

THE MESSENGER

SEPTEMBER 2020

“God is light, and in Him there is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with Him, yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.” (1 John 1:5b-7)

First and foremost, let me tell you how delighted my family and I are to be with all of you at St Paul's! It has been a long six months since I received the call to serve as your associate pastor, but now it is time for all of us to set our eyes toward a bright and hopeful future together.

I promise you this journey and our new life together will be an extraordinarily blessed one, if we allow Christ to have His way with us: listening to His voice, doing exactly what He calls us to do, and living as redeemed children of God. Let's work hard on doing things the Jesus way and “walk in the light” as He has called us to do in 1 John 1:7.

Currently, the world is filled with chaos and uncertainty. All of us, every one of us, are pulled in several different directions. Yet, here in this place, where the liturgy shines forth with the beauty of heaven – we find order, grace, joy, and peace. Here we have the certainty of forgiveness, as we are refreshed with the living voice of Jesus, and are fed with His very body and blood.

This has been an awkward, yet exciting time to begin my role as your pastor. Some of you are restricted/limited, due to Covid 19, and have to watch the Divine Service from a screen in your homes. Yet, my prayer is that the gift of this new video technology would not keep us physically apart. I would love to meet all of you. I would welcome an invitation to your home, so I can learn how to best provide pastoral care for you and for your family. To that end, I am encouraging those of you who are physically able, to be in church every Sunday. If you are more vulnerable, yet mobile, I strongly encourage you to come to one of the smaller Wednesday services.

Everyone is welcome here. So when you come to church please bring your children, friends, family, and former members. Everyone is welcome at the liturgy to receive the wonderful gifts Christ desires to give us.

In addition to our normal Sunday service, we will soon start meeting for Bible study – to get to know each other and, more importantly, to get to know Jesus. We will be talking about who we are, where we are going, and who we want to be.

Bible study is critical to our success and to our spiritual growth. It is not an option, but a defining characteristic of our community at St Paul's. So, please come. We will have some fun – I promise! More than anything else, we will work hard to always “walk in the light” and “have fellowship with one another.”

Remember: we are here so that the world may come to know Jesus as their Savior. That is the reason for our ministry among you. That, I am certain, is enough of a reason for all of us to do everything “in the light” and give our very best moving forward.

Keep up the good work; and let us always “walk in the light of Christ” in all that we say and do.

Cheers,
Pastor Hoem



Hoem Family: Back row, Maxwell, Kristin, Pastor Hoem, Nigel. Front row, Charlie & Sophie.

St. Paul's Sponsored Day of Prayer for 40 Days of Life on October 1st



Join us on Thursday, October 1st! Please sign up for an hour or two to pray and come be a witness to God's love for all people, born and unborn. We will be praying from 8am - 7pm at St. Paul's and/or Planned Parenthood Right-Of-Way at 2930 Lake Ave. Refer to the maps on the bulletin board or at our website. Sign up on the bulletin board, front desk or call the church office at 423-2496. For more information please go to www.ichooselife.org/40-days-for-life. Pray with us!



IN THE CONGREGATION

Summer Schedule Extended

Please join us at 10 am in church for the Sunday Divine Service. If you are unable to join us in person we welcome you to view the service (live stream) on Facebook or YouTube. *

New Service Times on Wednesdays

We are offering smaller Wednesday services for our more vulnerable members and those who want to avoid the larger Sunday crowds. Holy Communion is available every Wednesday at **10:30 am**, **1:30 pm**, and **4 pm**, as well as individual Confession and Absolution. Schedule your service time by calling (423-2496) or emailing requests to the church office at churchsecretary@stpaulsfw.org.

Hymnals Have Been Returned to Pews

Thank you to those who helped return the hymnals to the pews. We will be returning to our regular worship bulletin starting next week. You may use the hymnal provided or bring your own hymnal. Hymnals may be ordered through CPH at CPH.org or call CPH at 800-325-3040, (pocket size editions are also offered).

New Adult Instruction Class Begins

Pastor Hoem will begin a new adult instruction class immediately following the Divine Service from approximately 11:20am-12:00pm in the church library beginning September 20. All are welcome!

Voters' Meeting September 13

Join us for our quarterly voters' meeting Sunday, September 13 after the 10 am Divine service in the sanctuary.

Online Bible Studies

Join Pastor Cage's new Bible Study on *Predestination*. Watch online on YouTube or Facebook. *

* Facebook (search St. Paul's EV Lutheran Church LCMS)
YouTube (search St. Paul's Lutheran Church Fort Wayne)

ODDS & ENDS

St. Paul's School Thanks You

SPLS and the Auction Committee thank everyone for a successful 2020 Auction Gala! The auction raised a great amount of funds for our PTL, SGO tuition assistance fund and teacher accounts! We look forward to next year!

Many Thank You's from the CTSFW Co-op!

Numerous thank you letters and cards have been received. Keep up the good work supporting seminarians and their families as they study for the ministry. The Concordia Theological Seminary Food Co-op could use donations, now more than ever. Items needed: spaghetti sauce, pasta, rice, sloppy joe sauce, macaroni and cheese, taco meals, canned tomatoes, and tuna. Also, any and all baking items, laundry detergent or cleaning supplies, paper products and toiletries. Our donation cart is located near the elevator/church office hallway. Thank you for your generosity!

Attend the LWML Three Zone Rally

The LWML – Lutheran Women in Mission – will hold their Fort Wayne Three Zone Rally on **September 19** at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 3000 Anthony Blvd. Fort Wayne. Our speaker will be Nita Reynolds, the Music & Art Teacher at Lutheran South Unity School. Monetary in-gathering will be for the car instrument purchase and maintenance of the SUS Music Program. \$6.00 Registration. Breakfast 8:30 – 9:00 am. Program 9:00 – 11:30. Register by calling Judy at 417-0591

Your Tithes and Offerings

Your sacrificial offerings are crucial during this time. Please mail in your offering envelope or use the online giving options. Your regular giving is very important for the church's continued work. Thanks be to God!

Staying Up-to-Date with St. Paul's

Our church has implemented a new system that will help us stay up-to-date with our members. Please call Margo Ernst at the church office (423-2496) for instructions to get set up!