

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH
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OR OUR FACEBOOK PAGE AT ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH, AMES, IA

REV. DR. TODD JENKS, PASTOR
THOMAS WILSON, DIR. FAMILY LIFE
LORI JENKS, PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR
PRESCHOOL- 515-233-1914

Letter from Pastor

Dear friends in Christ:

Who would have known last spring what we'd be going through this spring? Who could have predicted last Easter season that this Easter season, we would not be able to worship together at our church, but would instead be worshipping together via LIVE streaming services sent out from our church online? Who could have foretold at last year's Confirmation Sunday that this year's Confirmation Sunday would need to be postponed due to coronavirus?

Life often springs unexpected things upon us. However, none of these things that are "unexpected" to us are unexpected to Jesus. Our God's understanding is far above ours, His ways far beyond ours. *"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the Lord. "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts"* (Isaiah 55:8-9).

Are you ready for God to work in unexpected ways in your life? That's the way God often works, you know. Noah probably never expected to become a sailor. Abraham probably never dreamed of moving to an unknown land, and certainly he didn't expect to enter the unknown land of fatherhood at the age of

100. The disciples never could have predicted that they would leave their families to wander the roads of Israel with Jesus for three amazing years. God's calling in our lives often leads us in unexpected ways.

Are you ready for God to work in unexpected ways in the life of our church? What does God have in store for St. Paul Lutheran Church -- ministry opportunities and new beginnings of which we have not yet even dreamed? You see, we do not know what the future holds—for us or for our church. But we do know who holds the future--Jesus Christ our Savior. He holds both our future and us in His hands, and He has wonderful plans. He is the Cornerstone on which our faith is built, on which our church is built, and on which our lives should be built. So as you build your life on Jesus, get ready for God to work in unexpected ways, taking you down roads you may never have envisioned walking. Get ready for the unexpected! *"Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable His judgements, and His paths beyond tracing out!"* (Romans 11:33)

Your pastor, Pastor Jenks

Inside this issue:

Worship Schedule/Thank yous	2
Stewardship/Trustees	3
Wellness Team	4
Family Life	5
Education & Youth	6-8
Women's Ministry	9-11

Anniversaries / Birthdays /
Directory Changes

May Service Rosters

Preschool

Our Mission is:

- To Know Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord,
- To Grow in faith through His Sacraments and Word, and
- To Go share His Gospel with love in our community and world.

Worship Services at St. Paul Lutheran Church

Sunday, May 3

10:00 a.m. Live Stream

Or

Worship at church

8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

Sunday, May 10

10:00 a.m. Live Stream

Or

Worship at church

8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

Sunday, May 17

10:00 a.m. Live Stream

Or

Worship at church

8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.



Sunday, May 24

10:00 a.m. Live Stream

Or

Worship at church

10:00 a.m. One Service.

Sunday, May 31

10:00 a.m. Live Stream

Or

Worship at church

8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

Note: When we are able to do so, we will return to our regular in-person Sunday schedule.



Thank you, thank you, thank you, for giving me a wonderful 80th birthday. Two bouquets of flowers, over 50 cards, 9 telephone calls, a couple of gifts dropped off at the door, and dinner brought in. And Al called twice - who could ask for more. In spite of the Pandemic, it was a good day.

Tanny Latuska

Scott Olson and I would like to say how much your cards, drawings and notes meant. Scott has been in his house for days on end now and they tell me he is irritable at times. His birthday party was a joy for him and broke the monotony. I went over on his birthday, April 17th, to celebrate with him, me on the outside of his house, and him at the kitchen table. With the window open we talked through the screen and he opened presents and the mail came. Scott got to open a handful of mail, and most of it was from our church friends. I can't express how happy this made Scott, with a brilliant smile from him with every one. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts. God has truly blessed us with wonderful friends. God bless you all.

Inez Smith and Scott Olson

Board of Stewardship

"You shall serve the Lord your God, and he will bless your bread and your water, and I will take sickness away from among you." How comforting these words from Exodus 23:25 are today, as we live with daily concerns about our health. God's Word is a joyful reminder that if we remain faithful to Him through prayer, Bible study and healthy stewardship of our talents and offerings, that God will surely "bless our bread and our water, and take sickness away from among us." Not only will our earthly bread and water be blessed, but also the spiritual sustenance found in God's Word that brings comfort during trying times.

We also read in Proverbs 17:22 that *"A joyful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones."* The Board of Stewardship is grateful for how St. Paul members have joyfully continued to support our ministry here, despite not being able to gather as a congregation at this time. Your spirit remains joyful, not crushed! Praise the Lord for your faithfulness!

