



April 2020

“Proclaim”

The Newsletter of St. Paul’s Evangelical Lutheran Church



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From the Pastor

IN VICTORY, BE ON GUARD

Therefore humble yourselves under God’s powerful hand so that he may lift you up at the appointed time. ⁷Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. ⁸Have sound judgment. Be alert. Your adversary, the Devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour. ⁹Resist him by being firm in the faith. You know that the same kinds of sufferings are being laid on your brotherhood all over the world” (1 Peter 5:6-9).

No one said it would be easy. Yes, he had endured all the mud-slinging that went along with campaigning for the office and resulted in victory. He won the election to be president of the United States of America. Prior to claiming his party’s nomination, he had kept his nose pretty clean—or, at least, he had done nothing worse than anyone else, and he was better than most. At least, this is what he rationalized.

It made some sense that after he won election the microscope wouldn’t be so fixated on him, his personal life, and his past missteps. But this wasn’t the case. If anything, the scrutiny intensified. Every decision was second, third, and fourth-guessed. Every statement he made was decried as a glimpse of his hidden agenda or an example of his ineptitude. Even his wife and children were not free from the unfair examinations and accusations of the press and various special-interest groups. No, being president would not be easy.

Do you know to which president I’m referring? Neither do I. It could be any of them over the past century-plus. This isn’t to say that all of our presidents have been on equal footing or that some haven’t been worse than others. The point is this: Their victory in the election did not mean an easy time. Look at the picture of any president—since pictures have been taken, anyway—at the beginning of his presidency and at the end. In nearly every case, it looks like the man in office aged far more than 4 or even 8 years. Again, it’s not easy being the president.

We are in the season of celebrating victory—Jesus’ victory and ours. Easter is the culmination of the Jesus’ objective work of saving us. All of Scripture’s prophecies and promises are fulfilled. God’s justice in regard to sin is satisfied. God’s requirement to enter heaven is fulfilled.

Subjectively, what God needed to do to bring that salvation to us individually, to our hearts, what he needed to do to connect us to our Savior was bring us to faith. He has done that for us. He used the message itself to do so, the two-sided coin of God’s Word:

- **The Law, which says, “You are sinful from birth. You have sinned against your Creator, the Almighty God, by doing countless things that he forbids and not doing all the things that he commands—and when you do them, or try to, they are not perfect as he demands. Repent!”**
- **The Gospel, which says, “Jesus has paid for your sins in full. You are reconciled to God. Believe it!”**

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What God demands of us, he works in us. What a gracious, compassionate, patient, loving God we have!

We have this victory. It means everything for us. But we carry it in sinful vessels (us) on paths marked with dangers both hidden and in plain sight. Like a newly elected president, the battle isn't over. We will be attacked for the duration of our "presidency"—the rest of our lives. But we are not in this alone.

Peter encourages us in these anxious times. Let us do as Peter urges and humble ourselves. Now is not the time to be afraid, as if there were no hope, nor is it a time to be mad, as if God has unfairly cursed us, nor is it a time to give in to sin, as if the only comfort for the trials we face is to indulge our sinful nature. All of that—the fear and despair, the anger, and the self-indulgence—is a noxious reaction to the lies of Satan.

Peter tells us to resist Satan, but how? Well, there is no doubt that he is strong, but he's weak and puny—nothing— compared to Jesus! And there's encouragement found in the fact that we aren't alone. That in itself isn't the encouragement, but that there are fellow Christians throughout the world who are handling the threat and disruption of COVID-19 and all the temptations that Satan is throwing at them. They are handling it not because they are great Christians and strong people but because they are relying on Jesus and his Word. That's how we resist Satan. We turn to God's Word, as our brothers and sisters in Christ do throughout the world, and Jesus will strengthen us to stand firm.

