

ST. PAUL'S TROY LUTHERAN

June / July, 2020

Pastor's Corner

“My Refuge and My Fortress, My God, in whom I trust.” --- Psalm 91:2

It has been a long three months! During this time, the Lord has richly blessed us and he continues to do so. Our Lord is our refuge and fortress. Our first online video service was held on March 18, 2020. Our final, online “only” video service was on June 14, 2020. (Don't worry, we will still offer video services.) We have resumed worship in the sanctuary on June 21, 2020, with one service at 9:00 AM. We intend to follow the health recommendations to prevent COVID-19 infections including social distancing, encouraging the wearing of masks in public, and reduced occupancy. We are thankful and excited that we are able to resume worship in the sanctuary.

We understand that a number of our members have pre-existing conditions and are in a higher risk category for complications from COVID-19. Some of us are concerned about infecting our family or other people who are at greater risk. If you think you should remain at home, please do. We intend to record the services on Sunday and post them on the church's website and YouTube by Sunday evening. Please subscribe to our YouTube channel:

<http://www.youtube.com/c/StPaulsTroyIL>. Also, as we post new videos and Bible studies, please share the videos on your FaceBook page.

We are now in the season of Pentecost. The color for Pentecost is green, and it represents growth and life given to us by the Holy Spirit. This summer may we grow closer together as a congregation, especially as we are able to meet more and more as the pandemic fades away (God willing). May we continue to grow in our knowledge of the Scriptures and in faith.

Pastor Collver

It Is Well with My Soul

When peace, like a river, attendeth my way, When sorrows like sea billows roll;
Whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say, It is well, it is well with my soul.

It is well with my soul, It is well, it is well with my soul.

Though Satan should buffet, the trials should come, Let this blest assurance control
That Christ has regarded my helpless estate, And has shed his own blood for my soul.

My sin, oh, the bliss of this glorious tho't: My sin, not in part, but the whole
Is nail'd to the cross and I bear it no more, Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!

And, Lord haste the day when the faith shall be sight, The clouds be roll'd back as a scroll,
The trump shall resound and the Lord shall descend, "Even so," it is well with my soul.

It is well with my soul, It is well, it is well with my soul.

It's been a while since I have last written... there's a lot going on and yet nothing really going on. The COVID-19 virus is still with us, and it's easy for us to think that we can start to get back to normal, but that's not quite right, as is being found out in Florida, Texas, and Arizona. Even in Missouri there's a rise in new cases. So, we need to be extra careful. Then, there are protests, some of them violent. Lives matter, whether they're black, white, brown, yellow, or red. We need to remember that so that when we're out we treat everyone with respect and courtesy. That's not always easy, but we never know what other people are going through. That brings me to the reason I picked this song to write about... It seems like no matter which way we turn there is chaos. It's troubling and confusing for even the best of us. Do we dare to go out? Do we keep sheltering at home with our family (who are probably making us a little crazy by now)? If we do dare go out, what happens if we are caught up in the drama and confusion in the streets?

Sometimes it's too much for us. We have been parents, grandparents, guardians, teachers, and employees all in one. It's no wonder our heads are spinning by the time we go to bed at night. That usually makes sleep impossible, as we are wondering how we're going to handle the next day; but God is there. What God is telling us in this song is that He is here for us. When bad things happen to us, He is there. He is there for comfort and for guidance. Satan is there to confuse us and to cause chaos. But God is there for us. He sent Jesus Christ to die on the cross for our sins. And knowing this, we need to trust in God, and to say:

It is well, it is well with my soul!

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>).

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).

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

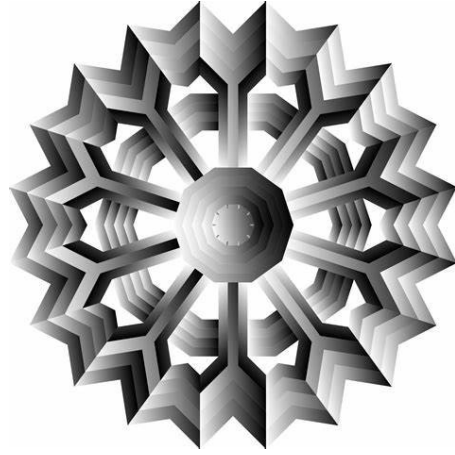
Nathan Kohl
Cole Long
Chris Payne
Darren Roberts
Kelly Sawielski
Ian Sikes

June Anniversaries

| | |
|-------------------------------|---------|
| Steve & Ida Doyle | June 3 |
| Brandon & Rachael Beckemeyer | June 4 |
| Jim & Shirley Rood | June 8 |
| Andrew & Lisa Schmitt | June 8 |
| Dave & Laura Thomas | June 10 |
| Joshua & Jenni Hunt | June 14 |
| George & Linda Godell | June 15 |
| Shawn & Andrea Schaefer | June 20 |
| John & Jennifer Leitschuh | June 23 |
| Phil & Claudia Loethen | June 23 |
| Ryan and Jennifer Kaffer, Sr. | June 24 |
| Steven & Laurel West | June 25 |
| Brett & Kelly Sollberger | June 27 |