Would you be willing to count offerings for just one month in the coming year? We are always looking for counters, so again, let the church office or Larry Wiebel (563-886-4999) know and we can get you on the schedule!

One closing comment about offering envelopes...it is very helpful if you write the amount of your offering on the envelope to make the counting process go a bit smoother. Your name is not necessary on the envelope, but noting the amount inside is helpful. Thank you!

Board of Stewardship



Trustees

The trustees approved the cement repair, lifting and replacement project to the South and West areas of the church. These improvements will help with the moisture issues that we have been having in the basement. Volunteers have been helping with the spring cleanup to the church property. A big Thank you to those that have been involved with this project. Respectfully submitted the board of trustees

Wellness Team

Wash your hands, you sinners! (James 4:8)

Words from the Wellness Team

Hello, St. Paul friends! This is Pastor Jenks, writing on behalf of the Wellness Team. This month's wellness topic is handwashing. You might be wondering why I'm writing about this topic, instead of about some topic like your body being the temple of the Holy Spirit. Do you wonder why I got the assignment to write about handwashing? Then keep reading, and soon you'll be learning why.



I remember once (pre-coronavirus) when I went to visit my parents in California. We were out somewhere, and in a public restroom my father and I were both washing our hands. My dad happened to look over at my handwashing procedure and said to me with surprise, "You wash your hands like a surgeon!"

To be honest, I had never thought about it until that moment. I guess I do wash my hands a bit differently than most people. However, I can tell you the reason. When I was in college at Concordia University in St. Paul, for a semester I worked at a local nursing home in the Twin Cities. As part of that process, I had to receive special training. One of the many things they taught us about was proper handwashing techniques.

Needless to say, I learned that most of us wash our hands for far too short of a time, and we just touch the tip of the iceberg – or just wash the top of our hands. We are supposed to scrub and scrub—top, bottom, and all around. We are supposed to get in between the fingers, not just the top of the fingers. We're even supposed to wash up to our wrists. (After all, think about it, when you shake someone's hand, sometimes it's not just your fingers and hands that touch, but also your wrists).

I'm not going to claim to be the expert on HOW we should wash our hands, but I can tell you that most of us don't wash our hands for nearly long enough. Some have suggested to sing the Happy Birthday song as a barometer for how long to wash your hands, but if you rush the birthday song, it might last too short of a time to meet the 20-second (minimum) suggested handwashing time. Maybe you can think of a song you like that lasts longer, and sing a little longer. A good idea is to think of a favorite song of yours that has both verses and a chorus, and sing a full verse with the chorus while you wash your hands.

Once you wash your hands, you're done, right? Not quite! Suppose you just washed your hands and now you use a freshly-washed hand to turn the faucet handle(s) back off – the very same faucet you just turned on with your unwashed hand. Maybe the germ you put there on that faucet handle with your unwashed hand is waiting to rejoin your washed hand. Many suggest using a paper towel to turn off the faucet once your hand is cleaned and washed.

The important point about handwashing is to take it more seriously, do it more frequently, and realize the reason we do it – to protect ourselves and others from the spread of germs. Speaking of stopping those nasty germs, be cautious about using antibacterial soaps. Laboratory studies have shown the possibility that use of antibacterial soaps can contribute to making bacteria resistant to antibiotics! You sure don't want that happening, especially in case you ever need antibiotics for a medical situation.

The Lord washes our hearts completely, through Christ. God reassures us, "The blood of Jesus Christ, His Son, cleanses us from all sin" (1 John 1:7). God's the One who washes your heart – but it's up to you to wash your hands. On behalf of the Wellness Team, I've shared a few handwashing tips with you. Now, it's all in your hands. We're handing the handwashing off to you. All hands on deck!

Family Life

Homegrown Fruits of the Spirit: Growth Continues in Community

Though growth begins in the home, it continues in community. Motivational speaker Jim Rohn is credited with famously touting that “you are the average of the five people you spend the most time with.” In other words, you become who you spend time with. Further emphasizing this point, Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 15:33, “Do not be deceived: ‘Bad company corrupts good morals.’” On the positive side, we read in Proverbs 27:17, “Iron sharpens iron, and one person sharpens another.”

All of this means that we can begin the growth process at home, with our families. Parents can, and will be, the main gardeners in the lives of their children. But eventually we are placed in the community. Our faith growth comes down to who we surround ourselves with.

