow the noon worship service. Please RSVP for the lunch by noon on Fri., March 5.)

No Confirmation Class this week, Spring Break

March 17 - Lenten Wednesday Worship

12:00pm & 6:30pm
Confirmation Class follows evening worship

March 24- Lenten Wednesday Worship

12:00pm & 6:30pm
Confirmation Class follows evening worship

PLANS UNDERWAY FOR NEW CHURCH PLANT IN MCLENNAN COUNTY!

The LCMS congregations of Circuit 18 have begun the preliminary work to plant a new LCMS church in McLennan County. With the approval of the St. Paul Board of Directors, St. Paul Lutheran Church is a part of this exciting venture! A task force of lay members from the circuit congregations, including two from St. Paul, has been formed to facilitate the implementation of this new mission. As one can observe, the population of McLennan County has been booming. The time certainly seems right to begin another church to reach the many who are moving into this area. This work is in the early stages of formation, which includes plans to call a mission planter to help form the new congregation. The location of the new plant will be determined in the future as the church planter comes on board. Please pray for this effort and stay tuned for more news about this exciting opportunity to reach more people for Christ in McLennan County!



THE 2021 ALTAR FLOWER CHART has been posted in the Narthex as you enter the sanctuary.

If your family would like to place flowers on the altar to celebrate a special occasion or in remembrance of a loved one, please sign up on the flower chart in the Narthex as you enter the sanctuary. **MOST OF THE YEAR IS STILL OPEN!** Please contact the church office with any questions.

CALL COMMITTEE

THE CALL COMMITTEE continues with the process of calling a Senior Pastor for St. Paul congregation as Pastor Krueger has announced his plans to retire at the end of November 2021.

The following are members of the Call Committee:

- **Chair:** Bill Dube
- **Board of Elders Representatives:**
Brandon Kubitza, Charlie Morgan, Brian Strickland
- **Members from the Congregation:**
John Banta, Mark Borchardt, Darby Ehlers, Glenn Hurta, Eric King, Jeremy Lange, Jennifer Lynch, Vickie Savage

The Call Committee will keep the congregation informed of progress and requests that you keep them and the St. Paul family in your prayers throughout the call process.

SERVANTS FOR FEBRUARY

ACOLYTES:

- 2/7 JH (10:30am)
 - 2/14 EA (8:00am)
 - 2/17 JH (Ash Wed., 6:30pm)
 - 2/21 EM (8:00am)
 - 2/24 CW (Lent, 6:30pm)
 - 2/28 CT (10:30am)
- (youth listed by initial only for privacy)*

USHERS:

- 8am Worship: Group 11
- 10:30am Worship: Group 12
- Ash Wed. Worship, 2/17: Group 5
- Lent Worship, 2/24: Group 6

ALTAR FLOWERS:

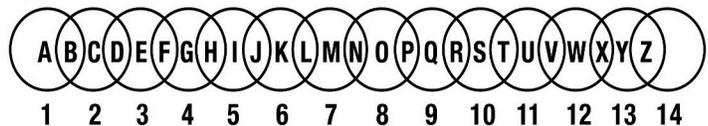
- 2/7 John & Cynthia Banta
- 2/14 Gene & Kay Owen, Karen Shelton
- 2/17 Bobbie Reinhardt (Ash Wed.)
- 2/21 Cynthia Bounds
- 2/24 **OPEN** (Lent)
- 2/28 **OPEN**

KIDS ACTIVITY

Puzzle!

Use the code to complete the blanks — and find out how God wants us to treat people.

CODE:



1,2 3 6 5 7,8 2,3 1 7,8 2,3

2 8 7 8,9 1 10 10 5 8 7,8 1 10,11 3

10,11 8 8 7,8 3 1 7,8 8 10,11 4,5 3 9,10

3,4 8 9,10 4 5 11,12 5 7,8 4 3 1 2 4,5

8 10,11 4,5 3 9,10 5,6 11 10 10,11 1 10

5 7,8 2 4,5 9,10 5 10 10,11 4 8 2,3

3,4 8 9,10 4 1 11,12 3 13 8 11

EPHESIANS 4:32, NIV

Answer: Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. Ephesians 4:32, NIV



**“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.

How can we Pray for you?