The illustration at the beginning of this article was not meant to overlook the fact that we are living in the midst of a pandemic with all the uncertainty, restrictions, and chaos that come with it. Rather, it's for that reason I wrote it. Evil is not dulled in times of crisis. Satan is working especially hard now because he knows that we are vulnerable. But while evil may not be dulled, neither is the power of God's Word. God's hand is a part of this in his own mysterious way, and we can be certain he's acting for our good. So ***"cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. Have sound judgment, and be alert,"*** knowing that, through his Word, God gives you what you need to endure and stand firm.

Pastor Snyder

SOME THINGS TO MENTION

Let us thank our Lord for the many blessings that he has given to us through this time of crisis. I'm sure you see some personal blessings God has given you. There are also many blessings for us as a group of believers. We have been forced to do something we had talked about but had not done for various reasons, and that's making videos of our worship services. If you haven't discovered them yet, you can find them by going to our website: stplutheranwonewoc.com. If you do not have internet, we are making DVDs of the services. If you have a TV but no DVD player, let us know. We have found an inexpensive player, \$25, that plays our DVDs and we'd be happy to not only bring it to you but hook it up for you. Whoever would do so would not only practice proper social distancing but would also wear a mask and gloves.

We have also been blessed with so many people remembering that, even though we are not able to meet together in person, we are still very much carrying out ministry, both the church and school, and so we still have financial obligations to do so. Our offerings have been better than I think many of us expected. Thank you for that. If you do have internet and would like the convenience of giving a gift online, you can also do that now on our website. Just go there and you will find the button **"Online Giving"** on the left. When you click there it will take you directly to our giving page.

The prayers of your called workers, staff, and leaders continue for all of you. Thank you for your prayers for us. We may not be able to meet together, but we are still united in Jesus, now and forever!

CHURCH NEWS

DIVINE CALL RETURNED

Dear St. Paul's Lutheran Church and School,
 After many days of prayer, thought, and seeking advice, I have decided to decline the Call you extended me to serve as your associate pastor at St. Paul's. This decision has been extremely difficult for me. The Call to St. Paul's was very appealing in many ways, and it is quite tough to return it to you. From everything I gathered about your ministry, you have a great deal to be joyful, optimistic, and thankful about.

Please also know that the entire leadership of your congregation, especially Pastor Snyder, was most kind and helpful to me during these weeks. You are blessed to have the leaders God has given you. Also, thank you to all the laypeople who reached out to me with encouragement, or simply a friendly message.

You will continue to be in my prayers, and I hope I will be in yours as well, as I am accepting the Spirit's Call to serve your brothers and sisters in Woodbridge, Virginia. My prayer, with full confidence, will be that our Good Shepherd supplies St. Paul's with the under-shepherd that he has in mind, in his time.

Peace in Jesus,

Pastor Paul Jenkins

DIVINE CALL ACCEPTED

Dear Members of St. Paul's Lutheran Church and School:
 After prayerful consideration, I am happy to announce that I have decided to accept the call to teach Kindergarten at St. Paul's Lutheran School. Please keep our school, my family and me in your prayers as we look forward to the new school year.

In Christ,

Rebecca L. Fricke



Baptisms



Tate Bennin Larson	March 1
Raiki David Olson	March 15
Archer Lee Pharo	March 21

Called Home



Leona Mae Clark	March 13
Ethel I. Ott	March 30
Lois Mitchell	April 7

Confirmation 2020



While Confirmation is still scheduled for Sunday, May 17th, we realize that it's possible that we will not be able to have services yet by then. If that's the case, we'll look to have the confirmation service as soon after we are able to worship together again as will work best.

The following 6 young people have grown in the grace and knowledge of Jesus, have been strengthened in their faith and are now ready to receive the Lord's Supper.

Brady John Baldwin
Kyle Alan Degner
Iszak Drew Elder
Brenenn Arthur Ott
Evan Charles Pagel
Aria Marion Schnurr

We pray that God will keep them faithful to him throughout their lives. Let us also do all we can to encourage these young people in their faith, as they continue to follow the path God has set for them.