July Anniversaries

| | |
|-------------------------------|---------|
| Roger and Erin Taylor | July 1 |
| Gary and Sally Koval | July 3 |
| Michael and Sarah Salanitro | July 9 |
| Colin and Lauren McLaughlin | July 11 |
| Beau and Wendy Sievers | July 15 |
| Dennis and Gloria Kueker | July 16 |
| Jacob and Jennifer Doyle | July 22 |
| Joe and Jessica Wiemers | |
| John and Linda Drannan, Sr. | July 24 |
| Clayton and Jennifer Mallette | July 26 |
| Matthew and Amanda Clover | July 30 |



June Birthdays

- June 1: Alexandra Harlow, Hannah Meyer
2: Zoey Baker, Maccenna Fischer, Elena Lyle, Erin Taylor
3: Jackson Moody, Alice Unger
4: Jill Corder
6: Emily Harlow, Roger Taylor
7: Jane Leitschuh
8: Donna Ponce.
9: Tim Launhardt, Jared Levo, Sophia Niebruegge, Jason Powell, Alan Winte, Jonathan York
10: McKenzie Cordero, Todd Moore
11: Tyler Beuth, Justine Dochterman, Mildred Eggemeyer
12: Laurence Fischer, Glenn Gindler, Joshua Mesenbrink, Carter Olinger
13: Karyn Sahs, Anthony Warner
14: Joyce Hoffmann, Brian Parizon
16: Sarah Niebruegge, Scott Sahs, Barbara Wehmeyer
18: Karen Missey, Hannah Norris
20: Shawndel Rose
21: Adeline Amen, Sharon Northcutt, Taylor Reese, Mary Rocca
22: Abigail Meseke, Donald York, Jr.
23: Mark Schlemer, Ephram Werner
25: Mackenzie Mallette, Rebecca McLaughlin, Simon Stock
26: Abbey Rose
27: Lila Goedelman
28: Alexander Garcia
29: Megan Lading, Tom Milkert
30: David Lucht

July Birthdays

- July 1:** Zachary Doyle
Kaitlyn Hunter
Emma Winte
- 5: Ryan Kaffer, Sr.
- 7: Nathan Emmons
Beth Klaustermeier
- 8: Lucas Hunter
- 9: Elana Bushrow
Sarah Graddy
- 10: Elaine Fitzgerald
Patsy Moore
- 11: Russell Klaustermeier
Lauren Koberna
Scott Martens
- 12: Pamela Brannon
Dan Leitschuh
- 13: Susan Gilomen
Loree Moore
- 14: Rebecca Koval
- 15: Scott Rose
Brett Sollberer
- 16: Bryce Merkel
- 18: Lynn Mc Kean
Heather Rood
- 20: Kevin Campe
- 21: Dustin Rhymer\
Megan Walton
- 23: Karsyn Missey
- 24: John Drannan, Sr.
- 25: Elaine Ackerman
Cynthia Butler
- 26: Mikayla Fink
Ryan Kaffer, Jr.
- 27: Linda Drannan
Eugene Roehl
- 28: Jimmy Rood
- 30: Amelia Sievers
Darrell Wittenberg
- 31: Madeline York

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

LCMS Stewardship Ministry

Newsletter Article – June 2020

The sin of the world is paid for. God's Law has been kept perfectly on our behalf. The prophecies have all been fulfilled. Jesus Christ has finished it all! And that, dear Christians, should fill us with complete confidence in our salvation. Since Jesus has finished all these things in His self-sacrifice, we can be fully certain our sins are forgiven, and we have everlasting life!

St. Paul wrote: "I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship." (Rom. 12:1)

We hear the same teaching in 1 Peter. "As you come to him, a living stone, rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, you yourselves, like living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ." (1 Peter 2:4-5)

It's the very thing Malachi foretold of the Lord, that He would come and purify His priestly people, that they may offer to Him an offering in righteousness. (Mal. 3:3)

So, what does this mean? In view of God's mercies – that is, because Jesus sacrificed Himself to make us pure, giving His entire self into death – Paul said that we are to sacrifice ourselves entirely to God, offering Him our whole lives. For our Savior did not give Himself for us in part. So, we do not give back to Him in part.

We don't offer ourselves to God just on Sunday mornings or Wednesday evenings, for example. Rather, we give Him our whole selves, all the time. We understand that offering ourselves to God as living sacrifices involves the giving of our time. It requires us to be faithful stewards of the time He has given us. Yes, it means we devote to our Savior all our time. Otherwise we are not sacrificing our whole lives.

You see, God both teaches us, and has graciously qualified us, to present ourselves to Him as living sacrifices – to live as His holy priests, who offer Him acceptable sacrifices through Jesus Christ, all day, every day, in our various callings.

In the passages from Romans and 1 Peter, we hear several examples of Christian self-sacrifice: serving, teaching, encouraging, giving, leading, showing mercy, living peaceably with others, submitting to governing authorities and those over us in the workplace, wives submitting to husbands, husbands honoring wives, showing compassion, and suffering patiently in doing good.

