

ST. PAUL'S TROY LUTHERAN

May, 2020

Pastor's Corner

Happy Easter Season!

What an Easter time we have had! Today we just finished recording the service for Good Shepherd Sunday (May 2/3, 2020). In the Gospel lesson appointed for this Sunday, Jesus tells us that he is the Good Shepherd and his sheep know his voice. Our opening hymn for this Sunday is "I am Jesus' Little Lamb." We truly are Jesus' little lambs. We have something special planned with the opening hymn.

We have been offering recorded services now since March 25th because of the COVID 19 threat. Our YouTube Channel can be found at:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCtkQvE9qou2rzvBAKNhqqBg>

We also have been putting Bible Class/ Confirmation videos on the YouTube Channel. Please consider subscribing to the channel and sharing it with your friends and family. I believe that these videos are helping us to reach out into our community and can be outreach tools when services resume.

The church has been praying for mercy during this time of epidemic. The Lord hears our prayers and is answering them. Slowly, it seems that the country will be re-opening. The Elders, Church Council, and I are monitoring the situation and reading the recommendations issued by Federal, State, and Local governments. We will resume services as soon as we are able to do so safely. At this moment, we cannot give a precise date. Once church services resume, we intend to hold confirmation shortly after.

Thank you for your continued support of the ministry at St. Paul's. This time is trying for all of us. We are thankful for the support you have been providing. Please continue supporting the church and school. No one could have anticipated that an epidemic would have shut down services, yet the Lord can and will use this as a blessing for us. This time of self-isolation is an opportunity for St. Paul's to reach out to the community in new ways.

I look forward to hearing from you. If there is anything I can do for you, please let me know.

God's richest blessings,

Pastor Collver
(Abc3@collver.net)

Have Faith, Not Fear

When there's a storm outside, have faith not fear.
When the earth starts shaking, have faith not fear
For the Lord is there, He can hear when there is prayer

When you feel there is no hope, have faith not fear
When you're at the end of your rope, have faith not fear
For the Lord is there, He can hear when there is prayer

Those words are a song written by my friend, fellow musician, and band mate Tom Rampold. I think that they are really appropriate for our current situation. There really is kind of a storm outside. School is not in session, so parents are being asked to teach their children and work from home as well. We are asked to socially distance ourselves, and to self-isolate. We are together as a family practically 24 hours a day, so who doesn't feel like they're at the end of their rope? How many of us feel like we are absolutely going to unravel if we don't do something about it? Fortunately for us, there is something we can do about it. We can pray.

The Lord is always there for us, and will hear us. We can pray for our loved ones. We can pray for those people who are sick. We can pray for doctors, nurses, EMT's, and those people who are always on the front lines trying their best to help us. We can thank God for all of our many blessings, because after all, even with the COVID 19 threat, God is responsible for everything in our lives. It all comes from Him. You know... Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow.

We should also pray for forgiveness. We should confess all our sins to God and ask for forgiveness; and we should ask for help in forgiving those who sin against us.

Sometimes maybe we just need to talk to God, and explain to Him why we feel the way we do. Or to ask Him for understanding about why we feel the way we do. Pray for wisdom. Pray for strength. Pray for patience. Pray for understanding. Pray for blessings. Just pray. Pray without ceasing. As Tom says in his song, "when there is prayer, miracles can happen, mountains can be moved, people can be changed, lives rearranged. Prayer is the greatest power on earth. It can save your soul; it can make you whole."

Love,
Lana

During this time of crisis and uncertainty, please continue to contribute your offering as you are able. The church still has an obligation to pay salaries and has bills to pay. There are four ways to continue to send your offering to St. Paul's:

- 1) Drop your offering at the church office.
- 2) Mail a check.
- 3) Make a debit or credit card donation by visiting our online donation site (<https://saint-pauls-troy-il.square.site/>).
- 4) Download a form to make recurring ACH payments from your checking account (<https://www.saintpaulstroy.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Auto-Pay-Application-Form-1.pdf>).

During this time of coronavirus crisis, the church office will be open on a limited basis. Lana will be in the church office on Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday. You can reach her at 618-667-6681, option 2, or at 618-520-7068. Also, Portals of Prayer booklets are available in the church office, and anyone who wants one may pick them up.

If you need assistance, or know of another member who needs assistance obtaining groceries and basic necessities, please contact Lauren McLaughlin (618-977-2744) or Karen Kilzer (708-942-4403) or the church office (618-667-6681, option 2).

Do you have a graduate in your family, or do you know someone who is graduating this year? We would like to acknowledge them. Please call Lana and let her know.

Our Homebound Members

Mrs. Lila Goedelman
St. Paul's Senior Community
1021 West E St. Room 2055B
Belleville, IL 62220

Mrs. Fran Hosto
MorningSide Care Center
39 Dorothy Drive Rm #112
Troy, IL 62294

Mrs. Barb Wright
MorningSide Care Center
39 Dorothy Drive Rm #112
Troy, IL 62294

Mrs. LaVerne Boeshans
123 W. Throp
Troy, IL 62294

Mrs. Jean Tieman
San Gabriel Memory Care
2509 Frank Watson Parkway
Highland, IL 62249

Shirley Schnoeker
300 South Station Road Apt. 8303
Glen Carbon, IL 62034

Lois Rodenbaugh
714 Troy Road
Collinsville, IL 62234

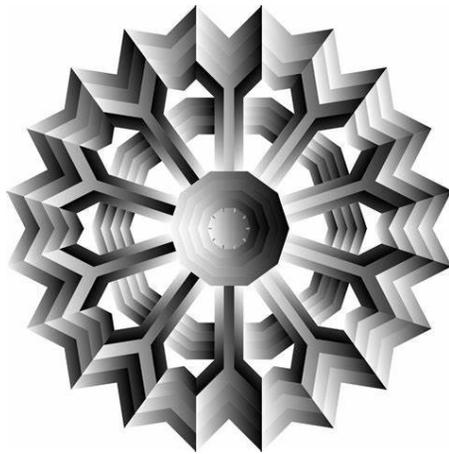
Those Serving in the Military

Amanda Alvis
Ethan Baumgartner
Carolyn Brynildsen
Austin Counts
Natalie Emmons
Tonya Hupp

