

THE CHURCH ON THE HIGHWAY

Where Life and Jesus Intersect

St. Paul Lutheran Church

October 2020 Edition



From Our Senior Pastor

Rev. Larry Krueger

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With All Our Powers

The first part of my article this month is excerpted from a writing by the president of the LCMS Texas District, President Michael Newman. I thought what he had written was profound and powerful. So, I am sharing his words with you. He wrote, as follows (*highlighted in italics*):

The president of the German Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Missouri, Ohio and other States stepped to the microphone for his opening convention address in 1917. World War I raged. The globe was on the brink of a flu pandemic that would claim 50 million lives. Rev. Dr. Friedrich Pfotenhauer needed to set a tone for the Synod during the most challenging time since its founding.

What did he say? Did he argue with a nation that was pummeling the Synod with anti-German rancor? Did he counsel convention-goers to be self-protective and inwardly focused against a hostile culture? Quite the opposite. That day in Milwaukee, Pfotenhauer reaffirmed the heart of God's people and His Church:

"Our Synod meets this year under very extraordinary conditions. In the world a terrible war is raging, in which nearly all the nations of the earth are engaged, so that streams of blood are flowing daily, and thousands, yea, millions, of human beings are being cut down by the sword, or by famine and pestilence.

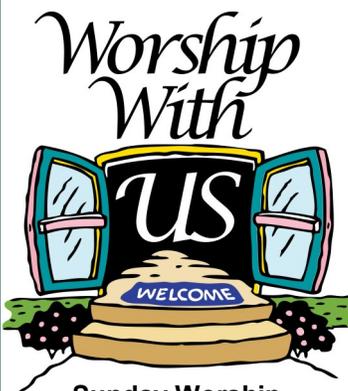
*Although we are living in such troublous times, and all happenings are pointing to the end of the world, yet **we Christians may not become slothful or discouraged, but we must lift up our heads and be active.** Lest we think that it would be useless for us at this convention to plan for the **extension of Christ's kingdom, the Lord tells us that even during war and rumors of war, during famine and pestilence, the Gospel is to have free course and is to be preached.**" Pfotenhauer emphasized: **"The signs of the times should urge us to labor incessantly and with all our powers"** (Proceedings, CPH, 1917, 3-4, emphasis added).*

All our powers. Like ours, theirs was a generation that needed Jesus and His Word of life.

Those words, "with all our powers," remind us that the labor of proclaiming the Gospel deserves an all-out effort, no matter the circumstances in which we find ourselves in this world. The power to do this comes from Christ Himself who said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:18-19a). The task of taking the Gospel to our world is one that will not end until the Lord comes again.

In these lingering days of COVID-19, societal unrest, etc., it can become too easy to lose focus of the mission of the church. Like Peter, if we focus on the wind and the waves and take our eyes off of Jesus, we will begin to sink. That is why we receive God's power in Word and Sacrament to stay the course. Our generation needs Jesus and His Word of life! We are here to give it. May God help us in this noble task...with all of His power!

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.](#)



A Message From Our Associate Pastor

Rev. Matthew Hardaway

Email: pastorhardaway@splcwaco.com

Jesus In The Psalms - Psalm 26 (ESV)

- ¹Vindicate me, O Lord, for I have walked in my integrity, and I have trusted in the Lord without wavering.
- ²Prove me, O Lord, and try me; test my heart and my mind.
- ³For your steadfast love is before my eyes, and I walk in your faithfulness.
- ⁴I do not sit with men of falsehood, nor do I consort with hypocrites.
- ⁵I hate the assembly of evildoers, and I will not sit with the wicked.
- ⁶I wash my hands in innocence and go around your altar, O Lord,
- ⁷proclaiming thanksgiving aloud, and telling all your wondrous deeds.
- ⁸O Lord, I love the habitation of your house and the place where your glory dwells.

Do you have a favorite house that you have ever lived in? Is it your childhood home or your current home? Is it the home that you maybe dream about building? Personally there have been a handful of things I have liked about all of the houses I have lived in, but the one that I love the most is still the dream house inside my head. The one with multiple fireplaces, tons of windows and also tons of wall space for hanging Astros memorabilia. The one with a master kitchen inside and outside, a movie theatre, a 6 car garage and, of course, an infinity pool.

David lived in many places - from technically being homeless while in exile and fighting in different armies - to living in the palace of the king. I don't know which house he would claim as his favorite, but in Psalm 26 we do get see which house he loves - the house of the Lord. It's not just the sanctuary though that David is talking about - he specifically says "the habitation." What exactly does he mean?

While the temple of God was a gorgeous tabernacle in and of itself, with tons of gold, silver, bronze and colors of blue and purple and scarlet yarns of fine twined linens - David doesn't love the house because of it's architecture or interior design elements. David loves God's house because God allows David to dwell there, to "habitate" there. In the midst of all the turmoil David experienced in life, he knew God's house was a place where he could find refuge from sin, sanctuary from those trying to take his life and accuse him of wrongdoing, and peace knowing he was in the presence of his God.

Jesus also loved the house of the Lord - we read in Luke 2 that, after Joseph and Mary accidentally leave Jerusalem without 12 year old Jesus, they find Him in the temple, listening to the teachers and asking questions that astonished them. When Mary says, "Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been searching for you in great distress." Jesus replies, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's House?"