A Message From Our Deaconess

Dcs. Suzanne Krahn

Email: dcskrahn@splcwaco.com

“Coping Techniques for Uncertain Times”

Most certainly these are unsettling and uncertain times in our lives. The pandemic is still among us and our present and future may look grim for other reasons. Whatever our challenges may be, everyone’s coping strategies usually fall into two approaches: Problem-focused coping or Emotional-focused coping.

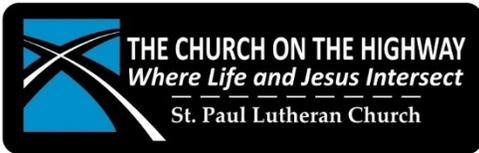
Problem-focused coping is handling stress by facing it head-on and taking action to resolve the underlying cause. Emotional-focused coping involves your feelings and an emotional response to the challenge or problem instead of dealing with the issues.

Emotional-focused coping skills can help you manage your emotions rather than outside situations. Although this approach will not help you solve a problem directly, it can be a good tool to deal with stressors you have no control over, and help you feel somewhat better about the situation. Here are seven ways you can help yourself to effectively manage emotions and perfect your emotional-focused coping skills:

1. **Meditation** – helps you acknowledge and sit with all your thoughts and experiences. The key goal here is mindfulness. This helps you recognize your thoughts, accept them, and let them go without ruminating over them or judging yourself for having them. This may be awkward at first, but will feel more natural over time.
2. **Journaling** – a great way to sort through and come to terms with challenging emotions. Some challenging thoughts may be complicated, conflicting, jumbled up, or even exhausting. You maybe can’t even find the words to describe what you’re feeling. Most beneficial journaling is to a) write daily, even if only five minutes, b) write whatever comes to mind, and/or keep track of mood or emotional changes or factors that might suggest or contribute to a pattern.
3. **Positive Thinking** – problems can’t be solved with optimism, but most certainly helps boost your emotional wellness. Optimism gives challenges a positive spin and finding areas of joy to help you through them. Steps to achieve more positive thinking: a) build yourself up, not tear yourself down, b) recognize successes instead of focusing on failures, c) laugh off mistakes, and d) remind yourself to always try again and not give up.
4. **Forgiveness** – when you can’t change the outcome, and you’ve sustained hurtful feelings, forgiveness can help you let go, move forward, and begin healing. Forgiveness can a) reduce stress and anger, b) increase compassion, c) create greater empathy, and d) form stronger interpersonal relationships.
5. **Reframing** – look at the situation from another perspective. This can help you look at the challenge from a bigger picture standpoint and not just the little details.
6. **Talking it out** – If you keep negative emotions hidden, they can manifest into adverse mood changes, emotional distress and even physical symptoms like muscle tension or head pain. It is usually good to talk to any others involved in the situation. Talking may lead to a resolution together. Talking to a trusted loved one can also help you feel better. Friends and family can provide social and emotional support just by listening and validating your feelings.
7. **Working with a Therapist** – Serious concerns, life-changing or life-threatening health concerns, or situations of grief, may be too much to try to go it alone. Therapists offer professional guidance and support specifically tailored to your unique situation.

Of course, in these and all things, we trust the Lord to lead and guide us. After all, He is the Good Shepherd. May God Bless your coming in and going out.

Resource: <https://www.healthline.com/health/emotion-focused-coping>



1301 Hogan Lane • Waco, Texas 76705

Phone: 254.799.3211

Fax: 254.412.0529

www.splcwaco.com

NON-PROFIT ORG.
PLACE POSTAGE
HERE

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



February 2021 Edition



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.)