Nathan Kohl
Cole Long
Chris Payne
Darren Roberts
Kelly Sawielski
Ian Sikes

May Anniversaries

Fred & Susan Gilomen	May 7
Bob & Joyce Hoffmann	May 7
Jim & Michelle Mesenbrink	May 8
Jerry & Ashley Fields	May 18
Jimmy & Shelly Rood	May 20
Steven & Gwenn Buesching	May 22
Howard & Carolyn Oakley	May 23
Rick & Kathy Sury	May 27
Tom & Alice Unger	May 27
Harold & Lisa Niebruegge	May 28
Nathan & Krissy Reese	May 30
Kevin & Kim Campe	May 31



May Birthdays

- May 1: Trecia Winte
- 2: Joy Lucht
- 4: Emma Kilzer, Melvin Niebruegge, Laura Thomas
- 5: Mindy Fischer, Elizabeth Repp
- 6: Casey Bess, Lucy Doyle, Alissa Moody, Joe Walls
- 8: Keith Miller, Sr.
- 9: Beulah Jones
- 10: Mason Sipes
- 11: Bailey Thomas,
- 12: Amy Collins, Mikinley Fields
- 13: Kaitlyn Emmons, Madison Emmons
- 15: Addison Mallette, JoAnn Niebruegge, Nathan Reese
- 17: Greg Brumm
- 18: Sheryl Moore
- 19: Taylor Unger
- 20: Grace Cottingham, Heather Kenison, Robert Ross IV
- 21: Mila Garcia
- 22: Sally Koval, Shirley Schmitt
- 23: Steven Buesching, Colleen Carruthers, Carolyn Oakley, Jimmy Rood
- 28: Dwain Eggemeyer
- 29: Scott Taylor, Maleah Thomas
- 30: Ian Carruthers
- 31: Heather DiRosa



The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

LCMS Stewardship Ministry

Newsletter Article – May 2020

Our Savior calls us to follow Him in generosity. “For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you.” (John 13:15) We cannot give our lives for the salvation of the world, of course. Praise God – that job’s already done!

But with hearts full of thanksgiving for what Jesus has given us, we can follow Jesus’ example of generous giving. And this is not merely an example alone. It’s also our Lord’s command. “The one who contributes, (let him give) in generosity.” (Rom. 12:8)

So, when we give to help others who are in need, and when we bring offerings to the Lord, we should strive to heed His command and follow the pattern He has established for us. Jesus did not give us leftovers. He gave His best. So, we should not give leftovers, either, but the first and best of what He has given us. Jesus did not give as an afterthought, but according to the plan of salvation God established from the foundation of the world.

So, when it comes to our offerings to the Lord, we should make a thoughtful plan to give generously, in proportion to the way He has blessed us. Like the Macedonian Christians, who gave according to their ability – and even beyond their ability (2 Cor. 8:3) – we can and should give a generous portion of the income that God provides us to honor the Lord.

So also, we should give freely, just as Jesus gave freely for us. There is no compulsion involved in our works of love and our offerings to the Lord. Nor do we give grudgingly. We should give freely and cheerfully because we want to out of thanksgiving. “Each as he purposes in his heart,” as the Lord says. (2 Cor. 9:7) There is no New Testament ceremonial law involved here. Rather, we are free to give as generously as our Savior has given for us.

In the same way, our Lord teaches us to give generously out of love – love for Him and for our neighbor. Genuine love is always love in deed (1 John 3:18), love such as Jesus showed us all. It is love that sees our neighbor in need and gives generously to help him. It is love that hears the Word of the Lord and does what it says. If we truly love, we give generously. If we give without love, our giving is not truly following Jesus.

Finally, we follow Jesus in generosity when we give for a good purpose to thank the Lord and support His gospel ministry and other works of mercy. The people of Israel gave generously for the service of God’s gospel purposes, to construct and support the operation of the tabernacle. For that was the place where the Lord received the Old Testament sacrifices, through which He bestowed the forgiveness of sins on His people. So, they gave abundantly – so abundantly that they had to be told to stop giving. (Ex. 36:5-6)

In the same way, we should bring generous offerings to support the Lord's work of bestowing His gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation in our congregations through the preaching and teaching of His Word, Baptism, and the Lord's Supper. We should support the Lord's work of caring for those who are poor and needy.

Our Savior calls us to follow His example in generous giving. Let us then, with thankful hearts, rededicate ourselves to following Him in generosity.

Preparing for Sunday Worship

Sunday, May 3: Acts 2: 42-47
Psalm 23
1 Peter 2: 19-25
John 10: 1-10

Sunday, May 10: Acts 6: 1-9; 7:2a, 51-60
Psalm 146
1 Peter 2: 2-10
John 14: 1-12

Sunday, May 17: Acts 17: 16-31
Psalm 66: 8-20
1 Peter 3: 15-22
John 14: 15-21

Ascension Day

Thursday, May 21: Acts 1: 1-11
Psalm 47
Ephesians 1: 15-23
Luke 24: 44 -53

Sunday, May 24: Acts 1: 12-26
Psalm 68: 1-10
1 Peter 4: 12-19; 5: 6-11
John 17: 1-11a

Pentecost

Sunday, May 31: Numbers 11: 24-30
Psalm 25: 1-15
Acts 2: 1-21
John 7: 37-39