



THE PROCLAIMER

May 2021

The mission of St. Paul Lutheran Church is to hear, share, and proclaim the Word of God.

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

"Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?" Matthew 6: 26

Dear Friends in Christ,

The spring sunlight shines brightly in the church courtyard as I sit down in my office to write this letter. A few moments ago, two little wrens visited me as they flew into the bushes in front of the window and frolicked for a few moments, fluttering their wings. They flew out of the bushes and back a couple of times and then seemed to fly away to some other place.

Why did they come to visit at that moment? What were they seeking? Insects to eat? Leaves or twigs to build a nest? Refuge? Surely they know there are dangers in the world around them. Yet they are back, seemingly happy and going about their daily work and singing and playing, whatever that might mean in their lives. Now they have fleetingly away again. Perhaps they will come back into my view or perhaps not.

Watching those little birds got me to thinking about our lives as human beings in this world. Each day we are reminded of all the challenges, difficulties, and dangers which surround us. We watch the weather reports constantly, even though we know that even meteorologists cannot completely predict the weather on any given day, not to mention too far in advance. We wonder what the economy will do, day to day, week to week, month to month. We are bombarded with news of wars, tragedies, and a plethora of human concerns. The worldwide pandemic has disrupted our ways of life throughout the world and has struck us with anxiousness and fear. We allow ourselves to get tied up in knots over many concerns.

Yet our Lord Jesus asks us to take a "look at the birds of the air." Amidst whatever dangers or concerns may surround them, they keep on flying and fluttering and finding what they need, by the grace of God, from

moment to moment, day to day, month to month. They go on just being birds and doing the things which birds are supposed to do, not allowing themselves to be held down by cares or concerns, worries or anxieties.

How about us? In the words of St. Paul, "If God is for us, who is against us?" (Romans 8:31) At times, in our weaker moments, we might retort, "Well, Satan is against us! Just look at all the evils in this world. Look at how the devil is trying to take over!" But when we fall into that kind of negative thinking, we are forgetting Paul's other words: "...In all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 8: 37-39)

God's grace and power are abundant for us! Our Lord Jesus just calls us to go on being who God calls us to be as people of faith. We are called by God's Holy Spirit to live, love, and serve each day in Jesus' name.

On May 23, we will celebrate Pentecost Sunday, the powerful outpouring of God's Holy Spirit. It is the birthday of Christ's church. It is also our celebration day of the continuing presence of God's Holy Spirit for our lives today and on into each and every day of the future!

This Pentecost 2021, we will celebrate the confirmations of seven fine young men of our congregation: Caeleb Carter, Reegan Evans, Cannon Jacoby, John Preston Parrish, Cannon Rabon, Carlton Schmidt, and Rylan Todd. They will affirm their faith in our Lord's baptismal promises and in God's saving grace for their lives. Let us pray for them as they make this important public proclamation of faith.

In our Lord's Grace & Peace & Love,

Pastor Fred Krebs



ST. PAUL CELEBRATES MAY BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|----|--|
| 2 | Kirby Groves |
| 3 | Ryne Todd |
| 6 | Marcy Young |
| 7 | LaVerne Kothmann |
| 8 | Reid Alan Yonker |
| 10 | Tammy Parrish |
| 13 | Terry Owen |
| 20 | Pastor Charles Eckert |
| 23 | Kris Eckert
Teresa Gierisch |
| 27 | Sara Banta
Bert Mahnken
Matt Schmidt |
| 28 | Camille Schmidt |
| 30 | Rylan Todd |

If your birthday or a family member's birthday is not listed or is listed incorrectly, please let Deb Probst know @ 325-597-2832 or dcprobst@hotmail.com. Thank you for helping us with this project.

MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Our Morning Bible Study group will resume meeting again starting Wednesday, May 5 at 10:00am in the Fellowship Hall. We will plan to finish with our study of Daniel. The last lesson in the book is based on Daniel 12:1-13. Donuts and coffee will be served. All women of St. Paul are invited to meet for enrichment and fellowship.

-Alberta Birk



Congratulations to our eighth grade graduates Caeleb Carter, Reegan Evans, Cannon Jacoby, John Preston Parrish, Cannon Rabon, Carlton Schmidt, and Rylan Todd.



**GRADUATION is a time for REFLECTION
on the labors of the PAST,
the accomplishments of the PRESENT,
and the possibilities of the FUTURE.**

FACES OF THE FAITH

What a joy it has been, since March 21st to be back at Sunday School and look into the faces of St. Paul's children and youth and learn together the powerful message of Easter. I want to thank Chel Terrell and Matt Schmidt for filling in while I was gone to continue the spiritual education of St. Paul's kids. We are proceeding with caution to bring back the elements of Children's Ministry that we have missed so deeply and our Sunday School focus will be called Faces of the Faith. Sometimes when we forget a name, we rely on the memory of a person's face. We begin our study with a very special woman, Mary Magdalene. This lady, like all of us, had strengths and weaknesses. In spite of our character traits, Jesus looks upon each of us with eyes filled with love. This unconditional love, caused Jesus to drive 7 demons out of her. Mary Magdalene is a heartwarming example of thankful living. That is what we should all do given the powerful sacrifice of Easter.

Mary Magdalene was the first to see Jesus after His resurrection, and she told the disciples the good news. May we all "turn our eyes upon Jesus", not just during Lent and Holy Week, but in all the days of thankful living that we are given. We know the pain of not being truly present in worship and Christian education. May our thankful hearts cause us to renew our commitment to be present to learn about the One who gave His life for us.

One of the exciting things we will do in Sunday School is to explore both hymns and praise music, and share our gifts in song with our congregation. On April 25th, our thankful hearts will present several verses of "Amazing Grace" during offertory. We will be blessed to be accompanied by Justin McFarland on the guitar.