So, who do you surround yourself with? What about the people you surrounded your kids with? Are they, or were they, growing in a spiritually and emotionally safe environment? Think about the five people in your life closest to you right now. Do they help you grow spiritually?

One of the single greatest struggles of parents today is not having enough time, or being “too busy”. Are there activities that could be cut in your family to make more time for spiritual growth? Are some of the activities that fill your time, and your children’s time, not helping you cultivate yours or your child’s spiritual growth?

APPLICATION:

Morning Prayer: Heavenly Father, surround my children with friends, mentors, and loved ones who champion and affirm our family values.

Bedtime Question: When did you feel most proud of yourself today or this week? What’s the silliest thing you saw or heard this week?

Activity: Helping your children know who they should turn to is key! Find, make, or buy a picture frame with three to five spaces for pictures. Sit down with your children and talk about what a mentor is. Ask them who they go to when they need help. Who are they most likely to talk to? DO NOT be offended if it’s not you, especially if your kids are a little older. We all need other like-minded voices speaking into our lives. The goal of this activity is to help them find three to five godly people who are producing fruit they can surround themselves with. They can be older family members, pastor, coaches, teachers, or a neighbor. Find or take a picture of your kids with that person and fill it in one of the slots. Hang the picture in their bedroom as a reminder of the people who love and support them.

Evangelism

Members of St. Paul- As you know before this Coronavirus pandemic happened I was recruiting fellow members to go up to Camp Okoboji for their work weekend. That weekend was postponed with a new tentative date of May 15-17. So, if you have already signed up on the sheet for the first weekend and are still planning on going for the new dates or if you'd like to sign up, please let me know. Meals and lodging is provided. (AS STATED THIS DATE IS TENTATIVE AND DEPENDS ON THE CORONAVIRUS SITUATION.) It would be great to send another large group of St Paul Transformers again.

Thank You

Charles Ellis, Evangelism Chair

515-708-8574 or immachief@gmail.com

Education & Youth

Share the fun of Adventureland!

We are sorry to inform you that due to the ongoing COVID-19 situation, the Substance Free Weekends at Adventureland Park have been cancelled. St. Paul will not be offering tickets after all this year.

However, there is usually a day in mid to late June that is **Lutheran Family Day**. It is a day that also has discounted tickets available that we hope to participate in instead.

Thank you

-Carla



Do you like to work with youth? Are you looking for a place to serve your Lord and church family?

Ways you can SERVE

If so, the Board of Youth needs you! We are looking for people to join our board or for a Vice chair to start in July. Meetings are once a month (usually the first Monday) and activities are once a month for 7-8 months. It's a great way to have fun with youth and have fellowship with other youth board members. For more information, please contact Carla Murphy.

Education & Youth

Join our Youth Board and get PAID in Six Figures....S-M-I-L-E-S !

Youth are the present and future of our church. We need to embrace them and show them that you can have fun with peers while also learning and growing in faith. There's nothing more rewarding than seeing a great group of youth gather for a meal and activities once a month. Although we're there to guide them, many times they help enlighten us adults too!

We are looking for people to join our board as well as have an opening for a Vice chair to start in July. Time commitment is what you are willing to do, but our meetings are once a month and we have meals/activities once a month for 7-8 months.

For more information, please contact Carla Murphy.

VBS Safe Training

Vacation Bible School is right around the corner (August 2nd – 5th) and soon we will be searching high and low for volunteers to help. Did you know that St. Paul has a volunteer SAFE policy? Did you know that you need to do SAFE training BEFORE you work with youth at St. Paul? Before it is too late to get you signed up to help with VBS, we want to make sure all the procedures are completed and we are in compliance with the SAFE Policy. So, if you want to help and are not SAFE trained, now is the time to get it completed. There is a quick application, some short online training, and then a 1- 1½ hour face to face training. IF you would like to get trained please contact Angi Esser (SAFE Trainer) or Thomas Wilson (DCE, Director of Family Life Ministry).



Education & Youth

Spiritual Messages/Uplifting Resources from the Youth Board Chair

Are you looking for an uplifting devotion or poem of the day? I have 2 suggestions you might want to try!

The first one is a 5-6 minute online video devotion called "Coffee with Camp" and it's hosted by Izaak Wendorff of Camp Okoboji. It's on Facebook, their website and Instagram. It's Monday- Friday at 8am (but can be viewed later too). He does a bible reading and then leaves you with questions to think about or share with others.