Perhaps there is something to learn here from David and Jesus (I know, that is a no-brainer). Yes, "a man's home is his castle," but is there really anything at all about my dream house that compares to being in the house of the Lord? Not really.

And even my dream house pales in comparison to the room Jesus is preparing for me now in His Father's house. I am sure it will look like nothing I have ever seen or dreamed of before!

Soli Deo Gloria

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. 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 **32** family units in attendance. **Families will need to [register](#) on the Web site.** When **32** family units have registered, registration will be closed. Seating may be assigned to ensure safe distancing, as necessary.

- ♦ **Sunday, Oct. 4 & 18, 2020** – On-site worship with attendance limited 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 12:15 pm** for those who do not attend onsite worship.
- ♦ **Wednesday, Oct. 14 2020** – **SENIOR ADULTS ONLY Service of the Sacrament & Fellowship Luncheon**
 - ♦ 11:00 am – Senior adults only special service of the Sacrament (Holy Communion). This will be an abbreviated service for the purpose of Holy Communion. **No registration is required for this service.**
 - ♦ **We have returned to our monthly fellowship luncheon** following the monthly Senior Adults service. A prepared box lunch will be served in the Family Center following the 11:00 a.m. worship with safe social distancing. This month we are planning to serve **chicken spaghetti, green beans, salad, garlic bread, and dessert.** We ask those planning to attend to please call (254.799.3211) or email (wecare@splcwaco.com) the church office by 12:00 p.m. on Monday, October 12, to allow for preparation and seating planning. We are currently discouraging sharing any home-made desserts for this meal and will instead provide a dessert with each box lunch.
- ♦ **Sunday, Oct. 11 & 25 2020** – On-site worship with attendance limited to accommodate Safe Distancing in accord with current Safe Distancing Guidelines. *No Holy Communion will be offered on these Sundays.*



SUNDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY GROUPS begin in October. The groups will meet in the Family Center. Attendees are invited to bring your own supper, to begin eating at 5:30 p.m. with Bible study to follow. These groups will be doing a study on Angels. Masks and social distance protocols will be followed.



**“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 (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 (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 (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 all those affected by natural disasters in our country recently; those dealing with the wild fires, and those recovering from the damage left behind by recent hurricanes.
- † We pray for the patience and continued health of teachers, staff and students as they meet on campus with new education and safety guidelines amid Coronavirus (COVID-19).
- † 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?

ELECTION OF CHURCH OFFICERS:

Due to the global health pandemic this year, our election process has been delayed. During this time, the Nominating Committee has continued to diligently consider and pray about those who would best serve the St. Paul family. We are working toward holding an election very soon, currently looking to November. Once all of the details have been finalized, full information will be shared with the congregation.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the church office or Congregational President, Bill Dube.

LWML Mite Box Collections, October 4 thru 11, 2020



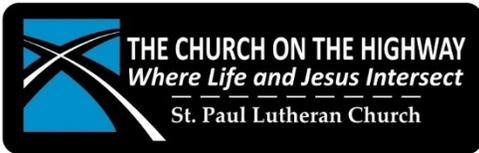
Please bring the contents of your mite box anytime beginning Sunday, October 4, thru Sunday, October 11. (LWML Sunday will be celebrated on October 11.) Please place your donation in the display located in Mission Central in the church foyer. We suggest that you place your donations in a Ziploc bag. This way you can keep your mite box. Don't have a mite box? You can pick up one at our display.

Your mite box funds mission grants in Texas, the US and globally. One ministry receiving a mission grant is Urban Base Camp Outreach—Camp Lone Star. Urban Base Camp Outreach is a new program designed to partner with urban congregations at their facilities to reach out to lower income youth in their communities, offering an adventurous Christ-centered camp. The mission grant of \$15,000 will be used to purchase a mobile rock-climbing wall.

HEALTHY HABITS FOR SENIORS



1. **Eat healthy:** The digestive system slows down with age, so high-fiber fruits, vegetables and whole grains are as important as ever. Because seniors are prone to dehydration, they should drink plenty of water to stay energized and sharp.
2. **Focus on prevention:** Preventative care visits, including health screenings for cholesterol levels, colon cancer, heart problems and more, qualify for Medicare coverage. Seniors also need to get vaccinations that can help prevent influenza and pneumonia.
3. **Get some sleep:** Frequent waking and insomnia in the night are common among seniors. Turn the lights down in the evening to spur drowsiness and make sure the bedroom is comfortable, cool and quiet.
4. **Stay physically active:** Exercise not only alleviates depression but improves energy and memory. An exercise program approved by a physician, long walks or short strolls can keep seniors healthier longer. With their health under control, seniors can do more and stay active, which is important to their overall well-being.
5. **Take advantage of free physicals:** During the first 12 months on Medicare, seniors are offered free physicals. After that first year, they receive free annual wellness visits.
6. **Visit the dentist every six months:** Our risk for cavities goes up with age. Plus, many mouth infections can be linked to serious health conditions, such as diabetes, heart disease and stroke. So seniors should see the dentist regularly.



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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.)