School Scoop

Celebrating 140 Years of
Christian Education

School has certainly changed over the last few weeks!

Teachers, parents and students are facing the challenges and successes of at home learning and finding new ways to connect, whether it is internet, phone, text messaging or picking up the weekly packet of work. Learning still goes on and we are thankful for all of you who are blessing these efforts.

At this time, it seems possible that we will not be able to return to school before summer break. We want to encourage parents to remember the importance of staying in God's Word to strengthen and sustain families at this time. We now have regular online services to get your family together for worship. We have a link to our YouTube channel on the main page of our church website. There are also other WELS churches who offer opportunities for online devotions and worship as well as free downloadable resources from Northwestern Publishing House at online.nph.net

Let us know if you have questions, suggestions or need other assistance (even toilet paper).

"Now may the God of hope fill you with complete joy and peace as you continue to believe, so that you overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." Romans 15:13.

Congratulations to the 2020 Graduates

Philippians 1:6 - I am sure of this, that He who started a good work in you
will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.



St. Paul's Lutheran School Eighth Grade Graduates

Brenenn Ott
Aria Schnurr

Evan Pagel
Rachel Wilke

High School Graduates

Lacey Ott
Alexis Peesel
Makenzie Snyder

(Wonewoc-Center)
(Wonewoc-Center)
(Wonewoc-Center)

Vocational/College/University

Sarah Fick
Olivia Prost
Kaylee Snyder

Western Technical College
Martin Luther College
Winona State University (December)

Surgical Technican
Elementary Education
Special Education



—WELS—

Church address
119 South East Street
PO Box 125

Wonewoc, WI 53968

School Address

101 Church Street
Box 325

Wonewoc, WI 53968

Phone:
608) 464-3212

We're on the Web!

See us at:
www.stplutheranwonewoc.com



Email:

Pastor/Principal
Rev. Peter Snyder
Email:
revsnyder@stplutheranwonewoc.com

Grades 6, 7 & 8
Valerie Hagemann
Email:
vhagemann@stplutheranwonewoc.com

Grades 3, 4 & 5
Jenell Snyder
Email:
jsnyder@stplutheranwonewoc.com

Grades 1 & 2
Helen Rick
Email:
hrick@stplutheranwonewoc.com

Kindergarten
Early Childhood
Annalies Brander
Email:
abrander@stplutheranwonewoc.com

Administrative Assistant
Jan Fick
Email:
office@stplutheranwonewoc.com



April Birthdays
This is the day the Lord has made;
Let us rejoice and be glad in it...Psalm 118:24

1. Cooper Erie, Frieda Hagemann, Ronald Schnurr
2. Patty Grauvogl
4. Julie Kucher
5. Rhett Boldon
6. Jeff Peesel
7. Gary Pharo
10. Lindsay Hedler, Ben Menches, James Ott, Jr.
11. Brittany Clark, Marilyn Wasson
12. Alex Chouinard, Kelly Clark, Jacob Haase, Arlene Nelson, Nicholas Nelson, Olivia Schultz, Paige Solchenberger
13. Drake Demaske, Thomas Pagel, Andrew Scott
14. Emersyn Fry, Megan Gardehl
15. Matt Gardehl, Sandy Preuss
16. Chris Heiking, Mara Hubele
17. Travis Fry, Derek Roloff
18. Kris Burnstad, Ann Dorn, Yvonne Feldman, Tyler Hubele, Gary Talg
19. John Pagel, Barb Peesel, Jamie Solchenberger
20. Jessica McKendree
21. Nathan Degner, Andi Larson
22. Terry Kruger, Maureen Nelson
23. Tyler Peterson
25. Ella Boldon, Jacob Ott, Tyler Ott
28. Matthew Hagemann, Danielle Ott
29. Teagon Lando, Beth Reed
30. Haylee Fry

If we missed your birthday, we're sorry.
Please let us know and we will make the correction.