The other inspirational person is Tanner Olson of Written to Speak (WTS). He is also online (writtentospeak.com) Facebook, Instagram and has a few podcasts. He is a author, poet and speaker (who I have seen in person along with some of our church youth).

I encourage you or your family to check them out. Each of these are short, but can really have an impact on your day!



Camp Okoboji Summer Camp 2020 Dates: (Due to Covid-19 all are subject to change.)

Camp Okoboji with Jesus at the Lake!

Although this pandemic is changing normal schedules and events, Camp still hopes to have its summer sessions. They are asking people to still register for camp! They will contact us if anything changes. It's better to register and cancel later than to miss out altogether! So, if you need help with registration fees, we have FREE funds available through our youth board, the district and the camp itself! Just ask how to get your share! Applications for funding through the camp auxiliary were due in April, **but requests for funding from the youth board is now May 6**. So, the sooner you know, please let us know! Contact Carla Murphy for questions. We've had several youth attend the different sessions in the past and we want it to keep growing! Below are the youth camps but there are family camps available too - check out their website.



Cub Week #1 - June 7-13 for (grades 3-5). Cost: \$365.

Junior High Week - July 5-11 (6-8th grade) Cost: \$365.

Cub Week #2 - July 12-18 (grades 3-5). Cost: \$365.

Youth Week - July 19-25 (9-12th grade) Cost: \$365.

Kid's Camp - July 31-Aug 2. Cost: \$135 for adults and \$85 for kids.(k-2nd).

Women's Ministry

LWML Iowa West District Convention

With deepest regrets, the 39th LWML Iowa West District Convention is cancelled. The safety and health of our Lutheran Women in Mission is our prime concern.



Details will be forthcoming on restructuring some of the happenings that were going to be at convention, only in a virtual format. Voting will still take place by paper ballot, via mail, with the intent to announce results June 19th.

Thank you for your prayers and understanding.



Solomon 2:11-12a “For lo the winter is past, The rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth, the time of singing has come.”

There is nothing quite like the beauty and miracle of a flower! Planting, watering and watching it grow and flourish bears witness to God's power. The unlimited variety of flowers that God created for this world proclaim His glory. These were made for our enjoyment and to share with others.

The annual LWML plant sale flowers will arrive and be ready for pickup at St Paul on **May 9 under the canopy**. Curbside pickup will take place from 8-2pm Saturday. IF you did not get your order in on time, please note there will be extra plants to purchase that day. We will have a limited assortment of annuals in 6 packs, geraniums, and perennials in 6 inch pots. Questions? Contact Gretchen Zitterich at 515-201-7570.

Thank you to all who ordered from the Women's Ministry plant sale again this year!! It is our main fundraiser to support the LWML mission grants and registrations for National LWML convention.

Women's Ministry

LWML National 2019–2021 Mission Grant #9 — \$40,000 Wind River Indian Reservation Transportation at Fort Washakie in Wyoming

Wind River Lutheran Mission (WRLM) works with the Shoshone and Arapaho tribes and is currently the only existing full-time mission with a pastor living on site. In this high poverty area of Native Americans, children receive little or no support when it comes to Christian education. A large part of this ministry focuses on outreach to the children of the Wind River Reservation. Very few children can acquire transportation to attend bible classes at Fort Washakie and Crowheart. Parents allow WRLM staff to pick up their children and take them to Sunday school or VBS. In most instances this is the

only opportunity to share the Gospel of Christ with children living on the reservation. With a suitable vehicle purchased with this grant money, children will be able to continue the approximately eighty-eight mile round trip for Sunday school at Fort Washakie and the sixty mile round trip for "Monday" school at Crowheart.



The Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) still has many grants to be funded. You may send a check for your mites to the church office and we will put it in the mite box, or continue to save them and when we are able to worship together again you may place them in the large mite box.



Thank you for continuing to save those mites!

Women's Ministry

LWML Mite Update: as of 3/31/20

2019-2021 National Mission goal: \$2,100,000.00

Amount Received: \$1,086,773.61

Amount Needed: \$1,013,226.39

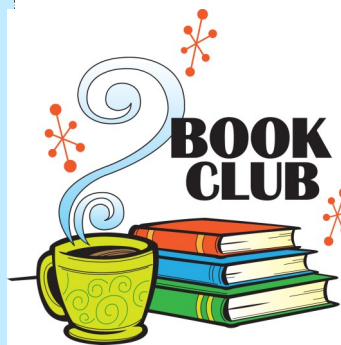
We normally collect mites for missions on the 1st Sunday of each month. For more information about LWML go to www.lwml.org.