In all these things, and in all our other everyday activities, we sacrifice ourselves by using our time, not just for our own benefit, but also and especially for the well-being of others. Work time, school time, exercise time, study time, mealtime, chore time, recreation and relaxation time, even sleep time – it's all God's gift to us to use for purposes that please and honor Him.

This challenges us to think about the way we spend our time, how we utilize our talents, and the way we spend our treasures. Whatever it is I'm doing, am I doing it "for the Lord"? (Col. 3:23) Am I presenting God a living sacrifice? Am I conducting myself as a holy priest, whose sacrifice is acceptable to God?

Because our Lord sacrificed Himself wholly for us, we offer ourselves wholly to Him as living sacrifices. This is following Jesus in self-sacrifice. By His saving mercy, yes, our sacrifice is acceptable to God. For the sake of Jesus' finished work, God is pleased with us.



LCMS Foundation Newsletter Article, July 2020

In most communities, firework displays have been cancelled due to COVID. That might leave you scratching your head, wondering what you are going to do this year to celebrate the 4th of July. It could be that you have always staked out the same spot each year. Maybe friends and family have joined you there. What will you do now that life has changed? Does this mean that Independence Day has lost its purpose?

Loss of purpose is scary. We often live a big part of our lives without any "purpose" associated with what will happen to the financial gifts found in our estates after the Lord has called us home. That can be scary too! Sometimes, we don't know how to begin addressing that purpose and organizing ourselves so that we can put together a purposeful plan, using legal documents prepared by our attorneys to direct gifts to Godly design. You are not alone. Nearly half of all Americans have yet to complete this work.

"Fred" and "Mary" had procrastinated throughout their marriage, never wanting to spend the time and navigate the legal complexities of getting everything in order. Finally, they partnered with an LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor to begin organizing their plans, understanding the entire scope of gifts the Lord had given them to manage. Through a few weeks of planning and lots of prayer, they completed their plan. At the end they shared, "It feels so good to have this in place!" Godly purpose feels good, for it resonates with God's design for our creation.

You may not be able to reinject purpose into the 4th of July this year without fireworks. But you can apply purpose to your estate plans. Your LCMS Gift Planning Counselor can help. Contact Scott Radden, your LCMS Gift Planning Counselor at (618) 977-4049 or Scott.Radden@lfnd.org for more information.

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

LCMS Stewardship Ministry

Newsletter article – July 2020

“Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” asked the rich young ruler. Jesus said, “You know the commandments.” And the ruler replied, “All these I have kept from my youth.” And Jesus said to him, “One thing you still lack. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.” (Luke 18:18–22)

As we listen to this, one question is raised in our minds: Is Jesus speaking to us also or only to the rich young ruler? In other words, is Jesus telling us to sell all that we have and give it to the poor? As good Lutherans, we answer: No! But why? Why should we not sell all that we have and distribute it to the poor?

The simplest explanation is this: If we sold everything we have, our wife and our children would be neglected. In other words, to sell everything we have and give it to the poor would ignore, even abandon, those whom God has placed in our care. Our money, everything we have, is not to be used solely for the church. But that doesn't mean it isn't to be used for the purpose God intends.

Everyone has three stations in life, three spheres in which we live and are to be of service to our neighbors. These stations are the church, the family, and society. We are members of all three of these by birth.

- We are born into the church by water and the Word of God, and our duties to others in the church arise from either our birth into the church or the birth of others by Baptism into it.
- We are born into a family, and our duties to others stem from either our birth into that family or the birth of others into our family.
- Finally, we are born into society, which is simply a further extension of our birth into our family. The duties we have toward other members of society come from either our birth or the birth of others into the same society.

All that we have and all that we are is to be pressed into service for the church, the family, and society. If we were to sell all we have and give only to one, the other two would be neglected, and our duties toward them would falter.

So consider your life and all that you have in light of these three stations. You pay taxes to support and help those in society. You provide food, clothing, and shelter for the members of your family. You save for college for your children.

But the one station that is usually thought of last is the church. Since the needs of the family and society are more immediate, the church is often given what is left over. This is not how it should

be. Rather, we are to give of our first fruits – the best from off the top – even as Abel gave the best of his flock.

This requires forethought and intent. It means that you sit down and make a plan for what you will give from the beginning. It means sticking to it even when it seems there are other more immediate and pressing things.

This is all the more necessary now as we enter into periods of time while giving is low due to high unemployment or restrictions on meeting in church to give. If we love God, his gifts of forgiveness given through the means of grace we receive at church and only at church, then we will support the church just as we love our country and our family.

For all that we have and all that we are is given to us by our gracious and giving God. He spared no expense for us and our salvation. He gave up His Son into death so that our sins are forgiven, and we will live. What is more, He provides for all that we need for this body and life. And our lives in this world, among these three spheres of the church, the family, and society, are to mirror the generosity of the one who gave us life in all three by birth.

Don't let the church, your divine family, be ignored or even an afterthought. The church is nurturing you, bringing you up in salvation by Word and Sacrament for eternal life.