Do you know what is going on in the Iowa West District of the LWML? The LWML IWD eNews is sent to all women of the congregation who have email. If you do not have email, a copy is printed and placed on the LWML/Missions bulletin board going up to the fellowship hall. You may read it and replace it when you are finished.

FAMILY SERVICE ~ Our quilters will not meet together until further notice, although many are working from home. Do you have a sewing project you have been putting off? This is the perfect time to get out that sewing machine and tackle it. Or, many people are making masks. If you need a pattern to make masks, call the office and we will direct you.



"Book to Know to Help You Grow"



Our next discussion has been changed to July 9 at 7:00 pm at Janelle Swenson's home to discuss "The Masterpiece" by Francine Rivers. We will also be choosing our books for the next year. Send your suggestions to Connie Lastine.

The Barnes and Noble description of this book: "*The New York Times* best-selling author of *Redeeming Love* returns to her romance roots with this unexpected and redemptive love story, a probing tale that reminds us that mercy can shape even the most broken among us into an imperfect yet stunning

masterpiece. A successful LA artist, Roman Velasco appears to have everything he could possibly want—money, women, fame. Only Grace Moore, his reluctant, newly hired personal assistant, knows how little he truly has. The demons of Roman's past seem to echo through the halls of his empty mansion and out across his breathtaking Topanga Canyon view. But Grace doesn't know how her boss secretly wrestles with those demons: by tagging buildings as the Bird, a notorious but unidentified graffiti artist—an alter ego that could destroy his career and land him in prison. Like Roman, Grace is wrestling with ghosts and secrets of her own. After a disastrous marriage threw her life completely off course, she vowed never to let love steal her dreams again. But as she gets to know the enigmatic man behind the reputation, it's as if the jagged pieces of both of their pasts slowly begin to fit together . . . until something so unexpected happens that it changes the course of their relationship—and both their lives—forever."

Date	Hostess	Book
July 9, 2020, 7 pm	Janelle Swenson	"The Masterpiece" by Francine Rivers

May 2020 Service Roster - to be implemented when in-person worship resumes

[illegible]

St. Paul Lutheran Preschool May News 2020

God continues to help us when we don't know what is going to happen!

Suddenly and sadly, on March 23rd no preschool or EK children came back to St. Paul due to COVID-19! Now what would we do? The Preschool Staff decided we still wanted to teach the children, and stay in touch with their families, even if we couldn't see them face-to-face. We wanted to keep teaching the children about Jesus. We wanted to continue empowering our students to learn and grow -- so each teacher in each class started creating "Home Learning" Lesson Plans for their students in their class, starting March 23rd. The plans would be emailed to the parents each week. Teachers would also make weekly videos filming learning times in the classroom such as: Morning Meeting, Jesus Time Lessons, Letter Time, Math Time and Story Time. Other ways classroom teachers stay connected with the students are through Zoom meetings, phone calls, prayer, and Facebook. Pastor Jenks started filming his weekly chapel lessons for all the children, with a new fun song that Pastor makes up for the kids each week that has hand motions to go along with the words, to connect to and explain the Bible lesson's main point.

Was it hard for the children? Yes! The sweet and precious little learners could not understand why they couldn't come to preschool to see their friends and to learn. Some children, when asked by their parents if they wanted to go for a drive around town and where would they like to go, said they wanted to drive by their preschool! God is with us even when we can't go to the preschool.

Was it hard for the teachers? Yes! The teachers wanted to see the children in person. Filming themselves on video was not the easiest thing to do—retakes, uploading problems, technology issues, etc. It takes a lot of time to teach in this new way! God is with us when we need to learn how to do new things.

On Tuesday, April 14, **St. Paul Lutheran Preschool and EK had a Drive-Thru Parade.** The teachers stood a minimum of 6 feet apart on the sidewalk outside of the building and held a sign for their classroom students. As the vehicles drove through the parking lot, the teachers shouted out to the children: "We miss you! We love you!" God helped us share His love with the wonderful children and their families. The children just loved it!

Here are some comments from the parents: "That was just the best!"

"My child smiled ear to ear. Thank you for doing this and making them all feel so loved!"

"My daughter loved seeing you all! She had to tell our neighbors about the parade!"

"So life-giving for our family!"

"We loved it!"

"That was amazing Thank y'all for such a wonderful parade!"

"My son continued to ask to drive through again so he could see his preschool friends."

"It really was special!"

We thank God that He gives us opportunities to share His love with the preschoolers & EK'ers in news ways these days of social distancing and precaution taking.